A person arriving in this colony, and wishing to join his friends at the Meadows, consults his railway guide, and finds that he has to take train for Quorn, etc; but after travelling some 200 miles north discovers that he has to retrace his journey to the city, and start again to the older village, something like 20 miles south of Adelaide. Many similar examples may be given…

(Advertiser, 4 April 1888)

Rabbit Island - (See Owen Island, Pennington Bay & Koromaranggul)

Rabelais, Cape - In the South-East, appears first on Freycinet’s charts and, probably, was named after Francois Rabelais (circa 1494-1553), the celebrated French satirist and humorist who, in younger days, was a Benedictine monk but departed from his clerical labours, after a monastical quarrel, to become a physician.

Rabila - A railway station 5 km South-East of Murray Bridge. Aboriginal for ‘good hunting ground’.

Radium - Radium Creek - (See Echo Camp)

Radium Hill is 40 km South-West of Cockburn, where uranium was discovered in 1906; the mine closed in 1961, The Radium Hill School opened in 1953 and closed in 1962.

Radstock, Cape - On Eyre Peninsula, named by Matthew Flinders on 9 February 1802 after Lord Radstock (1753-1825), an English Admiral. Baudin called it Pointe de la Chausse (Reef Point), while Freycinet’s charts show C. Halle.

Raeburn - A school near Curramulka opened in 1929 by Lizzie Forsyth; it closed in 1940.

Raglan - A school, opened in 1884 as ‘Inkerman North’, became ‘Raglan’ in 1891, ‘Bowmans’ in 1905 and was closed in 1972. Of interest is the fact that ‘Colonel Gawler owed the appointment as Governor of this State to a letter written by Lord Raglan (then Lord Fitzroy-Somerset) and addressed to Colonel Torrens of the SA Commissioners.’ (See Somerset)

Ragless Range - Near Kanyaka; it includes Mount Ragless, but its highest peak is ‘Mount Benjamin’, named after Benjamin Ragless (1821-1898) one of the brothers who were pioneer pastoralists in the district.

A photograph of John Ragless and family is in the Observer, 14 January 1928, page 37. (See Tonsley)

Railway Estate - A 1915 subdivision of sections 331-333, Hundred of Davenport, by H.C. Daniel, investor of Melbourne; now included in Port Augusta.

Railway Town – This 1879 subdivision of section 278, Hundred of Pichi Richi, was created by William Greenslade, publican; it is suburban to Quorn.

Raleigh - (See Releigh)

Ralph - North-East of Renmark and named after the King of Aboriginal people within the district.

In 1849, mention was made of a proposal to establish a police station and this came about following a memorial from pastoralists in the district because ‘depredators escaping from Adelaide... avoid Moorundie and make the river by a shorter route and more convenient route.’

They suggested ‘Rallarall (sic) Creek’ as it ‘provided great facilities for a police station as there are extensive flats close to it capable of furnishing good feed for a number of horses.’

In 1849, a contract was let to erect a cottage but ‘the persons who contracted, originally, to build a police station at Ralph were unfortunately thrown into prison... for some misconduct - new contractors are due to start construction shortly.’ However, the work was delayed because of flooding and, in 1850, the project was abandoned. Eventually, one was established at Overland Corner.

Ral Ral Paddock is shown on an 1894 pastoral lease map and Ral Ral was applied to a subdivision of Block A, Out of Hundreds, by Henry Hale in 1916. In 1920, ‘the States and Commonwealth were concentrating upon the settlement of the returned soldiers and enterprise in connection with civilian settlement had been suspended’:

Instructions had been issued to the irrigation officers to go into the whole question of the Ral Ral scheme just above Renmark. This probably would prove to be one of the finest irrigation schemes along the valley of the Murray...

A photograph of surveyors at work is in the Observer, 4 January 1908, page 29, of the old hotel on 17 March 1923, page 28.
**Ram Island** - A reference to it is made in 1859 and, in 1910, it is described as being situated north of Hindmarsh Island and belonging to ‘Mr Grundy and he has a dozen of his longwood rams on it.’ Photographs are in the *Chronicle*, 16 April 1910, page 30, *Observer*, 3 November 1917, page 24, 8 March 1919, page 26, 5 March 1921, page 25, 26 February 1927, page 33.

**Ramco** - In April 1896, the name was given to a post office 5 km west of Waikerie, while section 9, Hundred of Waikerie, was proclaimed as the ‘Village of Ramco’ on 1 July 1897, the trustees being W.J. Green, J. Mitty, J.C. Young and J.C. Bull. They were appointed following an amendment to the *Crown Lands Act*, providing that ‘any twenty or more persons of the age of 18 years upwards, could form an association for the purposes of village settlement.’ The Ramco Village School opened in 1897 - a new school was erected in 1924.

The reason for starting such settlements was the great distress existing in Adelaide early in 1894 and, during August of that year, twenty-three villagers settled in Ramco Village and the number of original villagers, on the eleven villages so created, numbered 509. ‘Not all, however, were sufficiently stout of heart to stand the strain and, in one instance, a number of Waikerie “villagers” seceded and formed Ramco Village.’

From time to time disappointed villagers severed their association with the villages and voiced their complaints in daily newspapers. Parliament began, also, to give indications of concern and, in 1895, a Select Committee of Enquiry was appointed while, in 1900, a Royal Commission was held to enquire into the settlements. In 1901, it recommended the subdivision of the settlements into blocks of not less than ten acres suitable for fruit culture and the leasing of land to individual settlers. Thus, an experiment in communal living came to an end. The Register, 18 March 1920 says:

> It was intended to work [it] on communistic lines but the results did not, by any means, live up to expectations. In 1902 the orchard land was cut up into 10-acre blocks and allotted to individual settlers…

> Two pumping plants were installed… with a capacity of 120,000 gallons per hour… There are about 40 soldier trainees in the district…

The district was included in the Waikerie irrigation area on 19 September 1912 and the modern-day town of Ramco proclaimed on 19 December 1940.

In *Manning’s Place Names of SA*, published in 1990, it was said that Professor Norman Tindale suggested that the name derived from *Cobdoglo Rampko*, a chief of the Overland Corner people. (*See Cobdogla*)

As to this proposition, Mr K.J. Mack of Loxton, in a letter to the author in 1994, said:

> I refer to Cockburn [*What’s in a Name*], page 183 for origin provided by W.K. Mallyon, late of Port Pirie. This Mallyon came from the Weston’s Flat pub ‘Rest and Be Thankful’, upstream of Morgan, delicensed 1905. Now Weston’s Flat and Ramco are relatively close, whereas your Overland Corner King Cobdoglo Rampko was a long way upstream, so, the connection must be dubious.

> I far prefer Mallyon’s explanation. What say you?

Mr Mack, also, kindly provided a copy of a Lands Department docket no. 1528/1894 of 3 July 1894 in respect of a dispute among Waikerie Village settlers that says, *inter alia*:

> They called a meeting of single men [and] formed themselves into an association to be called ‘The Ramco Cooperative Village Association’, the name rising from the ‘Ramco Lagoon’ on the property.’ [This, no doubt, led to the christening of the post office.]

In later correspondence, Mr Mack said:

> Far be it for me to criticise Tindale. I don’t profess any expertise in this field… your word ‘probably’ (p.176) is less convincing than Mallyon’s… comments. Mallyon’s Accommodation House was firmly entrenched in 1866 ([see] SA Gazetteer), so I guess it is reasonable that Mallyon had close contact with the remaining Aborigine(s). To have invented the data is incomprehensible…

Further information contained in Tindale’s papers, bequeathed to the SA Museum late in the 1990s, disclose that the Aboriginal name for Ramco Lagoon was *bokarampko*, a name associated with mythical beings from the north that came to drink there - *boka* - ‘strangers’, *arampko* - ‘track’ or ‘path’. In the Hundred of Waikerie, also, is a place called *pokoramko* and the myth surrounding it says giant beings from the north west made themselves invisible and caused trouble - derived from *poko* - ‘back’ or ‘behind’ and *arampko* - ‘track’ or ‘path’. (*See Cobdogla*)

**Ramsay, Hundred of** - In the County of Fergusson, proclaimed on 20 June 1872 and, supposedly, named by Governor Fergusson after his first wife, formerly Edith Ramsay. However, Lands Department records show it as honouring J.G. Ramsay, MP (1870-1878), MLC (1880-1890). A banquet for him at Mount Barker was reported in 1878. Born in Edinburgh, in 1829, he came to Adelaide in 1852 and shortly thereafter commenced a farming implement and machinery business at Mount Barker. Twice Chief Secretary in the Bray and Playford governments, he met an untimely death when a lamp exploded in a railway carriage.

**Randalsea** - A subdivision of sections 1556 and 1564-65, Hundred of Yankalilla, by William Girling Randall, circa 1857; now included in Second Valley. Born in Warwickshire, in 1820, he arrived in the *Duke of Richmond*, in 1846, and ‘bought land from the South Australian Company and laid out the beautifully situated township of Burnside.’

He was a Councillor of the first District Council in the County of Hindmarsh and died in 1898. In 1863, this property consisted of about 1,500 acres and was ‘that portion of the Finniss Vale which is in nearest proximity to the sea’:

> The Rapid Bay jetty and wharf adjoin the farm [and] most of the wheat grown in the neighbourhood finds its way by this means to Melbourne or Sydney direct… Upon one section the rock consists of a fine species of marble [and] Mr Kellett of Adelaide has polished some specimens…
In her reminiscences his sister-in-law, Eliza Randall, told of the trauma of moving to Rapid Bay from Adelaide:

While we were at Walkerville, my brother-in-law, William Randall, with his wife, my only sister, went to live at Rapid Bay. Their first journey there was near ending in a serious accident. The distance, sixty miles, over rough roads or tracks, was very fatiguing for a young mother with a baby three months old on her lap.

A nurse girl sat behind with little Annie Randall supported in her arms. It was getting dusk, and William, who was driving tandem, was cheerily pointing at the light to be seen in one of the windows in the distance, when all at once the horse and trap and driver were precipitated over a steep bank to the ground.

It was a miracle they were not killed. The nurse girl and child were sent flying over the front horse’s head - William was pinned to the ground by the wheels, scarcely knowing where he was, and my sister and baby were fixed in the bottom of the trap, unhurt!

In the dusk of the evening William had lost his way, and got on an unused cattle track, so their escape was marvellous. They simply kept quiet and cooed till they were heard, and men came to their assistance. This was a terrible introduction to their new home and my sister did not get over the shock for some time.

Randell - A subdivision of sections 90-92, Hundred of Eba, by Herbert D. Gouge, agent of Adelaide, in 1880, bisected by Gouge St; now included in Morgan.

Hundred of Randell, proclaimed on 19 April 1860, ceased to exist on 30 June 1870; another Hundred was proclaimed on 25 April 1895 in honour of William Richard Randell, the first man to place a colonial built steamboat on the River Murray; he was born in Devon, in 1824, came to South Australia in the Hartley, in 1837, and died at North Adelaide on 4 March 1911.

As a reward for his pioneering feats of river navigation he was awarded £300 by the government and a purse of sovereigns from a grateful public.

A photograph of ‘Captains of the Murray’ is in the Chronicle, 21 January 1911, page 31, of Captain Randell and his son and grandson in the Observer, 11 March 1911, page 30.

Randell Estate was a subdivision of section 6058, Hundred of Talunga, by the executors of W.B. Randell (1799-1876) in 1877.

We believe Rodney Cockburn recorded it incorrectly as Randall’s Estate and says it perpetuates the name of David Randall who sold the estate to William Rounsevell who renamed it ‘Corryton Park’. (See Corryton & Randalsea)

Rankine Ferry Hill - On section 522, Hundred of Nangkita, recalls James Rankine (1828-1897) who arrived in the Fairfield in 1839 and, later, held occupation licences on Hindmarsh Island from 15 August 1844 and near Lake Alexandrina. On the opposite side of the lake he built a house to accommodate his employees and, from that side to the other, ran ‘Rankine’s Ferry’. In 1862, it was reported that:

Mr James Rankine occupies 2,400 acres of purchases land - 900 on the mainland and 1,500 on Hindmarsh Island and two small islands adjacent thereto. He built stockyards and a punt for the purpose of crossing stock, etc., from one side of the stream to the other, at well-known Rankine’s Ferry...

Ransford Hill - Rodney Cockburn locates it near Cape Jervis and says it was named after J. Ransford, the owner of a local sheep station. However, biographical records show Frederick Ransford (ca.1815-1894) arriving in the Fairfield in 1840 and occupied as a sheep farmer at Cape Jervis.

Rapid Bay - Nineteen kilometres South-West of Yankalilla and named after the brig Rapid, 162 tons, that brought Colonel William Light to South Australia, in 1836. Purchased by the SA Commissioners in London as a surveying vessel, she was repaired and equipped thereby rendering her well adapted to the service:

The Surveyor-General, Colonel Light, having served many years in the navy as well as in the army, has been placed in command of the vessel, with Messrs Field, Pullen and Hill as his 1st, 2nd and 3rd officers; Mr Pullen to act as an assistant-surveyor on arrival in the colony.

The Rapid also carries out Mr Jacob, one of the assistant surveyors, Mr Claughton, one of the junior assistant surveyors, Mr Woodford [sic], surgeon, four steerage passengers (three surveyor’s labourers and one female), and a crew of 13 well selected seamen.

The Rapid has on board a very complete set of surveying instruments, with provisions, clothing and other stores for 12 months, as well as proper surgical instruments, medicines, etc.

The loss of the Rapid was reported in 1841.

In 1922, it was said that a stone weighing between three and four hundredweight with the inscription ‘W.L. 1836’ upon it, was discovered by a lad in 1920.
This was the first part of the mainland touched by Colonel Light after his departure from Kangaroo Island and it is surmised that the inscription on the stone was made by Colonel Light. The stone is now in the Museum. The General Secretary of the Public Library… stated that the matter was first brought under his notice in 1921 by a Miss Cole, who had been on holiday there and photographed the stone.

Mr Marshall visited the spot and suggested that if there was nothing to disprove the theory that the stone was marked by Colonel Light that [it] be brought to Adelaide and a replica be placed at the spot. This is now being done, a cast of the stone having been made at the Museum and a replica made.

A proposed schoolhouse was discussed in the Register, 20 September 1860, page 3e.

In August 1921 it was reported that:
- At the head of the valley there are two marble hills; the foundations of the Second Valley or Finniss Vale Hotel are of that mineral, and marble sparkles in the stone of the excellent roads of the district.
- North of Second Valley is Third Valley which was a great picnic resort of early days.

A sketch of Aborigines fishing is in the Illustrated Adelaide Post, 25 March 1871, page 9, a photograph of council members is in the Chronicle, 12 August 1911, page 30.

**Rathjen Gap & Rathjen Hill** - In the Hundred of Tungkillo, recall Heinrich G. Rathjen (1823-1895) who arrived with his wife and family in the Leontine in 1848; he is listed as a bootmaker and farmer and being domiciled at Blumberg, New Mecklenburg and Palmer; later, several of his sons farmed in the district.

**Rat, Mount** - It got its name from the marsupial kangaroo rat that infested the area in the early days. The Observer said in 1879 that ‘this place is at the intersection of the Minlaton, Maitland and Curramulka roads which local settlers feel is the natural and inevitable site for a township.’

It stood on part section 7, Hundred of Wauraltee, 29 km south of Maitland and was surveyed in 1881 for the owner, James A. Humberstone (1831-1902); by 1907 it was deserted. The Mount Rat School was conducted by F.C. Humberstone in 1879, while Mount Rat Post Office operated from August 1876 to 1905.

In 1886, several cases of typhoid fever had occurred in a family at Mount Rat:
- Dr Elphick who visited the area said the disease was caused by the drinking of impure water. Copies of the printed instructions of the Board in reference to the prevention of the spreading of the disease had at once been forwarded to Mr Pearce with a request that he would favour the Board by handing them to his neighbours in the district… [See Minlaton]

A photograph of a portable windmill built by Mr E.C. Murch is in the Chronicle, 14 February 1935, page 33.

**Rathmines** - In 1856, this subdivision was advertised as ‘71 acres of land being the remainder unsold of sections 2192-93, Hundred of Yatala, known as the town of Rathmines’; now included in Parafield.

Apparently, it was an alternative name for ‘The Levels’. The name occurs in Ireland.

**Raukkan** - The name, adopted for the Point McLeay Mission, in 1982, means ‘the ancient place’ and was applied at the request of the Aboriginal inhabitants. (See McLeay, Point)

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In August 1921 it was reported that:
- At the head of the valley there are two marble hills; the foundations of the Second Valley or Finniss Vale Hotel are of that mineral, and marble sparkles in the stone of the excellent roads of the district.
- North of Second Valley is Third Valley which was a great picnic resort of early days.

A sketch of Aborigines fishing is in the Illustrated Adelaide Post, 25 March 1871, page 9, a photograph of council members is in the Chronicle, 12 August 1911, page 30.

**Ravendale** - A railway siding on section 9, Hundred of Lincoln; taken from the name of a property held by Andrew John Murray from 1855 and adopted from his home country of Scotland. (See Athelstone)

**Ravenswood** - An 1877 subdivision of part section 223, Hundred of Adelaide, by George Howell and bisected by Mitchell and Clifton Streets; now included in Millswood. W. Raven and W. Dalwood were former owners of portion of the land and, therefore, it may be a combination of their respective surnames, while in the 1840s Samuel Mills called an adjacent property ‘Ravenswood Farm’. (See Millswood)

The origin of the name is complicated by the fact that two gentlemen named ‘Mills’ had an influence in the development of the district, viz, George Mills and Samuel Mills.

However, its nomenclature is, no doubt, explained in the 1913 reminiscences of Samuel Mills, junior:

My father and uncle [Robert] named the farm ‘Ravenswood’ after a place in the south of Scotland, where they came from. The farm was known as Ravenswood Farm for all the time they held it - nearly thirty years. My father and uncle carried on building contracts under the name, S. and R. Mills. The first structure erected were a row of buildings in the east of Rundle Street known as Tavistock Buildings.
In 1872, there was a report of a fire at the place known formerly as Ravenswood Farm, ‘belonging to Mr G. Mills of Hill, Mills and Co’ which might have led Rodney Cockburn to his published nomenclature in respect of ‘Millswood’ but eluded him in respect of ‘Ravenswood’. George Mills donated the land on which the Goodwood Institute stands and owned the land once occupied by ‘Ravenswood’. (See Goodwood)

**Ravine Des Casoars** - On the west coast of Kangaroo Island and discovered by Baudin - it translates as ‘Ravine of the Cassowaries’.

**Ravensley Bluff** - Near Wilpena. H.C. Ravensley was in charge of a northern survey in 1851, but Governor Young dispensed with his services in 1852.

There is a certain irony in the name. In 1852 he was referred to as ‘Notorious Ravensley’ and being a man of very dubious qualifications. Referring to his survey in the north the Observer said, ‘he squandered many months of time, £200 of the government money, and did nothing but what skill of the sappers and miners enabled him to do.’ [See Passmore, River for a problem Ravensley had with one of his staff.]

**Rayleigh Town** - A 1927 subdivision of sections 326 and 2061, Hundred of Yatala, by the South Australian Company; now included in Greenacres and named after Mr Rayleigh, a director of the company.

**Razorback, Mount** - (See Mount Razorback)

**Read Creek** - In the Far North-West, named by Ernest Giles on 5 September 1873 after Samuel Read of Wangaratta, Victoria, a subscriber to the expedition’s funds.

**Reade Park** - This recreation reserve at Colonel Light Gardens was named after Mr C.C. Reade, the first town planner of South Australia, who was responsible for the conception of the whole garden suburb scheme.

In 1928, members of the Reade Park Putting Club:

- Opened last year by Mr C.D. Harris (then Garden Suburb Commissioner), are turning their attention from tennis and croquet to golf with the approach of winter. The 18-hole putting course is 300 yards long and is an excellent training ground for a golf course proper. The club may be reached by the Hyde Park car, alighting at the tramway clock.

**Reapook Hill** - In the North Flinders Ranges and so named by E.C. Frome, in 1843, because of its sickle-like appearance. The name fell into disuse and became known as ‘Tooth’s Nob’; the original name was restored on 5 September 1940.

**Rebecca, Mount** - North of Lake Eyre North discovered and named by John Ross (1817-1903) after either his wife, the former Rebecca Affleck, who died in 1869, or his daughter, Rebecca Affleck Ross who was born in 1854. (See Stevenson Creek)

**Recovery Vale** - There is a report of an expedition party that included Matthew Smith and Captain Johnson of the migrant ship, Recovery: ‘We reached at about [45 miles] distant [from Happy Valley] a place which they named “Recovery Vale”’.

**Red - Red Bluff** (See Doctor Penny Well & Senior, Hundred of)

**Red Camp** School was conducted in a chapel by John N. Goymour with 39 enrolled pupils; Department of Education records say it opened in 1873 and closed in 1874. Another report, in 1890, stated that it had been conducted in a chapel ‘eight miles east of Mount Gambier, fronting the Portland Road’ and this, no doubt, was the Red Camp Wesleyan Chapel - opened on Christmas Day 1869 it was erected at a cost of £88. In 1873, it was reported that ‘the time and trouble involved in a visit to Mr Kilsby’s hop garden near Red Camp were amply compensated by the novel and interesting sight there presented’:

- It is believed the Red Camp hops cannot fail to top the market this season… Mr Kilsby is extending his plantation very considerably; he purposes giving his place a new name and adopting a trade mark…

After the coming of the railway from Portland it became known as ‘Kromelite’. (See Kromelite)

**Red Cliff Point** is a descriptive name applied to a coastal feature near Nectar Brook; in the 1970s it was proposed as a site for a petrochemical plant.

**Red Creek** Post Office, ‘48 miles east of Adelaide’, opened in 1867 and closed in 1883.

**Red Gap** is on the track from Arkaroola to Mount Painter. (See American Gap)

**Red Lake**, near Kingoonya, was named by B.H. Babbage in June 1858 because of the colour of its bed.
Redbank - This school, near Millicent, was opened in 1873; it closed in 1874.

Redbanks - This descriptive name was taken from the colour of the banks of the River Light at this place and, in 1865, given to a subdivision of section 49, Hundred of Grace, 6 km South-East of Mallala, by Charles Burney Young. The Redbanks Post Office, opened by Mr S. Gale in 1868, closed on 31 March 1971. The Redbanks School opened in 1880 and closed in 1937.

Redfern - An 1882 subdivision of part sections 1 and 2, Hundred of Adelaide, owned by Daniel Garlick (1818-1902) and Walter David Hewer and surveyed by Hugh Norman; now included in Cumberland Park.

There is a village of the same name in Warwickshire, England, derived from the OE reod - 'cleared land'.

Redhill - The original township of Redhill, surveyed in August 1873 by J.H. Packard, became ‘Keilli’ on 10 November 1875 and ceased to exist in 1966. The present-day town, 48 km SSE of Port Pirie, surveyed in 1869 as ‘Broughton’, became Redhill in 1940. Prior to the survey of the ‘original’ town (later ‘Keilli’), Red Hill Hut was mentioned as a meeting place for settlers in the Broughton district and, therefore, may be the source of the nomenclature for the Hundred of Redhill, County of Daly, proclaimed on 15 July 1869.

The township is situated on the North-West slope of the rise in the plain which is given its designation. The vast area of agricultural land by which it is surrounded, and its situation at the junction of the roads from Clare and Balaklava to Port Pirie, render it a matter of certainty that it will become a centre of considerable commercial importance.

The laying of the foundation stone of a Primitive Methodist Chapel is reported in the Observer, 24 October 1874, page 7c; a proposed school is discussed in the Observer, 17 July 1875, page 5g; it opened in 1877.

A complaint about the miscarriage of mail because, ‘there is another post office in the neighbourhood of Government Gums called Redhill’, was made in 1882.

A photograph of early settlers is in the Chronicle, 20 May 1911, page 30, of the town on 9 February 1918, page 24, of a football team on 21 November 1925, page 40, of flooding on 23 January 1936, page 34.

Redruth - A town surveyed in 1849 and named after its counterpart in Cornwall, England, derived from either re-druth - ‘the Druids’ town’, rhe-druth - ‘swift stream of the Druids’ or ridruth - ‘red ford’; altered to ‘Burra’ on 19 September 1940. It comprised of 120 allotments centred on a reserve and containing a police station, built in 1847. Of interest is the fact that Captain Henry Roach (1808-1889), manager of the Burra mine until the early 1850s, arrived from the Cornish ‘Redruth’ in 1846 and this fact may account for its nomenclature. (See Roach Town)

An account of the sale of allotments was reported in 1849 when ‘it soon became evident that the [Burra] Company were determined to buy the whole of the township, if possible… The total amount for the 120 lots reached the amount of £5,900/10/-.’

In respect of the local gaol it was said in 1867 that the government of the colony:

Has often been declared parsimonious and cheeseparing… but whatever they have been or will be, they have certainly been the means of making the hearts of a few poor bodies forget for a brief period their durance vile and feel that:

Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage.

The inmates of HM Gaol at Redruth were regaled with good substantial fare in the shape of roast beef and plum pudding washed down with very passable beer. The Governor, Mr T. Perry, called for three cheers for the Queen which were given without any apparent difficulty, after which three additional ones were given for HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh… The present unfortunate… were as fine a looking lot of fellows as need be gazet at, with the exception of the aboriginal, Bobby, a Cooper’s Creek native, who is working out his sentence for stealing stores from a shepherd’s hut… The prisoners… are provided with employment in the shape of cutting firewood… making bags, picking oakum, etc…

Redwood Park - A 1964 subdivision of part section 1593, Hundred of Yatala, by Realty Building Co. Ltd.

Reedbeds, The - It has been recorded that ‘it was the name given to a vast area of flat, swampy land, in the Fulham-Henley Beach area. The River Torrens empties into it and these waters drain off by a few watercourses, most of which flow into the Saltwater Creek or Thomas River, and by that means into the Gulf of St Vincent, at Glenelg [sic].’

The Aborigines called it witongga - ‘reedy place’. It was once a camping place for Aborigines coming from the country to receive a distribution of blankets from the government in Autumn. (See Fulham & Moodunga)

In respect of floods, ‘in some places pigs had to be driven from their sties and valuable sitting fowls from their nests in the middle of the night…’ In his reminiscences, Captain S.A. White (1870-1954) the son of Samuel White (1835-1880), who arrived in the Taglioni, in 1842, and settled at ‘The Reedbeds’, said: ‘very deep rush and flag-fringed pools, hundreds of yards in extent, existed along the river’s course… What a change has come over the scene. In those days the water hardly ever stopped running and if it did so for [only] a few days’:
Not a hundred yards away from the writer is the same old river, but it has been shorn of all its beauty for the water has been impounded for the pleasures of the madding crowd. The rights of those below are naught in these times of pleasure. Not a thought is given to the fauna and flora along the banks of the lower reaches of the stream…,

while in 1919, a correspondent to the morning press lamented that:

A Roman Emperor fiddled while his city burned. Many Adelaide folk paddle on a full lake while vegetable crops are burnt up this hot weather and the same people ask why vegetables are dear? The birds are nearly all gone. It was painful this week to see three broods of fluffy little black ducks, which had been carried by their parents from away back where they had nested, to a few small stagnant pools in the river bed where they are trying to rear them. We hear not the joyous note of the reedbird (the most beautiful of our songsters). He has gone for the reeds do not exist. Other water birds have disappeared. Never will we see old and glorious sights again, for now Millbrook is in operation, we will fare worse than ever.

A photograph of members of a rifle club is in the Chronicle, 14 September 1907, page 29, a sketch of a capture of prize-fighters by the police in Frearson’s Weekly, 25 February 1882, page 41.

Reedy Creek - It lies nineteen kilometres South-East of Kingston SE, and the ‘Reedy Creek Run’ was established by A. Pearson in 1851 (lease no. 216). A school of the same name (known, also, as ‘Nettina’) was opened by Alice Robson in 1892, while Reedy Creek Post Office opened on 12 July 1849; it closed in 1920. (See Gillap Cornet & Kalaolok) In 1869, among the many discoveries that rewarded the exertions of pioneer miners, one of the most promising was in the immediate vicinity of Reedy Creek, a tributary of the Murray and situated many miles southward of what is ‘now known as the township of Koolunga [sic]’.

The history of the Reedy Creek Mine, in modern-day Hundred of Tungkillo, dates back to the period of special surveys when 20,000 acre blocks could be purchased at £1 an acre.

London speculators did not hesitate to spend a few pounds and, indeed, the cupidity of the capitalist being fairly aroused, there was no reason to complain of a lack of enterprise on his part.

‘In the mid-1840s ‘South Australia was the supposed true El Dorado - the great mineral treasure house of the southern hemisphere - a realization of the poetic description of another and more ancient country “whose stones were iron and out of whose hills one might dig brass”.’

The workings were discontinued after a sum in excess of £60,000 had been expended and, for about two decades, the mine was left desolate and the entire property turned into a sheepwalk. Huts and houses were burned, the timbering of shafts fell in and at length the whole of the machinery was disposed of to prevent its total demolition.

To stray visitors the aspect of affairs was forlorn and dreary enough, but those who knew the old and glorious sights again, for now Millbrook is in operation, we will fare worse than ever.

In 1868, Mr Bevilaqua, of Palmer, obtained a lease of the property and a company was formed to undertake further mining ‘about sixteen miles from Blumberg’ and, within twelve months, ‘miners’ cottages were dotting the hillsides in all directions’ and tenders called for the construction of a Bible Christian Chapel.

In 1874, the Reedy Creek School, near Tungkillo, was conducted in a chapel by Celia Richards with 49 enrolled pupils; it opened in 1868 and closed in 1876.

A photograph of school students is in the Chronicle, 23 March 1918, page 24. (See Kalaolok)

The following anecdote is in the Observer, 25 November 1916:

Native peaches were plentiful and the stones, when mounted in gold, took the form of a popular scarf pin.

In the engine house on Christmas Day a whole bullock was roasted and decorated with ribbons. This was the custom, as there were several Cornish people at the copper mines.

Reedy, Point - On section 491, Hundred of Baker, called pelbaranalan by the Aborigines - ‘where all the swans lay their eggs’. At the base of this peninsula is ‘Rupuli’, a little island upon which lived small beings called Taikuni who appeared only at night, created confusion and caused you to lose your bearings. Aborigines believed that the only way to keep them away was to smoke oneself over a fire, as this would prevent them from worrying you.

Reefton Heights - An 1883 subdivision of part section 5278, Hundred of Onkaparinga, 3 km east of Woodside, by Joseph C.F. Johnson, located near the ‘Bird in the Hand Mine’ which showed early promise as a gold reef mine.
Discovered by Mr D. McCracken, the first mine manager in 1881, a company was formed and the proposed township promoted as follows: ‘A great future undoubtedly awaits this pioneer of South Australian golden cities - the future Sandhurst of SA…’

It was surveyed on the mine property, where the miners’ houses were, chiefly, wooden structures and these have all been lost. A battery was erected on the site and steam engines and a winding plant installed in large stone buildings with tall stone and brick chimneys. Extensive work was done to counteract the problem of the influx of water but difficulties in raising finance for development led to the closure of the mine in 1889.

It reopened during the 1890s and, subsequently, used as a water supply by the Commonwealth Government for a ‘Defence Department Mobilization Store and Camp’ at nearby Inverbrackie; reopened again in 1933, mining ceased in 1938. 

Reepham - An 1880 subdivision of part section 368, Hundred of Yatala, by John Chambers, who gifted the land on which the Islington Uniting Church stands; his creation is now included in Prospect which he heralded to be ‘the most flourishing of all our suburban townships’ due to the building of a new hotel nearby and the fact that about 300 men were employed at the Islington workshops; The name comes from Lincolnshire where his sister-in-law, the former Catherine Redin, was born in 1809; it translates as ‘home on the rock’.

Rees, Hundred of – In the County of Burra, proclaimed on 18 September 1879. Rowland Rees, MP (1873-1890), born at Gibraltar in 1840, came to South Australia in 1869 and entered into partnership with Thomas English as an architect. Later, on his own account, he was the engineer for the Holdfast Bay Railway, Minister of Education in Sir William Morgan’s ministry and died at Parkside in 1904.

In 1873, an editor of the Adelaide morning press said that it was not his intention ‘to summarize the history of the social and political scandal which has for the past two months given painful notoriety to the names of Messrs Ebenezer Ward and Rowland Rees for we imagine our readers have had enough of it in reports which have already been published. But there are some conclusions to be drawn…’

We can readily imagine how an uncandid critic like Mr Trollope would have gloried in giving an exaggerated colouring to the facts that have transpired: ‘While I was in this colony’, our imaginative hyper critic might have written, ‘two of the members of the Legislative Council were awaiting their trial - the one for raking into the private life of his opponent, and publishing in his newspaper such personal details as no respectable journal in England would ever dream of printing; and the other for swearing to alleged untruths in his account of a petty squabble which it was mutually admitted had taken place between these two exalted lawmakers in the public room of a common pothouse’.

‘Over and over again evidence is given of open and undisguised gambling being carried on in this house, Mr Ward called servants of the establishment who testified to their having seen gambling both here [Globe Hotel] and at the Hamburg Hotel… It is incredible that both the police and the Inspector of Public Houses could have been ignorant of the existence of practices… so frequent and so open.

Reeves - Samuel Reeves (ca. 1828-1905) discovered Reeves Plains, North-East of Two Wells, while in the employ of the South Australian Company, of whose father he was the manager; the name was given to a subdivision of section 89, Hundred of Port Gawler, by William Smith, circa 1866.

In 1867, it was reported that the ceremony of opening the new school took place on the 15th October:

The building is very substantial and well finished containing a family residence for the schoolmaster and the spacious schoolroom calculated to hold from 150 to 200 scholars. It is built of stone with brick quoins and ornamental copings.

In 1875, the Reeves Plains School was conducted by Robert C. Gilmour with 63 enrolled pupils; it closed in 1966.

Point Reeves is on Kangaroo Island and, during an interview with Mr Augustus Reeves (1830-1905), the oldest resident of the island, which took place only a few days before his death, ‘I was supplied with much information of interest…’ ‘The last of the Tasmanians is buried… at a place called Springy Vale, near Stokes Bay… (Mr J. Buick… has since corroborated this assertion)... He came to South Australia in the Minerva… [in 1839] and settled on the island in 1853…’ (See Beatrice, Point)

Reevesby Island - In the Sir Joseph Banks Group named by Matthew Flinders on 6 March 1802; corrupted from ‘Revesby’, a Parish in Lincolnshire, and derived from an Old Danish word raef, originally, the nickname for a fox. Guano was mined on the island by William F. Haigh who, in 1898, formed the ‘Penguin Guano Company’. A photograph of ‘the only tenement’ on the island is in the Observer, 16 February 1907, page 30.

Reformatory Hulk - This name was given to a school on board the hulk Fitzjames that lay off Largs Bay; opened in 1884, it closed circa 1891. Though the hulk was designed to be a place of reformation, rather than punishment, during the first decade of its operation education was somewhat neglected on board.

By the close of 1884 a schoolmaster was employed and the boys had the advantage of the Model School course of instruction. Mr Weippert, the first appointee, was interested in his scholars of whose intelligence and willingness to be taught he commented upon favourably.

Corporal punishment was unnecessary, the healthy tone in the school making reproof a sufficient check.

Sometimes, as an extraordinary measure, a boy was derived of his evening meal, which was regarded by the inmates as being among the most severest inflictions.

The behaviour of the boys, generally, was good, as may be inferred from the fact that for months the dark cell was unused. School opened at 9.30 a.m. and closed at 3.30 p.m. with a two hours interval; about 35 boys out of a total of 60 inmates attended the school, including some ‘shop-boys’ on half time.
Notwithstanding that hardly any boy there above 14 years of age could pass the compulsory standard; that most of the boys before being sent to the hulk were truant boys at the State schools; and that the schooling on the hulk was, until Mr Weippert’s arrival, of an unsatisfactory character, the boys above 14 were exempted from attending for even an hour a week the means of instruction so close at hand. It was, however, to their credit that some asked the master for lessons after school, which he was only too ready to give. As the education given was of a plain and practical kind, it was considered desirable that all boys passed the standard or put in half-time until they did so.

Refuge Rocks - In the Hundred of Nilginee on Eyre Peninsula, east of Kimba, were discovered and named by E.J. Eyre on 22 September 1840. The rocks provided water for him and, when in difficulties, he recorded that ‘they would be a refuge for other travellers.’ (See Nildinna)

Regency Park - Formerly the site of the Islington Sewage Farm, and subdivided by the Crown mainly for industrial purposes, it took its name from Regency Road, (formerly Rakes, Islington and Irish Harp Roads), in 1954, following the first visit to S.A. by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Reggies Knob - On section 18, Hundred of Moralan, near Wilpena, named by the surveyor, W.G. Evans, in 1895, after his brother, Reginald Evans.

Reid - A railway station on the Trans-Australia line, recalls Sir George H. Reid, a former Prime Minister of Australia. (See Barton)

Reid Town is an alternative name for Point McLeay (Raukkan) bestowed by Rev George Taplin after a compatriot, Rev James Reid, who was drowned in Lake Alexandrina in 1863.

In 1869, it was reported that the native church at Reid Town was opened:

When services were preached to full congregations in the morning, afternoon and evening by the pastor,

Rev George Taplin. On Wednesday a tea meeting was held… Such a union of the natives with the Christian colonists must exert a most civilising influence. One hundred natives were regaled with an abundant tea on the occasion of the opening of their church… [See McLeay, Point]

Remnah Place - A subdivision of part section 114, Hundred of Adelaide; now included in Kensington. Edward Phillips Meredith (ca.1851-1878) laid it out in 1877.

Rendelsham - The town, 13 km WNW of Millicent, surveyed in September 1879 by Stephen King Jnr, was proclaimed on 22 January 1880. Rendelsham Post Office opened in January 1887 and Rendelsham School in 1882. Closer examination of the naming of this town by Governor Jervois does not support the assertion that it was adopted from a town in Suffolk, England, spelt ‘Rendlesham’.

Remarkable Rocks - They are a tourist attraction on the South-West coast of Kangaroo Island.

Releigh - Newspaper reports alternate between the names Raleigh and Releigh and, in 1864, the ‘fourth anniversary of the Releigh Chapel (at Belvidere, near Strathalbyn) was celebrated on October 23 and 24… The superintendent stated that upwards of 2,000 verses of Scripture and poetry had been committed to memory the last year…’

Remarkable, Mount - Near Melrose, called wongojara by the Aborigines; wongo - ‘high’ and jara - ‘hill’, discovered by E.J. Eyre in 1839 and ‘from the lofty way it towered above the surrounding hills I named it Mount Remarkable.’ (See Melrose for details of the school.)

In 1846, an advance party from Adelaide started to take possession ‘of the splendid location and survey at Mount Remarkable, fully equipped to unfold the mineral treasure of that vicinity’:

Instead of meeting a sterile range of mountains, or barren country, usual in mining districts, we at once come upon what cannot be more aptly called than ‘Mount Remarkable’ … Mr Charles Hare is entrusted with the charge of these pioneers…

This splendid mineral property and valuable adjunct to South Australian wealth is situate about 12 miles due east of Port Pirie lately discovered by Captain Elder and others.

The foundation of a ‘village settlement’ was reported in the Register, 15 and 21 February 1894 ‘about a mile north of Melrose… hidden from view by large gum trees and richly blossomed wattles, is a little village of canvas huts with mud chimneys…’

Photographs of a soldiers’ training settlement are in the Chronicle, 8 September 1917, page 25, Observer, 8 September 1917, page 25.

Remarkable Rocks - 2009
No link could be found between him and that place, but he did have similar qualifications to, and probably knew, a Rendel family of engineers in England. Governor Jervois (1821-1897), a Lieutenant-General, obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers in 1839. After service in South Africa from 1841 to 1848 he returned to England and, in 1852, was involved in building fortifications at Alderney, one of the Channel Islands. Later, he became an adviser to the British Government on ‘designs of the defences of dockyards and naval bases at home and abroad’ and an associate of the Institution of Engineers.

James Meadows Rendel (1799-1856), who lived for many years at Plymouth, was an engineer who, in addition to the construction of bridges and railways, reported on, designed and constructed harbours. In 1850, he commenced making a new harbour at St Peter Port, Guernsey. He joined the Institution of Engineers, in 1824, and served as its president in 1852 and 1853.

He had four sons all of whom were engineers, while three were partners in the firm of Sir William Armstrong at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, engaged in building naval vessels. Governor Jervois was in England for some months in 1878 and, while there, shipbuilders approached him for they had heard that the South Australian Government wanted a warship.

Accordingly, in 1882, he submitted a memorandum to the SA Government on ‘Vessels of War for the Defence of South Australia’ in which he stated that ‘after due consideration of the proposals’ ‘by some of the best shipbuilding firms in England’ submitted to him ‘about four years ago’, recommended that the Agent-General be directed ‘to obtain drawings and a tender for the supply of the vessel… from the firm of Sir William Armstrong and Co.’

Thus, at the time of the naming of Rendelsham on 2 December 1879, he had been considering a proposal to which, probably, three of the Rendel brothers had contributed.

On 16 November 1882, the SA Government signed a contract authorising the construction of HMCS Protector by Sir William Armstrong and Co.

Therefore, it is believed that there is little doubt the South-East town was named in honour of the Rendel family - ham is Old English for ‘home’; thus, the literal translation of ‘Rendelsham’ is ‘Rendel’s Home’. Information on Mr Rendel’s bridge building near Plymouth, England is in the Advertiser, 28 September 1858, page 3e and a trial of the Protector at Newcastle-on-Tyne reported on 25 July 1884, page 5d.

By 1893, the production of pure chicory for the colonial markets was of incalculable benefit to the district and it was reported that ‘Messrs Harper & Co and Messrs Fowler & Co, of Adelaide, embarked in the industry some years ago and they have found a rival in Mr J.B. Carr who has erected steam chicory works at Beachport on Rivoli Bay’:

It might be well to produce by reference of the factory at Beachport to the capabilities of the Rendelsham area for the growth of the chicory root. The swampy lands with their black, peaty soil are peculiarly fitted for root crops… It was my pleasure to meet with the settler who first introduced chicory cultivation to Rendelsham. He started in a small way… last year he delivered 140 tons for £3.5s a ton in the trucks at Rendelsham under contract with Mr Fowler…

A photograph of a bridge over a drain leading to ‘Hallelujah Farm’ is in the Observer, 16 July 1927, page 34, of a chicory kiln in the Chronicle, 30 June 1923, page 32.

Renmark - For decades the name was declared to be a corruption of an Aboriginal word meaning ‘red mud’. However, a Lands Department note says: ‘Doubtful. Probably was, originally, an outstation of Bookmark and named by the lessee. The mud at Renmark is not red.’ The result of research by Heather Bennett, as published in Renmark Remembers, indicates that its nomenclature may lay elsewhere. A police report of 1864 referred to it as ‘Rennie’; later, a newspaper report showed ‘Rene’ - ‘A ship’s carpenter named William Renny was yard building in the area in the 1860s. Maybe he built “Renmark Hut”… situated on the river bank where the hotel was built in later years.’

To support this contention there is a ‘Reny (sic) Island’ near Renmark, bounded by Ral Ral Creek and the River Murray; it appears on maps as early as 1877.

However, in all probability, the answer to its nomenclature is to be found in the Tindale papers in the SA Museum which say that the Aborigines knew the area as renmako, a name based on the presence of outcrops of rock called chertmako and it was here that ‘Aboriginal men came on raids down the River Darling to get supplies of such stones for spears and knives.’ (See Bookmark & Markaranka, Hundred of)

The land on which Renmark stands today was taken up first as a pastoral holding on 1 July 1851 by Albemarle Bertie Cator (1826-1864) (lease no. 95); it was an extensive one and, after six or seven years, Cator cut the property in two. One portion was transferred to William Finke, a friend of John McDouall Stuart, and the other to John and James Chambers, supporters, also, of the overland explorer. Finke gave the names ‘Bookmark’ and ‘Chowilla’ to his holdings on the Murray in 1859.

In 1862, James Chambers died and, in 1867, his brother John took over Bookmark and Chowilla from Finke, being transferred next to Richard Holland who, on 30 June 1870, took up an area adjoining the river and extending North-East from Spring Cart Gully. These three leases subsequently came into possession of John Holland Robertson, William Robertson and Robert Robertson. (See Chowilla)
In 1887, the State Government set aside 250,000 acres as an irrigation area to be controlled by Messrs George and William Benjamin Chaffey (in terms of an agreement under Act 397 of 1887). Under the terms of the Act the Chaffey Brothers were required to spend £35,000 during the first five years in establishing a settlement, £140,000 in the second five years, £75,000 in the third and £50,000 in the fourth five years.

In 1892, the Chaffey Brothers went into liquidation and were succeeded by the Renmark Irrigation Trust. (Renmark Irrigation Trust Act no. 578 of 1893.)

George Chaffey was the founder of the towns of Mildura (Victoria) and Renmark. Born at Brockville, Canada, in 1848 he carried out several irrigation schemes in the Dominion and California and these schemes attracted worldwide attention. Renmark had its origin on 14 February 1887; this was the date the agreement was signed between the South Australian Government and Chaffey Brothers, under which the latter undertook to found an irrigation colony in this State. The Chaffey Brothers selected the abandoned station of ‘Bookmark’ to establish their new colony.

The Renmark School opened in 1888; the laying of the foundation stone of Renmark North School was reported on 7 July 1928; it was known previously as ‘Block East’; Renmark South School opened in 1929 and closed in 1944; Renmark West School opened in 1912.

The opening of the Renmark High School was reported on 1 June 1929.

Renown Park - The executors of John McQuillan created this suburb in 1920, on part section 374, Hundred of Yatala, after the visit to South Australia by the Prince of Wales in HMS Renown.

Reoboth Chapel - On section 1016, Hundred of Waterloo; Hebrew for ‘The Lord hath made room’; now known as ‘Pancharpoo Chapel’.

Retort Hill - In the Macclesfield district was the site of a charcoal burning retort.

Revesby Island - (See Reevesby Island)

Reynella - In 1854, the town was laid out by John Reynell, 20 km south of Adelaide, ‘owing to numerous enquiries following on the success of the Southern Grist Mill.’ A pioneer vigneron in South Australia, he was born in Devon, England, in 1809, arrived in the Surrey in 1838 and died at Adelaide in 1873.

In 1854, there was a ‘gala day at the township of Reynella on the occasion of the starting of the engine of the mill, now completed’:

Mr Harwood from Adelaide, as also the engineers from the Messrs Crawford & Co and Horseshoe Mills were present… The contract for fixing the machinery was performed by Mr W. Edwards, assisted by Mr Gardiner, formerly of the Thebarton steam mill…

Mr A.T Saunders commented that Mr Reynell was a victim of Governor Gawler’s boom following which his property was put up for sale by his assignees. He was one of the founders of the Agricultural Society in Adelaide and, in later years, his son, Walter, revived the family’s fortunes. Education Department records show the Reynella school opening in 1861. However, the Register of 7 May 1858 carries a report stating it occurred in that year.

In 1995, the name Reynella East was applied to the area bounded by Kenihans, Byards, Reynell and Panalatinga Roads while the remainder became Old Reynella.
Reynolds, Hundred of - In the County of Victoria, proclaimed on 18 February 1869; information on a proposed school appeared in 1886; it opened in 1915 and became ‘Mayfield’ in the same year.

Thomas Reynolds, MP (1857-1873), born, circa 1818, was the colony’s first treasurer in 1857 and lost his life in the wreck of the Gothenburg on the Barrier Reef, Queensland, in February 1875.

A strict teetotaller, he was nicknamed ‘Teapot Tommy’. (See Wattleville)

In 1855, he was addressed as follows:

In your poetic effusion… you were pleased to designate ‘teetotalism’ a ‘delusion’ and you presumed on its being such, because you heard a lady remark that she would be afraid to say to the Divine Being ‘take back the vine’. To charge teetotalism with delusion and impiety… appears to me as absurd and monstrous… Your proof and argument I respect, but your assertions and assumptions I can and do despise. Prove then your charges or lie under the stigma of uttering a deliberate lie or of being yourself the subject of a ‘delusion’ more apparent that the one you attribute to ‘teetotalism’.

In 1862, there was a report of a libel case - he lost and was forced to resign as Treasurer of the Colony and, in 1868:

East Adelaide has made repeated attempts to explain to Mr Reynolds the altered state of her affections… she called him out a few weeks ago for a special parade… when he and his disaffected constituents abandoned the affairs of State for a little game of dirt-pies. Two mortal hours were spent in turning up old sores and smearing each other’s faces with the bad blood drawn from each other’s noses… To exchange Reynolds for Cottrell - a financier for an ‘old hat’ - would be an unquestionable mortification of the flesh… they have looked out for an Issaachan to represent them - a strong ass crouching down between two burdens…” If the lost tribes be serious in their opposition… they are making a mistake, for he is a hopeful proselyte, but an ugly antagonist…

An article headed ‘Mr Reynolds and the Victorian Land Act’ is in the Register of 5 October 1868 and says:

Here is a woeful effect of the adjournment. Mr Reynolds… has resumed his pen as a newspaper correspondent… he still calls a spade a spade and considers the whole human race to be out of temper with himself… He needs the inspiration of figures to raise him to the height of genius.

Rheinfeld - A newspaper report of 1855 says the town of Rheinfeld was located on section 536, Hundred of North Rhine (modern-day Hundred of Jalliceo).

Rhine - Rhine Flat is in the Hundred of Ridley. It has been ‘Wongulla’ since 20 July 1916.

Rhine Hill - (See Mons)

Rhine Park - Post Office opened on the property of C.F. Starick on 21 December 1914 between ‘Black Hill’ and ‘Rhine Villa’ (now Cambrai); was renamed ‘Parlko’ in May 1916 and ‘Kongoria’ on 1 July 1918; it closed on 2 January 1980. The name Rhine Park was given, also, to a subdivision of section 5 and others, Hundred of Jutland, and section 148 and others, Hundred of Jalliceo, by J.E. Murray in 1951. (See Kongoria)

In its report to parliament on 7 November 1916 the Nomenclature Committee said that the River Rhine was named by Johann Menge:

Not because of any similarity of this river to that in Germany, but because, ‘I convinced myself that this valley will once yield a similar quantity and quality of wine as that in Germany as soon as it… be cultivated.’ [See Menge, North Rhine River & South Rhine River]

In 1882, it was reported that ‘Mr Skinner occupied a hut with a conical villa front near the Rhine Creek… a small township grew up around it…’ and Rhine Villa School opened in 1888 becoming Cambrai in 1918. (See Cambrai)

On 16 February 1892, the Attorney-General (Hon R. Homburg) and Messrs F.W. Holder and T. Hack, MP’s, drove from the city to Rhine Villa:

Where they assisted in the ceremony of opening the Rhine Villa Institute which had been erected at a cost of about £400 without any subsidy from the government… [It] is about 20 feet by 50 feet and is a good lofty hall… It is intended to hold a school in the Institute there being no other building in the locality adapted for the purpose. It will contain a library, accommodate public meetings and religious services will be held… on Sundays...

Rhino Head - A remarkable pinnacle, about 8 km ENE of Cape Spencer, resembling a rhinoceros. A submarine cable ran from the north side of it to Althorpe Islands lighthouse. Its Aboriginal name was Ngarna - it was considered a memorial to this being, forming the profile of his body. (See Ngarna)

Rhynie - The village, 6 km west of Riverton, was laid out in 1859 on section 565, Hundred of Alma, by Robert Milne (ca.1813-1866), of ‘Drummin’ (sic), who came from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, where there is a ‘Rhynie’
near Balmoral Castle - Gaelic for ‘running water’. In some quarters it is believed that it was named in honour of a Mr Ryan, the first storekeeper there. However, the distinctive spelling of the word makes this doubtful. Prior to 1859 it was known as ‘Baker’s Springs’. (Australia Post records say that a post office of that name opened in 1851.) In 1860, it was reported that ‘there have been erected within the last few months three substantial buildings, one a public house, one a store and the other intended for a store also’:

Mr Stevens will have a mill erected in it ere long… There is at present a first-rate opening for a boot and shoemaker, a blacksmith and a carpenter; one of each would find ample work. Our present butcher is about suspending business and leaves a very good opening for another…

The opening of the day school was reported in 1862; it closed in 1966, while examinations at St Joseph’s School were reported in The Irish Harp on 10 October 1873 and a picnic on 20 February 1874. (See Baker Springs)

Rice Creek - By a special survey, John Morphett claimed several thousand acres along the tributary of the Upper Wakefield River for Messrs E.R. Rice and R.A. Slaney and the name was applied to a subdivision of section 728, Hundred of Upper Wakefield, 8 km North-East of Auburn, by Francis Heaslip (ca.1838-1871), in 1867.

The Rice Creek Post Office operated from 1872 until February 1879, while Rice Creek School was opened by William Schumacher in 1881; it closed circa 1924.

On 5 August 1897, Arbor Day in connection with the Rice Creek School was celebrated when ‘the parents assembled at the school in the afternoon when a variety of trees were planted by the children under the supervision of the teacher, Miss Brinkworth… A programme of action songs, musical drill and recitations were creditably carried out by the children during the afternoon.’

Richard(s) - Rodney Cockburn, without giving its location, says Richards Desert was named by Ernest Giles after ‘T.P. Richards, a trooper of Fowlers Bay’.

Richard, Lake Sir - (See Sir Richard)

Richards, Hundred of - In the County of Cardwell, proclaimed on 10 February 1938. Robert Stanley Richards, MP, (1918-1949), was born at Moonta, in 1885, the son of a Cornish miner, and while at school he went to work selling newspapers, his first job, at 13 years, being a ‘picky boy’ on the ore-dressing floor of the Moonta Mines. Premier for a short time in 1933, he ‘had outstanding leadership qualities, remarkable skill as a debater, but was a modest man with great depth of human understanding…’ He died in 1967.

Richardson, Lake - South West of Lake Torrens, recalls Gilbert B. Richardson of Euro Bluff and Mount Fitton stations.

Richman - Richman Creek and Richman Hill, near Quorn, were named after an early pastoralist, Henry J. Richman, who died on 2 August 1902, aged 77 years. Christopher Bray opened the Richman Creek School in 1880; it became ‘Itali Itali’ in 1890 while the Richman Valley School, opened by Ellen Miller in 1886, closed in 1946.

The Richman Creek Post Office opened in 1879 and closed in January 1887.

On 25 December 1880, ‘At Itali Itali, Richman’s Creek, a large number of people gathered to celebrate the opening of the new church in connection with the Bible Christian denomination. During the day quite 300 people attended the public dinner and tea and the meeting in the evening was crowded… It is a neat edifice the size being 30x28 with cement dressings and Gothic arches.’ (See Itali Itali, Pichi Richi & Quorn)

Richmond - An advertisement alluding to a village of Richmond appeared in 1840 and South Richmond in both 1840 and 1841. As to the former, it said: ‘Mr J. Roberts is instructed to lay out and sell in six acre blocks, two eighty acre sections on some of the most valuable land about Adelaide… and adjoining the invaluable estate of Mr McLean…’ Rodney Cockburn infers that, in 1839, Charles Gooch applied the name to his farm in the area; biographical records show a Charles Gooch (1799-1881) arriving in the D’Auvergne on 21 March 1839.

It would appear that the property owned by this gentleman, and known as Richmond Estate, was located ‘about six miles from Adelaide on the banks of the Torrens’; an advertisement for its sale was advertised in the South Australian on 19 January 1849. Further, biographical information shows him residing at Paradise which would be consistent with the location of the aforementioned ‘Estate’; by occupation he was a ‘soft goods merchant’ who was born at Benacre Hall, Suffolk, England. (See Benacre)

The nomenclature of the subdivision ‘west of Adelaide’ would appear to rest with Robert Fletcher Bradshaw (ca.1800-1863), who was born at Halton Hall, Lancashire, obtained the land grant of section 94, Hundred of Adelaide, on 4 April 1839, and, early in 1842, laid out portion of it into one-acre allotments as the village of Richmond. When a further 36 acres of the section were divided into one-acre blocks, in 1854, it was said that ‘shops and other stores have already been erected on the adjacent acres and Richmond will in a short time be one of the most thriving villages…’

‘A Visit to Richmond’, situated ‘within a mile of the west parklands’ and having once been owned for so many years by the late John Chambers, was reported in 1890 and included a comment that it was a very pleasant location that was:
Picked upon by Mr James Aldridge when he purchased Richmond, the property owned for so many years by the late John Chambers... It must some day become very valuable as a site for a suburb, but meanwhile it is being devoted to the double purpose of a homestead and a stud farm...

The name comes from London, where it is a suburb adjoining Twickenham which situation appertains in Adelaide. Its ancient name was ‘Sheen’, derived from the OE seeon - ‘beautiful place’.

Henry VII, who rebuilt a royal palace which had been burnt down in 1499, called the place ‘Richmond’ from him having borne the title of Earl of Richmond in Yorkshire. (See Twickenham)

The foundation stone of the school was laid in April 1898 and photographs of the school are in the Observer, 31 January 1903, page 24, of the school band on 11 August 1923, page 29; also see Chronicle, 18 May 1933, page 37, of a Boy Scouts’ troop in the Observer, 9 February 1924, page 34, winners in a baby competition in the Chronicle, 29 June 1933, page 34.

Richmond Blocks was a name given, generally, to the area set aside as ‘Workingmen’s Blocks’, being section 50, Hundred of Adelaide, and adjacent to the Richmond railway station.

This area was referred to, also, as ‘Hilton Workingmen’s Blocks’.

South Richmond was a subdivision of sections 90 and 2031, Hundred of Adelaide, bounded by Richmond Road, Grove Avenue, Galway Avenue and Marion Road. The first allotments were in Argyle Avenue, Allington Avenue and Sutton Terrace; now included in Marleston.

Rickaby, Port - North-West of Minlaton on Yorke Peninsula, recalls Thomas Rickaby, an early settler.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1820, he arrived in the Marshal Pelissier in 1857 and died at Port Vincent, in 1916.

A jetty was erected there and opened in 1879, Mr Rickaby having, in June 1877, been the chairman of a public meeting that agitated for its construction. A photograph is in the Observer, 6 April 1907, page 30.

Riddoch, Hundred of - In the County of Grey, proclaimed on 20 September 1883. A school of this name opened in 1916 and became ‘Mount Graham’ in 1918. The name recalls John Riddoch (1827-1901), MP (1865-1873) who was associated closely with multifarious debates, within and without parliament, on the introduction of railways into the South-East. (See Beachport, Coonawarra, Kingston, Kooring, Yallum & Peter Rymill, George Riddoch of Kooring)

A volume might be written about the various schemes that were proposed for the connection of the South-Eastern districts with the seaboard, and a halo of romance might be thrown around the story if the writer recounted the bloodless battles fought over rival routes and told how, by one, the schemes were fought over and then abandoned for a time, only to be brought up again whenever railway extensions to other parts of the colony were mooted. However, it can be stated positively that the railways in the South-East were built without a definite plan and merely to appease local demands.

Mr Riddoch was not in accord with the majority of his fellow pastoralists for he held the view that such railways ‘should serve the majority of the population, regardless of his personal financial interests.’ Consequently, ‘with the approval of the electorate and particularly the citizens of Naracoorte and Robe, Parliament agreed in 1866 that Naracoorte should be joined with MacDonnell Bay by means of a railway.’

In 1867, various schemes commenced a checkered career under the auspices of Mr Santo who proposed to connect Naracoorte with Mount Gambier, without giving either of them an outlet to the seaboard. In that year a Bill was passed authorising a loan of £300,000 for its construction and, notwithstanding the absurdity of making a town 17 miles inland the terminus of such a line, people were satisfied to attribute it to inconsideration rather than injustice.

Another line from Lacepede Bay to Naracoorte was also promised at this time. In the next session these proposals were shelved altogether and the district, after being cheated out of a year’s expenditure upon its roads in this way, was only slightly better off as to its facilities for traffic at before the apparent, but delusive, willingness to concede justice to the South East was proclaimed.

Earlier, the Editor of the Border Watch came down against an alternative proposal of a Naracoorte to Kingston railway:

Everyone who has travelled the road between Kingston and Naracoorte and seen the intervening country knows well that is of a very worthless description and that no amount of ‘developing’ will ever render it valuable. It is destitute to a great extent of grass and even trees and, although some few thousands of sheep find a precarious picking amidst its heath and scrub, it is not such a country that any sane person would willingly spend money simply to open up... Kingston and Naracoorte [sic] cannot as yet be regarded as the South East.

At the same time, Rev J.E. Tenison Woods, then domiciled at Penola, said:

A tramway from MacDonnell Bay to Penola would give the largest amount of convenience to the settlers, while one from Guichen Bay to Penola would shut off a large portion of the south end of the district because, ‘the most important part of the district lies to the south of Penola.’ The most expensive tramway would, in his opinion, be from Lacepede Bay to Penola because of the swamps that had to be drained, which was essential, because a tramway built across them would dam up
the whole of the drainage that flowed to the north-west. The Lacepedians ridiculed the idea of making a line from one inland town to another… and pleaded for the commencement of a line to Lacepede Bay.

Mr Riddoch did not seek re-election in 1870 because of illness but, in 1872, was persuaded to stand again on the issue of the railways and was ‘returned resoundingly by his electorate, which included both the Upper and Lower South East.’ However, in Parliament he was subjected to vehement verbal attacks and among his detractors was Sir George Kingston, the Speaker of the House of Assembly who, by a strange coincidence ‘had established the town [of Kingston] as a “speculative plunge”, had named it after itself, and used all his powers to gag Riddoch from debating the matter.’

Peter Rymill, the Penola historian, continues:

Parliament, which at this time did not seem to know the meaning of corruption, was a veritable imbroglio. As a contemporary pen recorded: ‘Parties are divided on particular subjects. There is a squatting party and an anti-squatting party; a Government House party and a party opposed to Government House; a religious endowment party and a party unfavourable to religious endowments; but as to well-defined political demarcation you might as well look for inkspots on the moon. The want of party organisation produces a chronic state of ministerial instability.’

On one occasion, in November 1872, the overbearing Kingston locked the doors of the Assembly to prevent unwelcome visits from the Governor and inadvertently excluded Riddoch and a colleague as well. Not to be deterred, the doughty Riddoch kicked the door in and calmly resumed his rightful seat.

Other opinions of our legislators at this period were expressed thus:

Some of the members bore about them the unmistakable stamp of self-seeking recklessness and vulgarity. The qualities we have always held as belonging to men of honour and gentlemen seemed to be set aside, and in their place came forward meanness, spite, evil speaking, treachery, lying and dishonesty… We have often spoken together with admiration of the higher character of man… but we must not seek it in the House of Assembly, as it is now constituted… there is nothing but waste, noise and confusion.

Men are prone to stoop to successful duplicity. Intrigue and stratagem are called a ‘policy’. The only qualifications required for a Minister are want of principle and great cunning. It is of little importance that he is abhorred by the good and despised even by his own associates; has he talent? will he serve the cause? are the only questions. Office is made a bribe, exclusive privileges are granted to the dominant party. Party spirit wields the power of the province.

But, if the Government are beaten, where are the Opposition? They are beaten too. It is the game of the Kilkenny cats over again. Everybody licks everybody, and there is annihilation on both sides - nobody winning.

It is the usual fate of mortals to pass through the most momentous period of history without any due realisation of the magnitude of the scene before them, or any correct conception of a future which is always foreshadowed by a present. Never did this colony more urgently require wise statesmanship and a bold, comprehensive policy than now…

By this time, the energetic representations of James Cooke of Lacepede Bay had acquired considerable influence in parliamentary circles and, when later in the session the Ministry introduced a policy authorising only the construction of a line from Naracoorte to Mount Gambier, they were met by active opposition and the proposal was emasculated.

The ‘Lacepedians’ ridiculed the idea of making a line from one inland town to another because all plant and material would have to be carted from MacDonnell Bay at the one end and, at the other, from Lacepede Bay to Naracoorte, over a track almost impassable to heavy traffic. They pleaded, also, for the commencement of a line to Lacepede Bay.

The labours of parliament were extremely arduous and most unprofitable, for no sooner did the members approach a determinate result, but something cropped up to render them unavailing and the work had to be laboriously gone over again. The word of promise conveyed to the residents of the South-East, and so repeatedly broken, culminated in a surprise when, in 1872, an Act was passed authorising the construction of a line from Kingston to Naracoorte.

The government of the day, like many of their predecessors declared themselves to be favourable to the immediate construction of the railway, but ‘adopted the course that was calculated to delay its commencement and gratify the members of the district, whose persistent opposition to the work was, to say the least, peculiar.’

Following assent being given to the Act, Mr Riddoch resigned and his letter setting out his reasons is in the Register, 25 June 1873 and, in a stinging editorial, the Observer castigated him:

Mr Riddoch’s aim was either to get the direction of the railway changed or to burke it entirely and, had he succeeded, the settlers in the north, for all he cared, would have to whistle for their means of reaching a nearer port than Rivoli Bay or Port MacDonnell… The Border Watch… has not served Mr Riddoch’s cause by calling attention to the fact that he was evidently prepared to throw his Naracoorte constituents overboard entirely… We may briefly allude to Mr Riddoch’s farewell manifesto to the electors of the District of Victoria recently published under his own signature in which he reiterates the unwarrantable statements attributed to him.

Thus he repeats it is hopeless to expect to have any measures connected with the district in a fair and impartial manner by the Assembly at present constituted… As we have said before Mr Riddoch went
into the house with the settled purpose in his mind of defeating the Railway Bill and, failing in that object, his work was done. It would not have answered for him to have openly avowed the fact, and so he has raised this dust about injustice to the district to cover his retreat. We hope to see his place supplied by an equally able but less unscrupulous man, who will show by his acts that he cares for the interests of South Australia at large, as well as those of that limited portion of it which lies at Yallum Park. (See Yallum)

In a lengthy response written in Melbourne Mr Riddoch said, _inter alia:_

I am accused of opposing the Railway Bill from interested motives but the [_Observer_] is quite oblivious to this fact that ever since the subject of this railway was mooted the scheme has been reprobated by every member for the district of Victoria and has been looked upon with disfavour by the great majority of the inhabitants. I deemed a railway from Lacepede Bay to Naracoorte as involving a useless expenditure of money…

Mr Peter Rymill commented on what he considered to be unwarranted criticism of Mr Riddoch:

The Lower SE centres of population didn’t want this line, and re-elected Riddoch in 1872 specifically to oppose it. Incidentally, isn’t it ironical that this paper impugns Riddoch’s integrity by implying that his railway policy was influenced by its propinquity to Yallum?

The gutter press usually assumed that, as a squatter, he would want the railway (and its concomitant selectors) to stay away from Yallum!

As a matter of fact, his comment was supported because many people thought that they were ‘heavily handicapped by the construction of that monstrous absurdity’ from Naracoorte to Kingston - indeed, this had been ‘cast in their teeth continually when government aid was sought for public works.’

Following the opening of this line, in 1878, 4,675 tons of goods and 5,002 passengers were carried the revenue being £5,992 - the following year 5,710 tons and 5,349 passengers realised £6,837. In 1880, the revenue was increased by only £217 and, at this time, it was announced that the railway did not pay at all, for by the end of June 1879 it had cost £11,211 beyond interest on the original outlay of £190,212 and, accordingly, steps were taken to improve this situation when Sunday trains were abolished, for a saving of about £1,000 per annum.

It was never expected, of course, that the line would be profitable and its warmest advocates only looked upon it as a means of bridging the swampy ground between Naracoorte and the seaboard and as a trunk line from which would extend a branch into the Tatiara country, and perhaps another one southward.

It was quite a moot point whether the comfort of passengers, the saving of time in the conveyance of mails and passengers, and the opening up of the land compensated for the £11,000 loss incurred by the close of 1879.

As far as the settlers contiguous to the railway were concerned it gave Naracoorte a push forward and to raise it, by 1880, to a town with 200 houses and about 1,200 inhabitants. (_See Kingston & South-East_)

In respect of the underhand practice of the ‘dummying’ of land, in January 1879 the _Border Watch_ published a letter from a correspondent signing himself ‘Short and Sweet’ of Lucindale, setting out his accusations against the avaricious pastoralists:

… For instance, take a station near Naracoorte and see how many dummies are employed. Their name is legion and yet their employers serenely smile because no action is taken against them, nor is there likely to be until some person bestirs himself in this matter. Surely, the time has come for filthy lucre to be dethroned, and for integrity to reign in its stead. It is not only a disgrace but a crime to allow one or two individuals to monopolise the best of the land and those persons who do so should be treated as criminals. They not only sin themselves, but cause the poor and needy to do likewise… It is the duty of every person to stop monopoly of agricultural land and the only effectual way to do it is to begin at the fountain from which the evil springs.

Further evidence of the practice which, without a doubt, was rampant throughout the South-East was the following report in 1885:

We stopped on our way at Tarpeena where Mr Coles conducted… the examination of a squatter whom the evidence seems to prove to have been guilty of assisting in dummying. When the party called at the public house Mr Coles called into the private room Mr Kennedy, owner of Peeweeena Station, and charged him straightforwardly with having engaged a man named J.W. Green to dummy sections 312 and 313, Hundred of Mingbool… Then the interview closed and Green’s land will be duly forfeited.

Among the alleged transgressors was John Riddoch who provided cash to place others on the land with a view to his own future advantage - in this respect the circumstances of one case will suffice to show his apparent chicanery; this was brought into the public arena by a citizen of the South-East under the pseudonym of ‘Traveller’ in December 1881:

I beg, through your columns, to give publicity to a report current here which, if true, must tend to show that the position of the big land proprietor relative to that of the small farmer in South Australia savors more of the days of feudalism and servitude than of the justice and freedom of a civilized and enlightened land…

A wealthy and influential squatter of this district is said to have had recourse to dumdums on a large scale in order to effect his object and in the case of one of these dumdums the action taken by the said squatter deserves the publicity it has not hitherto enjoyed.

The dummy, an ordinary station hand, but a true and honest drudge to his master, having served over 15 years in his employ, is one day ordered to take up his abode on a portion of land pointed out to him.

That the object was to make a dummy of the man is obvious since the land was taken up in his name and all expenses of house-building, cropping and improving settled by the squatter’s cheque direct, and that the man knew he was performing dummy duty is also apparent.
However, the term of occupation drawing to a close the squatter orders him to sign a deed of acceptance for an amount that will not merely transfer the whole affair to himself, but will leave the man further indebted beyond his due and, upon demurring, a summons to the Supreme Court is served upon him.

The man, a penniless unfortunate with a large family, being totally unable to procure funds necessary for the trip to town, cannot appear or have the case defended, a warrant of arrest (on application by the squatter) is sent up the country and he is thrown into the local gaol, there to await the lordly pleasure of the proprietor. To the knowledge of all resident here this man has been languishing in prison for already seven months and no enquiry into the matter has been held.

The family had to trust for support to the charity of those who were cognisant of the crying injustice done them, until lately an application for government rations being sent in, these were supplied them. It is an advantage to know that dummyism has received rather a shock in the proceedings of the last assizes here; but I ask you, Sir, should not this report be enquired in to and this man, said now to be in gaol without a likelihood of being heard unless with the consent of the above mentioned landlord magnate, allowed at least a chance of clearing himself.

The Editor of the Register, incensed by the content of the letter, said in an editorial:

The persons referred to in the letter are Mr John Riddoch of Yallum and Mr William Mason, one of the selectors whose case was enquired into in the recent dummyism investigation at Penola… We have taken particular care to assure ourselves of the accuracy of our correspondent’s accusations… and we call attention to them because it appears that a gross and cruel injustice has been inflicted upon the unfortunate man, Mason…

Mr Riddoch asked Mason to sign an acceptance for £555.13s.11d, apparently the sum spent on improvements, though Mason had never asked either that the work might be done or for the money to pay for it and was working for Mr Riddoch when the latter asked him to sign. Upon refusing to sign the acceptance Mr Riddoch stopped his rations and instituted proceedings against him in the Supreme Court… Although the case appears to have been very loosely conducted, the evidence seems to point to the most barefaced dummyism…

It is very clear that some one has been guilty of perjury and the case should not be allowed to stop where it is… In whatever light, however, the transaction as to the land may be regarded, the conduct of Mr Riddoch must strike everyone as being extremely harsh and cruel.

When it is remembered that Mason’s case is only one of several with which Mr Riddoch’s name is mixed up, the necessity for explanation is all the greater for if Mason has not been guilty of perjury, Mr Riddoch, as an ex-legislator, owes to the public, if not to himself, to leave no stone unturned to exculpate himself.

Following explanations being received from Mr Riddoch the Editor responded:

The public will draw their own conclusions as to the ulterior object of Mr Riddoch’s manager in not directly forbidding the advance of some hundreds of pounds to Mason (the alleged ‘dummy’) without consideration and without acknowledgment; but what ever suspicion may attach to Mr Riddoch’s conduct, however greatly he may have violated the spirit of the law, we cheerfully admit that the papers submitted to us for perusal tend to show that he stated what actually took place between himself and his manager.

His evidence was not given in a satisfactory manner, but in effect is borne out by testimony from two or three independent witnesses. In some respects the accusation brought against Mr Riddoch by our correspondent of having treated Mason with great harshness is sustained by further evidence… But in other respects a false impression has been created and we hasten to remove it.

It is nothing but the simplest act of justice to the owner of Yallum Park that he has often shown himself generous to a fault. His action in incarcerating Mason, in allowing him to remain in prison for six or seven months, and in turning a deaf ear to his appeals for release, is therefore little in accord with his usual mode of action…

After reading the above narration on ‘dummying’, Mr Rymill proffered the following incisive comments:

The presentation would be more balanced if we could see what Riddoch had to say about the Mason incident, but I’m not sure that the Register actually published his letter. It seems to have just tried to squirm out of its accusations. I have often wondered what was really going on in this episode - I might try to get to the bottom if it one day, as it does appear to be a rather uncharacteristic blot on Riddoch’s escutcheon. [See Yallum]

The whole farce shows the futility in attempting to impose silly restrictions on freehold title.

Concerning dummying in general, I feel it has often been treated in a rather partisan way by historians. It should be remembered that the government promoted ‘dummying’ with the Substitute Resident Clauses of the Strangways Acts, which encouraged employers to use the Credit Selection Clauses to install employees on new selections. I wonder if Mason was one of these? I also think it should be kept in mind that any illegal incidents of dummying would have pretty quickly resulted in prosecutions, and I’m not aware of any (in the SE). [Author’s note - See Mr Rymill’s biographical essay Penola Commemorative Biographies - The Founders & Observer, 8 July 1871, page 2, where ‘dummying’ in the South East is discussed at length.]

Dummying wasn’t initially a problem in SA, because the sections were sold by open auction. It was much more part of the Victorian system, which offered allotments at the fixed price of £1 per acre by ballot. You can imagine the result! Every friend, really, and probably the odd dog joined in.
I recently discovered that a young Mary MacKillop was a dummy for Alexander Cameron in three parishes on Mt Sturgeon Plains [in Victoria]…

**Ridgehaven** - This Adelaide suburb was laid out on part section 1577, Hundred of Yatala, by Goolwa Subdivisions Ltd in 1960.

**Ridge Park** - The suburb, now included in Myrtle Bank, took its name from a property owned by Mr George F. Shipster (ca.1807-1844) in the early 1840s - Rodney Cockburn says Shipster sold the property in 1843 to Robert Miller, who named it. The ‘Ridge Park Nursery’ was advertised in 1846 and **Ridge Park** in 1856 as ‘now on the market for sale in blocks… the number of [which] is limited.’ (See Kensington Park)

In 1910, it was reported that ‘the want of a public recreation ground in the vicinity of Glen Osmond was impressed on the residents of this suburb by the gradual disposal of portions of Ridge Park… A tea meeting and entertainment held in the institute on October 13 contributed a substantial sum to the funds…’

The ‘official’ subdivision was laid out in 1924, when Percival A. Fraser, stationer, subdivided part section 270, Hundred of Adelaide, as **Ridge Park Estate**.

A photograph of a picnic party is in the Observer, 17 November 1928, page 38, of a Seventh Day Adventists’ Camp in the Chronicle, 1 March 1934, page 35.

**Ridgeway Hill** - On section 363, Hundred of Waitpinga. The name was gazetted on 25 June 1942 and, apparently, corrupted from Ridgway W. Newland (1790-1864), the pioneer Congregational Minister in the Victor Harbor district, who arrived in the Sir Charles Forbes in 1839. The misspelling was due to an error by the Nomenclature Committee because its minutes of 26 March 1942 recommend the adoption of **Ridgeway Hill**.

Previously, it was known as ‘West of Newland’s Hill’. (See Newland & Yilke)

**Ridgway** - Eleven kilometres North-West of Owen, recalls John Ridgway who arrived in the Java in 1839 and acquired land in the area in 1859; by 1899 he held 1,200 acres. He died in 1906, aged 77. (See Barlinga)

**Ridley** - On 19 April 1860, the **Hundred of Ridley**, County of Sturt, was proclaimed, the first pastoralist in the area being David Taylor (P.L. 277 of June 1853) who held the land until it was resumed for closer settlement.

It is presumed to be named in honour of John Ridley.

Originally, the present-day suburb of **Ridleyton** comprised part of preliminary section 371, Hundred of Yatala, and granted to Osmond Gilles on 7 March 1839, who transferred it to John Ridley of ‘Hindmarsh Town’ on 14 June 1842 for the sum of £275.

At the time, John Ridley was described as a miller, although within two or three years he was to become famous as the inventor of the first stripper or reaping machine.

In the **Southern Australian** he said that he ‘came out in the Warrior and arrived here on Good Friday last’:

> I brought with me a steam engine part of the force of which I intend to appropriate to driving a saw mill and part for the grinding of flour. Since then I have been busily employed at Hindmarsh, in setting up the engine and making other necessary preparations… I am a hater of monopolies and have no wish to create a monopoly for myself…

In 1873, he applied to bring portion of the land under the provisions of the **Real Property Act** and lodged a plan of a subdivision over that area, naming it **Ridleyton**, some of the first purchasers of allotments being George Bailey, Henry Pickering, Henry Hunton, Mary Lennon, Thomas Henry Brooker, William Sugars and William Tamlin.

On 13 January 1845, E.C. Frome wrote to the Colonial Secretary and said, ‘I have the honour to forward four plans of Mr Ridley’s Reaping Machine drawn by Serjeant [sic] Major Gardiner, Royal Sappers and Miners, from measurements of the machine made by him in conformity with His Excellency’s directions to me on the subject.

The simplicity of the machine renders unnecessary any description beyond that which is conveyed by the plans and accompanying reference.

The machine is pushed forward by two horses and guided by means of a handle attached to the end of the pole: It moves on tolerably level ground rather faster than a plough. Four horses are required for a day’s work, each pair being changed every two hours. Two men attend the machine, one to drive and steer, the other to assist in changing the horses, etc.; this latter man, in addition to the assistance thus rendered, collects the grain emptied from the machine on a tarpaulin and winnows it on the ground.

According to the statement of Mr Ridley’s foreman… the machine will reap and thrash about one acre per hour including stoppages on an average, perhaps about 200 bushels daily, the quantity depending of course upon the nature of the crop. To work the machine with advantage it is evident that the corn ought to be dead ripe all over the field, of about the same height throughout and the ground ought to be tolerably level. It appears to answer admirably on the plains in this colony, but would not… be found available in any but a very dry hot climate.

Like most inventions considerable controversy followed. Its first trial took place at Salisbury and Captain C.H. Bagot was one of the first to use the threshing machine and promoted a testimonial that was presented to the inventor, but he brought a hornet’s nest about his ears when asserting that, with the use of the machine, wheat could be grown profitably for one shilling and sixpence per bushel.

![The original Ridley Reaper (Stripper)](image)
Records show that in December 1844 agricultural labourers in SA received only two shillings and sixpence per day. In parliament, Mr John Harvey opposed a motion to vote Ridley a reward of £500 for his invention because the general consensus of opinion was that he had already made a fortune out of his invention, and so the motion was lost. Evidently, John Wrathall Bull claimed credit for inventing the stripper, but as no other proof exists, ‘the umpires decision, the score book or, in this case, history and the encyclopaedia record the final decision.’

The village of Ridley, laid out by John Ridley on section 524, Hundred of Mudla Wirra, in 1873, and advertised as: ‘Ridley Township - Wasleys Station - There are admirable sites for wheat stores and general business adjoining the railway station platform and goods sheds’; now included in Wasleys.

Riggs Dams - Probably named after Messrs J. and H.J. Riggs, who held a pastoral lease ENE of Burra in 1876. They arrived with their parents, Andrew and Elizabeth, in 1855, in the Sir Thomas Arbuthnot from Dorset, England.

Riley, Point - The northern point of Wallaroo Bay, named after ‘a gentleman in Admiralty’ by Matthew Flinders on 15 March 1802. On Freycinet’s charts it is shown as C. Condorcet.

Ripon, Hundred of - In the County of Robinson, proclaimed on 11 June 1885 and named after the Earl of Ripon, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Hundred of Ripon School opened in 1909 and closed in 1911.

Rischbieth Creek & Rischbieth Well - About 66 km South-West of Marree; probably, they recall Charles Rischbieth, who held several pastoral leases in the area from 1875.

During 1888 gold was discovered near the well, but no payable ore was mined.

Risdon Park - Alfred H.L. Goode, merchant, created this suburb of Port Pirie in 1916 when he subdivided part sections 106 and 107. The name appears to be of Tasmanian extraction and Rodney Cockburn says the name was bestowed by A.B. Cashmore after Risdon Cove, Tasmania, where he spent his honeymoon - ‘in turn, Risdon Cove was named by Captain John Hayes in 1794, after a Devonshire family.’

Ritchie, Hundred of - In the County of Carnarvon, proclaimed on 9 December 1909. George Ritchie, MP (1902-1922), MLC (1924-1939), born at Goolwa, in 1864, followed his father’s occupation as a River Murray trader and, two years after his parent’s death, in 1882, entered into partnership with two brothers, their first vessel being the Pioneer. It was said that ‘in the development of the Murray [he] ranks with Hume, Cadell and Randell.’

Following his death in August 1944 the Premier, Thomas Playford, opined that, ‘he has occupied almost every ministerial portfolio… and was always noted for his tenacity with which he stuck to his principles.’

Ritterville - A 1909 subdivision of part section 441, Hundred of Mobilong, into four allotments by Johannes H.C.F. Ritter (ca.1838-1921); now included in Murray Bridge.

In 1916, it would appear that it escaped the notice of the Nomenclature Committee when it was given the task of recommending German names to be deleted from the map of South Australia.

Rivers of South Australia are recorded in alphabetical sequence, eg, Murray, River.

Riverdene - A 1921 subdivision of part sect 411, Hundred of Mobilong, by Johann Wilhelm Thiele, farmer of Murray Bridge; now included in Murray Bridge.

River Glen - The school opened in 1933 and closed in 1951.

Riverton - On 15 February 1840, James Masters (ca.1801-1861) obtained an occupation licence of a run situated on the River Gilbert and, on 5 February 1845, purchased section 1282 (96 acres) ‘north of Riverton’, surveyed by Corporal H. Ide in October 1844. Earlier, on 11 April 1844, the government decreed that all licence holders lodge a description of land held and official records show ‘Masters and Maurice - River Gilbert…’ In 1856, James Masters laid out the town of Riverton on section 500; Riverton School opened in 1857 and, in that year:

The residents of this thriving township have come to the determination of erecting a church… The site has been offered gratuitously and from the very handsome sum promised at the meeting… a building will be erected… Public worship has for several years been conducted in the neighbourhood - first, at the residence of Mr Masters, Saddleworth Lodge… [See Saddleworth]

But as the country was opened up and the settlers became more numerous the cry ‘more room’ was heard and Mr Masters, always anxious for the education of the young, erected a neat schoolroom, where public worship has been conducted by the Rev. F.P. Strickland for nearly 12 months…

Information on the opening of a Bible Christian Chapel was reported on 10 October 1857, of the Primitive Methodist Chapel on 6 December 1861, the laying of the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Chapel on 15 October 1870, while on 25 October 1871 ‘sermons were preached in Mr H. Bollenhagen’s wheat store… one object being to secure funds for the building of a new Bible Christian Chapel…’

In an unpublished history, Mrs R.B. Scholefield said that ‘James Masters came to the Gilbert Valley… accompanied by Charles Swinden, Dr Matthew Moorhouse and John Jubb Horner’. (See Washington Gardens)

In connection with the naming of Riverton I quote from a letter of the late Gilbert Horner, a grandson of J.J. Horner: ‘My grandfather often told us he named the town… Mr Masters remarked that the Surveyor-General had written and announced his intention of laying out a new town… and asked for a name to be recommended. “What about calling it Hornertown?”’, suggested Mr Masters. My grandfather, however, would not consent and said, “Call it after this little river”’. ‘So the name of “Gilberton” was sent in [and refused] because the name had already been chosen [for an Adelaide suburb]. Mr Masters then called on Mr Horner and again suggested Horntown [to which he replied] “If they will not accept Gilberton, call it Riverton”’. John Jubb Horner was both the first flour miller and postmaster in the Gilbert Valley.
Details of a holiday railway excursion from Adelaide on Good Friday were reported on 20 March 1875 and this notice riled a few strait-laced citizens and two protest letters appeared on 23 and 24 March 1875:

Already our licensing system has been found subservient to intemperance and vice. It is to be hoped that the public revenue will not profit by making our railways instruments of multitudinous corruption.

Carriages crammed with youth of both sexes... will not be favourable to delicacy or purity.


**River View** - A 1913 subdivision of part section 69, Hundred of Mobilong, by George Gray, accountant of Adelaide; now included in Murray Bridge. In 1921, the name *River View* was given, also, by E.T.N. and A.T. Matters, land agents, to a subdivision of sections 726 and 731, Hundred of Port Adelaide.

**Rivoli Bay** - Named *Baie de Quiberon* by Baudin in 1802; on Freycinet's published charts it is shown as *B. de Rivoli*. The Duke of Rivoli was an army associate of Napoleon Bonaparte in battles near Verona, Italy; alternatively, it may celebrate a French victory at Rivoli in 1797. The Aboriginal name for the bay was *weirintjaman*, 'a place where whales went to sleep' - *weir* - 'whale' and *wiltj* - 'sleep'.

The **Hundred of Rivoli Bay**, County of Grey, was proclaimed on 20 July 1871.

In 1845, Captain Emanuel Underwood was the first white settler to examine 'Rivoli Harbour' where, because of the reefs protecting it, he was able to sail about at leisure in a dinghy during a heavy gale, while on the southern side he reported that there was fine rising ground covered with grass and dotted with sheaoak 'which forms a beautiful site for a town'. John McIntyre, manager of the Glencoe Run had a different opinion:

> We are unitedly of the opinion that if protection is not afforded by the Government to the settlers at Rivoli Bay, they will be under the necessity of taking the law in their own hands to protect their lives and property. I have to report to you that two battles I and my men have had with the savages in this part of South Australia wherein one was shot and I believe two wounded. They have attacked my flocks and men no less than eight different times, wounding one man and spearing fifty sheep and carrying off twenty...

> A police force ought to be stationed in this part of the province to protect life and property.

However, it is apparent that he had not presented all the relevant facts:

On this occasion when 'the natives of the Rivoli Bay district and Glenelg [had] been treated in a manner which can only be called atrocious' it was reported that eight natives were shot and, further, that damper had been poisoned with 'corrosive sublimate', while another method of ill treatment was to 'drive the natives from the only watering places in the neighbourhood.' Further, the native women had been 'sought after by the shepherds, whilst the men were driven from the stations with threats.'

A review of these circumstances was made in Adelaide by the Commissioner of Police who advised that he had:

> Taken steps to endeavour to obtain evidence from the men now in Adelaide sufficient to justify me bringing a warrant to apprehend Mr McIntyre and others present with Mr Leake, although in the absence of the bodies of the slaughtered natives it may be impossible to mount...

> I consider that the secrecy in which these transactions have been cloaked, ... although shortly afterwards a Magistrate, Mr Evelyn Sturt was on the spot and could have investigated the facts had the parties been desirous of relieving themselves of any intimation of guilt, leaves sufficient grounds coupled with certain details which have reached me to justify me in believing that there has been unlawful bloodshed.

Should I issue warrants and no magistrate is to be found in the district to investigate the charges, the only course [will then] be to bring the parties before myself.

At the same time, the editor of the *South Australian* opined that 'the value of Rivoli appears to been long known to our good friends the Portland people and explains the anxiety which they have always shown to run it down and their recent efforts to get hold of the town land':

> That a township will be formed is no longer doubtful... We firmly believe it would soon eclipse all the ports on the south coast and become the Liverpool of South Australia...

> Captain Underwood has made a neat plan of the township reserving the strip of high land terminating at Cape Lannes for the government, for customs houses, bonded stores (adapted for which there is a natural cavern), barracks, government house, etc.

By 1858, a debate was abroad as to the relative merits, or otherwise, of Rivoli and Guichen Bays and, in a speech delivered at Mount Gambier, James Smith, a former employee of Captain Underwood at the former place, in respect of the future port for that town said:

> There is plenty of fresh water to be found at Rivoli Bay and there is a swamp within 200 to 300 yards of the township and fresh water can be found all round the bay by digging a few feet in the sand a little above the high watermark... I have repeatedly discharged and loaded a vessel drawing 11 feet of water and no accident happened to any vessel in the Bay consigned to me during my nine years residence there...

> A vessel going ashore in Guichen Bay is sure to become a total wreck while at Rivoli Bay it would be swept onto a sandy beach where, by lightening the vessel, it could be got off...
Following the opening of the Mount Gambier to Beachport railway, in 1878, Captain Underwood said that ‘it was about 1841 or 1842 when, bound south in the good ship Governor Gawler of 15 tons, pressed near the coast by contrary winds, I entered in the night’:

I saw it was a bay and remained there until daylight to examine its features, try the soundings for anchorage (the water was very smooth) and I formed at once the idea that such a bay might be made useful to settlers in the adjacent country for receiving stores and shipping wool…

Soon afterwards Captain Lipson was sent to examine minutely and report on its capabilities it offered for the purposes I have named. His report was altogether unfavourable and mine condemned and, at the time, I had to bear some wordy abuse for my crude opinions; and at the time Guichen Bay was becoming a rival and received all the favours and attention of the government at that period. Nevertheless, I stood up for Rivoli Bay.

I built a store there for the reception of goods… I planted a family there in charge of my venture whose name has been honourably mentioned in the recent speeches at the Mount (Mrs Smith). I met encouragement from the settlers and made a number of trips with stores bringing the wool back in season.

But I had to contend with the prejudices of those in high stations and there were no facilities of any kind to forward my views, and that connected with mishaps, and one fatal shipwreck, forced me to give up my project at great loss and for the time Rivoli Bay was abandoned.

Time has tooled on; changes in opinions of men in power have taken place and Rivoli Bay, now ‘Beachport’, looms out prominently as a port in South Australia. I feel gratified at such an issue as it has justified my humble opinion at that early period in our history…

[See Beachport, Bevilaqua Ford & Grey Town]

Roach Town - In 1858, Isaac Killicoat (ca.1808-1886) gave this name to a subdivision of section 2071, Hundred of Kooringa, probably naming it after Henry Roach (1808-?), Chief Captain of the Burra Mine from 1847 to 1868. Mr Killicoat arrived in South Australia in the Abberton, in 1854, to take up the position of manager of the smelter operated by the English and Australian Copper Company at Burra; now included in Burra.

Another candidate in respect of its nomenclature was reported in 1896, when ‘one of the oldest residents of the Burra, Mrs John [sic] Roach died on February 22…’

She arrived in the colony with her husband in 1847 in the vessel Cressy and proceeded at once to the Burra… Mr Roach [1820-1881] built the Burra Burra Mill and lived at Aberdeen until his death…

Contrary to this newspaper obituary, genealogical records state that they arrived in the Bussorah in 1848. A sketch of Roach Bros. mill is in the Pictorial Australian in August 1885, page 160.

Robe - Governor F.H. Robe has his name commemorated by County of Robe, proclaimed on 23 July 1846 and the Port of Robe on 18 February 1847. The town of Robe, the site of which was selected by him, was surveyed in January 1846 under the direction of Thomas Burr, Deputy Surveyor-General and offered for sale first on 17 October 1846. East Robe was laid out by Thomas Hinckley and Richard McLure - see GRO Deposit 27/1857.

Lt-Colonel Frederick Holt Robe was Governor from October 1845 until August 1846. Douglas Pike portrays him as ‘unpretentious, quiet, kind hearted and devout in private life and punctilious in public affairs. He was limited by his loyalties to understand the ambitions of his South Australian subjects and had little sympathy for civil liberty.’

In an Editorial, in 1845, it was suggested that Major Robe’s apologists were adamant that if he was the ‘most experienced Governor in colonial business we ever had’:

Where, would we ask, did he gather his experience? In a slave-tainted atmosphere of Mauritius? - whilst parading the ramparts of Gibraltar - or in pacing the quarter-deck of the Elphinstone… When he received his appointment to succeed Captain Grey, he did not even know in which quarter of the globe South Australia was situated…

John Stephens, Editor of the Register also castigated the Governor:

Whilst we both deplore and deprecate the ignorant, ill-natured bearing of the man to whose care the destinies of this rich and rising colony are for the moment confided, we can scarcely find language strong enough to express our detestation of the principles which could induce a minister of the British Crown to impose upon an already sufficiently ill-used community as their Governor one whose manners and understanding seem rather to qualify him for the office of martinet than for the representative of the bright and friendly lady who now fills the throne of England.

Further, a correspondent to the Register in 1847 went a little further:

You, a wayward bachelor in easy circumstances, probably came hither to see a portion of the globe before unknown to you; the prospect of your short visit being rendered more agreeable by a liberal salary, and the unwonted title of Governor. We, on the contrary, in our self-expatriation, sacrificed European connexions and comforts in the hope of founding in a wilderness a free and prosperous community… You have not one particle of a personal interest in [our] prosperity or adversity.

Unfortunately, numerous facts attest that you are equally devoid of that mere human sympathy which might have been expected from any one calling himself an Englishman… I have the presumption to think, Sir, that there are men amongst us who possess greater common sense, more principle, ability, and general information than yourself…

On the credit side, the SA Gazette & Mining Journal in 1848 recorded that, on his departure, almost every magistrate signed a memorial acknowledging the noble fashion in which he had performed his duties. He died in 1872.
After the recall of Robe not a few, both in England and the colony, would have liked to have seen Colonel Gawler restored to the post; among others George Fife Angas was hopeful of this. The wish, however, was not gratified, but in the successor the colonists found an ideal governor and a man after their own hearts, namely, Sir Henry Fox Young, who in a famous speech said:

Let us whose mission it is a legislature to nurse this infant community in its advance towards the rank of a nation, so act for the interests of the present and future time that our successors shall not be able to associate our proceedings with the origin of any short-sighted or illiberal measures. In this honourable and responsible aim it will be my pride cordially to afford you my best co-operation.

The Register of 23 January 1847 has a letter from Captain Underwood which commences with a lengthy account of an altercation with the Collector of Customs whom he described as ‘a personage with all the hauteur of an Emperor…’ He continued:

The social state of the community at Port Guichen [sic] is anything but enviable. There are three government officials with little to do except quarrel with each other and wherever I went I heard charges and counter-charges. The Collector has three half-starved hounds which go around to the tents of the police or the doctor and rob them of their beef which is no joke where the supply is periodical; and repetitions of robbery, of course, provoke threats of poisoning and shooting against the hungry animals and bad feeling towards their owner who is not disposed to supply his dogs or keep them tied up.

The servants are all dissatisfied with living in such a desolate spot and are clamorous to leave it. There is a foundation laid for a house for the Resident; it is said to be sixty feet long and forty feet broad; which dimensions in such a place serve for the foundation of a barrack or a fortress. There is a wooden skeleton up for a hotel… and the top of this erection is the only thing visible at a distance that indicates the presence of civilised man.

The bush is so thick around the township that the eye can scarcely command a distance of 50 yards in any direction. The Court House, so called, consists of a few boards set up endways and meeting overhead; the prison is a sheaoak, at the foot of which are a few bushes affording imperfect shelter to two British subjects of sable hue, chained by the neck to each other and to the tree. These offenders have been so confined, two or three weeks, for an attempt to injure a white settler named McKenzie. A policeman, and sometimes two, has to watch night and day to prevent the escape of the blacks, and supply their wants.

There are two patches of potatoes growing in the soil of the township being, as I suppose, the most favourite spot that could be chosen at the time; they are growing, certainly, but are poor weed-like plants. The extent of this cultivation is not more than a dozen rows of about 15 feet long. There are several good looking cows and a few goats in the township besides several horses and a cart; a dray also arrived from Grey Town while I was there.

At present the town of Guichen [sic] is, what it has the chance of remaining for a long time, a lonely miserable spot; and Rivoli Bay is very little better, except that there is more trade there for wool and supplies for the settlers; but the few buildings on the shore of Rivoli Bay present a somewhat inviting appearance from the bay and there are good cabbages and potatoes growing to a limited extent.

At the same time, Mr G.V.Butler, the Government Resident, pleaded for the provision of a lockup because:

During the time prisoners are in custody the three policemen are on duty night and day, that is to say some man must always be on duty - the duty itself is not only extremely severe and onerous but they are non-effective for general purposes during the period they are thus employed… I beg to add that if some better shelter than a tent is not provided for the police before winter I much fear they will not be able to endure it - the want of a court house is also much felt.

He went on to say that ‘the increase of population beyond the families of government officers consists of three men, two women and two children’ and that one hut had been built by ‘a person who intends applying for a licence to open a public house which is much wanted for people bringing their wool for shipment - about 200 bales will be sent from this place during this season.’

‘John Calder and George Ormerod were, ostensibly, the founders of Robe and they opened it up at the time when Grey Town had been tried and condemned as a port.’ Mr Ormerod was a former owner of the Naracoorte Run; he sold it to Mr William MacIntosh, and started business as a storekeeper, shipper of wool and general agent at Robe. (See Naracoorte & Ormerod, Lake) Mr Calder was, apparently, the first storekeeper in the town and, on 25 January 1849, Mr Butler, the Government Resident, recommended his appointment as a ‘Commissioner of the Peace’ while, in May 1849, he applied for a licence to conduct the Royal Arms Hotel.

He came to South Australia from Sydney on the John Pirie in 1839 as a surveyor, at the behest of Captain Charles Sturt who, at the time, was in the throes of taking up the position of Surveyor-General in South Australia. Tiring of this occupation, Calder obtained a position in the Customs Department at Port Adelaide from which he resigned in 1846, while shipping notes indicate that he departed for Guichen Bay in September 1848. (See Grange)

In 1856, Governor MacDonnell visited the district when, together with his wife and Miss MacDonnell, embarked on the Yatala but squally weather and light winds, followed by rain, prevented the Guichen Bay Obelisk being sighted for several hours:

Disembarking at Robe Town he was greeted with a 17 gun salute and welcomed by Captain Brewer, the Government Resident, Mr Seymour of Mosquito Plains, the Messrs Ormerod, Mr Melville, the Collector of Customs. Horses and equipage were provided by Messrs Seymour, Stockdale and Leake.
At a later time, Sir James Fergusson, the Governor from 1869 to 1873, was so impressed with the advantages of Robe as a refuge from the summer heat of Adelaide, especially as his wife was in ‘delicate health’, that he adopted Karatta House as a retreat during his term of office and was in residence when he received a call to the post of Governor of New Zealand. The house was built by Henry Jones of Binnum Binnum Station on land he had purchased in September 1850 for £40; a subsequent owner Robert Stockdale (1835-1881), a South-East pastoralist, went to Kangaroo Island and took up a run he called ‘Karatta’ in partnership with Messrs B. and W.H. Taylor, while the steamer Karatta plied between Port Adelaide and Kangaroo Island for many years during the 20th century.

Robe had an unenviable reputation for shipwrecks, but the residents were imbued with a strong faith in the place. Protected by a natural headland it had a jetty with a sheltering breakwater. Once it was thriving and the principal port on the South-East, fringes of a pretty creek amidst well kept gardens and surrounded by park-like expanses of magnificent pasture lands: ‘I have seen no house in the colony a bit like it; people ought to be prohibited from building such houses close to the Queen’s highway; it makes one break that commandment which warns us against envying our neighbour’s goods. However, the owner is, I am informed, renowned

Robe jetty from the Esplanade – circa 1900

In 1870, the inter-colonial exports exceeded £95,000 in value and, by 1879, this figure was reduced to £16,240. By 1880, its future was ‘bound in shadows’ and comparative obscurity. There is no doubt that it could have been the major port on the South-East - that was when the overland travellers to the Victorian diggings made their way there via Robe and, in one year, its export values totalled £200,000. In 1871, 9,500 bales of wool were exported but, in 1872, this had been reduced to 5,000, due to the development of other roads and ports. By 1885, this figure was incomparable for it sent away no wheat and, comparatively, little wool.

As far as Robe was concerned, the history of the port is a melancholy one for it missed the flood tide that might have carried it on to prosperity and, accordingly, two other ports were, eventually, successful in getting the incalculable benefit of railway communication. Overseas ships called there frequently but, from 1870, none disturbed the quiet waters of Guichen Bay, but SS Penola called regularly and the Coorong occasionally.

A photograph of local flooding is in the Observer, 18 August 1906, page 28, of the last two members of the Robe tribe of Aborigines in the Chronicle, 2 May 1908, page 30, of members of a Mothers’ Union on 27 April 1912, page 31, of drain digging on 28 September 1912, page 29, Observer, 23 May 1914, page 33.

Roberts, Hundred of - In the County of Jervois, proclaimed on 5 September 1907; a school of this name opened in 1913 and closed in 1951. By 1911, there were, fully, 40 farmers in the Hundred:

A number of them, especially Messrs A.T. Cowley (one of the first if not the first in the district), McCallum, Smart, Nankivell, McCord, Beames & Sons, Sexton, Batland & Co, T.J. Whyte & Son and Sanderson, have made big strides. This year they seeded altogether 6,000 acres.

Following his service in the SA Parliament, E.A. Roberts, MP (1896-1908), was elected as the Member for Adelaide in the Federal Parliament, Melbourne, where he died in Queen’s Hall, in December 1913, from a heart attack.

Robert, Mount - Rodney Cockburn says it was named after Robert Kelly of the Pastoral Board but gives no location. (See Kelly Hill Caves)

Robertson - John Robertson; born in Scotland, in 1809, arrived in Sydney in the Saint George, in 1838, and took up the ‘Mosquito Creek Run’ in the South-East, from 18 January 1844 and held it until the land was resumed in March 1868; in 1875, he built the ornate ‘Struan House’.

A few miles out of Naracoorte we see the splendid mansion of Mr Robertson built, it is said, at a cost of £20,000 and situated on the banks of a pretty creek amidst well kept gardens and surrounded by park-like expanses of magnificent pasture lands: ‘I have seen no house in the colony a bit like it; people ought to be prohibited from building such houses close to the Queen’s highway; it makes one break that commandment which warns us against envying our neighbour’s goods. However, the owner is, I am informed, renowned
for his hospitality and is known throughout the South-East as “Poor man Robertson”. I suppose he got his nickname because he owns 100,000 acres of freehold land…” [See Mosquito Creek & Struan]

The Hundred of Robertson, County of Robe, proclaimed on 24 October 1867, honours his name. Its school, opened in 1888, became ‘Bool Lagoon’ in 1925 and closed in 1965.

Robertson Caves are on section 83, Hundred of Joanna.

Robertson Swamp is on section 58, Hundred of Landseer, named by Prof. W.D. Williams on 6 October 1983 after a previous owner of the land.

Robertstown - John Roberts laid it out on sections 120-22, Hundred of English, 22 km north of Eudunda, in 1871. He was its first postmaster from March 1874 and its operation remained within the family until 4 March 1926. The surrounding district was known as ‘Emu Flats’.

In 1866, with regard to the alleged discovery of gold bearing quartz at Robertstown:

We have been informed that the place lies to the back of the township towards the Burra Creek range of hills… As the alleged discovery has been made on private land, the Warden has received no intimation of the fact and unless the new Mining Act is interpreted to read that subsidies shall be paid for the discovery of gold on private lands the government will have no jurisdiction.

Robertstown School opened in 1890; Robertstown West School opened in 1923 and closed in 1943. A photograph of the committee of the racing club is in the Chronicle, 10 February 1912, page 31.

Robinson - The County of Robinson, proclaimed on 10 May 1883, recalls Sir W.C.F. Robinson, Governor of South Australia (1883-1889), who came to South Australia following a term as Governor of Western Australia. A patron of the arts, he turned a hand to composing poetry and wrote stirring, if not popular widely, music to Mr Francis Hart’s ‘Unfurl the Flag’ and the sentiments of the poet are similar to those in ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’.

It reads, in part:

- Australia’s sons your flag unfold,
- And proudly wave the banner high,
- That ev’ry nation may behold
- Our glorious standard in the sky,
- Unfurl the flag that all may see
- Our proudest boast is liberty.

Robinson Hill is on section 419, Hundred of Encounter Bay. On 15 May 1854, Ezra Robinson (1824-1874) of Yankalilla purchased section 8 of ‘Survey E’, calling it ‘Notting Vale’ following his arrival in 1848.

Robinson Park, at Clare, remembers William Robinson (1814-1899), who took up occupation licences ‘West of Mt. Horrocks Stockyards’ and at ‘Hill River’ from 15 August 1844; he obtained the land grant of section 600, County of Stanley, on 8 November 1845.

Roby, Hundred of - In the County of Buccleuch, proclaimed on 30 March 1899 and named by Governor Buxton without any reason being given. There is a parish of Roby in Lancashire, England, taking its name from an Old Swedish word raby indicating that it was ‘situated near a boundary mark.’

The Hundred of Roby School opened in 1919 and closed in May 1937 when its students transferred to Parkin Hall School at Coomandook.

Rochester - Edward Smith (ca.1804-1877), born in Kent, England, where there is a town of the same name, arrived in the Norman in 1855 and farmed at ‘Murray Plains’ and ‘Lower Broughton’; he died at Port Pirie.

During 1869 and 1870 he purchased part of sections 347-348, Hundred of Hart, 6 km east of Brinkworth, that were granted to Allan McDonald and Nathaniel Oldham in 1865 and 1866, respectively.

In 1873, he sold out to John Brodie Spence who laid out the village of Rochester, 20 km North-West of Clare. However, it would appear that it emerged during Edward Smith’s occupancy of section 348 because the Rochester Post Office opened in 1869 when ‘this township [was] just beginning to present an agreeable appearance. There are two to three substantial buildings up and a blacksmith’s shop in course of erection.’

There is some doubt as to the true identity of Edward Smith because two certificates of title in 1869/70 describe him as a ‘storekeeper of Clare’ and, in 1876, as a ‘gentleman of Clare’ and this may relate a man who removed from Strathalbyn in December 1858 and took out a 14-year lease on the ‘Travellers’ Rest Inn’. He was born in Monmouth, Wales, in 1819, arrived in the Gipsy Queen in 1850 and died at Hay, New South Wales in 1884. (See further comment under ‘Source Notes’.) Rochester School opened in 1880 and closed in 1940.

A roving reporter had the following to say in 1875:

The village has little to boast of either in situation or appearance. It lies in a hollow and the few houses look right into the opposite hill. There is a public house, not quite finished, and a store but the storekeeper was gone to town and his wife out on a walk. A blacksmith hard at work represented the active industry of the place and the balance of the visible population consisted of a small boy who told us we had better go three
miles further if we wanted accommodation for the night. We were disappointed with Rochester for we had seen in a Clare newspaper an account of a monster cauliflower that had been produced there and which had perhaps unduly raised our expectations.

The name derives from the Celtic *dour-briva* - ‘water ford’.

**Rockford** - In 1891, the Minister of Education, Hon. J.G. Jenkins, drove to Rockford, ‘a township between Aldgate and Echunga - for the purpose of consulting the blockholders on the question of opening a new school there…’ which occurred in 1892; it closed in 1894. *(See Gum Flat)* Apparently, the name was adopted from a home of a pioneer merchant and politician, David Murray (1829-1907 - his wife was born in ‘Rockford’, Ireland), a keen fisherman who stocked the nearby River Onkaparinga with trout. *(See Banbury Creek)*

Hop picking on his estate was reported upon in 1896:

[Mr Murray’s] success has been undoubted and the tall poles there are covered with hops which are evidently as healthy as any to be seen in Kent or Tasmania.

Hop growing will without doubt become an important industry in the Hills districts as the local market is a large one and the risks are not very great in this part of the world.

The **Rockford** Post Office opened in October 1884 and became ‘Mylor’ in July 1894.

**Rockleigh** - A post office on section 393, Hundred of Monarto, in the vicinity of ‘Round Waterhole’, 32 km North-West of Murray Bridge; opened circa 1885, with Miss Mary Muir as postmistress, it closed on 10 May 1952; prior to 1900 it was ‘Round Waterhole’. Miss Muir was, also, the first mistress of Round Waterhole School from 1881; it became ‘Rockleigh’ in 1900 and closed in 1942; today, it is used by the local tennis club.

A local homestead and church bore the name, also.

**Rockwell Creek** - Near Mount Partridge on Eyre Peninsula, probably named by Stephen Hack in 1858 because of a deep, rocky well in the creek bed.

**Rockwood** - A school two km from Tooperang Post Office. Opened in 1909 it became ‘Tooperang’ in 1941.

**Rocky** - Minlacowie School became **Rocky Beach** in 1922; closed in 1945.

**Rocky Gully** - *(See Kinchina)*

**Rocky Plain** School, near Robertstown, opened by Teresa Boylan in 1924, closed in 1943.

**Rocky River**, near Crystal Brook, was discovered by E.J. Eyre in 1839 and so named because of its rocky bed. The Aborigines called it *wongabirie* - *wonga* - ‘high’. *(See Remarkable, Mount)*

The **Rocky River** School opened in 1877 and closed in 1878; reopened in 1891 it closed in 1921.

The **Rocky River** on Kangaroo Island probably took its name from a sheep-run taken up by B. and W.H. Taylor in 1880. In 1916 the Nomenclature Committee suggested the name be changed to ‘Parlko’ - ‘stone’ or ‘rocky’.

**Rocky Valley** is located on part section 29, Hundred of Moorooroo, ‘next to Vine Vale’.

A photograph of school children is in the *Chronicle*, 12 July 1924.

**Point Rocky** - *(See Commodore, Point)*

**Rodney, Mount** - Rodney Cockburn locates it at Cherry Gardens and says it was named by a Mr Cox after the last ship on which he served prior to retiring from seafaring life.

**Rodwell Creek** - *(See Woodchester)*

**Rogers Corner** - A post office on section 316, Hundred of Dalrymple, opened 20 December 1939. *(See Bagnall Well)*

**Rogues Gully & Rogues Point** - In the Hundred of Muloowurtie, south of Ardrossan. In 1929, the names were changed to ‘Rogers’ in honour of William Rogers, a pioneer pastoralist of Yorke Peninsula. Of interest is the fact that William Sharples took up pastoral lease no. 232 in July 1851, its location being described as at ‘Rogue’s Gully’. In 1940, a plan was located antedating Mr Rogers’ occupation and showed ‘Rogues’; accordingly the names reverted to their original designation.

It has been suggested that they were so named because Inspector Tolmer arrested escaped convicts there in 1848. By a strange coincidence, the leader of the escaped Tasmanian convicts was a Mr Rodgers *(sic)*, his henchmen being Messrs Reilly, Lynch and Reynolds.

One morning in 1848 four suspicious-looking individuals turned up unexpectedly at Oyster Bay [Stansbury]. They were half-famished, and told an extraordinary story. They were whalers, they said. After harpooning a whale off Kangaroo Island, the animal had dragged them miles away from their ship, until they found themselves in the vicinity of Oyster Bay.

Thinking they might get help on shore, they had made for the bay, and had then come on to the homestead at the station. They asked for work, and jobs were found for them.

There were no telegraphs in those days, and a better place for hiding than the scrub-clad country on Yorke Peninsula could scarcely be found. There was practically no population, the country was wild and inhospitable, overrun by savages, and had no communication with the outside world, except at rare intervals.

Unfortunately for the castaways, Mr Alfred Weaver, the owner of the station, was just about that time leaving for the city. A few weeks later he encountered Inspector Tolmer in Adelaide. He happened to mention the arrival of four strangers. The noted police officer pricked up his ears. Tolmer told Weaver that he had just received information that four desperate criminals of the bushranging type had escaped from Tasmania, and were supposed to be in the vicinity of Kangaroo Island. Tolmer was convinced they were the strangers who had landed at Oyster Bay.
Tolmer’s story of the men was quite different from the version of the castaways. They were wanted for murder. They had escaped from custody in Tasmania, he said, and made for Port Sorell, where they shipped aboard a vessel as members of the crew.

While at Port Sorell they had cold-bloodedly blown out the brains of a police inspector who had happened on them innocently without knowing who they were. So desperate did the Tasmanian Government rate them, that they offered a reward of £100 each for their capture.

Tolmer decided to send a police scout to Oyster Bay. It was arranged between Tolmer and Weaver that the police officer, disguised as a rouseabout, should accost Weaver on board the boat as he was leaving for home, and ask for a job. They were to haggle about the pay in order to avert suspicion, and eventually Weaver was to engage the policeman as a station hand.

Needless to say, the policeman carried an exact description of the bushrangers. A day or two later Tolmer, with four other police, journeyed to the peninsula. They learned that the four wanted men were working for Mr Bowden.

After a perilous ride through the scrub, guiding themselves by a compass, and sleeping out without food, they captured two of the men at Bowden’s hut, having in the meantime been advised by their disguised comrade that the strangers were the wanted men.

The remaining, and worst, desperadoes were working at a hut seven miles distant. I have not the space here to give you the full story of their apprehension, beyond saying that the police surprised and arrested them while they were cooking their evening meal, and that Tolmer carried to his grave the marks of the struggle which took place. It subsequently transpired that only three of the men were criminals.

The fourth was a sailor they had forced to accompany them to handle the boat when they made a sensational get-away from the ship in which they escaped from Tasmania. The fourth bushranger was drowned when the little boat was smashed on the rocks of Yorke Peninsula, as well as another sailor who had been impressed into their service. After their capture, when they had tired of vilifying the police, they cold-bloodedly revealed what their plan had been to escape from Oyster Bay.

There were two small ships lying off the coast, one of them, by chance, the very vessel in which they had escaped from Tasmania. They had intended to seize this ship, murder the officers and such of the crew as were deemed hostile, and then to make for Western Australia, where they would abandon the ship, and pose as shipwrecked men. This was the plan Tolmer nibbed in the bud. The criminals were returned to Hobart under strong escort, and there paid the penalty of their crimes on the scaffold. [See Kersbrook]

**Rokeby** - An 1862 electoral roll for the district of Yatala shows David Cowan, a farmer, residing at this place and enrolled to ‘vote at Salisbury’.

**Rolls, Point** - On Kangaroo Island, recalls John Rolls, captain of the *Cygnet*, the fifth emigrant vessel in South Australian waters on 11 September 1836; among its more notable passengers were G.S. Kingston, B.T. Finniss, Thomas Lipson, John Morphett, Alfred Hardy and Thomas Gilbert. (See *Bews, Point & Kangaroo Island*)

**Romney Estate** - A 1915 subdivision of sections 642-43, Hundred of Davenport, by Richard Raymond Buxton, suburban to Port Augusta. The name occurs in Kent and Hampshire and derives from the OE *runnym* - ‘a spacious river’; other sources say it means ‘place of the sons of Ruma’.

**Roolama** - A school in the Hundred of Muloowurrie; opened in 1926, it closed in 1937.

**Roonka** - The ‘Roonka Roonka Station’ was established by Lachlan and Alexander McBean in the mid-1840s under occupation licence. (See *Dustholes*)

The name was applied, also, to an archaeological site of international significance near Blanchetown and it refers to moth grubs, relished by the Aborigines, and found abounding among the root systems of trees.

In 1902, a report on the one-time industry of rearing the Angora in South Australia appeared ‘to be reviving and enquiries which are continually coming to hand for rams and ewes must be encouraging to Mr Scammell’:

> The Federal flock was founded at Roonka some years ago by Mr Scammell on careful selection from Sir Samuel Wilson’s flock in Victoria and the Castambool [sic] flock of South Australia, owned, originally, by the late Mr Price Maurice. Elder, Smith & Co. Ltd have shipped… to the Department of Agriculture, Wellington, New Zealand, 20 Angora ewes and five rams at satisfactory prices… [See *Castambul*]

**Roopena** - Nineeen kilometres North-West of Whyalla; an Aboriginal word, meaning unknown.

**Roper Reach** - In 1894, there was a report that ‘another scheme is on foot for a village settlement at Roper Reach… between five and ten miles below Lyrap’:

> Mr A.J. Brocklehurst is Chairman, Mr J.W. Rawsley, Secretary and Messrs G. Bennett, A.G. Illman and G. Attle the Committee. A… meeting was held at the Selbourne Hotel… It was decided to form an association and apply for 10,000 acres…

**Rosa Terrace** - An 1880 subdivision of section 65, Hundred of Yongala, by John Pearce, suburban to Yongala.

**Rosatala** - Rodney Cockburn says it represents a combination of Rosewater and Yatala and effected when these two localities were taken into the bounds of the Port Adelaide Corporation.

**Rosaville** - An 1863 subdivision of section 12, Hundred of Blanche, by Edwin H. Derrington (1830-1899), who named it after his second wife, the former Elizabeth Rosa Ekers; now included in Mount Gambier.

The Rosaville School opened, circa 1864, and closed in 1875 when it was conducted by Josephine Holdsworth with 97 enrolled pupils. In 1886, Dr Powell, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Mount Gambier, reported that he had ‘visited Rosaville and other places where diphtheria had made an appearance’:
Isolation was not perfect as the occupier of the house where the patients were treated was constantly with the patients and went about amongst his neighbours as usual… Seven children in [another] family were attacked and three died…

A photograph of a football team is in the Chronicle, 5 September 1935, page 46. (See Appendix 17)
The name Rosaville was given, also, to a subdivision of section 288, Hundred of Adelaide, by John Amery, circa 1851. (See Beulah Park)

Rose - In 1866, a new Bible Christian Chapel at Rose Hill, Harrowgate (sic), was opened for divine service:

   The Trustees intended to have the chapel plastered immediately and then it will be used for a day and Sabbath school as well as for divine worship. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Inglis for superintending the building…

Mount Rose, in the North Flinders Ranges, was named after John Rose, manager of Moolooloo station, who, in the early 1850s, accompanied John McKinlay on an exploration of the ranges. He died at Stirling North in 1909.

   He was well-known in the Far North 50 years ago as Johnny Rose, one of the head storekeepers of John Chambers and he had a hard and dangerous position to hold while protecting his employers’ cattle from the numerous blacks. It became necessary to send up a body of troopers and they found a valuable friend in Mr Rose… The troopers frequently borrowed fresh horses from Mr Rose when their own were knocked up and a fresh horse at that time was worth money, but the deceased never charged a penny…

Rose Range, in the Far North, was named by John McD. Stuart on 28 August 1861 after ‘Hugh Rose of Edinburgh.’

Rose Park was laid out in 1878 on part section 262, Hundred of Adelaide, by the South Australian Company and named after Sir John Rose, chairman of the company for fourteen years in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Born in Aberdeenshire, he went to Canada as a young man where he became a lawyer and had a distinguished career at the Bar and in parliament. From 1860, until the time of his death, he resided in London where he acted as financial agent for the Canadian government.

   H.C. Talbot said, ‘[the name] Prescott was suggested as he had occupied the section from the earliest times…’
Photographs of family members and Prescott’s farm are in the Observer, 28 July 1906, page 28.

The Rose Park School opened in 1893; a photograph is in the Pictorial Australian in October 1893, page 148, of the school band in the Observer, 27 October 1917, page 26.

   ‘The Odours of Rose Park’ were cause for complaint in 1888:

      Not only [were] the front gardens of the residents still pasture grounds and the vacant allotments rendered perilous by the performances of loose horses of exuberant spirits, but the smells are allowed free range by reason of the apathy of the Burnside District Council…

      For a township so close to town [it] is much neglected, while in 1889:

      The incapacity and supineness of the Burnside District Council seems to be such that the residents of Rose Park would do well to get the district out of its hands… The cows kept by the two local milk people are a perfect curse to the place, breaking open gates, spoiling the gardens and doing damage constantly… One does not always see these creatures until the damage is done… The Ranger, if there is one, is useless and the cowkeepers laugh at the people whose property they destroy…

Photographs of the Gartrell Memorial Church are in the Observer, 21 November 1914, page 27, 10 and 24 February 1923, pages 29 and 28, 14 February 1925, page 31, of Saint Theodore’s Church in the Chronicle, 14 February 1914, page 31.

Rose View School, near Manoora, was opened as ‘Wirrilla’ in 1915; name changed in 1919; it closed in 1925.
Rosebank Estate - A 1922 subdivision of section 1 and others in the Hundreds of Angas, Jellicoe and Jutland by Alfred Augustus Scarfe, merchant, of Adelaide. Rodney Cockburn records the name Rosebank as being applied to an estate in the Mount Pleasant district founded by George Melrose.

Rosebery - An 1878 subdivision of part section 474, Hundred of Yatala, by William Wadham; now included in Collinswood. In 1897, a meeting of ratepayers of the district of Prospect was held at the Windmill Hotel for the purpose of protesting against the establishment of the proposed crematorium at Rosebery. ‘Mr Robert Lewis presided over a large attendance… The Chairman said it seemed to him that the crematorium committee intended to ignore the Board of Health in the carrying out of their project’

According to Rodney Cockburn, it was named after Lord Rosebery (1847-1929), author and statesman, who visited South Australia in 1884; it must be noted, however, that the first subdivision predated his visit. Winston Churchill said of him that he expressed three wishes, ‘to marry a Rothschild, to be Prime Minister and to win the Derby. He realised all three, but remained a very dull man.’

Rosedale - The village, 8 km ENE of Gawler, was created by Johann G. Elix, on section 23, Hundred of Nuriootpa, circa 1850.

The district was included in a special survey taken up by Henry Dundas Murray, John Reid and others on 31 January 1839. Prior to 1918 it was ‘Rosenthal’ a German word meaning ‘rose valley’.

The Nomenclature Committee suggested ‘Kombö’, Aboriginal for ‘rainbow’ but the government opted for ‘Rosedale’. (See Gawler & Rosenthal)

Rosefield - William Ferguson (1809-1892) arrived in the Buffalo, together with his wife, Rosina, in 1836, and built a house in the area called Rosefield which name was given to an 1897 subdivision of part section 251, Hundred of Adelaide, by James Francis Cudmore (1837-1912); now included in Highgate.

The Cudmore and Ferguson families were prominent pastoralists in South Australia. (See Cudmore Hill, Cudmore Park, Ferguson, Nurom & Parina)

In 1922, ‘the William Jeffries Memorial Methodist Church, Carlton Street, Rosefield, was opened in the presence of a large assembly… [It] is well designed and beautifully constructed of brick, stone and wood, almost entirely of Australian origin… The church is designed for 350, but a congregation of 500 filed in to attend the opening service… The total cost was £2,100…’ Photographs are in the Observer, 26 August 1922, page 26.

A photograph of Mr George White’s property in the 1870s is in the Observer, 18 August 1928, page 38.

Roseneath - The Roseneath Telephone Office, 26 km South-East of Loxton on section 17B, Hundred of Bookpurnong, took its name from a town in Dunbarton, Scotland, derived from the Gaelic ros-reimhidh - ‘cape of the sacred meeting place’.

In 1919, Roseneath Estate was reported to have been situated in Stephen Terrace, Walkerville, when it was the ‘scene of a subdivisional sale. [It] had been in the continuous possession of the McDonald family since 1845 [and] has been subdivided into 21 residential sites…’

The subdivision of Roseneath was advertised in 1924 and comprised 8 allotments in Hughes Street, Woodville - ‘the estate of the late John Drennan’, who arrived in the Corona in 1880.

Rosenthal - Its post office opened in 1864 and closed as ‘Rosedale’ on 30 May 1980. (See Rosedale)

In 1910 it was reported that ‘rains have again made the ford through the North Para at Rosenthal impassable’:

Last season traffic was blocked for a considerable time through the government cart being stuck in the mud on the middle of the track… Scores and scores of like adventures have been experienced at this ford during the past 30 years… The records certainly testify the claim for a bridge. [See Bergen Gully]

Rosetown - (See Kingston).

Rosetta - In a dispatch by Governor Hindmarsh on 3 June 1837 Governor Gawler said that Rosetta Harbour was chosen by Samuel Stephens, manager of the South Australian Company who owed his position to George F. Angas; thus it would seem natural for him to pay a compliment to his patron’s wife; this explanation was confirmed in 1839. An Aboriginal legend as to its formation was recited in 1902.

In 1938, the government dedicated two sections of land in the area as a recreation and pleasure resort reserve.

Rosetta Head was named by Governor Gawler, in 1839, in honour of Rosetta Angas, the wife of George Fife Angas. Known, also, as ‘The Bluff’ and ‘Cape Victor’ it is shown on Freycinet’s charts as C. DeCaen, while the Aborigines called it kungkengguwar. The Bluff was used as a lookout for whales in the early days.

In 1855, it was reported that ‘some time ago there was a sum of money voted by the council for the construction of a jetty at Rosetta Head and I believe that want of labour has been the cause of this work not having been commenced’:

There has been a large influx of emigrants by the Flora, Lady McDonald and Northern Light [and] I would recommend that 100 of them… be sent around by water to Encounter Bay and let them be employed on these public works…
Rosetta Park was a 1926 subdivision of part section 2, Hundred of Waitpinga, by Matthew Jagger (1861-1951) who, no doubt, named it after the nearby Rosetta Head; now included in Victor Harbor.

Roseville Estate - A subdivision of sections 1734-36, Hundred of Moorooroo. The grantee was George Fife Angas and, no doubt, it was named after his wife, the former Rosetta French.

Roseville - The Roseville School, on Eyre Peninsula, opened in 1918 by Drossie M. Carlaw, closed in 1920, while in the City of Port Adelaide’s Mayor’s Report of 1944/45. Roseville was defined as a subdivision of section 1135, Hundred of Port Adelaide, by George Howell; now included in Gillman.

Rosewater - Philip Levi created this Adelaide suburb, circa 1855, upon section 1189, Hundred of Port Adelaide. In 1945, the following appeared in a report from the Commissioner of Police, accompanying a parcel of human bone and skull fragments discovered in Rosewater:

Mrs J. Ward, the owner of the property, where the bones were found, states that her father arrived here 100 years ago; that the block of land upon which the remains were found and the immediate surrounding locality consisted of sandhills; that there was a shallow well of beautiful water, which was used by the teamsters carting copper ore from Burra to Port Adelaide.

Mrs Ward said the well was used, also, by the Aboriginals ‘who were very numerous in the district in those days’ and by her father in the manufacture of sand bricks and that the water in the well was so pure that it was named ‘rose water’ and he often remarked to her that the district derived its name therefrom. A conversation between Mr Levi and H.D. Gouge was reported as follows: ‘The locality was a swamp and the perfumes arising from the stagnant water were so offensive that I thought the name of Rosewater would, to some extent, act as a corrective.’

In 1888, a deputation met Mr J.C.B. Moncrieff, the Resident Engineer for the South Australian Railways, at the Port Railway station and ‘conducted him over the loop line to Rosewater where it was proposed that a steam motor should be run for the convenience of the people living in the district. [They] suggested that a station should be erected at Brown’s Crossing,…’ The ‘Rosewater Unemployment Camp’ was reported upon in June 1929:

There are over 50 men in the camp and most of them are sleeping without blankets, or are crouched over the fires all night for warmth, and are often without food.

Photographs of the replacement of ‘tall aerial masts’ are in the Chronicle, 30 May 1929, page 50.

Roseworthy - In 1867, Mrs Grace Gartrell (ca.1812-1868) laid out the village on part section 70, Hundred of Mudla Wirra, 8 km north of Gawler at the time when the railway was being extended beyond Gawler to Kapunda. She and her husband, William Henry Gartrell (ca.1812-1863), came from ‘Roseworthy’, Cornwall, in the Trafalgar in 1847; the name derives from ros-warthaha - ‘meadow heath’. Roseworthy School opened in 1863 and the Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1885 - it was the first of its kind in Australasia. (See Olive Hill)

Starved in its infancy by the meanest parsimony, its progress hampered by official neglect and red-tapeism, can it be wondered at that it has not so far given universal satisfaction… [1887]

[It] seems to be born to trouble as the sparks fly upward. With slight exceptions its history has been one of almost constant misunderstanding or of actual discord… One may fairly enquire whether the general scheme of management of the [college] should not be either mended or the institution ended. [1901]

A plaster commemorating the meeting of Flinders’ and Baudin’s expeditions in Encounter Bay on 8 April 1802 was unveiled on 8 April 1902 on the initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA Branch). Photographs of the planting of a tree in memory of a fallen soldier, Private John Bruce, is in the Chronicle, 21 August 1915, page 28.
Rodney Cockburn also records **Ross Creek** and **Ross Desert** as being named by Giles after the said gentleman. In 1875, the **Ross Creek** School in the Kapunda district was conducted by Mary A. Preaulx (*sic*) with 27 enrolled pupils; it opened in 1873 and closed in 1875:

Mary Ann Pointz (*sic*), having opened a school in this locality, asked for it to be licensed. Her school, she stated, was situated three miles from any other government school and the number of children under her tuition was 24… A letter was received from the Kapunda District Council recommending her having a licence…

**Rossiter Vale** - On Eyre Peninsula north of Louth Bay and named after Captain Thomas Rossiter who died at 82 Windmill Street, Sydney, at the age of 75 years; ‘the anniversary is of peculiar interest to students of South Australian history.’ When he was exploring the Port Lincoln district in 1839 he discovered a fertile valley upon which he bestowed the name **Rossiter Vale**, and he christened the stream that flows through it ‘Mississippi’.

‘Unfortunately, these two names have fallen into disuse… He was commander of the French whaler *Mississippi* the first foreign vessel to enter Port Lincoln since its settlement… On much higher ground, however, does his name deserve to be perpetuated because Edward John Eyre, and his faithful black boy, Wylie, after the murder of their overseer (Baxter), would probably have perished in 1841 when they made the memorable journey from Fowler’s Bay to King George’s Sound but for the assistance received from Captain Rossiter…’ (*See Mississippi, River*)

Rodney Cockburn records a **Ross Bay** and says it was named by Edward J. Eyre.

**Rosslyn** - A subdivision of sections 217, 219, 268 and 288, Hundred of Port Adelaide; now included in Wingfield. John Wallace, solicitor of Port Adelaide, laid it out in 1877.

The name comes from Edinburgh, Scotland, and derives from the Welsh *ros-celyn* - ‘moor of hollies’.

In 1988, an article by William Reschke in the *Sunday Mail* entitled ‘How Your Suburb was Named’ elicited a response concerning the suburb of **Rosslyn Park** from Mr Peter A. Lord who said:

As far as I know from conversation with Lord family members, the area was owned as homestead and paddocks at Magill around the turn of the century by a John Lord, a Cornishman originally, who I understand subdivided the property at one stage to pay off gambling debts and sold some off to the Penfold family for the planting of a vineyard.

Alfred Lord, a subsequent owner of the now reduced property, used the good pasture as grazing land to spell racehorses and assorted hacks and it was one of these racehorses, a ‘Miss Rosslyn’, that the area became generally known by. ‘Miss Rosslyn’ was a winner of the Great Eastern Steeple at Oakbank circa 1920 and this horse was so popular in its day that the Lord paddocks became known as ‘Rosslyn’s Paddock’ or ‘Rosslyn’s Park’.

The facts surrounding the first subdivision to be named **Rosslyn Park** are that, in 1877, James Gartrell, merchant, Thomas Gordon, accountant, William Taylor, draper and Alexander McGeorge and David Tweedie, land agents, purchased part sections 286-88 and section 287. Hundred of Adelaide, from Thomas Francis Hyland (no doubt he had some connection with the Penfold family) and, in 1878, laid out the suburb.

With the Scottish ancestry of some of the subdividers it would appear that its nomenclature lies in that country and that the racehorse may have been named after the subdivision.

In 1909, the Light Horse School at Roslyn (*sic*) Park:

While to some extent handicapped by the continuing wet, is going well - it may be said almost swimmingly - although the tents are sodden under grey skies and the ground oozes at every step. There are 51 in camp - eight officers and 43 of other ranks - and the best is being made of the unfavourable conditions…

A course of lectures embraces practically every evening, and Sunday is earmarked in the syllabus ‘Read-up’. Camps are too expensive to waste opportunities.


**Rostrevor** - Ross Thompson Reid, born in Newry, Ireland, arrived in South Australia in 1839, aged six years; he accumulated wealth and built a magnificent mansion, naming it ‘Rostrevor Hall’ after ‘Rostrevor’, a seaside resort in Ireland having the alternative name of ‘Rosstrevor’ and derived from Rose, youngest daughter of Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch. After her marriage with Trevor, Viscount Dungannon, the family seat of Iveagh Castle was called, invariably, ‘Rostrevor’ (*sic*).

It is positive that Ross Thompson Reid spelt the name as ‘Rostrevor’ because it appears as such in a family bible and, therefore, Rodney Cockburn’s suggestion that it should be **Rostrevor** appears to be apocryphal. Further, Samuel Lewis in his *Biographical Dictionary of Ireland* published in the 1830s says: ‘Rostrevor or Rosstrevor - a seaport… seven miles from Newry…’

In 1911, James S. Reid offered all of his property to the Verran Government for £20,000, which was tempted to acquire it as a Governor’s residence, but the Opposition fought it in the Legislative Council and the transaction did not take place.
After the collapse of the Verran Government the succeeding Peake administration accepted from Mr Reid the gift of the hilly part of the present Morialta Reserve, containing the two lower waterfalls and purchased the picnic ground for £2,500, while a newspaper report said that ‘when Mr J.S. Reid decided to sell Rostrevor and make his permanent residence at Mount Macedon, Victoria, he generously offered to present 300 acres of the estate which embraced the rugged gorge and waterfalls situated between the fine old homestead at Morialta… to the government…’

Rostrevor Hall and some adjoining land were purchased by Mr H. Sewell, florist, while Rostrevor Estates Ltd was formed to subdivide land to the west and North-West of Rostrevor Hall calling it Rostrevor Park (sections 96 and others) in 1913.

Today, Rostrevor Hall is part of Rostrevor College conducted by the Christian Brothers as a Catholic school.

A school near Pinnaroo built on land owned by the Schiller family. The first teacher in 1910 was E. Edwards; it closed in 1943.

Rotherville - Rodney Cockburn places it near Morphettville and says it was named by Henry Woodcock who said he had in mind a man in his employ ‘who used to spend money so freely I called him Rothschild…’

Rotten Row - On a bank of the River Murray and occupied today by the Goolwa Camping and Caravan Park. Derelict paddle-steamers were beached there and eventually dismantled, especially by members of the Ritchie family. (See Ritchie, Hundred of)

Generally, the word is accepted as coming from the French route-du-roi - ‘the road of the king’. Scottish nomenclators have a different opinion for they proclaim that, in 1283, the word meant ‘a row’ derived from raton-ran; by 1452 it was recorded as vicus-ratonom - ‘village of rats’.

Rouge, Cape - A descriptive name meaning ‘Red Cape’ adapted from the ‘reddish granite of the coast’.

It lies south of Point Marshden on Kangaroo Island and was known as ‘Shoal Point’ until 1913 when it was adopted following the visit to South Australia by Count Alphonse de Fleurieu in 1911. (See Fleurieu Peninsula)

Rough, Mount - (See Kercoonda)

Round - Rodney Cockburn says that Round Flat was an alternative name for Waikerie and environs ‘in consequence of the semi-circular appearance of the settlement due to the winding of the Murray.’

Round Hill Post Office on section 96, Hundred of Palmer, opened in December 1882 and closed in January 1908.

Round Hill School, east of Quorn; was opened in 1881: ‘The parents of children attending [a meeting] … petitioned for a public school, [which, at present,] could boast of an average attendance of 26 scholars …’

It closed in 1905. (See Stephenston)

Round Waterhole - (See Rockleigh)

Rouncevell, Hundred of - In the County of Robinson, was proclaimed on 19 February 1885 while its school was opened by Miss Ivy Kenny in 1918 and closed in 1921 because of low attendances.

Apparently, it was reopened for records show that, in 1946, the school was renamed ‘Mortana’; it closed in 1967.

W.B. Rouncevell, MP (1875-1906) was born in Adelaide in 1842, the son of William Rouncevell, the noted coach proprietor, who left his two sons a considerable fortune, thereby enabling William Jnr ‘to gratify those liberal instincts of his generous nature and perform many public and private auctions which redound to his credit.’

He died in 1923, when old-time parliamentarians in South Australia were but few:

The death announced this morning of the Hon. J.B. Rouncevell means the removal of a former notable politician of remarkably wide experience… As business man, farmer, squatter, wine expert, sportsman, municipalist and politician he made friends and he was always ready to do what service he might for the land of his birth…

Born in Pirie Street in 1841 [sic], the son of the late Mr William Rouncevell (who preceded the firm of John Hill and company as the principal mail coach proprietors of the State) the deceased lived through the transitional period when the traffic of the central state was being developed from the hack and packhorse to the coaching… periods and thence to the railway, electric tram and the speedy motor car…

Rouse - An 1880 subdivision of sections 61, 62 and 64, Hundred of Tatiara, by Edward Robert Peake (1844-1928), auctioneer of Naracoorte. Jane Peake (1804-1864), an aunt of the subdivider, married Joshua Rouse (1803-1851). It is suburban to Bordertown. (See Betley)

Rove - In 1843, E.C. Frome named Rowe Creek, near the Siccus River, after his party’s horse driver, John Rowe whose ‘skill was particularly required in taking the cart over some rocky places where we were afraid it would be impassable.’ Mount Rowe, near Copley probably honours the same gentleman.

Roves Sugar Loaf - It stands on section 24, Hundred of Tungkilla, and recalls Edwin Rowe, an early settler.

Rowland Flat - Nineteen kilometres east of Gawler recalls Edward Rowlands, a partner with Joseph Gilbert in the ‘Twenty-Seventh Special Survey’. The ‘s’ was deleted in the Government Gazette of 5 December 1940, albeit in error. The village had its beginnings on section 2717, Hundred of Barossa when, in 1850, Carl Bauer sold two blocks to Gottfried Schultz and Traugott Purschke.

The Rowland Flat Post Office opened circa 1865 and closed on 16 August 1885. (See Pewsey Vale)

Education Department records show its school opening in 1861 and closing in 1967. However, in 1853, there was a report of examinations at the Rowlands’ Flat School and, in 1886, diphtheria broke out amongst the children:

Dr Altmann visited the school with an inspector and examined the children and found one boy whom he thought advisable to send home. No children from any infected house have attended the school… The doctor considered there was a great want of cleanliness in the teachers’ quarters…
Rowland Hill Highway - On Kangaroo Island, recalls Rowland Hill, who was Chief Executive of the Land Development Executive Branch of the Department of Lands during the establishment of the War Service Land Settlement Schemes in the South-East of Kangaroo Island and Riverland, etc., after World War II. Roxby - About 1890, Norman Richardson leased land in the Far North where he bred horses for use on mail runs, and called the property ‘Chance Swamp’. After a ‘bumper’ season and “cashed up” he went over to Marree and purchased cattle brought down from Roxby, in Queensand, after which he changed the name of his property to Roxby Downs. Later, he sold out to Mr Greenfield of the ‘South Gap’ station, some 150 km south of Roxby Downs and, today, the town of Roxby Downs stands on what was once the ‘Sunday Well’ block of the former ‘South Gap’ run. (See Nonalena & South Gap)

This exposition is confirmed, in part, by a newspaper report that said ‘in the early leases the name of Roxby Downs was not to be found’:

The country on which it now stands was, originally, a portion of Andamoka (sic) known as Chance Swamp. There on the edge of the teatree the Andamoka people had got a splendid well of good water… Subsequently Richardson applied for and had allotted to him the most southerly paddock of original Parakylia… and known as The Slaters. This adjoined Chance Swamp on the west. He named it Roxby Downs and sold it to W.H. Greenfields [sic] at a good price…


Roxby Island is in the Sir Joseph Banks Group and its nomenclature may lay with the town of Roxby, in Lincolnshire, Captain Flinders’ home County, or it may honour Lt H. Roxby who surveyed the south coast from the Great Australian Bight to Cape Catastrophe. (See Beatrice Islets)

The English town of ‘Roxby’ was recorded as roucebi in the Domesday Book - ‘the red one’.

Royal - In 1869, the Royal Oak School at Tothill Creek was opened and named after the local hotel, first licensed as the ‘Nonmus Arms’ by Thomas Hornsby on section 1079, Hundred of Waterloo. (See Steelton)
evidence of the recent presence of poultry and pigs. The state of the house was a fair indication of the condition of the sties.

The other habitation was also a two-roomed house. The man and his wife occupied one of the rooms, while five children slept in the other. The owners of these properties were served with notices to abate the unsanitary conditions, while it was noted that most of the piggeries in the district were as clean as man could keep them and earned for their owners the commendation of the councillors.

In 1912, it was reported that ‘an old landmark on Findon Road, Royal Park Extension, was the scene of a fire’:

The premises owned by Mr L. Conrad and leased to Mr R.D Vawser as a boiling-down establishment, are of stone and have been in existence for a long period…

[It] was erected by Mr W.W. Shand in 1867 as a meat preserving establishment. The late Mr Frank Reynolds, of Port Adelaide, was the contractor. The works were started in October 1868.

Photographs of storm damage are in the Chronicle, 2 January 1904, page 42, of the opening of a scout hall on 31 May 1934, page 36.

In 1907, Patrick John Walsh, licensed victualler of Balaklava, gave the name Royal Town to a subdivision of sections 96-99, Hundred of Balaklava; now included in Balaklava.

Born at Strathalbyn, in 1863, he died at Adelaide in 1928.

Royston - In 1802, Matthew Flinders named Royston Head, on South-Western Yorke Peninsula, after Lord Royston, a son of Lord Hardwicke. (See Hardwicke Bay)

Royston Park was laid out, in 1909, by the South Australian Company on part section 282, Hundred of Adelaide; there was no immediate rush for lots and, in 1910, its virtues were extolled: ‘For those requiring a superior site or a profitable investment, buy one before it is too late.’

Its nomenclature, together with that of Kings Park, was discussed in 1936: ‘While on a visit to England, Mr Stephen Parsons stayed at a place called Royston. That is where the “Royston” in our Royston Park comes from.’

Rodney Cockburn says that Mr Parsons’ wife went to school at Royston in Yorkshire. The name occurs, also, in Hertfordshire and takes its name from a cross erected in the highway by Lady Roysia, Countess of Norfolk.
I have so far got rid of the birch, that I only flogged seven boys last half-year, and the same number hitherto in this. I never did nor do I believe that it can be relinquished altogether, but I think it may well be reserved for offences either great in themselves or rendered great by frequent repetition, and then it should be administered in earnest.

For mere irregularities, if not habitual, I always thought a very slight imposition sufficient. I like to have a good ascending scale of punishment before me to try successively if the offender be obstinate; but never to exhaust one’s stock at once, and then to be left unprovided if the effect is not in the first instant answered.

I have never found it necessary to assume anything of a school manner in speaking to the boys - they mind one’s usual tone and manner, just as much it they know they cannot presume on it; and you thus diminish something their notion of your acting from fudge - a belief which as far as it prevails renders all moral influence in a master out of the question.

**Ruglea Park** - A 1922 subdivision of section 439, Hundred of Mobilong, by Heinrich A. Hennig; now included in Murray Bridge.

**Rumbalara** - A railway station on the former Marree-Alice Springs line is derived from the Aboriginal *umbalara* - ‘rainbow’ and ‘those who have seen the gorgeously coloured cliffs along the Finke River… will realise how appropriate the name is.’

**Rumpagunya Creek** - On section 166, Hundred of Paringa. Aboriginal for ‘place of the wailing widow’.

**Rumply, Point** - On section 393, Hundred of Baker, is derived from the Aboriginal *koromplinijandar* - ‘a rock noise’; *korompli* - ‘noise’ and *jandaru* - ‘rock’.

With southerly winds, water beats again st holes in the rocks along the shore causing strange noises.

**Rundleville** - A 1910 subdivision of section 442, Hundred of Mobilong, by Joseph Daley; now included in Murray Bridge.

**Rupari** - A telephone office 8km SSW of Narrung on section 106, Hundred of Baker. Aboriginal for ‘rounded hills’.

**Rupuli** - A small island near section 492, Hundred of Baker, once the ancestral home of *Taikuni*, mythical night people. While attending fish nets they were kept at bay by using the light of torches.

**Ruralbotown** - Near Victor Harbor; it is shown on a map in the *Register*, 18 January 1919.

**Rushmore Estate** - A 1914 subdivision of various sections in the Hundred of Kondoparinga, by Matthew, John and William M. Rankine. The name ‘Rushmore’ occurs in Wiltshire and Suffolk, England, and derives from the *OE risc* - ‘rush’ and *mere* - ‘lake’.

**Russell** - **Russell Creek**, near Marree, was named after Edward Russell, who held seven pastoral leases ‘east of Lake Eyre’ at Kopperamanna and Lake Gregory from 1885. Lord John Russell (1792-1878), Secretary of Colonial Affairs is remembered by the **County of Russell**, proclaimed on 2 June 1842.

He secured the appointment of the Imperial Select Committee that enquired into the affairs of South Australia in its infancy.

In domestic questions he cast in his lot with those who opposed the repressive measures of 1817 and protested that the causes of discontent at home should be removed by remedial legislation. When failure attended all his efforts he resigned his seat… He was… the ‘Stormy Petrel’ of politics and his leisure hours were spent compiling his *Reflections and Suggestions* which was marked by the belief that all philosophy, political or social, was summed up in the Whig creed.

**Hundred of Russell**, County of Hopetoun, was proclaimed on 7 November 1895. William Russell, MLC (1894-1900), MP (1901-1905) and born in Scotland, in 1842, came to South Australia, in 1866, in the *Peeress*; later, he worked on the land at Alma and Gulnare Plains, moving to Caltowie in 1873. He took a leading part in carrying into effect the principle of the franchise of women, entered the Federal Senate in 1906 and died in June 1912.

**Ruths Flat** - The *Advertiser* of 23 March 1867 mentions this place near Bridgewater.


**Ryan Shaft** - The first copper ore at Moonta, on the site of a wombat burrow, was discovered in 1861 by Patrick Ryan; an inscribed stone marks the spot.

**Rye** - The town, proclaimed on 30 March 1882 at the site of the Walloway railway station, north of Orroroo, was, in 1940, changed to ‘Walloway’. *Rye* School opened in 1883 and closed in 1942.

The name occurs, frequently, throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland and derives from the Anglo-Saxon *rithe* - ‘a rivulet’. One such town is a Cinque Port in Sussex was where the Danes landed in 893 AD.

**Ryelands** - Rodney Cockburn says it was the name of a ‘sheep run near Kapunda run held by John Taylor, a pastoral and mining magnate, who came from Ryelands in Herefordshire.’ *(See Taylor Flat & Taylor Mound)*

Before coming to Adelaide with George Tinline, where both men joined the bank of South Australia, he worked for a bank in Sydney; later he became manager of the *Register* and *Observer* newspapers after the death of John Stephens. The name was given, also, to a pastoral property in the ‘Ninety-Mile Desert’ by Julian Helling who had worked on a stud farm of the same name in Wales.