

Diary kept during a journey from Adelaide to
Alice Springs, MacDonnell Ranges
1871 by E.J. Harris

Sept. 15

Left Adelaide with Mr. R.P. Boucaut (in charge of party) E. Fling (assistant operator) & a man named Rollo, and after a very pleasant trip of about 10 days arrived at Port Augusta. Some of the country passed through looked splendid being rich in feed, water, & timber. Horrock's pass through the Flinders Range is very picturesque in places, & quite a new description of scenery to me - On our arrival at Stirling (a most insignificant township within a short distance of P.A.) we pitched our tent. Mr. B. then went into P.A. & on reporting arrival, heard from headquarters that the rest of the party would not leave (Adelaide) S.A. for a week so we were doomed to pass the time in the meanwhile sightseeing, but as the only public buildings were two inns & by no means distinquie it was rather slow work. On Friday 29th the steamer "Lubra" arrived & with her Messrs. Mueller, Watson, Clarke (in charge of the operators) Bowley, & Bell. The night of their arrival we were fortunate enough to be invited to a dance, & did not return to our camp till 4 a.m. when we awoke the echoes of Stirling with "Marching thro' Georgia". The night before leaving Stirling hearing there was to be a soiree in P.A. some of us were weak enough to go in, & listen to such pleasing stuff as "Lady Clara Vere de Vere" given out in a two lines to a time sort of style. Fortunately for us when returning a spring cart approached, and as there were only 8 people in it we thought they might take us up, which like true Christians they did, & who should it be but the worthy landlady of our pub at Stirling (who must have weighed 15 stone herself) a bevy of gushing girls (daughters etc) & another lady who had been singing at the said soiree. Of course nothing would do but more singing & as the old moke trotted along merrily with his 2½ tons of frail humanity at his heels, we soon arrived at camp, where paying a most affectionate farewell to the contents of the cart we sought repose, after waking all those individuals who were rash enough to be asleep at that time of day!! 1.30 a.m.!

Tuesday
3rd. October

Up at day break & cleared out of the noble town of Stirling North at 8 o'clock having had a nip to freshen up our drooping spirits. We had 16 horses from here & another trap hired in Port Augusta to go on as far as the "Gums". As soon as our noses were turned north we were saluted by a delightful hot wind, which continued all day, & the dust was flying splendidly which we found not at all conducive to comfort or cleanliness. I was driving the buggy from P.A. which rejoined in the procession of a tilt [sic]. In going over a rise & meeting the full force of the breeze a crack was heard & the blessed thing was away down the hill. We put it across a wire fence & anchored it well & proceeded. Passed Saltia a small township in the Pitchie Ritchie pass through Flinders Range. Camped about 2 pm. at the Mount Arden Woolshed. 18 Miles.

- Wednesday 4th. Started at 7.30 when we had gone some distance my dog went after a kangaroo & did not show up again. Mueller's followed suit & was also lost. On reaching Ragless' at the Willocra Inn M. returned to try & pickup dogs but was unsuccessful. Reached the Syke Creek about 4 p.m. Most villainous water. Shot a few ducks in Creek & turned in early. Rain during night. 24 Miles.
- Thursday 5th Made an early start & intended going as far as Hookina but when within 14 miles of that place the hind axle of the "Grub" waggon broke & of course we stuck up. I rode on to Hookina to see if it could be mended there but the blacksmith had gone & the rest of the population were very drunk. Mr. Boucaut sent Rollo back to Saltia with the axle & my buggy & we camped about 3 miles off the Road at an old station among the hills called Panoona. There was an old Chinaman living there who kept goats & had a garden. There was nothing in it but onions, but as there were no ladies about we walked into them most unmercifully. Very jolly camp. 14 miles.
- Friday 6 Doing nothing all day & found it very hard work.
- Saturday 7 Rollo back again. Went down to the waggon & loaded up, & brought it into camp.
- Sunday 8 Some of the horses away, out after them all am. Very hot.
- Monday 9 Left Panoona at 8. Hookina at 11. Mr. Clarke tried to speak S.A. [sic], but could not. Went in for some beer & porter & then on to the White Well where we pulled up for the night. 23 Miles.
- Tuesday 10 On the Road by 7.30. Some very heavy road today. Reached Ediowie which is the last Township! There is a public house there & I saw a petticoat so I suppose there are some inhabitants besides the Innkeeper. There is beer any how which we soon discovered. We bore ourselves away from the sweet spot & went on as far as the Bunyeroo Creek about 3p.m. 24 Miles.
- Wednesday 11. Away at 7.20. Passed Bratchina [sic] & a lot more creeks & some nice country & camped at the Parachilna Ck. 18 Miles.
- Thursday 12 Had a long walk after some of the mokes but got away at 7. Reached Beltana in the afternoon. Camped about a mile from station. In the evening we all went up to the house & spent a very jolly evening, as there were some ladies, music & a piano. 30 Miles.
- Friday 13 All hands washerwomen? today. Spent another jolly evening at the Station. Home to camp very late. Wrote a lot of letters.

- 3 -

- Saty. 4 Camp shifted. I waited at Beltana for some things the Blacksmith was making. Said Goodbye abt. 11 a.m. & caught the rest on Road. Camped at Windy Creek. We had just got the tent up when a squall came & away went Tent & everything moveable. That Creek is well named for I can assure anybody that there was some wind. 18 Miles.
- Sunday 15 Mr. Phillipson, his sister, & Miss Warwick out to camp to dinner. Very pleasant day. About 4 pm they drove off. It will be many a long day before we see any more ladies I'm thinking. Got 2 new horses here.
- Monday 16 Left camp at 8.30. only went to Leigh's Creek. The remains of an old station still standing. Used to belong to A. Glen. Did not put up the tent as we shall start at piccaniny [sic] daylight in the morning. 7 Miles.
- Tuesday 17 Up at 4 o'clock. So dark that one of the fellows was putting a bridle on a bush mistaking it for a horse. Passed an Affghan [sic] encampment at the 'Redhill' & saw about 120 Camels. Kept well out of their road as the mokes don't like them at all. Reached the Gums at 5.30 where I found my old South East friend Joe W. Johnsson & Babbage also there. Very tired & seedy. 40 Miles.
- Wednesday 18 Spent day in camp writing, washing etc. Fearfully hot. Had some music in evening.
- Thursday 19 Started in afternoon but only went 3 miles where we camped. Left Bowley & Bell here (the Gums not the camp) & took a man on & Joe Johnsson.
- Friday 20 Had a long walk after the Nantos [sic] in the morning found them at the 'Gums'. Watered them there & then took them out to camp. Rode along the line with Joe. Fearfully hot & sultry. Reached the Boorloo Springs about dusk. Most villainous water, and any amount of rats which gave us plenty of amusement (?) during the night. 32 miles.
- Saturday 21 Rollo left us here taking with him the Port Augusta buggy & two horses I started as waggoner! Managed to go up & down the table lands O.K. without breaking anything. Reached 'Welcome Springs' early. This is a most curious place. The springs lie in a large water course between 2 Tablelands & are strongly impregnated with Soda. The water is most beautifully soft & if a good washerwoman had them down below, she might make her fortune, especially in the S.E. where all the water is hard. The water has a most repulsive smell & is rather warm but after standing in a bucket sometime the odour goes off & it is very good. This is the worst place for wood I ever saw. All hands had to turn out to look for it. I jumped a claim of fine wood which the blacks had brought for the purpose of celebrating the funeral of one of their coloured friends. They had not used it tho for the grave was quite open & the defunct 'Smuts' [sic] marrow bones showing at the bottom. We stuck the cranium on a stick close to the water & with an old hat on one side of his head, it look quite distingue [sic] knowing. Rats worse. 13 Miles.

- Sunday 22 Horse hunting for 4 hours on foot & with slippers on. I did not think we should have to go far, but 2 of the mokes were away & we had the pleasure of tracking over stony country a good 12 miles altogether. Washed clothes in the afternoon. No feed here.
- Monday 23 Left Welcome at Noon & went as far as Pole Creek where we camped without water, but there was plenty of wood & grass. No tent up tonight. Nothing but Tablelands & Table top Hills all through this country. Very interesting scenery!! 13 Miles.
- Tuesday 24 Made an early start & got to the Finniss about 1 p.m. This is one of Elder's cattle stations some of the most wretched places I ever hope to be in. Any amount of springs & water of all sorts. Had to take horses along way for feed & got some of them nearly drowned in villainous bogs near the water. As a bullock had just been killed we went in for beef steak without the onions. Another man joined here (Jones!) no doubt you have heard the name before. On account of a superabundance of nasal organ he is commonly known as Nosey Jones! 13 Miles.
- Wednesday 25 Today we crossed the renowned Finniss sandhills & a treat it was. My team had to be increased with the 4 express horses over most of them. We met Mr. Woods today (the Officer in charge of the central sections). He gave us an account of the north, had a nip & went on his way, no doubt rejoicing for was he not returning to the noble City of Adelaide! Camped at a little spring called "Dinta Duitna" Very good water 12 Miles.
- Thursday 26 More sandhills & double banking today. Beastly tiring work & very apt to make one use bad French especially if he has the ill-luck to drive a wagon over the hills. Camped at Stuart Creek. Fine hole of water here but salt. Had to take mokes about 2 miles up the Creek to a fresh water Spring. Shot a few ducks & 5 pelicans. Made a feather pillow. Great luxury too. 16 Miles.
- Friday 27th Got an early start & went as far as Mount Hamilton (another deserted station) which is one of Rouncevell's Contract depots. Splendid hole of rain water here. 13 miles.
- Saturday 28 Passed a lot of springs. Kewson, Anna, Elizabeth being some of the names, also the far famed Blanche Cup. This is very peculiar. You go up a mound of queer looking stuff evidently the accumulation from the deposit of the water & then find a beautiful basin of clear water about a chain in diameter & nearly circular. The spring flows at a good rate & runs over one side of the mound. There is no telling how high it will be in a few more centuries but no doubt it will astonish some future generations if they are not too learned. Camped at the Warburton Spring under Mt. Beresford. 22 Miles.

- Sunday 29 Left camp at 7.30 & reached the Strangways Springs where there is a sheep station at 10.30. Beastly waterhole again. Epsom Salts would seem nectar compared with it but the people at the station like it. Truly 'use is second nature'. Bagot's wiring party were camped here with Messrs. Fowler and Bervante [sic] 10 Miles.
- Monday 30 Camped at Strangways all day. Very little to... Went in for a bath in the evening at one of the springs, 'The Shower Bath'. The water runs over the top of the mound & falls over into a sort of basin. It is a very good sort of arrangement & by opening your mouth you caught a mild dose of medicine. Here we got rid of the first lot of instruments.
- Tuesday 31 Left Strangways at 8.30. I got another horse from here for my team & a great acquisition he was. We had plenty of sandhills today but got over them O.K. without double banking. I had the new moke "Tommy" in the lead & as soon as he saw a sandhill he showed signs of cantering & went at it well which put new life into the other 5 & we got along swimmingly. Camped about a mile from the William Spring which is right in the centre of a large dry salt lake. The water here is slightly better but not much. 18 Miles.
- Wednesday Novr. 1 Spelled nearly all day. Hitched up in the afternoon & went about 3 miles where we camped. Johnston went back with the horses & camped at the William all night with them.
- Thursday 2 Up at 4.30 as long stage today but horses did not come till 8.30. Expected to water in the 'Douglas' (a small sandy creek) by digging but no go. Turned out for an hour here & then went on intending to go as far as the Loddon, but we travelled till 8.30 (pitch dark) & pulled up at Sunny Creek. No water thoh [sic]. Boucaut & Flint took the horses on to the Loddon to Liquor 2½ miles further on. Beastly heavy Road Very tired. 26 Miles.
- Friday 3 Struck camp at 8. Passed the 'Loddon' at 8.30. This is a warm spring strongly impregnated with iron. There are fine lot of troughs here, & you can get cold water one end of them & hot at the other. Reached 'Umbum', Mount Margaret Station about 11.30. Fine Hole of rainwater here which was highly appreciated by everyone. Rain during night. 13 Miles.
- Saturday 4 Busy doctoring my waggon all morning. Mail arrived in the afternoon with a good haul of letters. Caught a lot of fish but they were too small to be worth cooking.
- Sunday 5 Writing letters all day.
- Monday 6 Went out early for the horses. Master Tommy missing. Had good look for him, but not a sign. Left Flint behind to look for him. Splendid Road today. Camped at the 'Outside Springs'. 18 Miles.

- 6 -

- Tuesday 7 Got an early start. Country a little better & some timber, to be seen now & then. Camped at 'Copper Top Spring'. Copper Top is a curious conical Hill the top of which is burnt quartz & at a distance looks very like bright coppers. Better feed here. 20 Miles.
- Wednesday 8 Got to the Peake about 9 o'clock & found a very respectable stone building Govt. store etc. Met Mr. Blood (Telegraph Stationmaster). Took possession of the store where we had plenty of room & swarms of rats for bedfellows. 3 Miles.
- Thursday 9 Busy all day with various indoor amusements. Amongst other things started a mosquito Curtain!! & butchered my fingers with the needle nicely. Sewing evidently not my forte. Had some singing in the evening. Nice rain during night.
- Friday 10 Got some of the horses in & shod them. Smoking & reading all day. More rain.
- Saturday 11 Doing nothing all morning. Had some footraces in afternoon & was lucky enough to win them all. Wrote some letters. Had a rubber & to bed with the rats.
- Sunday 12 More Rain. Flint back with horse.
- Monday 13 Busy all day getting fresh stores & loading. Got rest of horses shod.
- Tuesday 14 Mr. Blood tried to take a photograph of our caravan but was unsuccessful. Made a start Northwards & got to the 'Neales Creek'. Splendid feed here & water. One stretch of three miles of fresh water. Any amount of Game & fish. The latter are about the size of sardines & are very nice but a great deal of trouble. Mosquitoes beginning to get rather troublesome. 14 Miles.
- Wednesday 15 Had to send back to Pk (Peake) for meat as they were unable to kill while we were there.
- Thursday 16 Shooting & fishing all day. Express back but no beef so brought preserved meat.
- Friday 17 Up at sunrise & made an early start. Two smuts [sic] joined the camp. 'Dick' & 'Mary Jane'. Bright specimens of humanity they were. Went as far as 'Hann's Creek' where camped. Great improvement in Country. 14 Miles.
- Saturday 18 Early start. Very rough stony road all day. Camped at Cecilia Creek. 14 Miles.
- Sunday 19 Spelled all day. Sent the ancient negro 'Dick' out to take the horses to water thinking it would save me a jaunt & he returned in 2 hours time with a lot of hobble straps. It seems the ingenious old cuss had simply taken one strap off leaving the chain & the other strap on. So I had to go after all & catch them all again. I didn't bless that nigger Oh no!!

- Monday 20 Moved on again & went as far as Mt. O'Halloran. Camped here in company with a Hawker from whom we purchased a good many things. Mosquitoes bad here & I rigged my net up for the first time as did a good many of the others. 14 Miles.
- Tuesday 21 Spelled all day waiting for the mail. Mr. Burton (one of the Govt. overseers) arrived with it about 9 p.m.
- Wednesday 22 Got some fresh meat today from one of the Rounsevell's overseers. Camped at 'Storm Creek'. Very good name too. We were all asleep in our curtains when a squall came & laid them all flat. Had to take horses about 2 miles to water & when we got there found it so boggy that very few of them would drink. 18 Miles.
- Thursday 23 From "Storm Creek" to "Mookumba Ck". Sandy Road in places but not bad. Splendid water holes in this Creek. As we got to camp early everyone busy answering letters which Mr. Burton (who has travelled with us to here) will take back. 15 Miles.
- Friday 24 Villainous Road today. Sand & stones. Camped at some claypans. Water very like Pea soup only not so palatable. Mosquitoes & flies very hungry here. 10 Miles.
- Saturday 25 Left camp at 6.30 & after travelling along a very good road got to the 'Three Forges' or Tiring camp about 4.30 p.m. This place is so called from the fact that the Construction parties erected 3 forges here & cut the tires of the waggons etc. etc. Very good camp. Plenty of feed & water. 22 Miles.
- Sunday 26 Spelled here all day. Team from the North arrived in the afternoon & camped with us.
- Monday 27 Away at 6.45. Had to cross some very heavy sandhills & bad road nearly all the way to the 'Johnston & Southern Ck.' where we camped at 12.50. 17 Miles.
- Tuesday 28 Left camp early & passed the Dalhousie Springs supposed to be the largest in the Colonies. As far as the eye can see there is a bank of green rushes & grass stretching away on a dry salt plain. The springs need to be good to make up for the barrenness of the surrounding country. Salt is obtainable here in any quantity & very fine salt it is. Camped at 'Possum Waterhole'. Had to doctor my old waggon up again the wheels of which are showing visible signs of dissolution. 18 Miles.
- Wednesday 29 Very heavy Road again today. Passed a lot of bullock teams with station stores & camped at 'Hughes Waterholes' Not a bad camp. 12 Miles.
- Thursday 30 Bad road again today over Stony Tablelands. Thought my old boat would have fallen to pieces altogether going over the rocks. Camped at the 'Adminga Ck'. 15 Miles.

- Friday Dec. 1 Let Adminga at 6.30. Fearful hot day. Horses got regularly baked. Had to take one of mine out ('Wombat' - called after an old friend!) & go on with 5. Reached 'Charlotte Waters Station No. 1' about 2.30. Building started here & the walls about 3 feet high. Splendid water here but by no means an interesting place. 18 Miles.
- Saturday 2 Spelled all day. Had a good swim in the evening. We leave Johnston (Station Mstr.) here & London & Jones.
- Sunday 3 Mr. Clarke started with a waggon to go back to Possum Waterhole for Battery material for stations 2 & 3. as the team that had them on was not very bright.
- Monday 4 Mueller, Watson, & Kraegen started up North to get to their stations before the line is opened. Took 3 riding & two pack horses.
- Tuesday 5 Busy all day helping Johnston to fix his instrument & make battery up. My old waggon left here turned into office pro tem! Thank goodness my waggon driving is over.
- Wednesday 6 Mr. C. got back again. Loaded up & made all ready for a start. Get Two fresh teams of horses & waggons from here & 3 men, as there is more loading than there used to be.
- Thursday 7 Left C.W. & went across the Creek with the teams in the evening & camped there.
- Friday 8 Horses away in a.m. so did not get a good start till 5 p.m. Camped on the 'Breakfast Plain'. 8 Miles.
- Saturday 9 Got an early start. Very hot day & heavy road in places. Dog died with the heat. Reached the 'Goyder' about 3 p.m. Had to dig for water here in the bed of the creek. Took till nearly dark to water all the horses. 22 M's.
- Sunday 10 Started early. Watered horses in the Goyder about 6 miles North of last night's camp. & then on again to about 5 miles south of 'Crown point'. Frank & Alie (Teamsters) took the horses on to water & camped with them all night. 16 Miles.
- Monday 11 Men got back with horses about 9.30 a.m. One of them lost though. I went on ahead & looked for him but could not find him. Camped at 'Marchant's Springs' in the 'Finke Creek'. This is the first crossing of this Creek. Capital camp. Plenty of feed & water. Here we found Mr. Bee (Cadet from Section B) who was on his way to Town with a party of men. 14 Miles.
- Tuesday 12 I went back to Crown point with Bee to look for missing horse, & after hunting all day had to give it up. Must have got bogged somewhere in the Finke. My horse knocked up & was very bad. Had to walk nearly all the way to camp & wallop him along in front of me. Got to camp late regularly baked.

- Wednesday 13 Onwards again. Passed a lot of very queer looking hills & camped close to one of them 'Mt. Musgrave'. Good water in the Finke here & plenty of feed. 9 Miles.
- Thursday 14 Away from Camp at 7.15 & followed along the Finke all day to the 'Horse Shoe Bend' where we camped. Plenty of quicksand all along the Finke here & horses sometimes go down over their backs in it. We were fortunate enough to escape everything of this sort with the exception of losing the horse at Crown point. Saw some emus today. 17 Miles.
- Friday 15 Mr. Clarke & Young (who joined us from Bee's party) left us here to follow line to old depot. 13 Miles by line. 21 by Road. Crossed the Finke 5 times today. Came to good hole of water so camped. 16 Miles.
- Saturday 16 Reached the old Depot about 9 a.m. where we found Mueller & Watson looking very seedy indeed. It seems they got into some fix about the waters & had nearly died of thirst. Had to kill a horse & drink its blood. Kraegen had left them to look for water when near the 'Rocky camp' & they had seen nothing further of him. Splendid Waterholes again here in the 'Hugh Creek'. Shot some ducks & caught a good many fish. 5 Miles.
- Sunday 17 Travelled on again. Fearfully heavy road nearly all the way today. Followed along the Hugh & camped at the Junction of the 'Alice Creek' with the H. Had to dig for water here & watered the horses with buckets. Just as we were turning in for the night we heard horses coming & immediately after some men from C.W. came up. They had a special mail & London joined us again who was not wanted at C.W. another mason having arrived there. 14 Miles.
- Monday 18 Got an early start & after travelling over a fearfully heavy road over the sandhills camped opposite the 'Cliff Camp' on the Hugh, one of McMinn's Main camps. Had to take horses 2 Miles for water & then had to dig for 3 hours before they were all watered. Nearly dark when I returned to camp most awfully tired & hungry. Fine trees all through the sandhills a sort of shea-oak with very thick rough bark like cork. Also some pretty shrubs & flowers. 10 Miles.
- Tuesday 19 Half of our journey today was heavy & then good road after crossing 'Francis Creek'. Camped opposite 'Mount Burrell' & took the horses in a mile to water. Fine holes here in the Hugh & every appearance of permanent water. Just made everything snug for the night when a thunderstorm came on. Only just managed to get our swags rolled up in time & stowed away under tarpaulin. Turned in after that thinking we were all right. Wake up feeling rather damp & found it was raining cats & dogs. Too late to turn out again so went to sleep & had a good vapor bath. 20 Miles.

- Wednesday 20 Got horses up & started again but only went as far as "Rocky camp", where we camped (2 Miles) to give the horses a spell. Very little water here, although Mueller & Watson found it very acceptable when they reached it. We were just having some dinner when Young who had been along the line came in & reported having found poor Kraegen dead close to the Line 3 miles from this camp. In the afternoon Mr. Boucaut & several of the others took the buggy & some tools & went out to bury him. He had the empty water bags with him, but did not seem to have had anything in them. Must have been dead some days. I took the horses back to Mount Burrell to water.
- Thursday 21st Did not get very early start today as horses were left at 'Mt. B.' last night. Capital road today though so got on well & camped at 'Kraegens Creek' or 'The long waterhole' as it is generally called. This is a splendid water. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length & deep too. Plenty of fish here. As it was very hot all hands enjoyed a swim. Magnificent feed here. The water is in the small creek the 'Hugh' being quite dry at this place. 18 Miles.
- Friday 22 Got an early start this morning. Passed through some pretty country & finely grassed. Got to 'Minnie Creek' (called after a daughter of Dr. Renner's) about 2 pm., where we turned out. This is a very nice camp, The creek running through a small Gorge in the 'James Range', down to the Hugh. Very small creek but 'The Doctor's Hole' is very deep & holds water for a long time. Rain again tonight. 15 Miles.
- Saturday 23 Most of the mokes gone for a ramble this morning so did not get a very good start. Capital road & very pretty country today. Saw some fine orange trees which look very well. The fruit is quite a mistake though. Reached the camp opposite "Stuart's Waterholes" (one of Stuart's camps) - in the Hugh about 2 pm. Water a mile from Road. Put up the tent here as the rain commenced again. Rained hard all night. 14 Miles.
- Sunday 24 On the Road again. Kept pretty fine till we reached "McClure's Springs" Hugh (after R. McC. Esq. Penola) when the rain came again. Got the tent & tarpaulins rigged up so all right. This is another of Stuart's camps & there is a tree in the creek with J.M.D.S. cut on it now, but nearly grown out of the bark. Fine sheep yard here & the remains of Bacon's 2nd Depot & McMinn's Camp. 7 Miles. First view of McDonnell ranges from here.
- Monday 25 Delightful Christmas! Raining nearly all the morning, so that it was hard work to keep the bucket boiling which contained our Xmas duff! It turned out a success though in spite of the rain & was highly appreciated. In the afternoon we had some pistol shooting, hunted the horses up (some of the brutes being at least 3 miles off) & turned in having spent a very happy Xmas Thank you. Hope yours was as jolly! The last of Rounsevell's Contract teams from the north met us here & camped with us. Sent letters by them.

- Tuesday 26 Got away at 8a.m. passed through the "Waterhouse Ranges". Through the two gorges the bed of the Hugh has to be travelled over. Frightfully rough travelling as all the stones are loose & nothing but stone for about 7 miles. Camped just outside the Range at "Owens Ranges". Jolly camp. Climbed up one of the hills & had a good look at the Far famed MacDonnell Ranges. Very nice they looked although 30 miles away. Mt. Conway & Brinkley's bluff are the two highest points. Fine water at this place in the Hugh. 16 Miles.
- Wednesday 27 Early start. Very good road with exception of a tremendous lot of short creeks which are not good things for waggons. Said goodbye to the 'Hugh' today. Crossed another Creek 'The Jay' twice in McD. Ranges & reached Fenn's Gap in pretty good time in the afternoon. This camp is on a small sandy Creek. Not very good for water but there was a well & trough so we got plenty. Very pretty place & fine feed. 25 Miles.
- Thursday 28 Got Nantos [sic] pretty early & off again. Passed the 'Toll bar' another gap in the same Creek through which the first track used to go, & 'Temple Bar' a very fine Gap on another Creek 7 miles North of Fenn's Gap. Road very soft in places owing to the late rains so did not get along very fast. Reached Alice Spring's Station No. 2 about 4 o'clock, & found quite a large camp. They were all very glad to see us as we had plenty of letters & papers on board. Station building just commenced. Very pretty little spot on the Todd Creek. Not sorry to have reached my journey's end. 17 Miles.

A.G. *

14 September 1872

~~["A.G." Presumably copied from
the original diary, possibly
[A. Glen]~~

* A.G. stood for Alice Springs in all telegraph work. (B.C. stood for Barrow Creek, T.C. for Tennant Creek, C.W. for Charlotte Waters.) A.S. was never used for Alice Springs because AS was a real word, and A.S. would have been confusing from a telegraph, morse code point of view