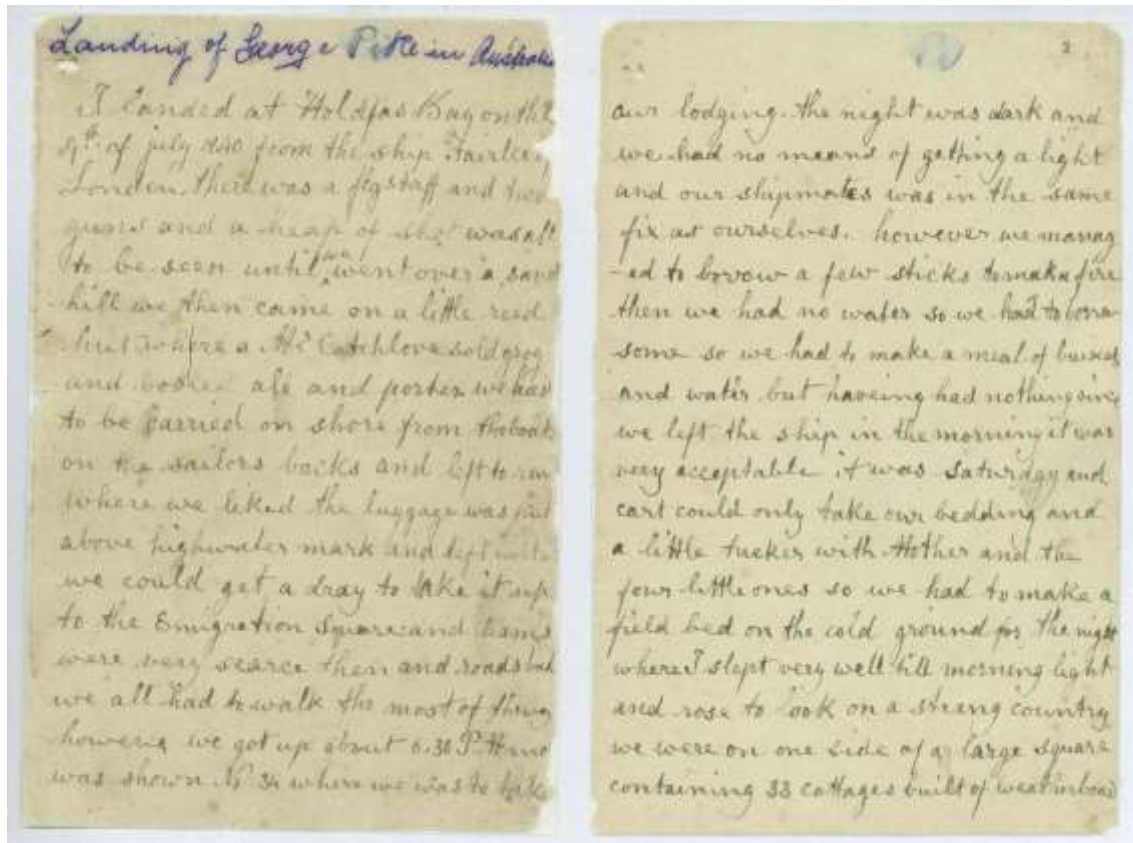


## D 6769 Diary of the landing of George Pike in Australia 1840

Transcribed by F. Hemstock, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia 2002

*George Pike was born 14 August 1826. The diary begins when George is about thirteen.*



*First two pages of a 31 page letter with the transcription below*

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I landed at Holdfast Bay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1840 from the ship Fairlie of London. there was a flgstaff and two guns and a heap of shot was all to be seen until we went over a sand-hill we then came on a little reed hut where a M<sup>r</sup> Catchlove sold grog and bottled ale and porter. we had to be carried on shore from the boat on the sailors backs and left to run where we liked the luggage was put above highwater mark and left until we could get a dray to take it up to the Emigration Square and teams were very scarce then and roads bad we all had to walk the most of the way however we got up about 6.30 P.M. and was shown No 34 where we was to take

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our lodging. the night was dark and we had no means of getting a light and our shipmates was in the same fix as ourselves. however we managed to borrow a few sticks to mak a fire then we had no water so we had to borrow some so we had to make a meal of buiscats and water but haveing had nothing since we left the ship in the morning it was very acceptable it was Saturday and cart could only take our bedding and a little tucker with Mother and the four little ones so we had to make a field bed on the cold ground for the night where I slept very well till morning light and rose to look on a strang country we were on one side of a large square containing 33 cottages built of weatherboard

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and a double W.C. at each corner however we had to lookout for our breakfast and we without fire or water. and the nearest timber was more than half a mile away and the water about the the same distance so my oldest sister was left with the young ones and my brothe went for water and Father Mother and I went for wood to the point of the black forest on Sunday and stood our chance of being taken up to the Moon. dry wood was not very plantyful ther as the early bird gets the worm and others had been before us however we got a suply and over

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loaded ourselves thinking the wood was as light here as in the old country and being our first job it was very heavy but we got to our new home with a good apetite for our breakfast after which we took a walk up to see the City but was glad to get away from it again. for roads was mud and the moast of the buildings were mud and reeds so we returned home to dinner after which we had a lay down for sit we could not for we had not as much as a box to sit on they being left at the bay until monday which turned out a fine day so Mother Sis and I went to where the cemetry is now, and gathered Bundles of

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young shoots from of the stumps that had been cut for firewood for the early arivals. this was to make our bed on to keep us from the damp ground. about midday our goods arrived and we made the place to look a little shipshape but this was not to last long. for the next day we had to make room for another family of five which made sixteen in one room 12 x 12 ft so we had to lay feet to feet this lasted about a month but we thined out gradually as my oldest brother and Sister was engaged to Capt Davison of Blackiston and I went to No 1 station on the Sturt about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the presant Flagstaff Inn where I stayed until Mother came and took me home as there was only one

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small Hut of two rooms and the Boss and his wife and three children filled one and the servant girl and I had to sleep on the floor of the kitchen on a long and very little beding. and our fare was ship buiscuts and scim milk rice and milk with damper and mutton twice a week. for a change the two men slept in a wachbox at the sheeppyard. the manager was Thos or Deaf Taylor my next start was north. aman named Brown came from Duttons station wanted a boy to mind sheep for one Year, and he thought I would suit so I had to go and try my luck so we started together with one horse between two so we rode time about and got to the little parra about midday

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where we got some refreshments and made another start for Gawler town where we arrived about sundown at a low shanty calld the the old Spot where we had to walk down stairs to get inside where we got our tea and made our bed in what they called a stable howeve it was a fine night so we came to no harm.

the next morning we made another start up the north para which we crossed some six or seven miles up and then over some up and down country, until we came to a creek and a nice little flat with a small hut at the head which was to be my jurneys end so we went to the hut where we were told that M<sup>f</sup> Leak had gone from there a week ago. so here was I about 16 miles

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from Gawler a little over thirteen years of age turned adrift to walk back wher there was but a very sligh track in a country full of wild Blacks that kill'd and eat white men for passtime I beleive I had a cry but I had to go back alone. so I set out and soon got out of sight of the hut I had about four and a half hours sun to do the distance of 16 miles and I stept out as fast as I could running down and walking up hill untill I got to the North para I then pulld of my boots and wash'd my feet and walk'd barefoot but had to put them on again as the road was stoney. which hurt my feet. however the little rest did me no harm and I new I was halfway and it was mostly down hill I pushd

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and sighted gawler just as the sun set I went to the old spot and told the landlady my tale and she gave me my tea and let me lay by the fire where I had a good sleep but felt rather stiff in the morning but after a good breakfast I set out to do the 30 mills as it was call'd then but it has grown nearer since I got out of sight of Gawler on to the dreary plain and felt very lonely but gettin on a bit of high ground I saw a hors dray comeing down from the hill to my left hand so I pull'd foot and caught up to it and the man asked me where I was going I told him I was going to town so he told me I could have a ride as far as little para with him if I liked which I did. he asked me a lot of questions amongst them if I was not frightned and I told him a little bit

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he asked my name how old and when I arived in the Colony & and the horse troted on and brought us to the para before I thought we were halfway the man gave me some buicuts and a little drop of beer and wish'd me good bye and I started on my 15 mile journey there was neither house or hut between the para and Hindmarsh then but somewhere about the dry creek there was three men cuting grass for hay and I got a drink from them and they pointed out the best track for me to take, and after a long tramp I sighted Bowden [ha...] and soon after the square or home I soon got another job tailing sheep for Smith and Dumbleton Butchers in hindly St. which I held for about eight weeks at 3/- per week then I

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one day got bathing with other boys in the torrens and lost my sheep and my situation also. I then got a job at Barrow and goodiars brick-yard as pugboy at 10/- per week and find my own tucker where I sta'd until Father was taken from the Government work by a man by name Whickham. to take charge of a flock of sheep at the head of McLaren Vale and I had to go with him as asistant. or hutkeeper at 25/- per week and rations. so in the early morning we started on our journey south I had been as far as the Sturt before and new the road sofar. and we were told to take the left-hand track from there until

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we came to a dayrie station so we climbed the flagstaff hill and found we were on the right road to happy vally by sighting a hut and yard kept by Burgess and Morphett, where we got dinner and directions so we made another start for the Onkaparinga river where we arived safe and got refresh't on damper and mutton and a caricture of our imployer which was not a very good one. they also directed us to Mellors station at Eyers Flat so off we set again and arrived at the flat and found a haystack but no hut so we folowed the track until we came to a stockyard and there we camped for the night as there was neither

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*[Page 13 and part of page 14 are missing]*

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flat we came in sight of a  
sheep and the shepherd with  
who told us we had been to  
does and that it was Dr  
..d we saw. he then took us  
his hut and gave us plenty  
..d drink as he said it would be  
fare we would get where  
...e going. he then put us  
track and told us to keep  
..t-hand one and that would  
there in four miles soon we  
another try but no better  
in some places there was  
no track to be seen but  
on one and at last we came  
..vy timber and then an open  
..th hut and yard and children

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so we went and inquired for Mr Whickhams station and were told we were two and a half miles from it but we must have something to eat as we would get very little there which was very true. so we made another start. we were to make for a Bald hill about two miles away and would find M<sup>r</sup> Grote's station and we would be directed straight to Whickhams so we went on with their best wishes and in the bushes again after traveling about a mile we came to a creek with some water in it and titree. on crossing we saw a brushyard but no hut could be seen for why because there was none but the sheep just coming in a man behind them. so we went towards

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*[Page 16 is missing]*

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so we were left in charge of fifteen hundred sheep with say four pounds of flour no tea no sugar or salt or a lucifer to light a fire if by chance it should go out. there was plenty wood but no axe to cut it. and we were full a mile from any habitation and twenty five from Adelaide. however we had to take pot luck for it and do as well as we could so we took a stroll down the creek to look for the cow and found her coming home to her calf, so dad sent me for the billy and whilst the calf milk'd one side dad milk'd the other and we had whitepot for supper which we partook and then made preparations for bed. the ground was dry so we lay down and slept but not for long as the dog which I forgot to mention began to bark and dad stired up the fire and soon a howl

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was heard. the dingoes was about so we both got up and went round the yard and made another fire and then turn'd in again but not to sleep very sound as the ground was hard and the night was cold which made us keep the fire up however the morning came at last so we soon got some more wood together and made a good fire and had more whitepot for breakfast and the sheep were let out and then the cow had to be milk'd and the calf shifted and dad went out with the sheep and left me by myself to cut grass for to make our bed on. so I went to work with only a knife and by noon had more than enough as kangaroo grass was very plenty-full ther at that time. dad by

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this time had brought the sheep near the camp and came in to make more whitepot for dinner. the fact is we could eate nothing but whitepot as it was the only way to make our flour hold out and what to do then we did not know. however we were doing our very best and could not blame our selves in the afternon I was to go and get some titree and other bushes to try and make some kind of shelter to keep the wind from us. so I got as much as I could together and when dad came near with the sheep he came in and we managed to make a very good wurley and it was lucky we did in two ways for it came on to rain that night and put out our fire so that we could not cook our breakfast and we had no means to make a fire

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and I had to go to M<sup>r</sup> Grote's station to get a fire brand and the morning was wet. but we had to get fire some way or other so off I went and got there allright but the job was to get the fire home the hut keeper gave me a good tuckout and then I started with two good sticks well alight and I ran to keep them blasing but the wind and rain was to much for me. before I got halfway the fire was out and I had to return twice the third time my luck was dead in for a M<sup>r</sup> Barlie was there a kind of Boss who told me the way to carry fire and gave me a lump of damper and Beef to carry home so I made the third trial and got to carry with a blzing fire in one hand and damper and beef in the other

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When dad came in with the sheep he was very well pleas'd with a bit of damper and beef and I told him that M<sup>r</sup> Barlie was comeing over to see how we were getting on which he did next day. and he had caught a kangaroo on the road over, which he left with us and I was to run over next day to get a bit salt and peper he said if he was in our place he would kill a sheep and let old W. do his best or worst however I went over for the salt in the morning and M<sup>r</sup> Gote himself was ther and he asked how we were living and I told him as well as I could and he ordered the cook to give me half the damper he had just cook'd which he did and I went back home in good spirits but o. horror when I sighted camp there was our old Boss

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I saw him before he saw me and drop'd the damper beside a tree so that I could find it again and walked on up to camp by this time dad was in sight with the sheep so away he goes to meet him and I make a fire to roast kangaroo.. I expect he had his dinner with him as he eat nothing with us. but curs'd the old Scotchman for takeing away the rations as he had left plenty there a week ago. however he would send some up tomorrow and we must try and borrow some from M<sup>r</sup> Grote and away he went back to town

the next morning M<sup>r</sup> Grote came by on his road to town, asked dad how we were getting along and he told him all so he said he would see the agent and tell him all about how we were served

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he told dad that he mast not to leave the sheep by themselvs, but when Whikham came again if he did not bring rations to walk away and leave the sheep with him: as he could get on again at the Goverment works, so dad sent me of to town on the following day with dirty cloths to see if mother was geting anything from him and if not to stay in and he would follow the first chance so I started of by my-self and got along as far as the onkapringa where I met the old man on horseback with his sword by his side he asked me where I was going and I told him I was going down to to get clean cloths he said he had got tea and sugar and the flour wud

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be up tomorrow and went on his way and I went on mine until I got up to Morphet station, where they called me in to have some dinner and asked me how we got on for rations out there and I told them bad enough that he told me he had some tea and sugar today, and the flour would be up tomorrow they laughed and said that was his old trick, he would send no flour, so I toddled on towards town until I came near the sturt where I pull'd up two drays loaded with slates and got a ride as far as the flagstaf on west terrace and walked home. Mother was surprised to see me by myself and asked me a lot of

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questions, and I told her the truth as near as I could, and she had done no better than we had she had been to him three or four times and could get nothing, so I had to stay at home. next morning about eleven oclock dad arrived he had done as M<sup>r</sup> Grote had told him left him in charge of his flock. in the afternoon dad went to the office and got on all right at night work with me to help him. our work was to wacth the working cattle and bring them in in the morning to Frooms Bridge, sleep all day and take them out again in the evening we got two pounds ten shilings per week and rations and not much to do only keep our eyes open by night, as there was plenty of good feed every where and dad and I got on very well together for when we got known we earnd many an od pound through the day by doing od jobs in town, and Mam saved some for a rainy day. about this time we had to shift out of the square

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as there was not room for the new arivals and we had been there over our time so we had to go to an old hut one of the old Mud and reed huts built by the pasegers of the firs ship Buffalo. it was only one room and wanted a little repairs so Father and I went down to the reedbeds and got some reeds and repair'd it so we was a little more comfortable and more at home we still kept our watch by night for a considerable time. but there is an end to all things and our job of watching was finishd dad was kept on at other work, so I had to look for another job but I was not long idle for I was engaged by one M<sup>r</sup> Clark a baker at west end Hindly street at three shilings and sixpence per week where I stayed about eight weeks and then left to go ut to Morphettevale to drive Bullocks at plough for one M<sup>r</sup> allien where I was engaged for three months at three shilings and sixpence per week with keep, we got along very well for at time. but he he had a woman

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there and he got jealous of the ploughman and was not the man to speak his mind but when he went from home again left a line for him reading thus. Prety Louisa tels me you tormented and troubled her when I was in town last. I reques you will leave her alone and not come into the frontroom so when he came home the [...] the gave him a weeks notice. and left the weeks end so he tryed to plough himself but could not he then engaged a runaway sailor but he could not plough the land. he then sent to his Brother in town to get him a ploughman and he sent a boy or not much better so we got on very badly. then we lost the cattle and all hands went to look after them and the country being all open and we were all strangers and knew nothing, we were three days before we found them. and then we only got two hours work out of them before it was dark so we watch'd them that night and had a

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good day out of them. thinking they would be tired and would lay down all night and we would would get them in the morning early but no. they were gone and nowhere to be found that day. we hunted every likely place and every unlikely place and asked every one we seen but no tidings could we get of them of corce we were afraid to go far in the bush for fear of being lost ourselvs. we went to No. 2 and the Horshoe and Hepenstall's whaleing huts on the beach, but no bullocks could be found, but as I was going home in the evening I chanced to see a something red in the distance and thought it moved so I went towars it and found the Bullocks which I took home and they were shut up that night and work'd all next day and watched at night till ten oclock and then shut up again and so we got another day out of them but they looked very weary when let out we turn'd them up toward the hills thinking they would make back to their old camp where I had found them the day before so off we go in the morning one one way and one another and meet at a certain

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place but we had no better luck for we could no find them any where we got home at about 10 oclock and went out again but still no Bullocks. the Boss got wild and decleared we never look'd for them and the man boy tum'd on him and said he could go and look for them himself, for he was not going to walk his legs of and get bullied for his pains. so they were not found that day. and to make bad worse the chap left, so the Boss and I were left to do the work ourselves. however as luck would have it there was a gang of men came from town that evening sent up by the landlords Murray and Greig to fence the section in and there was two of them old Devonshire farm laborers and the Boss made a bargain with them to cart the timber for them and one of them was to asist in pitting in the crop. so the next day they started cuting the timber and the cattle came to them and they brought them home at dinner time and we got a good half day out of them and the man knowing something about cattle and their wants ask'd where did they get water and then the cat came out of the bag. they were in want

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of water and there was two wels close by, aboute twelve feet deep, certainly we had not tub or trough for them to drink out of but we might have known they wanted water and this is what made them ramble for the man agreed to make a trough and then we could always find the cattle some time in the day, acording to the weather as they look for their own shelter, if it is wet and cold they will go to high ground where there is shelter alway on the leaside of the hill. and if it is dry they will look for the best feed. if you work them to hard they will ramble they allways rise at midnight and if its dark they will ly down again and rest until it is light. then they will look for their breakfast and if the feed is not good go and look for better but

must have water as every one ought to know so we managed to get along very well as the man was a very good ploughman also a good seedsman in part he was a good all round man. but now we had to cart the fencing stuff as well as work the farm so the Bos got the horse and dray and tried to do it but he could not cart it as fast as they could cut it and put it up as the ground cut up and the horse was light

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and we soon got finished with the seeding and sent the borrow'd team back home and carted wood ourselves and soon got done with that as well and my time was nearly up so that I could go home and see civilization once more I had only eight days to stay and then the Bos call's me into the front room and paid me two pounds five shilings and sixpence which was the most money I ever held of my own before and I was told to ask my Father to let me come back to other another three months and off I trudged to town when I got in town I found that dad had shifted his quarters but they were on the look out for me and I was soon at home in my Mothers arms with her blessings showed on my head in the evening dad and I went into town to buy things for Sunday dinner and we had a great feast I have said nothing about the tucker at my last [...] it was fairly good had it been well cook'd I have found it as a general rule in south Australia with exceptions that God sends the food but the Devil sends the cooks. My hallodays now being ended I started back to my place again and got playing

*[On the back of page 10, in different hand-writing:]*

*Between Two Hills*

*Miss Hirte [?]*

*Dear Friend if I ask any one to come to pay me a visit I like to be at home to welcome them & if there not home I think I am not welcome (That's me!)*

*I hope you get up to your eyes in mud as I did coming up here, then you stay home next time, "That's all the thank I give you.*

*That's Me!.*