

PRG 266/59 Manuscript roll of miscellaneous letters and newspaper clippings, dated 1907–1913, 1923, from a collection belonging to the Gilbert Family of Pewsey Vale, the renowned pioneer South Australian sheep pastoralists and breeders.

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[A typewritten letter on letterhead South Wales (St George's Cross with the state flower (Waratah), and with a ribbon scroll at the base.]



featuring a logo based on the badge of New lion and stars), embellished with a wreath of the motto 'Sic fortis etruria crevit' depicted on

NEW SOUTH WALES

OFFICES OF AGENT-GENERAL
123 & 125, Cannon Street,
London, E.C.

All communications to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.
Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, LONDON."
Telephone No.: 2814 LONDON WALL.

[Handwritten annotation in blue pencil]

May 13. We are spring cleaning & I am clearing out my drawers of superfluous matter. It occurred to me that these & *[illegible word crossed out]* Bosworth's would interest you.

18th December, 1907.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of 15th December, and beg to say that the statement of Professor Clapham is, in my opinion, quite correct. Australian flocks are all derived from sheep originally imported from India in the year 1793 mixed with a few (8 or 10) Spanish and Irish sheep imported shortly afterwards.

From Captain Macarthur's statement made in July, 1803, it would appear that the wool of the sheep originally imported from India visibly improved under the influence of the Australian climate, and the improvement in the fleece by mixing coarse wool ewes with Spanish sires was very extraordinary, thus, for example, the wool of the coarse ewes was worth 9d per lb, and that of their lambs from Spanish rams was worth four times that sum.

I have not time today to do more than acknowledge this portion of your letter, but as regards the other interesting questions that you refer to, I will take the opportunity of writing to you at an early date. I may say, however, that I think you mistake ... *[remainder of letter is missing]*

[The addressee's details in bottom left margin]

E. [A.] HIRST, ESQ.,
SHEERWOOD HOUSE,¹
SAFFRON WALDEN.

¹ Typographical errors: should read 'A.' for Alfred Hirst of Sherwood House, younger brother of John Hirst, both formerly associated with their father's firm, *Charles Hirst & Son*, wool staplers of Huddersfield in Yorkshire, England. John Hirst emigrated to South Australia in 1859, becoming a successful pioneering sheep grazier, and Alfred followed a couple of years afterwards, joining the partnership in a station called *Kallioota* on Lake Torrens but after three years Alfred relinquished his interest in *Kallioota* and returned to the family business in Yorkshire where he became a recognised authority on the Colonial Wood Trade. He later retired to Saffron Walden in Essex.

[A typewritten letter on letterhead South Wales (St George's Cross with state flower (Waratah), and with the a ribbon scroll at the base.]



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23rd December, 1907.

Dear Sir,

I must thank you for your very interesting letter.

The first sheep that came to Australia (29) were, of course, those that arrived in the first fleet with Captain Phillip in 1788, but there is no record that these sheep left any progeny. In 1793 a ship came from India, on which were a number of Indian sheep; without reference to my records, which are not at present handy, I cannot say how many arrived, but Captain Macarthur obtained 30 ewes, and other persons probably as large a number. Macarthur procured in 1797 3 rams and 5 ewes from the Cape of Good Hope, which originally came from Holland, but were of Spanish and Irish breed.

[The addressee's details in bottom left margin]

A. HIRST, ESQ.,
SHERWOOD HOUSE
SAFFRON WALDEN.

[Overleaf] [page] 2.

With this beginning there was a considerable increase of stock, the flocks of the colony being doubled every 2½ years.

The total number of sheep in New South Wales in 1796 was 1,531, and in 1801 – 6,757; less than 100 sheep having been introduced from abroad during these five years, and all the males being killed as soon as they became fit. In general terms it can be said that the whole of the present Australian flocks are descended from these sheep. It is true that there have been introductions from time to time of a superior breed of sheep, but this does not vitiate the essential fact that the sheep of Australia came from the original stock of Indian sheep, improved by the mixture of rams imported from South Africa, and a few later on from England.

You will be glad to know that there have been abundant rains recently throughout the whole of Australia, and there are no fears whatever regarding the safety of the Pastoral industry. I do not know whether you have had a copy of my book "Australia & New Zealand", but there is no harm in my sending you a second copy, which I do by today's post.

Yours faithfully,

[signed] T A Coghlan

Aroona.² Freshford. Bath.
December 11th 1907.

My dear Miss Alice,³

I am pleased to receive your letter of the 5th with its enclosure from M^r Hirst, whom I never met personally, but have known him by repute for many years, and much from quotations of his correspondence with your Father⁴ at various times –

I am glad to be able to reply to part of his enquiry by sending an extract from my Log of the 1855 exploration (only 52 years ago) on the West side of Lake Torrens –

I revel in the reminiscences of that era, I see again that wonderful mirage of the Lake sand, the sudden plunge of our horses into soft mud whilst boasting amongst ourselves of crossing so pleasantly into half of it, and the floundering & fatigue of one horse as well as ourselves in the attempt to save its life – Then coming on the faint outline of cattle tracks having attempted to cross the Lake in \a/ past year, which shewed us where firm footing could be assured, & so enabling us after a long tedious day to accomplish the crossing – I recollect the treat we had every noon, when

[continued on reverse]

baiting the horses, of a square of Havana Chocolate supplied by M^r William Browne's⁵ forethought, & served out during the journey – and the appetising dampers we made and ate, owing chiefly to the dry fuel found at all our camps, in abundance, what Bushmen called "Raspberry Jam" scrub from that peculiar odour. Why we named the creek, the "Elizabeth" I have no recollection –

The flying a kite by a Native to delude the Wallabies, so that the man might waddy them was a novelty which we had not seen practised on our country – ~~That~~ Our summing up of the West side of Lake Torrens, as "being incapable of carrying any number of small or great cattle", has been proved by the failure of nearly all who attempted to develop it. I was not aware that A M Wooldridge as named by M^r Hirst, was a loser there, but I know Will Green and Henry Scott, my brother Albert and Henry Short⁶ had to retire after considerable losses – Price Maurice also dropt heavily over his Mount Ebu Venture. Robert Bruce

[continued over]

still holds on to his Coondambo Station and I am glad to have heard that he has prospered – but his health is broken up, and for a year or more he has been a sufferer & can only be carried or driven about in a chair.

Will Green is in England, after 40 years in the Colonies of Australia, he spent a few days with us in October, and under the delusion \that/ he required rest and a cure, betook himself to

² The English home of J. Frederick Hayward, which he named for Aroona Station in South Australia.

³ Thomas Lansdowne, Alice Mary, and Mary Elizabeth Browne were children of Dr. John Harris Browne who, with his sister, Anna, had followed their brother, Dr. William James Browne to South Australia in 1840 (William having already arrived on the *Buckinghamshire* with Joseph Gilbert in 1839). This 'Alice' is also mentioned at items 55 and 57 of the PRG 266 series list, and is referred to as 'Aunt Alice' by her niece, (Catherine) Pauline Browne (daughter of Thomas Lansdowne Browne and granddaughter of Dr. John Harris Browne), who married her second cousin, William Gilbert (son of William Gilbert and grandson of Joseph Gilbert) in 1917, thus further connecting the two family pedigrees.

⁴ Alfred Hirst would have been acquainted with Alice's father, Dr. John Harris Browne, during his brief sojourn in South Australia in the early 1860s and most certainly would have later corresponded in his capacity as an England-based advisor for the colonial wool trade.

⁵ Dr. William Browne, and his brother, Dr. John Harris Browne, relinquished their interests in their original property, *Wongalere (Wangalere)* to their sister, Anna, on the occasion of her marriage to Joseph Gilbert in 1848, so it was linked to *Pewsey Vale* and the two properties were worked together. By 1855, the Browne brothers had acquired other vast landholdings (including *Aroona*) and at their peak were South Australia's biggest exporters of wool, eventually dissolving their partnership circa 1866.

⁶ Henry Short was the son of the Church of England Bishop, Augustus Short who, in 1860, laid the foundation stone of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, built at the sole expense of Joseph Gilbert in the heart of his *Pewsey Vale Estate*. Henry Short's sisters were close friends of the daughters of Joseph Gilbert's older brother (also named William), a widower who had followed in 1857 and leased *Wongalere (Wangalere)* for some 10 years.

the Buxton Hydro, which benefited him much – I am glad to add that his Gold-field Prospecting in West Australia, somewhere in “Black Range” has proved successful – I don’t remember the boy (M^r Hirst) lunching at Aroona in 1862 – Our seven sons are all abroad, the youngest Hubert, rated Engineer Sub-Lieut^t in the Flagship “Exmouth” of the Atlantic Fleet is at Gibraltar practising Gunnery and Evolutures⁷ with the Meditteranean Fleet

[continued on reverse]

he writes of their return before Christmas, when the crew get a fortnight’s holiday ! I am glad to hear of M^{rs} Swan’s daughter Peggy, I forget her married name. we used to see her when at Cheltenham.

We are all fairly well, also Ted Obo, who join with me in love to yourself and sister⁸ –

Yours very truly
J. F Hayward.⁹

Aroona. Freshford. Bath.
February 27th 1908.

Alfred Hirst Esq^{re}

Dear Sir,

I received your interesting letter of 3rd, with enclosure “a Blind Squatter”¹⁰ and but for an attack of Flue which has kept me upstairs for weeks, should have acknowledged it earlier – Let me premise that your name is familiar to me through Andrew Wooldridge, and later through our mutual friend John Harris Browne, the most amiable man I ever knew, & with whom & his brother William, it was my privilege to be a Partner in various Sheep Runs for over Forty years, so that I owe my success in life to them, and it delights me to read your high opinion of J. H. B.

I only knew the Melrose [family] by name, never having met any – Ulaloo [Ulooloo] was my calling place on my journeys to the Burra from Pekina & back Se 1847 to 1851 – when I think M^r Iles owned it.¹¹ Now for our (William Browne, William Marchant & self) exploration trip; the start was from Kanyaka, thro’ the Willochra gap – skirting Mt. Eyre, which was in our Wonoka Run that included the Hookina Creek – and through Wallelburdina [Wallabadina] that the Bruces stocked – to a point on the Lake Torrens, opposite Arkaba – The Mirage of the Lake was most striking and peculiar in its delusiveness, & the suddenness of the bogging a caution, I forget the distance travelled Southwards till able to cross, but it must

[continued on reverse]

have been several miles. In 1853 or 1854 John Oakden had been sent by Charles Campbell of the Hill River with a few score Cattle to occupy the country beyond the Beda crossing, but soon abandoned it & brought his herd up past Aroona & Blinman to a Station they stocked for a year, then sold it to John M^cKinlay – Campbell and Oakden trying their luck at the Victoria Diggings. Malcolm Gillies had a small Station at the Willochra Gap. I think the width

⁷ Word related to *evolution*: meaning: (*military*) One of a series of ordered movements.

⁸ A reference to Mary Browne, the older sister of Alice Browne, to whom the letter is addressed.

⁹ Johnson Frederick Hayward was a notable figure in the development of South Australia’s pastoral industry and for many years was the representative and trusted manager of the Browne brothers’ pastoral properties, acquiring from them a half share in Aroona Station in 1851. He returned to Bath, England in 1864.

¹⁰ John Melrose, third son of George Melrose’s seven children, purchased *Ulooloo* (a run in the far north of South Australia) in 1894 from his father’s deceased estate. In 1897 he also purchased *North Booborowie* with Henry Dutton, but began to lose his sight and by 1901 had become completely blind. Nevertheless, he achieved professional success, and his persistence in the face of adversity earned him public interest and the nickname, ‘the Blind Squatter’. (John Melrose was the uncle of Charles “Jimmy” Melrose, the noted aviator.)

¹¹ George Hiles and John Chewings were the original owners of *Ulooloo*, which was later purchased by George Melrose who was also the owner of *Rosebank* at Mount Pleasant, *Wangaraleednie* and *Borthwick Brae*.

of the Lake Torrens where we crossed was over half a mile, as it contracted from where we bogged – we had great trouble in extricating our pack horse, as he floundered so desperately – Amongst those who dropped their money in that “Lane” besides Andrew Wooldridge was W. M. Green who was our Overseer at Wonoka and my brother Albert and H [Henry] Short – Green has made his pile in the W. Australia goldfields, is now in England, & spent a few days with me the October last. – I have some dim recollection that one or two of the Bowmans bought an unstocked Run on that side of the Lake for Ten thousand pounds, would A Wooldridge have been the seller?

You write of the “Yatala” in ybg [*your best guess?*] as taking out your friend, the voyage that W L M [William L. Marchant], Bishop Short, &c returned to the Colony;
[continued over]

The “Yatala” loaded wool, & on 31 December 1869 left Port Adelaide, coking at the Cape and St Helena, amongst her Passengers were John Harris Browne wife & family – D^r, M^{rs} & Miss Gosse – Abraham Scott & nephew – M^{rs}. H Gawler & family and myself.

On the next voyage home Captⁿ. Legoe ran the Yatala ashore off Cape Grinez [*or Gris Nez*], having mistaken her “Light” for the Ness – he (Legoe) was a splendid Navigator, & had the “Hesperus” built for him. – A. Scott proved his best friend.

The Ram we bought off [f] [Thomas] Millear has improved mightily the last year, & is now 3 years I have a framed Photo of him – we have been lucky in the lambs dropped to him last April, which are highly esteemed by the Manager; & this season he is mated with 200 Ewes –

I must not forget to give you my age 85 years last September – this last attack has made my pen erratic ! I am lost in wonder at your ability to type so accurately –

With best regards –

I am Yours faithfully

J. Frederick Hayward

Aroona. Freshford. Bath.

August 15th. 1908

Dear M^r Hirst

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and interesting letters of April 12th and August 12th with the enclosure in the latter of Miss Mary Browne’s to you, now returned with thanks –

I am pleased to hear of the Sisters’ delightful sojourn on the French border –

In your April letter you wrote of M^r. John Harris Browne as the most distinguished Australian pioneer you ever met, in which I heartily concur, also that he was most amiable and patient of men I ever met –

How fortunate M^r. Horsfall has been at the Sydney Show.

“Donald Dinnie” at Canowie clipped 33½ lbs of wool, and has improved much since October 1906 – I have his Photo as a two year and three year old – we got 53 lambs from the Ewes served by him, then this last season up to May 24th 150 lambs dropped to him, and would go on to June 16th.

I note Charles Fishers’ death at a great age, his brother James survives him and his senior by two years.

[continued on reverse]

Charles Fisher controlled the Adelaide market for years with Bennett, he was well served with good men, who were devoted to him, such as Rockford, Pitts, M^cClements & others I have forgotten – I recollect “Fisherman” in the stable at the Levels, & the high figure he paid for him.

What a grand sale Fisher had of his sheep both in Adelaide & Melbourne –

The rabbit pest at Canowie takes 8 poisoning carts going – 900 acres under lucerne –

I have read Ridley's life by his daughter, his giving his invention to the public without patenting it or asking any fee or grant should make him one of Australia's Worthiest – I did not know ~~of~~ or ever meet him, but from his warmest friends the Swans and Forsters I heard much & always to his merit –

Did you recollect H Minchin,

[continued over]

the sub-Protector of Aborigines at M^t Remarkable, he resides in Bath and occasionally calls on me –

I shall be 86 on September 5th but still hale and thankful to take exercise in all weathers –

Yours truly

J F Hayward

Aroona. Freshford, Bath

November 25th 1908

Dear M^r Hirst

I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 4th, 9th & 22nd with enclosures now returned, which have interested me much – It is pleasing to have settled the question regarding the crossing of Lake Torrens as narrated by Greenfield who has lived at South Gap 27 years, and I think that must have been our crossing place in the Fifties of last Century – I think the hundred heads of cattle or the cattle owning them must have been driven in by Stockmen ~~trying to~~ as I doubt if cattle would attempt it – I am surprised to read of the camels carrying bales of wool up to 8 & 9 cwts loads, or the 20 named as carrying 6 & 7 cwt loads – I have heard that 5 to 6 cwt were the usual weight –

I was not aware John Phillips owned South Gap, he was my neighbour when I had Wonoka & he had Kanyaka, we had never corresponded till a month or two since, when I rec^d a letter from him and he then named of having dropped money like others over the West of the Lake country.

[continued on reverse]

We have acc^t sales of the Curnamona wool in Adelaide, shewing a terrible drop compared with the last season, and I fear the same will apply to the Canowie clip which was probably amongst that record sale of 37,000 bales in Adelaide as cabled 16th of November, their 4th wool sale – and today we get the result of yesterday's opening sale in London with a rise of 7½ to 10% and most marked in the lower grades –

I read in Elder's circular of the sale of the Levels 2500 acres at £15 per acre bought by Hurtle Morphett – the late owner Pitts, had the best sale of his stud flock to that date, & now is the record sale of the land –

Our chief Partner in Canowie, R Boucher James died in September, his son a Director of the Canowie Pastoral C^o was visiting us ~~th~~ last week –

We have staying during this month with us D^r & M^{rs} Guin and 2 children, she is Mabel, the daughter of Andrew Wooldridge of Bellevista Adelaide – they return to S.A. early next month in the "Commonwealth" –

[continued over]

Wooldridge writes me of being sanguine of getting up an English Comp^y to work his Talisker Mine which he avers is equal to those at Broken Hill. Credat Judaeus !

M^r Herbert James tells me that "Donald Diddie" [*Donald Dinnie*] sires [*sic*] 175 lambs from 200 ewes at Canowie this last season –

Yours truly

J F Hayward

Aroona. Freshford. Bath
January 17th 1910.

Dear M^r Hirst,

You took an interest in our Canowie Station in Adelaide, S.A, and gave some good advice as to which market, home or Colonial, we should send the Wool for sale, and which turned out too late –

The present is to tell you of the good sale of 25,000 acres of the Freehold, the Northern portion, on December 15th 1909 at an average of Six Guineas per acre. The Gov^t has been for some time threatening us with “bursting up”, or increasing the progressive land tax beyond bearing, that the

[continued on reverse]

Partners thought it best to sell a portion, & has turned out a success. The top prices were Nine pounds pr acre 33 lots –

It was a sad loss for his family of Col. Percival Browne in the ill-fated “Waratah” on his return from a visit to Adelaide last year, accompanied by his niece –

With the New Year’s good wishes

I am Yours truly

J F Hayward.

P.S.

I have heard lately from Andrew Wooldridge, who is still keen on floating his Talisker Silver Mine

Aroona. Freshford. Bath
July 20th 1910.

Dear M^r Hirst,

I was pleased to hear from you June 26th. I had a tedious ten weeks upstairs through April, May & part of June with a Bronchial attack, involving a night Nurse and close confinement through lack of summer weather, but I am recovering strength as fast as a man of my great age could expect, and am thankful !

As regards Port Gawler sale (LGB) the 20,000 acres did not average so much as the Canowie December sale. The Buyers are not afraid of being burst-up. Every week we hear of fresh Estates being likely to be offered – I suppose Wirrabara [*Wirrabara*] has been sold by now, & then Booyolie [*Booyoolie*] & another slice of Hill River will test the land hunger. Even Canowie may go too very much of against my wish, as after 63 years’ knowledge of its capabilities, and 47 years of partnership, and chiefly from a Squatters view of the Estate & its possibilities with the grand strain of Merino introduced three years ago by “Donald Diddie” [*Donald Dinnie*], I am averse to selling any more land –

One of our Shareholders received this cablegram

[continued on reverse]

on 10th inst “One of “Dinnies” rams sold today, Sydney buyer, Three hundred guineas, five Ewes twenty five guineas each.” and Canowie has now 600 of his (D) progeny, half of them probably rams.

The Labour element who rule the Commonwealth for the next 3 years also the States or most of them will make it hot for us –

Respecting John Melrose telling you of the first buyers of Canowie, these were them, and bought from the Brownes and Harry Price,

Abraham Scott	3/8 ^{ths} 3/8
R Boucher James	3/8 ^{ths}
Martin P. Hayward	2/8 ^{ths}

In 1863 A Scott retired and
W. Sanders 2/8^{ths}
A R Graham 2/8^{ths} joined
J F Hayward 1/8th } remaining
R Boucher James 3/8^{ths} }
~~Martin P. Hayward 1/8th~~

It was indeed a splendid purchase ! I note William Gilbert has called on you – I hope to see him here – I have not seen him since boyhood –

I had Herbert James spending a day & night with me, he has resigned his

[continued over]

Directorship of Canowie, which we are all sorry for, as his experience and special capacity for the management of Stations and Stock & sound judgement made him a most useful Director – He has gone with his wife & daughter into Wales – I gave him your address and said that you would be happy to see him – Did you notice in the Adelaide papers of June 9th the great meeting in Adelaide (great in having all the chief people in the State to support it) to approve of Elders Trustee & Executor C^o. Ltd got up specially Elder, Smith & C^o. and no doubt will be a success.

I read with interest the news extract you sent me of a M^r Reed's celebrating his Ninety second birthday, & a life under six Monarchs, with the full enjoyment of all his faculties, loving the open air, and still the working Secretary of the Geographical Society; he had migrated to Australia 40 years

[continued on reverse]

ago suffering from consumption, and couldn't have lived two months in England, and has not had any serious illness since –

I am told that Fisher, the new Premier of the Commonwealth was formerly a working miner in Queensland.

I am assured that prospects of another good season in South Australia never looked better –

With kind regards

Yours truly

J F Hayward

Aroona. Freshford. Bath

November 1st 1910

Dear M^r Hirst,

It is some months since I heard from you during which I have been gaining health after my severe bronchial attack of the Spring months, more by exercise in carriage than on foot, and I hope you can report the same of yourself – We Canowie Shareholders are revelling in the accounts of the Adelaide Agricul^l. Show Sept^r 14th when the 2 year old progeny of the Wanganella "Donald Diddie" [*Donald Dinnie*] Ram was awarded the Championship of combing ram, also first place among the 32 exhibits of 4 tooth rams – As 2 tooth shorn (\Sept./ 1909) 22 lbs fleece.

[continued on reverse]

Of course that caused sales of the "DDs" progeny, the highest at 300 Guineas for South Africa one year old, and 5 stud Ewes of same age & blood at 25 G^s. ea. 2 2 year old studs at 100 G^s. ea. to W.A., and lots of selected stock Ewes to several of the States.

Canowie scored also in fat sheep, a truck load of Wethers ranged from 25/- to 32/6 –

[Annotation of a large cross in blue pencil in the left margin.]

Your Melrose friends won Championship with Ewes –

As yet the land offered by Auction of the big Estates, Booyolee [*Booyoolie*], Wirrabara and Booborowie have not suffered in price from the Progressive Land tax projected by the Federal Govt. – Our Canowie Pastoral Co

[continued over]

were not frightened by the Act and by a large majority voted for the carrying one *[on]* the Estate as hitherto –

I hear that Squatters are again taking up the Western country, West of Port Augusta, that was abandoned some years since, notably a big portion of the Yarden, Thurga & Yartoo Stations, some 1500 sq. miles occupied by Moseley with 40 or 50,000 sheep, 2000 head of Cattle – It pleased me much to hear the late Bob. Bruce had done so well at Coondambo, as to leave his family well off – I put down to your kindness that sent me the two Manchester Guardians treating of the sales of land, and their effects on Stock –

[continued on reverse]

I had a short visit from M^r Will^m Gilbert when he was visiting the homes of his Ancestors in Wilts – I read of his having returned to Aust^{ra} – He said he should not sell any of his Estate. Herbert James left England October 1st for New York, and writes me that he must next be addressed to Montreal –

I am Yours truly

J F Hayward

[Post script] Miss Mary Browne wrote me lately of the pleasant tour she & her sister spent in Holland & Belgium

Aroona Freshford Bath
December 23rd 1910.

Dear M^r Hirst,

I have long owed you an acknowledgment of receipt of the various papers you kindly sent me containing most interesting news of Australian matters, notably the earliest cable report of Wool sales including those of Canowie at Adelaide 11^d 1/8 on Nov^r 14th with those of our chief neighbours – also your early information of the South Australian Gov^t having purchased the North Booborowie Estate from the Owners when they had resolved to divide and sell by Auction – also your very interesting letter in the Yorkshire Post re Ophthalmia Neo-natorum – Further thanks for your letter of Nov^r 3rd congratulating our Firm on its success at the Adelaide September Show with DD's progeny pulling off the Championship.

[continued on reverse]

As I am mercifully permitted to approach another Christmas I wish to present my warmest Greetings to you, and to thank you for the very interesting news you have imparted – May I be allowed to refer to your quotation from Milton's Paradise Lost of that finest passage "Thus with the year" that my daughters reads it and a few others nearly every Sunday evening to me

I notice the Federal Land Tax has driven the S.A. Co to offer by auction some of their land Suburban 252 acres; and one of the large Colonial Banks say it will impose a heavy burden on properties ~~and~~ I note what you wrote about ~~the~~ its incidence on Mortgaged Estates.

I notice some authorities think the Land Tax will swoop in Two Millions sterling per annum –

[continued over]

In the last Pastoralist Review under West Australia is announced "Williambury Station, Carnarvon Dist^t has been sold by Auction for £28,000, the purchaser M^r John Melrose, Adelaide. The property consists of 300,000 acres of leasehold & 500 ac^r Freehold, and carries 25,000 mixed sheep & other Stock". Is this your friend of N. Booborowie?

I am pleased to report fairly well of myself, & able to walk out on fine days, & always a mile or two exercise under ~~se~~ cover, Conservatory.

Yours very truly

J F Hayward

Aroona. Freshford. Bath
May 23rd 1911.

Dear M^r Hirst

I have long wished to reply to your last letter & thank you for the interesting papers you sent me up to that in the M G. of May 11th

I thought the South Booborowie land sale went off well, and wondered that the Gov^t had not secured it at a similar overage to the Northern block –

The Oulnina sale of Leaseholds are rightly called by you as “ridiculously high”. I should doubt if the buyers knew how many acres go to a sq. mile – That country was very dry & some of the waters brine itself – I call to mind my experience of “Muldorky” a large

[continued on reverse]

waterhole on the Outalpa Run, which I and Will^m Swan visited in 1853 when attempting to make Laidley's Ponds \or Williorara/ on the Darling from Black Rock & Pekina. After some three days in very hot weather, we pushed on a thirty miles to arrive at what we were assured by a Native was a large water hole with running stream, which turned out large and salt as brine, and compelled us to retrace our steps all night, & half the next day with horses all but done – All that East of Pekina & Black Rock could get no Squatters for years, the rainfall was nil – & only after the Broken Hills were discovered did it get stocked. By this \(\April 28)/ Beltana 627 m. has been auctioned in 6 lots and should top

[continued over]

Oulnina \as sheep country/ by many pence per acre – I expect there will be no lack of Lease hold \offered/ ~~to~~ in the far North to satisfy buyers. I have been upstairs for nearly 5 wks with an attack of Influenza, which has left me weakly.

With our kind regards & hoping you are keeping well.

I am Yours truly

J F Hayward

[Handwritten annotation in black ink in top margin]

Copied from J F Hayward's Log.

[Typewritten text with heading] Exploring party meet. Crossing Lake Torrens.

The West side of Lake Torrens being terra incognita it was resolved to explore its capabilities for depasturing stock by Mr W. J. Browne of Booborowie, he having asked me and Mr. W. Marchant some time previously to accompany him when it was convenient for him to leave home for a month, in pursuance of which, it was arranged for us to meet at Kanyaka (John Phillips¹², Overseer there for Messrs Grant¹³) on 1st August 1855.

We accordingly mustered at Kanyaka, each of the Three with a spare horse and pack, besides the one ridden; we carried flour, Tea and Sugar supplies for a month; also procured from Phillips salted beef for 2 or 3 weeks use, to cook which I had provided a strong tin pot, the usual complement of Quart pots, canvass covered Canteens, Carbines, etc. and made a start 2nd of August for Lake Torrens, purposing to cross it about East North East. Camped 1st night in some sand hills, and the following forenoon reached Lake Torrens, a dry bed

¹² John Randall Phillips Jr., erstwhile part-owner, then manager/overseer of *Kanyaka*, which was the largest station in the district being home to 70 employees and their families. *Kanyaka* was also renowned for its hospitality to visitors, notably, the 1855 expedition party of Messrs W. J. Browne, Marchant and Hayward.

¹³ Alexander, Frederick and James Grant bought *Kanyaka* after its original owner, Hugh Proby, was drowned while mustering cattle across the Willochra Creek during a violent thunderstorm in 1852. The new owners changed from cattle to sheep and John Randall Phillips Jr. had replaced James Grant in the partnership after James and a friend had lost their way en route to *Kanyaka* and perished. After sustaining terrible losses during the drought of 1864–67 *Kanyaka* had to be virtually abandoned; then in 1888 its lease was resumed by the government and the station was converted into a wheat farm.

encrusted with salt appearing like water miles before we approached it, and with a mirage so deceptive that 50 yards ahead during our crossing we seemed positive of stepping into water throughout, for perhaps 3 or 4 miles, the crossing was pretty easy, rarely going beyond the hoofs of our horses, then suddenly the horses plunged into bog, black mud below the encrustations and we narrowly saved two of the horses, especially a heavy chestnut that I had brought as pack horse and which floundered and struggled so deeply before he could return to firm footing. We then followed the most recent channel Southward, occasionally attempting a crossing only to find the same soft mud below the salt, and after 2 or 3 miles travelling came on the tracks or outlines of six Bullocks, which may have been 10 or 20 years old so faint were the impressions, but for our purpose sufficient and most useful, as after many deviations and a considerable distance, they at last enabled us to cross this boggy channel, and reach the opposite bank thoroughly wearied both horse and man, and where we camped that night and spelled the next day. We started very sanguine on this expedition of discovering some good pastoral country, our leader talked of 6 to 8000 head of Cattle and 40 to 50,000 sheep as the first little go, but all such anticipations were disappointed; day after day our journeyings led through very poor country, with no high range of hills, and only clay pans with very shallow water, or large dry beds of salt lakes, we saw no Springs or Gum Creeks as on our side of the country, and in most cases barely got enough water for horses and selves; the travelling some days was very rough, all stones and no herbage, making the journey very uninteresting. The weather was beautifully fine and dry, our leader had brought up from Town a good supply of the best Chocolate we ever tasted, I think from Havannah [*Havana*], and to each was served out a square at each meal instead of Tea, we had throughout capital Damper made alternately by myself and William Marchant, the dry state of the country, our camp usually on a sandhill and our fuel the driest and deadest of scrub (myall) all combining to this result. By turns each led the course, fixed each morning at breakfast, the 3 pack horses followed the leader, and the other 2 Riders brought up the rear. We named several points, and one Creek the Elizabeth, and a conspicuous small hill after its shape, Bottle Hill. The absence of Birds, even the Crows were but rarely seen, and Kangaroos proved the sterility of the country; and we came across very few old wurleys or camps of Natives and only dropped on one Native and his Gin during the trip towards the close, and in the midst of a poor Mallee scrub; this Native was hunting for Wallabies, and other small scrub game with a huge bunch of feathers mostly eagles', tied on a cane to represent an eagle or hawk, and this tied to other canes to a height of 20 or 25 feet, and held by the gin like a kite soaring or hovering over the scrub, so alarmed the small game as to fall an easy prey to the waddy of the Native. This mode of hunting is never seen the other side of Lake Torrens. We changed our course to the Westward, and again S.W., but the same poor, dry country continued, quite incapable of carrying any number of small or great [...] till at last much disappointed we shaped for Port Augusta at the head [...] Spencers Gulf, our last camp on the west side being Caroon a small [*Station*] at the South point of a Range, and [...] about 45 mls from PORT AUGUSTA [...] which Port we returned.

[This clumsily typewritten letter encloses a letter by Robert ('Bob') Bruce that follows.]

[On letterhead of:]

**JOHN MELROSE,
ULOOLOO, S.A.**

Sandy McPhers[o]n, now Lessee of Cotabena on the overflow of the Hookina creek, late Overseer on Warrakimbo to whom I wrote for information about the crossing of Lake Torrens [*Torrens*], tells me that there is a crossing due west of Kalioota [*Kallioota*] Station, it is not always crossable, he used to cross it with cattle & sheep when he was out on the west side

trying to develop [Y]eltacowie for Smith & Maslin¹⁴, he says he thinks J. R. Phillips was the first to cross the lake after he sold Kanyaka & went over to open up South Gap country, McPherson is reliable, his letter is interesting & I will send it you shortly. Bob Bruce to whom I also wrote for information says Bosworth used to cross the Lake, blw [below] enclose Bob's letter with th; poor old Bob the day after he had t letter written he was in semi-unconscious state for hours, b the next morning he was as perky as ever, my nurse is with hm ag for a time & she told me in the evening t he was v bad & th next evening t he was q perky & said he know he was well for he felt v wicked, Bob is naturally a v cheerful chap & is n long getting his pecker up. The cold wezther has I believe killed a grt number of stock in s parts f Voc [Vic] & Southern NSW, even in sunny SA a gd many cattle t h been starved are going under, b it wont be long now before there is feed for all Letters rcvd f N S W tell me t feed id v bundant up the North-west way, b down abut Cootamundra it is stil v scarce, no Lambing & sheep few & those few poor & although the owners h been lightly stocked they are or h been losing some.

[continued on reverse]

Sandy McPherson[,] mentioned earlier in th letter, was with Swinden & then with Charlie Maslin,¹⁵ both hard drinkers, Sandy can take a whiskey and I've seen hm merry, b he has done well and is now sheep-farmer in a small way & doing well. Sandy used to hang his hat up to the cook at Warrakimbo, b she married a boundary rider name McDonald who was a dummy for Maslin, McD died and Maslin was afraid t the Priest wd induce the widow to stick to the selection & was hooling Sandy on to the widow & telling hm what fine chn she had & how nice it wd be for hm in his old age to have the boys to help hm etc, Sandy being [a] gd Presbeterian was [a] bit afraid of the Priest, eventually Sandy did marry the widow b Maslin did n get the selection McPherson says he marked 1,000 lambs b 100%, the lambing just b th w be as gd as any part of S A. I w tell Elders to post y a copy of yesterdays Reg [*"The Register" newspaper*], – I want my copy, – it contains a plan f the Vermin districts showing the country now netted & w be of interest to y.

John Murray of Rhine Park & eldest son of the late John Murray of Mt Crawford died on Sunday aged 66, poor fellow he has been suffering f cancer for the last six months, he was a man of fine build & gd qualities, Alick of Mt Crawford is the only one of the four brothers now living & he has never been strong since he had a fall whilst playing Polo s five years ago, John has left three sons, Lindley who is the elder & lives at home Elliot the youngest who al lives at home & Walter who lives at Cappeedee he e the eldest daughter is married to McDonald Mgr of Canowie & 3 younger ones single.

Yrs v truly

John Melrose

¹⁴ John Maslin had partnered with Charles Swinden, George Agars and Dr. Matthew Moorhouse, and later Robert Barr Smith, in the purchase of numerous landholdings including *Yeltacowie*, *Warrakimbo*, *Wilpena* and *Bundaleer*. (Maslin Beach in Adelaide's southern suburbs is named for John Maslin who had bought land in the area after prospecting for gold in Bendigo around 1857.)

¹⁵ This reference to 'Charlie' Maslin appears to be a mistake as Maslin's given name was *John*. It was actually Swinden who had the given name of *Charles*.

95 Hill Street
North Adelaide 25th June 1908

Dear *[John]* Melrose,

I have your letter of the 19th Ins^t with regard to the crossings on Lake Torrens, I never crossed myself, never having had occasion to do so, but this I know perfectly well that people crossed with stock about 40 years ago, as also that Charlie Bosworth crossed – it must have been about 60 – also with stock – He told me this himself at the time. As to the locality there is a crossing at Kallioota – named the Kallioota Crossing – but it is a deceitful place and may be crossed one day, when you cannot another.

I am certain that the extracts from Heywards *[Hayward's]* diary are correct, but cannot enter into details.

When you write Hirst give him my kind regards and thank him for his kindly interest in me. Things at Coondambo are looking very well. I hope you & family are well. My own health keeps much about the same – well one day and

[continued over]

bad the next.

Yours very truly

Rob^t Bruce¹⁶

per *[initials?]*

[This letter encloses a letter from Alexander ('Sandy') McPherson to John Melrose that follows.]

Lockwood
n^r Kingscote. 7th Aug^t 1908.

My dear Alf *[Alfred Hirst]*

I drove in here the day before yesterday with a good load of the skins of the Fauna of K. I. but the roads were in a terrible state, & feed is backward owing to frost cold wet rain the horses were none too good.

I am sorry to hear you are none too well again, I thought Saffron Walden was going to fix you up all right – I hope the indisposition is only temporary. I often fancy you overdo your share of life's burden a bit. It is splendid reading about your lads & lasses, what a wonderful lot they must be – I am afraid Helen will think I have altogether forgotten her, but my correspondence seems to increase with old age instead of decreasing, tell her I will come up to the scratch ere long.

Enclosed is a letter from young Macpherson sent me by your friend Melrose about crossing Lake Torrens his reminiscences are all wrong, I was never at a shearing at the Wakefield, about the only time I was there when old Mr Masters got me to go over & deliver 500 weaners to Stan the Stock Agent – he must be all undoing his yarn, for my 1st experience in a shed was at Saltia & I certainly never was a bookkeeper for Swinden.

I thought you ~~ha~~ were at Callioota *[Kallioota]* when Bosworth had to retreat from The Elizabeth & we made big fires at the bottom end of Hookina Creek where it falls into the Lake & about the same place Bosworth formed a station afterwards, but I believe the water &

[continued on reverse, written at a perpendicular angle]

hardships killed his brother Henry. he got over all right, that broad tired cart which Babbage abandoned out there did the trick & sank in very little.

¹⁶ Robert Bruce had initially taken up Wallelberdina Station with his brother. After his brother's death he sold Wallelberdina and entered into partnership with James Moseley of Coondambo Station, eventually becoming sole proprietor.

I don't know whether I told you that I had got the Gov^t up to good acres. am still persisting to get the full quota. – I got an object lesson coming in, a young fellow from Roseworthy College has cleared & rolled down about 50 or 60 acres & it looks fine, wheat etc. looking strong & healthy for a first year this garden would be a credit in the hills beyond Adelaide & he only began operations about 12 mns. ago – 1000's of acres similar country at Snug Cove, mostly bull oak, yacca, bastard stringy bark etc.

I had intended leaving ~~on my~~ today, but got a wire from the mistress of the Ranch the day I got here, not to return without some rose & other plants which were to have come down by the steamer – but on enquiry at the office found they hadn't come, so must wait for the steamer tomorrow night, as if left goodness knows when we shall get them.

I have quite enjoyed my visit to this end this trip, it does not do to rust too long down at the Cove, one wants to be brushed up a bit now & then by contact with his fellow men.

Both Lizzie & myself are in good fettle & have so far got thro' the winter splendidly – everyone is complaining of the cold run I am especially, but it hasn't affected us much.

With much love to Mary, yourself & the chickens

Yours affectionately

John [*Randall Phillips Jnr.*]

Cotabena,
29th June 1908.

M^r J. Melrose,
Ulooloo

Dear Sir,

I received your letter, glad to hear from you. Yes there is a road cross Lake Torrens about due west from Kalioota [*Kallioota*] Station, the distance is five miles across it. I used to cross it in dry weather when I was at Yeltacowie, I'm not sure but I think it was J. R. Phillips that cut the road first, when he sold Kan[y]jaka & took up South Gap. I remember your friend M^r Hirst, years ago with Swinden's. He was book keeping for Charles Swinden at Riverton, he was there when M^r Swinden went to England, if it's the same one. I was only a boy then, my father was overseer for M^r Swinden, M^r Hirst wasn't very long from England then. When you write to him ask him, if he remembers a black fellow getting drunk at shearing time. A horse driver called Brookes gave him a bottle of drink.

[continued on reverse]

The woolshed is only three or four hundred yds from the head Station, & some time in afternoon, the black fellow went into the kitchen amongst the girls M^r Hirst was the only man about the place, he must have thought the black fellow was dangerous, he ran as fast as he could to the shed & called my father, "John, John, Jacky Pike is in the kitchen murdering the ladies." My father told all the shearers to let their sheep go, they all let their sheep go some half shorn, & they all ran down to the Kitchen, I was last to get there, as I was so young. The river runs right past the Kitchen door & very deep too. The first thing I saw, was a big shearer, him & the black fellow was right in the water he gave the black fellow a good beating & nearly drowned him, he went away to his camp as soon as he could & stayed away too. Ask M^r Hirst if he remembers all this.

The country looks fairly well about here so far, the feed has started nicely, but the rain has been very light, the stock looks well we have a lot of any feed from last year. I tailed 1000 lambs \a/ few weeks ago nearly 100 percent not too bad. Lake Torrens starts to-morrow & Wallerberdina next Thursday. This is all the news.

Yours truly,
A. McPherson.

Adelaide 24 Sep. 5 P.M. [19]08

Dear Alf –

Since writing you this morn – I met John Bosworth – he tells me he & a man Peter took a dray & 4 horses across the narrow part of the Lake from Callioota [*Kallioota*] & then went out on other side to The Elizabeth. Further North opposite his place where you & I went, he drove sheep across – but he & his men got a regular track across & was often crossed, there was only one nasty boggy place in the track, which had to be carefully crossed. When he went over with Peter – he had ½ ton in the dray – in places the horses & wheels sunk in a good deal – but at places where it was firm he let the horses spell to get their wind.

J.B. apologised to me he was in a great hurry or would have told me yarns of many various trips he did across. When he retreated from [*The*] Elizabeth – they crossed the sheep by night. Old John Cook[']s well but much aged. I sent you John[']s P.C. to say he had his freehold granted – probably one day he will be able to sell it & there by an annuity for self & wife. I am grieved to think he has not sent you your old letter.

I am advising many of my wool owner friends to ship their wool by sailers – but some argue as they did so well last year at first sales – why not risk it again. I enclose a clipping re our 6 Ministers – after Premier Price stating 4 were enough. Old Bosworth says – payment of Members has been our ruin & he tried hard when in the House to block it.

[continued on reverse, written at a perpendicular angle]

30 Sept^r '08

Yours of 26 Aug^t is here. You are not too well it seems – for which I feel very sorry. I feel a bit tired – I had 2 nights dancing till 12 – it is too much for me if I stay over 11 – but it was the end of the season with each, but I did sleep well after it – & did a real good breakfast.

No – Sir Roger¹⁷ is done in time – but is done some times in the country. We have no gallops now – & I have not seen a Quadrille for years – several times lately I have asked what is second figure of Quadrilles & no one can tell me !

The funny thing about Barr Smiths' gift of £2300 – is that the collector (a labor man) gets some £300 as commission on collecting it.

[continued over]

I wonder when will the bad times come again. Bartagunya [*Bartagunyah*] was sold up from the people to whom I sold it – land at £2 p, acre & best of the ewes to 4/6 – & down to 3/- and today they w^d fetch 10^s/- a head more, & the land £3 I think.

What luck Melrose & Dutton had in buying N. Booborowie eh ! Callioota [*Kallioota*] has already more than cleared itself for [*Mr.*] Salmon – these fellows will not keep a good place as it ought to be kept. Old [*Mr.*] Maslin was just as bad. Fences all patched up.

Am glad to hear of Lucy Robinson again, shows her sense by living in a warmer climate.

Yes – old Austin must be as young as I am or more so, guess he could ride as far as I could even yet. I just missed him when he judged wool sheep at a Show here a year or two ago.

Yes those sovereigns will roll in now with squatters –

Yours

Jim [*James Moorhouse*]¹⁸

¹⁷ The *Sir Roger de Coverley* is a true English folk dance, so named in 1650.

¹⁸ James Moorhouse, then Secretary of Tattersalls Club and sometime pastoralist, was the son of Dr Matthew Moorhouse, an erstwhile partner with Charles Swinden in his vast pastoral holdings. Dr. Matthew Moorhouse had remained at Bartagunyah Station until the end of his life, whereupon his son, James, appears to have inherited.

South Gap Station
5th October 1908

[to] J, Murhouse [*James Moorhouse*] Esq^{re}
S.A. Tattersalls Club
Adelaide

Dear M^r Murhouse [*Moorhouse*]

I was pleased to receive your letter & glad to give you the information asked for.
I have lived within 3 Miles of Lake Torrens since 1881 South Gap Station is situated
14 Miles North of the Crossing Mr Bosworth mentioned to you & within 3 miles of Lake
Torrens.

The only part of the Lake that people can ride across Lake Torrens is at that narrow part
North of Beda Crossing & a little North of West from Kallioot[a] Station

There is a fairly hard crossing there now in a dry season I have had 2½ Tons came across
in a waggon in 1892 I had over 20 Tons of chaff carted across there to South Gap Station &
I have travelled Thousands of sheep across that crossing.

The Lake is just 4 miles wide at that crossing no other place North of that could a horse be
got across the Lake not in

[page] 2

the dryest of seasons & I know every yard of the Lake for one hundred miles North of what
we now call Kallioota or Sandy Point Crossing. Mr Bosworth may have got sheep across but
I cannot believe he ever got a horse across the Lake North of the Kallioota Crossing or if he
did the Lake must have altered greatly for a Horse could \not/ walk on the Lake now. I had
5 Horses get away & tried to cross their remains are in the Lake now & I have counted the
Heads of over one Hundred cattle in the Lake about due West of what used to be
Mr Bosworths Winterbertinnern [*Wintabatinyana*] Station These cattle must have perished
early in the seventies trying to cross the Lake after water holes drying up.

We have only had a midling season for rain the rains have been very pa[t]chey some parts
of the run had Floods in in March other parts got no rain If we had only the Pernatty side of
the run to depend on I should have had a bad time but patches of the Table Land Country
towards the Lake has had a good share of rain & came at the right time for

[continued overleaf]

the Lambing which was real good & I have had a very good Clip 416 Bales 130 Bales of it
brought 7½ low to what it was last year but good compared with prices all round.

It might intrest Mr Hirst to tell him that Camels do most of the carrying North of Port Augusta
on the West side of Lake Torrens I do not know how we should get our wool & goods carted
without the Camels now Most of my wool is carried by Camels One time it was thought
Bales had to be made about 2 or 2½ each for Camels to carry but that was a mistake lots of
the Camels can carry 4½ cwt Bales 9 cwt on one Camel & most them carry 3½ cwt Bales
7 cwt on each Camel Several Camels left here today with over 8 cwt loads & 20 with 6 &
7 cwt Loads. The Camels can allways do the carrying wether the season is good or bad, so
we need never be short of anything has was the case before the Camels came into the
District.

I am afraid I shall tire you with my long letter which may not be of much intrest to you
Wishing you health & happyness

I am

Yours very truly

W H [*William Henry*] Greenfield

[Annotation written vertically in left margin]

\P S I have a pleasant remberance of the kindly welcome you gave me a stranger at your
Club & shall allways be pleased to here [*hear*] from you/

[On letterhead]

TELEPHONE No. 1665.

Royal Exchange,
Adelaide, Oct 21 1908

To Dear Moorhouse

I am returning you the letter and can bear out the gist of same so far as it goes — I was the first to cross the \Lake North of/ Beda Arm on horseback to Swiden [*Swinden's*] the road to the Elizabeth in 1860 \and afterwards drove the 1st dray & 4 horses with load myself/ and after failing to get a fresh well that summer found the waterholes failing & feared being shut in walked across from Pernatty Ck (Warrio's Gap) alone say 40 miles in an eastern direction by guess to strike Perndita [*Panditta Homestead*] (on eastern side of Lake Torrens where my brother was camped & trying for water) to prove if I c^d rescue the 4000 sheep by crossing the lake in the month of Feb^y, frightfully hot, and a trying anxious trip without any landmark to steer for and the Lake a Mirage all around – I struck the camp by guidance of Providence which had I missed it by ½ mile I must have lost my life as it was new country and no tracks or water & I surprized my poor brother by my appearance – walked back on my own footprints saved the life of my Cousin on return to Pernatty & eventually drove the 4000 sheep over the Lake travelling only in night by stars as they c^d not move out of Camp in heat of sun But the whole affair from beginning to end would take too long to relate – It may be interesting to Alf Hirst if I had any one to take down in short hand. I hope the letter you are sending him will find him still in good health. Kindly remember him me to him

Yours ever

John Bosworth

[Post script annotation on reverse, written at a perpendicular angle.]

Memo from Jim.

am sending you a paper marked – “wool sales here” & “re Tom Mann,” at Broken Hill a bad agitator¹⁹

It is getting lively in Parliament House !

Park Terrace
Wayville

Jan^y 2 / 09

Dr Moorhouse

The Memo of Alf Hirst[']s letter to you ~~sitate~~ enclosed to me – viz. “that altho he was so often at Calioota &c &c he never hinted to me at that awful crossing or rather crossing & recrossing & return with Charlie & the sheep &c &c”

[Annotation in left margin]

\I think Alf H did not arrive till after/

Perhaps I do not for at that time troubles followed so persistently on each other that it was enough to do to surmount the existing in readiness for the next – the sheep that we had rescued by crossing Lk Torrens were dying rapidly on the well which had been by relays of men sank for them, the water being too bad and the poor sheep had come off fresh

¹⁹ Thomas Mann, the famed English trade unionist and socialist, arrived in Australia in 1902. After founding the *Victorian Socialist Party* in 1906, Mann and other members were imprisoned in a campaign for free speech. Unable to gain acceptance for the V.S.P. by the broader labour movement, Mann turned to industrial activism, participating as industrial organizer for the Broken Hill (New South Wales) Combined Unions Committee in the prolonged, bitterly fought dispute in 1908–09 between the miners and the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd.

waterholes at the Elizabeth run, that were \then/ dying fast & I had not been successful in getting water by wellsinking there that they could live upon; which led me to the only means of avoiding the stock being shut in to perish – All this occurred during the broiling heat of Jan^y & Feb^y 1860.

[Annotation in left margin]

\Re Horse bogged in Lake T/

The incident of the horse I lost going back to the Elizabeth which was after getting the sheep across

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[Annotation in left margin]

\on way out to Elizabeth/

I returned to arrange about the men, horses & cattle which w^d have to come down the west of the Lake to the crossing I had made at the back of Callioota to the North side of Beda arm of Lake (which I had previously driven a dray & 4 horses over, that my horse driver feared the responsibility of doing) I camped the 1st stage that night on this new track at about where the same turned westward towards what was then called Wittita [*Whittata*] Plain, thence though Warrio's Gap down to Pernatty waterhole (where I hoped to pick up the 2 horses I had \turned loose &/ abandoned at east shore of Lake T to which I had used them to cart water for them & dogs, rations &c when we took the sheep across). That night I lost my horse, he was hobbled, I c^d only track him on the open stony country by a casual stone being turned up which was very slow work and my boots with the soles all but worn through I felt every stone trodden upon that made me pause – he was not in sight, – might have broken his hobbles, say 2 miles to return to my only one inch of tea in quart pot then a tramp in terrible heat and no shade or water \to reach Pernatty WH/ with every step upon stones as hot as fire which made every mile like three, for the soles of my boots broke through & my feet \became/ sodden with blood (I had been unable to get a p^r of new boots at Callioota so had to keep my old ones) The horse I never saw again but \afterwards/ heard he had made for Lake & got bogged

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[Annotation in left margin]

\When I had failed in getting water by Wellsinks at the Elizabeth/

In the plight I was in[,] Providence only enabled me to reach Pernatty W Hole as also to save the sheep He [*Providence*] determined my first trying this only apparent means and guided me across from this same water hole alone on foot for say 40 miles in a bee line over Lake Torrens (16 miles across) to discover if the same would bear the sheep & men travelling to the small camp of Pendita [*Panditta Homestead*] so easy to have missed by miles in New Country without any landmarks \were they known to me/ to steer by. The Lake being a sea of Mirage appeared as an island as I tramped along with the illusion of water following behind as it receded in front, ever in doubt of direction, distance or firmness of the salt crust over bottomless mud that had swallowed some venturesome cattle.

On this painful return journey to the Elizabeth I was thankful to see the 2 horses had made back to this water from the sheep Lk crossing but having had to abandon my saddle & bridle also coat & vest thought it best to crawl into the water on my knees to soak fearing to drink too much and colapse then stripped to dry my clothes fell asleep; awaking afterwards on hearing the horses walking over the stones to come for a drink I jumped up forgetting my sore feet had to creep along the edge of soft mud to catch the quietest

[Page] 4.

with the only substitute for a bridle a saddle strap by making a slip noose of the buckle behind the tusks and lengthening same by a strip off my shirt hoisted up I had to hold this all night not to risk tying up — At dawn having thirty five miles to reach my destination I

attempted a start – I must not forget the quiet nanto²⁰ was a raw boned, razor backed mare, the other plump but w^d not be caught – the first ten minutes sample of this prospective happy home return, on a walking horse with a see-saw motion, upon a sore-saw back with my two leg pendulums swinging to mark time with the mares steps, is answerable for an invention I did not patent but give to the World seeking ease and indulgence. Feeling that at the junction of my two legs would soon be like my poor feet, & probably if I reached my destination at all it would be in two halves lengthways: I carefully de[s]cended from the sore saw back at a nice patch of grass and stuffed my pants on the inner side of the legs and the hinder part of those useful garments to the full capacity & strength of the material and buttons for my belt was now my bridle — “Gypsy” looked on with

[Last page – unnumbered]

astonishment, I c^d not refrain from a laugh and the mare neighed to her mate no doubt to come and look too. Oh joy it was a success but the day was long & so were the miles and my legs felt 12 inches longer for want of support. Sequel — I arrove dry as tinder and very much like an effigy of Guy Fawkes or an escaped lunatic.

Wishing you a prosperous & Happy New Year also to Alf Hirst when writing

Yours sincerely

John Bosworth

[On letterhead]

The Australasian Office
Melbourne 6 Jan 1913.

Dear Gilbert,²¹ —

Herewith those very interesting documents, which you so kindly lent me. I do not know much about S.A. affairs, except that your clip occupies its usual place – on top.

I am fit & well, free from gout & rheumatics, &c, & can wish you nothing better than the best of health for 1914.

Yrs truly

W. Thorold Grant²²

²⁰ The *Adnyamathanha* (indigenous people of the area) called horses ‘pinde nanto’ (European kangaroo), which became abbreviated to *nanto*, and evidently became vernacular for the local pastoralists.

²¹ William Gilbert, son of Joseph Gilbert, of Pewsey Vale.

²² Read this [Argus newspaper obituary](#) for an interesting profile of William Thorold Grant.

[The following three typewritten letters are attached together with a pin.]

[On official letterhead]

Telephones 81 **Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Limited.**
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WOOL STORES, Port Adelaide.

Adelaide 23 November, 1908.

Mr W. Gilbert,
Pewsey Vale,
via LYNDOK.

Dear Mr Gilbert, –

Now that your clip has been disposed of, my colleague and I felt that it would be a nice thing to put in writing our ideas of the classing of your clip this year.

We unhesitatingly state that Pewsey Vale clip was never classed anything like so well before, and in stating this, we not only give our own opinion, but also that of interested buyers. It is difficult for us to make any suggestions for the improvement of the get up, and although one buyer, to whom you were talking, made a very strong point in favour of having larger lines, we must not overlook the fact that the buyer who was second highest bidder for the first line, did not bid at all on the second and third lots. In the light of this fact and other points, we cannot see that you are justified in following out Mr McComas' ideas in their entirety. I am sure you will not misunderstand these remarks because Mr McComas is not only our business friend, but he is my very good personal friend as well.

[Page] 2.

Mr W. Gilbert.

It will I am sure be gratifying to your son to have the satisfaction that he had no small share in bringing about the happy result of getting the highest price of the season.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

George Jeffrey

[On official letterhead]

The Union Bank of Australia Limited,²³
Adelaide 12th March, 1912.

Wm. Gilbert Esq.
'Pewsey Vale'
LYNDOCH.

Dear Sir,

195 Bales Wool Ex. "Palma"
127 Bales Wool Ex. "Peshawur"

I enclose Bulk report on the above clip by Messrs H. Schwartz & Coy. for your information.

Yours faithfully

[M? R?] Hall
SUB-MANAGER.

[On official letterhead]

REGISTERED TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"RHYMESTER, LONDON."

3 & 4. Moorgate Street Buildings,
London. E.C. 6th February, 1912

HELMUTH SCHWARTZE & C^o.
WOOL BROKERS.

Report on 322 Bales Wool branded \Gilbert/ Pewsey Vale namely, 166 Bales sold in our sale of 18th January, under lots 248 to 262^A; and 156 Bales sold in our sale of 30th January, under lots 214 to 227.

As we think it may be of interest to the grower we venture to offer a few remarks upon the above clip, especially as it is the first time it has been entrusted to our care.

This is a superior type of South Australian wool. It is well grown and well bred, and while not extra fine, it is of good quality & of soft handle, and a bold shafty combing wool, the best lots possessing a deep staple. The style and colour throughout are excellent and the condition good, the portion (free from burr) sold on the 18th ulto. being particularly light and bright. The Lambs are long, soft & light and of a splendid colour, and in classing have been most carefully graded.

Special care has evidently been taken in the classing and skirting of the clip and the result is a succession of even,
attractive

[continued over]

attractive lots. Liberal skirting as in this case we invariably recommend as bulky skirts always fetch their value and buyers can pay more for the fleeces as they are thus more even in quality and less faulty.

It seems to us a wise arrangement to keep the burry portion entirely separate, the two sections of the clip thus selling on their merits, one not influencing the other. Both sections were well competed for and realised full market value.

Helmuth Schwartz & Coy.

[At bottom of page] The Union Bank of Australia Limited. Produce Department, London.

²³ See a photograph of the [Union Bank of Australia building](#) (Adelaide branch) as it appeared when the Bank took over the premises in 1893. The Union Bank of Australia was one of only three banks operating in 1912 that rode out the financial catastrophe caused by the burst of the property market 'bubble' in Melbourne.

[Heading in top margin] Sheep breeding & their management

In dealing with sheep breeding there are many points to be considered, in the first place as to the suitability of the land, whether the land will produce a greater profit by growing only pure merinos, or dealing in crossbreds, or the growing of fat lambs for market. In the growing of merinos the object is by judicious selection of the ewes/ and the mating with the right sires to arrive at the point that the progeny are producing the best quality of wool possible together with the maximum weight of carcass [carcass] so that you are getting the best return from your landed investment.

A man cannot become a successful breeder without a few years of practical experience under expert guidance. In the breeding of pure merinos it is necessary for the breeder to know closely the ancestry of the various stock, in order to have an idea as to the possible characteristics of the progeny.

The successful breeder besides being a good judge of stock usually possesses some natural instinct which enables him to select the right animals for mating though he may not always be able to explain his reasons for the selection, but instinct tells him that their main characteristics have every possible chance of being reproduced in the progeny.

Very close in breeding usually has a sound reason. A breeder may have a ewe ~~be~~ of exceptional quality not shown in its parents but throws back to some previous generation, now in order to perpetuate this quality it would be necessary

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to mate her with a full blooded relation, if she were mated with a ram of other blood these characteristics would in all probability be lost; but before the breeder contemplates the mating of closely related animals he must be quite certain that they have no physical weakness, if they are both sound healthy specimens their vigour will be increased in the progeny, but if they show any weakness, it will most likely be accentuated in the next generation.

Breeders have frequently \often/ mated ewes & rams both of exceptional quality but on account of there being no relationship the \resulting/ progeny in many cases have ~~been~~ proved absolute failures. The breeding of high class stock is quite a science and not the easy job learned in a few hours like ~~the majority of \many/ men in offices of in \people from/ the city think it is \imagine/, many \who/ think that all you have to do is to sit down and wait for the shearing and the cheque. ~~Best~~ The management of the flock during the year from one shearing to another requires a lot of care & judgement, usually during the shearing the owner goes through his flock & culls out all inferior stock that have not come up to expectations & also all aged sheep that would not prove profitable to hold on another year, thus making room for the lambs born that season, and also at this time he possesses some idea as to the prospects of ~~his~~ the carrying capacity of the land through the summer, and if likely to be a poor grass season, he will find it pay handsomely to cull ~~heavier~~ \more heavily/ and not overstock the country, more harm is done both to the stock & the country through this cause than~~

[page 3—unnumbered]

any other, the stock \even if they all live through the hard time/ besides dwindling in size through lack of sufficient nourishment yield a correspondingly inferior fleece. The breeder who understocks rather than overstocks can go home happy after an inspection knowing his sheep are doing well, & his returns are going to be greater than the man with more miserable undersized animals.

After the shearing the next operation is ~~selecting~~ \mating/ of the \selected/ rams with the ewes, then the owners chief care is looking after the water supply. In order to have healthy thriving stock through the summer; water of a good quality & plenty of it is almost as essential as a surplus of food, it is very necessary that the entrance to the water holes (if of a soft nature) be kept constantly cleared to avoid danger from bogging, it also prevents the pools (if not running water) from becoming stagnant; diseases arise with great ease from

stock drinking at stagnant water by reason of a suffering animal handing on its complaint through the agency of \the/ filthy water. The importance of this is realised in the North by the not allowing the stock to water on the dams, but at troughs supplied by tank filled from the dams by pumping, thus ensuring at all times a clear supply of water.

A short time prior to lambing every careful flock master crutches & rings all his breeding ewes, & a little later all the younger ewes & wethers that need attention, primarily to avoid danger from the dreaded magot fly, & secondarily so as to ensure a small \negligible/ quantity of dirty breed wool at shearing

[page 4—unnumbered]

time. During the lambing following, a close supervision is amply repaid in the number of ewes that can be saved which have become cast while lambing. At the present time it is necessary to be destroying vermin the whole year, foxes with greater vigor just prior to and during lambing, but rabbits should never be left alone, their destruction should continually be carried out the whole year round so as to keep the numbers in check; the stock carrying capacity of land is diminished to a far greater extent than many people believe by rabbits ~~than by any other cause~~, not so much by the amount of food they consume, but by running over the feed & staining it with urine it becomes unpalatable to stock, the land entirely free will be found to fatten sheep much quicker than that over run by rabbits.

Sheep management boils itself down to this treat them well, and they will respond by yielding a better return.

In the raising of fat lambs for export the crossbred lamb is the most profitable as they have greater weight & mature much quicker than the merino To ~~see~~ raise the best lambs, ewes of any breed \or crossbreed/ may be used ~~provided but~~ the ewe that will rear the best lamb needs to be of big frame robust with plenty of room at the breech for ease of lambing, the most important thing is the

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selection of the sire he should be bold & massive and above all pure bred.

The man who owns late country & cannot get his lambs fat before shearing needs to study the subject from a wool point of view in regard to the cross that will ~~yield~~ \produce lambs to yield/ a good quality wool & at the same time ~~produce a late lamb of~~ \attain a fair/ overall age \weight/. For this purpose a good cross is almost any English sire on the pure merino ewe.

The man who is able to mature his lambs quickly & can get them on the market at the time the first lambs of the season are being competed for by the butchers is going to get the best return, as lambs at that time are ~~me~~ in very keen demand & meet with animated competition generally selling above their real value. In order to have these early lambs in this \part of the/ country would require other feed than the natural grasses, & I feel quite sure that there are a good many winter fodders that could be grown quite easily in this Climate that would bring the lambs on quickly I am hoping to experiment ~~sw~~ in the near future with one or two fodders & test the results.

[Although undated, this article, which was printed and published at Gall's Printing Office, 89, King William Street, Adelaide, would have been dated ca. 1870–71.]

GALL'S PLAN

of the
Great Overland Telegraph.

Price One Penny.

The following is made up from the plan issued by the Telegraph Department and from reports that have appeared in the daily press, and will give an idea of the progress made in the construction of the Telegraph at the stated dates, and the approximate position of the sections, stations, and other places on or near the line.

The Telegraph will stretch in a somewhat diagonal direction across the continent from Port Augusta, 32½° S. lat., 137¾° E. long. to Palmerston, Port Darwin 12½° S. lat., 130¾° E. long., about 1,400 miles in a direct line, but from 1,700 to 1,800 miles as the line is laid.

Dotted lines thus places poled, or probably poled at date.

Black lines _____ places wired, or probably wired at date.

The subjoined table shows the route followed in connecting Australian with the mother-country, with the length of wire or cable between the different places, and the total distance traversed by messages.

	No. of Miles.	Cable Laid.	
Falmouth to Gibraltar, via Lisbon	1061	1154	
Gibraltar to Malta	1008	1120	
Malta to Alexandria	828	924	
Alexandria to Suez	224		Land line.
Suez to Aden	1346	1462	
Aden to Bombay	1662	1819	
Bombay to Madras	600		Land line.
Madras to Penang	1280	1409	
Penang to Singapore	399	405	
Singapore to Batavia	553	565	
Batavia to Banjoewang	480		Land line.
Banjoewang to Pt. Darwin	1030	1186	
Port Darwin to Port Augusta, S.A.	<u>1764</u>		Land line.
	12,235	10,044	
			Miles.
Total length of cable including slack,		10,044	
Ditto land line		<u>3,068</u>	
Total		13,112	

[The remainder of the article contains further minutiae and transcripts of telegraphic despatches.]

[A full page article, with a portrait of the subject, featured in *The Adelaide Stock and Station Journal*, April 4, 1923, and which has been incorporated into Rodney Cockburn's compendium, entitled, *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia Vol. 1.*]

PASTORAL PIONEERS

XII. [DR.] WILLIAM JAMES BROWNE.

In tracing the career of Dr. William James Browne it is difficult to separate his early activities from those of his equally distinguished brother, Dr. John Harris Browne, who was two years his junior. They were the sons of a Wiltshire landowner, and lost their father during their childhood. Possessed of only modest means, they were, however, blessed with an excellent education, which was partly secured at the Edinburgh University. Indeed, both the brothers gained a degree in medicine, but their subsequent pastoral operations in South Australia were so successful that they never practised their profession for gain. At the age of 23 years (in December, 1838) William J. Browne sailed for South Australia in the "Buckinghamshire", and the voyage extended into six months. His fellow passengers included Joseph Gilbert (Pewsey Vale) and John Ellis and Captain William Allen (Buckland Park estate). His sister Anna afterwards married the late Mr. Gilbert, who was also a native of Wiltshire. John Harris Browne did not arrive until 1840, and then the brothers entered into a partnership in agricultural and pastoral pursuits which extended over many years. At one time they were the largest exporters of wool in the colony. One of their earliest ventures was to farm some land near Lyndoch, which they held from the South Australian Company. As time went on their holdings had to be reckoned in square miles, not acres, and how shrewd they were in their knowledge of the country may be imagined from the fact that their interests included such well known and favoured estates as Moorak, Booborowie and Buckland Park. Other properties controlled from time to time were Leigh Creek, Nilpena, Wilpena, Wonoka, Arkaba, Artipena, Mickera, Colpa, Koppio, Kapinka, Talia, Cape Radstock, Sleaford Bay, Waldegrave Point and Wana. The Eyre Peninsula country alone comprised more than 600 square miles. As regards several of the runs mentioned the Brownes were associated with Henry Strong Price, notably Booborowie and Wilpena. Booborowie was first acquired in 1843 and the area originally embraced what is now known as Canowie, but the actual purchase was not made until 1863. It comprises some of the finest Merino country in Australia, and it is almost superfluous to write of the success that the Brownes achieved with their sheep and wool, besides which a magnificent herd of Shorthorn cattle was established at Booborowie. When the estate was afterwards controlled by trustees it was divided, and Messrs. Dutton and Melrose came into possession of the portion known as North Booborowie. The Brownes' lease had an area of 28 square miles, with a grazing capacity of 9,000 sheep. The old rental and assessment were £80 10/, but Goyder's valuation was £812 per annum, exclusive of improvements. George Milner Stephen, a son-in-law of Governor Hindmarsh, was the first to select the Buckland Park country, two-thirds of which was purchased from him by two of Dr. W. J. Browne's shipmates (Messrs. Ellis & Allen), and ownership passed to the brothers Browne in 1856. The younger of them made Buckland Park his home for eight years, and then sold out to the other. William, however, preferred life at Mt. Gambier. According to Talbot's "Early History of the South-East", the Mt. Gambier station was originally part of Compton, Evelyn Sturt's run, portion of which he sold to William Mitchell for £500. The latter held it until 1851, when David Power bought him out, added several sections to the estate, and sold the lot to Messrs. Fisher & Rochfort in 1859. Three years later the medico pastoralists purchased the property, and when the dissolution of the partnership occurred about 1866, Dr. William J. Browne took possession and removed his family there. He rebuilt the house and renamed the estate "Moorak" which, he stated, was aboriginal for "mountain", although the word does not belong to the locality so far as the native dialect is concerned. William Browne became greatly attached to Moorak, but he was an ardent advocate of settling people on the land, and he cut up part of his country and let it out for farms. He also bought 18,000 acres in the Yahl district from Mr. W. J. Clarke and sold

it to farmers. In those days, with the comparative isolation of Mt. Gambier, agriculture was not a paying business, and most of the land fell back into Dr. Browne's hands. He continued to work it on his own account following a system of mixed framing and grazing. He introduced the Lincoln sheep, which quickly asserted their superiority over the Merino in that part of the colony, and his operations prospered greatly. He also experimented extensively with grasses and fodder plants, and, aided by his able manager (Thomas Williams), he helped materially to show how the carrying capacity of the land could be improved. Altogether Moorak underwent many alterations in area, and in 1911 the Government purchased 5,390 acres of it for closer settlement. Up to £54 an acre was realised for some of the rich volcanic soil it embraces.

Dr. William J. Browne was a member of the Second Parliament (1860–62), representing Flinders in the House of Assembly. He introduced a Bill to abolish the sale of Crown lands, and to let them instead on long or perpetual leases. The measure was rejected, and it is recorded that a good deal of obloquy was cast on its sponsor, but the subsequent trend of our legislation has shown that Dr. Browne was simply ahead of the times in his ideas concerning the land laws. In 1866 he took his family to England for educational purposes, but he continued to make periodical visits to South Australia, during one of which his wife dies in the Old Country. He finally left the land of his adoption at the end of 1878, after having taken steps to open up the Northern Territory cattle runs known as Springvale, Delamere Downs and Newcastle Waters. Two years later he sought to enter the House of Commons, together with Lord Inverurie, who, as the Earl of Kintore, was Governor of South Australia from 1889 to 1895. The electors, however, preferred Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Frith. Dr. Browne died at Eastbourne, England, on December 4, 1894, in his eightieth year. All his sons were soldiers, and one daughter married a general and another married a colonel. The second son, William Byron, who was a lieutenant in the 16th Lancers, went through the Nile campaign for the relief of General Gordon, and died from fever on the way home. The eldest, Leonard Gilbert lived at Buckland Park for about 10 years.

Dr. Browne was the principal founder of Christ Church, Mount Gambier, for which he gave the land, and contributed half of the building fund. The pulpit, reading desk, altar rails and his pew were draped in black on the Sunday after the cabled news of his death was received, and an organ chamber, and later a window, were erected by the family to perpetuate his memory. The South Eastern press paid some very fine tributes to his sterling character. It was said that William James Browne went through the time of the blue shirt, the cabbage tree hat and the bullock whip, and rose by energy, perseverance and straight-going, gaining a large estate without oppression to anyone. Scarcely a movement was started without receiving his assistance. George Sladdin published in the "Border Watch" an affectionate letter concerning the doctor-pastoralist as an employer. He said:—"He told me to always inform him of any case of distress. I once did so, and within half an hour Mrs. Browne went to see the family, and her visit was followed by a drayload of furniture and clothing, and in addition, Mrs. Browne sent to Adelaide for a new sewing machine."

In his presidential address before the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society, in 1916, the Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., reviewed the early pastoral history of South Australia, and incidentally drew attention to some correspondence which in 1872 passed between Dr. W. J. Browne and the Wool Supply Committee of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce. From this it would appear that Dr. Browne's aim at Moorak was to increase the production of long-fibred lustrous wool. He claimed to be the first to use that "monstrous big sheep", the pure old Lincoln with a Merino ewe in Australia, and he went on to say:—"I sent them out in 1858 (14 years ago), and even that is not sufficient time to produce a regular flock of any considerable number. But that it is possible all my efforts assure me, and I fully believe that I shall continue to grow long wools finer and with more lustre than any I have yet had the pleasure of submitting to your inspection. I have a stud flock sufficiently large to breed from by crossing one with the other, and the result of such breeding is to increase the lustre and not diminish the length of the fleece or the size of the sheep". Dr. Browne much

preferred the Lincoln to the Leicester for this purpose, and in another part of the 1872 correspondence he says:— “I use the longest fleeced and largest Merino ewes to put with the pure old glossy-fleeced Lincoln ram. Hundreds of Merino ewes from this flock when dressed by the butcher weigh 80 lb. and more. The small Merino ewe has great difficulty in bearing to the pure Lincoln ram—the lamb is too large. So that if a breeder cannot get large Merino ewes he should begin with a Lincoln and Merino crossbred ram, and put the Lincoln ram to the increase. The Merino ewe possesses extreme fineness of fibre compared to the Leicester, and another valuable quality—closeness. This my Moorak sheep have in a great degree, beyond the English Leicester, consequently you are correct in advising me to continue the use of the pure old lustrous Lincoln ram. My three-year-old crossbred wethers weigh from 85 to 137 lbs. dressed.” The wool which Dr. Browne submitted to Bradford at this time was valued at 1/10 to 1/11 a pound. The Wool Supply Committee wrote to him in most encouraging terms, and concluded by saying:— “The Committee are extremely glad to hear that you hope to be able to grow similar wool in increasing quantity, and if you can do this by continuing to cross with the Lincoln in preference to the Leicester breed of sheep you certainly would be unwise to make any change from your present practice.”

[A full page article, with a portrait of the subject, featured in The Adelaide Stock and Station Journal, April 11, 1923, and which has been incorporated into Rodney Cockburn's compendium, entitled, Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia Vol. 1.]

PASTORAL PIONEERS

XIII. DR. J. HARRIS BROWNE.

No names stand higher on the roll of South Australian pioneer pastoralists than those of the two medical brothers, Drs. William James and John Harris Browne. Both these fine young English gentlemen helped to build up our pastoral industry from the years of early settlement, and the fact that they maintained an unbroken partnership in pastoral and agricultural pursuits for close on forty years suggests something of their great achievements, and also of the immeasurable benefits which their united efforts and expenditure of capital in opening up the country must have conferred upon the people of the State. Besides writing his name on the scroll of pastoral fame, Dr. J. Harris Brown was member of the historic expedition which Captain Charles Sturt led from Adelaide in 1844, in the hope of penetrating to the centre of this continent, and which miraculously escaped, after enduring the privations and perils of their enforced imprisonment at Rocky Glen. Dr. Harris Browne died in England in January, 1904, in his eight-seventh year, the last survivor of that gallant band of Australian pathfinders of eighty years ago.

Born on April 22, 1817, the third son of a Wiltshire land-owner, Dr. John Harris Browne was a younger brother of Dr. William J. Browne. Both brothers studied medicine at Edinburgh. In 1840 the younger followed to South Australia the elder one, who had been in the Province about two years. The two were registered as medical practitioners in Adelaide on the same day — January 4th, 1845 — when the colony was not more than eight years old. Their sister Anna accompanied her younger brother to South Australia in 1840, and she became the wife of Mr. Joseph Gilbert, founder of Pewsey Vale. Dr. Harris Browne was a singularly lovable man, generous and gentle, and of wide sympathies, possessing a disposition that made him a fit companion of the “great and gentle” Sturt. Although his nature was sweet and placid, he is said to have had the heart of a lion, and no obstacle seemed to baffle or discourage him.

The brothers Browne, although registered medical men, and in every way qualified to follow their profession, did not practise it to any extent in the colony. With the modest amount of capital which they brought with them from the old land, they devoted their energies, soon after arrival, to pastoral pursuits. Their names appear in the list of principal owners of sheep compiled in January, 1842, when their combined flocks totalled 1,043. On that date the

South Australian Company owned nearly 20,000 sheep, G.A. Anstey 9,560; F. H. Dutton, of Anlaby, 9,750; D. McFarlane 6,000; Joseph Gilbert, 4,055; William Keynes, 5,100; F. & E. Peter, 5,200; P. Butler, 4,677; G. C. Hawker, 3,500; and William Robinson, 4,500; while there were many others each with flocks exceeding 2,000. Dr. Harris Browne was in his twenty-eighth year when he went out with Sturt and it was after his return from Central Australia that he plunged into squatting. He held large interests with his brother and also station properties on his own account. In the early forties the brothers conjointly acquired the famous Booborowie and Canowie properties, though these stations were not actually purchased till the early sixties.

The brothers were fortunate in selecting some of the very best of our country for pastoral occupation. In 1856 they purchased Buckland Park, near Port Gawler, from Captains Ellis and Allen, German Creek was acquired in 1862 from Mr. David Power, and Woodlands was bought from Mr. Clarke; while Koppio and other holdings were added to their possessions. Mr. Henry Strong Prince was a partner with the Brownes in Canowie, and some of their far northern stations. One of the most celebrated of their properties was Moorak, at Mount Gambier, which Dr. W. J. Browne afterwards made his special care. Dr. Harris Browne resided at Buckland Park for several years. Eventually he sold his interest to his brother, and in 1885 this beautiful estate became the property of Mr. Leonard G. Browne, his nephew, who lived there for some time before taking up his residence in England. Extensive additions were made to the area of the first survey of Buckland Park; at one time the estate covered 30,000 acres. During his residence at Buckland Park (which was noted in later years for its coursing carnivals), Dr. Harris Browne spent considerable sums in clearing and in practical forestry, in order to preserve in unimpaired splendour the giant red gums which are among the glories of this tract of beautiful country.

In addition to owning Booborowie, Moorak, and Koppio Stations, and Buckland Park Estate, the brothers Browne held under lease Nilpena, Arkaba, and Leigh Creek runs in the north, Calca and Talia Stations on the West Coast, and Pondora and Yaraında runs in the Gawler Ranges. According to the Squatters' Directory of 1871, Dr. Harris Browne was at that time the lessee of the following, among other runs—Koley (Gawler Ranges), Koppio (Port Lincoln), Talia (Lake Newland), Colpor and Wallala (Streaky Bay), and Cheriroo (Venus Bay), and in addition he was renting from the Government land at Cape Wiles, Wedge Hill, Beard's Bay, Point Westall, Lake Gairdner, and elsewhere, so that it will be seen that his pastoral activities extended far and wide. The 1907–8 proceedings of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society include the journal of an expedition which Mr. Josiah Bonnin, afterwards manager of Nalpa Nalpa Station, conducted to the Gawler Ranges in 1862. The party was fitted out by Dr. Harris Browne, to report on the 1,800 square miles of the Gawler Range country, that he had taken up for pastoral purposes on the strength of a report to the Government by the late Stephen Hack, who had explored it. The party, which comprised Josiah and P. F. Bonnin, Alfred and E. T. Woods, and G. G. Mayo, was equipped with 17 horses, 100 wethers for mutton, and a spring dray to carry the rations. On the strength of the leader's report, accompanied by dried specimens of the grasses, herbs, and bushes, Dr. Browne threw up his lease of the country. It was all taken up subsequently by different people, including the Bonnins, and Messrs. Acraman (Yardea), Andrew Wooldridge (Paney) and John Marchant (Pendana). Shortly after the partnership with his brother was dissolved, Dr. Harris Browne went to England where he remained for ten or twelve years. He returned to South Australia, but revisited the old country on more than one occasion before he finally decided to make his home in his native land. His last public appearance in Adelaide was appropriately enough, at the funerals of the explorers, Wells and Jones, whose bodies were brought to their home city from Western Australia, where they had perished. His only son, Mr. T. L. Browne, is well known in Adelaide.

Dr. Harris Browne also goes down in history as a hero of Australian exploration. The journey which he made as medical officer with Captain Charles Sturt, John McDouall Stuart, and others of the strong and splendidly equipped expedition in 1844–5, and the experiences of

the party, are among the greatest feats recorded in the annals of our inland exploration. One of the party was Mr. James Lewis, father of the grand old present-day squatter the Hon. John Lewis, C.M.G. The country surrounding Depot Glen, where the members of the expedition were shut away underground for many weary months through the intense heat, was parched beyond description. The shade thermometer ranged from 100 to 117 degrees daily, and Sturt made heroic efforts to find a passage out of the Stony Desert, but every time he was compelled to return to the Depot. In September, 1845, the expedition reached their furthest point, which was scarcely 150 miles from the centre of the continent. There Sturt was compelled to again fall back. During the return journey Dr. Browne endured great suffering from scurvy. Sometimes he was so ill that he could scarcely keep his seat on his horse. Other members of the party were almost equally exhausted, which was not to be wondered at, considering that for some time previously each of them had been existing upon 5 lbs. of flour a week.

After his recovery on another occasion, Dr. Browne, with characteristic courage undertook a long ride of 118 miles to Flood's Creek, a journey which was to decide the fate of the expedition, for the water in the Depot Creek was reduced so low that they feared none would be left in Flood's Creek. The doctor had prepared for the journey by filling a bullock skin with water, and sending a dray with it as far forward as possible. He was eight days absent. When he returned, Sturt, who still lay helpless in his tent remarked: "Well, Browne, what news? Is it good or bad?" "There is still water in the creek" replied the doctor, "but that is all I can say. What there is is as black as ink, and we must make haste, for in a week it will be gone!" At the Glen and other lone camps of the expedition the cheerful nature and professional skill of Dr. Browne were invaluable. Sturt's exhausted condition was such that he had to be carried on a dray, and lifted off at every stopping place on the return journey. But for Dr. Browne's devoted care, the great explorer would never have reached the settled country alive. The records of the expedition show how splendidly the doctor behaved to his chief, and with what tender concern and skill he nursed the sick members of the expedition back to health, to enable them finally to retrace their steps homeward, and out of the very gates of death.

The Rev. John Blacket, in his "History of South Australia" asserts that Dr. Browne's fault was that he shrank too much from publicity, and the late John Bagot said of him: "He was one of the most high-souled gentlemen that we have had in South Australia: a most practical and well informed man, but modest withal, and therefore not so publicly known as many far less worthy men."

[Newspaper clipping from *The Australasian*, Melbourne, Saturday, April ...]

SOME PIONEERING HISTORY.

By Bendelby.²⁴

THE GILBERTS OF PEWSEY VALE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The recent death of Mr. William Gilbert²⁵, of Pewsey Vale, Lyndoch, S.A. severs a connecting link with the earliest pastoral history in South Australia. Pewsey Vale can boast of a distinction which is almost unique at the present time in South Australia, in that it constitutes the first pioneering effort of an early settler, the late Mr. Joseph Gilbert, and has passed from father to son from 1840 to this day. The home also possesses the merit of being essentially English in its embodiment of the tastes and aspirations of the typical country squire. In modern times, when the cry goes up that the resources of Australia need advertising in order to attract settlement, it is interesting to turn to the part played by this process in connection

²⁴ 'Bendelby' was the penname of William Thorold Grant, a journalist at *The Australasian*. (See fn 22.)

²⁵ William Gilbert's death on 29 March 1923 would place this *Australasian* newspaper edition as at April, 1923.

with the founding of Pewsey Vale. Whilst seated at breakfast at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden, in 1838, Mr. Joseph Gilbert happened to catch sight of a small advertisement among the shipping notices relating to the projected despatch of a vessel to Adelaide. He at once determined to seek out more information regarding this new settlement, and for that purpose called at the shipping office indicated. Having learnt all that the agents of the vessel could tell him, which, all told, amounted to the intelligence that Adelaide as in Australia, and, therefore, did not convey much, he set out to interview some of the South Australian Commissioners. By these gentlemen he was furnished with more detailed information, and with a copy of the Act of Parliament [*sic*] of 1834, William IV., which authorised the settlement of the new colony on certain conditions. He was also supplied with other literature, and with special advice as to outfit, &c. Among the articles included in this catalogue was a wooden two-roomed house, neatly jointed, and in every way constructed for speedy erection, and duly erected it was at the lower end of Hindley street, Adelaide. Up to this time Mr. J. Gilbert, who was then over 35 years of age, had taken no more serious view of life than any other gentleman of leisure, with means to pass his winters in hunting and the balance of the year on the Continent. With this embryo colonist to think was to act, and after acquainting his father with the nature of his latest resolve, he made a contract with the shipping agents to land himself and his goods above high water mark on the foreshore of the new settlement. Which contract having been literally fulfilled ex Buckinghamshire, in 1839, he set up his imported house in Adelaide.

EXPLORING.

Having had experience of country life in England, it was but natural that Mr. Gilbert should turn his attention forthwith to pastoral pursuits, and he set forth in search of likely country for that purpose. Whilst exploring the region now known as the Barossa Ranges, about 35 miles inland from Adelaide, he came across a shipmate who had been one of his special cronies on the voyage out. This was no other than the late Dr. W. J. Browne, who had played the part of ship's surgeon on the Buckinghamshire. He found Dr. William Browne (a name in years to come to be regarded as Napoleonic in all matters pastoral), camped in a hollow tree, in what is now one of the Pewsey Vale home paddocks. The two friends once again foregathered, and joined forces in exploring the ranges. This led to an application being made by Mr. Gilbert and others who had hailed from Wiltshire, for a special survey (afterwards known as the Wiltshire special survey) under a system then in vogue, which enabled any person or company paying £4,000 into the Treasury to acquire 4,000 acres of land in any part of the colony, even though not previously surveyed, without having to compete with other applicants. Thus Mr. Joseph Gilbert settled in the ranges, and named his location after the Vale of Pewsey, in Wiltshire. He had already sent to Van Diemen's Land for three hundred sheep, and these in due course reached Port Adelaide, at a cost of £3 per head. A sorry sight they were on arrival, being scarcely able to boast of a fleece of wool among the lot, owing to the ravages of scab. However, this disappointment had to be endured, and the scab cured. Mr. Gilbert established his little flock on the South Para, where the town of Gawler now stands, and set to work to exterminate the scab with corrosive sublimate, of which his store, in consequence of advice from the commissioners in London, contained a liberal quantity. In due course he shifted his flock along to Pewsey Vale, and there to-day are the direct descendants of this Van Diemonian importation, which were gradually brought to their present high pitch of excellence by dint of careful selection. Mr. Gilbert then set about the improvement of his property. He fenced, built, and planted until, from a rugged hollow, destitute of even the least artificial appliance or improvement, alongside a small stream in these ranges, he successfully established all that experience and taste could suggest as necessary for the formation of an ideal country home. A deer park, vineyard, and cellars, and quite the most elaborate stables to be seen in any country district in Australia, with stall appointments and partitions of polished redgum, shared attention with the rockeries and garden. Having spent so much of his life in the hunting field, it was only natural that he should turn his attention to the breeding and racing of thoroughbreds. He imported the famous Witton, one of the best shouldered horses of his day, purchased

Muscovado from Mr. C. B. Fisher, and generally did things in style as became an English country gentleman of the period. Having married a sister of his shipmate, Dr. W. J. Browne, it seemed fitting that he should hit out in other directions, and, with Pewsey Vale as a base, open up and develop country in the north (Mount Bryan) and on Yorke Peninsula. True also to the characteristics of the home-loving, God-fearing type of his day, he, in 1860, built a charming little church on the opposite bank of the small stream facing the homestead buildings, and connected therewith by means of a neat footbridge. Here in the past the late Archdeacon Twopeny would often journey for the purpose of conducting service. Within a few yards of the church door Mr. Joseph Gilbert and his wife have, with some of their descendants, found their last resting-place on earth.

WATER SUPPLY.

Of all this versatile gentleman's undertakings, probably the greatest, I that it then represented the finest conception to be met with on any private estate in South Australia, was the creation, in 1861, of a huge reservoir in the hills, about two miles from the home. This, with its reticulation of water in a 2 in. pipe to supply drinking water for stock in the home paddocks, fountains in the gardens, an irrigation plot, and a swimming bath near the house, was at that period a very bold undertaking. This reservoir, which has a surface area of six acres, and is excavated to a considerable depth, is finished off with an embankment of 20,000 cubic yards, for which 15d. per yard was paid. At the time it was a great draw for labour, and attracted a goodly portion of the runaway sailors peculiar to that period. Plantations of English and other deciduous trees are to be seen flourishing alongside willows and pines of almost every variety known to Australian arboriculture. Crowning all, on the rising ground, a vineyard of 29 acres finds employment for substantial cellars of great capacity. This (1,500 ft.) is the highest elevation of any vineyard in South Australia. Pewsey Vale clarets and burgundies have justly ever found a ready market both inside and outside the State from the day when the founder received 10/ per gallon for all he could make.

WILLIAM GILBERT.

Pewsey Vale was not a large estate, as understood in the early days, being throughout restricted to the 20,000 acres to which the original owner expanded it. It had an average rainfall of 30 in., and an altitude of from 1,500 ft. to 2,000 ft., consisting of hilly, well-grassed country, with occasional rough peaks. Large quantities of redgum timber flourished in their grandeur on the flats. Many of these magnificent trees have during recent years been cut down to provide sleepers for railway purposes. As the country was ill-adapted for agricultural settlement, no pressure was brought to bear upon the recent owner to resume it for purposes of closer settlement, but it seems certain that, in the course of time, something will be done in this direction to convert it into smaller holdings in the interests of graziers. Mr. William Gilbert, who passed away on March 30, at his old home in the most peaceful manner possible, was the only son of the first pioneer. In 1875 he took over the management of his father's interests, and set out for Owen Springs, in Central Australia, in charge of 1,500 head of cattle and horses, there to form a station. He had more foresight than others, and was satisfied to sell out a few years afterwards, his successor being Sir Thomas Elder. During the short time that he held Owen Springs he made the horses and cattle which were bred there of such a standard that the brand WG stood in the front rank for years afterwards. Moreover, he lost little time in adding to the high reputation of the IG sheep, cattle, and horses at Pewsey Vale, as well as to the metis of the Gilbert over Pewsey Vale brand of wool. The country annually carried a flock of from 10,000 to 15,000 sheep. With the exception of an importation of Negretti rams during the 'fifties, the only rams used in this flock, outside of those bred up from within, have been the Murray rams, in which the pioneer was as great a believer as his son. Some years ago Pewsey Vale had the unique distinction of supplying 400 ewes and 20 rams to the order of the Ameer [*Emir*] of Afghanistan. Special envoys were sent over to South Australia to take delivery of this shipment at Pewsey Vale itself on behalf of this monarch. Mr. William Gilbert left a widow, three sons, and four daughters, another son having laid down his life during the great war, a fact pathetically recorded on a brass plate erected to his memory in the little church at the homestead.

As indicating the respective temperaments of the pioneering Joseph and his son William, the elder passed through life from the day of landing in South Australia as “old man Gilbert” (though then only 35 years old), and William as “Willie” from the day of his christening to the day of his death. One was somewhat reserved, while the other ever had the heart of a boy.

[Un sourced newspaper obituary of William Gilbert with his portrait, dated Friday, March 30, 1923.]

A PIONEER PASTORALIST.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM GILBERT.

Mr. William Gilbert died at his residence, Pewsey Vale, Lyndoch, early on Thursday morning, after having been in poor health for some considerable time. He was in his 73rd year, and was the only son of Mr. Joseph Gilbert, who came to South Australia by the ship Buckinghamshire in 1839, and was one of the earliest settlers of the State. He brought with him a wooden two-roomed house in sections, which he set up on an allotment in Adelaide. He almost immediately turned his attention to pastoral pursuits. He first acquired land on the South Para, which he stocked with 300 sheep from Van Diemen’s Land. The sheep reached Port Adelaide at a cost of £3 per head. The flock was afterwards removed to Pewsey Vale, where by means of careful selection the descendants of the original importation reached a high standard of excellence. Fencing, building, and planting were carried on with vigor, and gradually came into being an ideal country home, surrounded by a deer park, vineyard, and garden. The deer park was admired by all who visited it. The breeding and racing of thoroughbreds was undertaken, and shorthorn cattle of the best milking strains were imported from England. Substantial cellars were erected, and Pewsey Vale clarets, burgundies, and hocks soon achieved renown. The estate, which is extensive, is hilly, and well grassed, with a few rugged peaks, and heavy red gum timber on the flats. The place possesses in a marked degree all the natural advantages of a first-class pastoral property.

Mr. William Gilbert was educated at St. Peter’s College, and in 1864 proceeded to Cambridge University, where he finished his education. Inheriting his father’s pioneering instincts, he started out into the interior in 1872, and stocked with cattle and horses the then almost unknown Macdonnell Range country, in the neighbourhood of Alice Springs, where he formed the station known as Owen Springs. In 1875 he took over the management of all his father’s interests and properties, which included, in addition to Pewsey Vale, the Mount Bryan freehold of 32,000 acres and the Oriecowe run on Yorke Peninsula. These properties he sold soon after his father’s death in 1881. He devoted much time to the improvement of the stock at Pewsey Vale, and soon secured record prices for his wool, and the celebrated “I.G.” sheep and the Gilbert over Pewsey Vale brand of wool acquired the highest reputation. His fleece-wool of 1905 topped all Adelaide markets for the year, and gained higher prices in the two following seasons. On several occasions since his clip has topped the market, and has acquired a great reputation in London. With the exception of an importation of Nigretti [*sic*] rams, the only rams used in the flock outside the home-bred studs have been the Murray rams. Many of the surplus ewes of Pewsey Vale have been shipped to buyers in Western Australia and some years ago the State supplied 400 ewes and 20 rams to the order of the Amir [*Emir*] of Afghanistan, special envoys having been sent over to take delivery. In connection with his vineyards, which Mr. Gilbert conducted more as a hobby than as a business, he achieved great success. His vintages were well known for their high quality and regularity. The Pewsey Vale property was famous for the hospitality of its owner, who was very highly esteemed for his many admirable qualities by a large circle of friends, who were much shocked at the news of his death, which came as a surprise, because of late his health had seemed to be improving. Mr. Gilbert recently transferred his Wangalere property to his son, Mr. William Gilbert, who is now conducting the vineyards there. He leaves a widow (who was a daughter of the late Dr. Clindening), three sons, Dr. H. J. Gilbert (Adelaide), Mr. William Gilbert (Wangalere, near Pewsey Vale), and Captain T. Gilbert

(India), and four daughters (the Misses Dorothy, Marjorie, Katherine, and Emily Gilbert). Two sons—Messrs. Joseph and John—were killed in the Great War. Lady Stirling, of St. Vigeans, Mount Lofty, is a sister of the deceased gentleman, and another sister, resident in England, is the widow of Colonel John Adam Fergusson, brother of a former Governor of South Australia.

[Un sourced and undated newspaper clipping of William Gilbert's obituary, with his portrait.]

OBITUARY.

One of the best known pastoralists of South Australia, Mr. William Gilbert, died at his residence, Pewsey Vale, Lyndoch, in the early hours of Thursday morning. The late M. [Mr.] Gilbert was seriously ill some months ago, but made a fair recovery. He had been in poor health for some time. On Wednesday, however, he seemed particularly well, but felt indisposed when he went to bed. Subsequently he lapsed into unconsciousness, and passed away at 2 a.m. He was the only son of the late Mr. Joseph Gilbert, who came to South Australia by the ship Buckinghamshire in 1839, and founded a beautiful home between Lyndoch Valley and Eden Valley. The homestead with its fine gardens and deer park, situated in lovely timbered country, conveys the suggestion of England, while the vineyard is worthy of sunny France. The late Mr. Gilbert was educated at St. Peter's College, and 1864 proceeded to Cambridge University. In 1875 he took over the management of his father's interests and property, and went to Owen Springs, Central Australia, in charge of 1,500 cattle and horses to form a station there. He paid great attention to sheepbreeding, and Pewsey Vale wool acquired a high reputation on the London market. Mr. Gilbert also had erected substantial cellars on his property, and Pewsey Vale clarets, burgundies and hocks became noted for their quality throughout Australia. The late Mr. Gilbert was a member of the Adelaide Club. There survive [sic] [survive] a widow (who was a daughter of the late Dr. Clindening), three sons, Dr. W. H. Gilbert (Adelaide), Mr. William Gilbert (Wongalere, near Pewsey Vale), and Capt. T. Gilbert (India), and four daughters (the Misses Dorothy, Marjorie, Katherine, and Emily Gilbert). Two sons—Messrs. Joseph and John—were killed at the war. It may not be [g]enerally known (writes "Slipper") that Mr. W. Gilbert was one of the first to assist in forming the South Australian Coursing Club, while it is understood that the late pastoralist was the first to liberate hares north of Adelaide. This was in the early 'seventies, and so rapidly did they increase that a coursing meeting was held at Corryton Park, north of Gumeracha, in July, 1875. The Hon. W. B. Rounsevell divided the cup for eight dogs with Lady (imp.) and Baffler; Mr. R. G. Canning won the Ladies' Purse with General Book, and the late Mr. C. Downer won the Puppy Stake with Cloud. The late Sir John Morphett was President, Messrs. Rounsevell, W. Gilbert, J. Baker, and R. F. G. Canning were stewards, H. Semple did the slipping, and J. E. Savill, who won the Melbourne Cup with The Assyrian, did the judging. But though doing so much for the leash the late Mr. Gilbert's name does not appear as an owner. It should also be mentioned that the late Mr. G. Robinson, of Werocata, and father of Mr. A. W. Robinson, M.P., was present when the first hares were liberated at Pewsey Vale.

[Newspaper clipping with pencilled annotation at top]

Register –
October 8th 1923

PEWSEY VALE.

Sold to A. J. and P. A. McBride.

An Historic Property.

After having been in the possession of the Gilbert family since 1839, the Pewsey Estate, one of the best known properties in South Australia has been purchased by Messrs. A. J. and P. A. McBride, who rank among our foremost pastoralists.

On Saturday the historic property of Pewsey Vale, comprising about 9,000 acres, passed into the hands of the Messrs. McBride. Everybody, who has a knowledge of South Australian development, is conversant with the name of this estate, which is situated east of Lyndoch in picturesque undulating country. There is quite a romance connected with the acquisition of this property by the original owner, Mr. Joseph Gilbert, in 1839. Coming out from England by the same ship, The Buckinghamshire, as surgeon, was the late Dr. W. J. Browne, who intended to try his fortune with Mr. Gilbert in this new land. The latter took a fancy to the country in the Barossa range, and applied for a special survey under the then existing system, which enabled any person or company paying £4,000 into the Treasury to acquire 4,000 acres of land in any part of the State, even although not previously surveyed, without having to compete with other applicants. No doubt Mr. Gilbert had discussed his intentions with Dr. Browne, for when he pitched his tents under those wonderful redgums in the Pewsey Vale country, he found the doctor had already made comfortable quarters in a large hollow giant of the forest. Later when the paid had found their bearings, Dr. Browne settled at Wangalere, and Mr. Gilbert married his sister.

Everything of the Best.

With a thoroughness, typical of the best of our pioneers, Mr. Gilbert set a high standard at Pewsey Vale. Everything he did there was of the best. Fencing, building, and planting were carried on with vigour, and there gradually arose an ideal country home, surrounded by a deer park, vineyard, and garden. On the racing stables the greatest care and attention were bestowed, the elaborate stalls and partitions being of polished redgum. One of the features of Pewsey Vale is the beautiful old private chapel which was built in 1860. The late Mr. William Gilbert maintained it until shortly before he died this year, and he then transferred it to the control of the Anglican Synod. In 1861 a private reservoir holding 800,000 gallons was constructed, and this is undoubtedly one of the best private water supplies in the State. From the hills, a distance of three miles, the water is reticulated to supply several paddocks with water for stock, in addition to the homestead, swimming baths, and fountains. The orchard and deer park are bordered by hawthorn hedges, and at one time there were 200 head of deer at Pewsey Vale. An equal number was running on the adjoining scrub land, but when rabbits became so troublesome, phosphorus baits were laid, and those outside got poisoned. A beautiful vineyard of about 30 acres exists at Pewsey Vale, which became famous for its Riesling claret, and hock—three fine wines, which gained many prizes. An excellent cherry brandy was also made there. No longer will there be any choice vintages from the substantial cellars. Pewsey Vale will also always be remembered both here and in London for its high-priced wool, which topped the market for many years. Sheep from this estate were sent all over the Commonwealth, and 20 rams and 400 ewes were at one time sent to the Ameer [*Emir*] of Afghanistan to the order of that potentate, who sent over special envoys to take charge of the consignment. Thoroughbred blood horses imported from England bred many winners, and Mr. Gilbert also imported from the old country shorthorn cattle, with which he bred bulls at Pewsey Vale for his run at Alice Springs. About

10 years ago Pewsey Vale comprised 20,000 acres, but subsequently a large—about half of it—area was repurchased by the Government for subdivision.

Under the new ownership, the high pitch of excellence of Pewsey Vale will be maintained, and the McBride brothers intend to pay particular attention to the improvement of pastures, and the breeding of rams for their northern runs.

The sale was effected through Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited.

[Un sourced and undated newspaper clipping]

VITICULTURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Historical Sketch.

Part I. — By H. M. Martin, for the Viticultural Congress.

The pioneers of the wine industry in this State were men of the same type as those who established the grape vine in New South Wales a quarter of a century earlier. They were men of energy, foresight, and perseverance, and of sufficient means to make and continue adequate experiments. Moreover, they had not the same difficulties to overcome, inasmuch as the McArthurs and others had blazed the trail, and were near at hand, and ready and willing with both material and advice. The first vineyard I can find any record of is that of A. H. Davis, of Moore Farm, at the Reedbeds—about three miles west of Adelaide—on what is now the Henley Beach road. He had 25 acres of black alluvial soil, and 5 acres were planted in 1839–40 with vine cuttings imported from New South Wales. The remaining 20 acres were planted gradually with orchard fruits—hence the origin of the Moorepark apricot—the whole 25 acres being completed by 1850. So runs the legend. I remember David *[Davis]* in the early fifties as a fruit supplier, and heard talk of the excellence of his wines. Mr. Davis died long ago, and his orchard and vineyard have disappeared.

Reynella.

John Reynell, of Reynella, planted a few vines in 1841 with cuttings he had obtained from Tasmania, and wine was made from these in 1843. This seems to have been encouraging, for half an acre was planted in 1844, with cuttings obtained from Mr. Anstey, of Highercombe. In 1845, 4½ acres more were planted, this time with cuttings from Sir William McArthur. In 1847 and 1848, 10 more acres were added, these cuttings having been obtained from Dr. E. J. Peake, of Clarendon, making 15 acres in all up to 1850. The estate is still in the family, with vineyard land in 1922 of 482 acres, and is well equipped with a magnificent cellar, winery, and plant. Next in order I should place Highercombe. It is recorded that Reynell planted half an acre in 1844 “with cuttings obtained from Highercombe”, but I think it probable that Anstey passed them over to Reynell because he was not quite ready to use them himself. The record shows that Anstey started The Highercombe Vineyard with 10 acres in 1845, which would enable him to overtake his friend, and thus start practically level. No mention is made of the origin of Anstey’s cuttings. The Hon. G. M. Waterhouse acquired the property later, and in 1858 5 acres were added; 10 more in 1862; and another 5 in 1863. Waterhouse sold out and went to New Zealand, and Sir R. D. Ross bought the estate, and excellent dry wines were produced. Highercombe Amber and Highercombe Ruby are remembered in London still. But lately the ownership has changed again. The cellar has ben *[sic]* dismantled, and the grapes are sold to the nearest winemaker.

Tintara.

In 1845 Dr. A. C. Kelly planted the Trinity Vineyard, near the sea coast, about 16 miles south of Adelaide, with cuttings obtained from McArthur. This was only 15 acres in extent, but the vines did not suit the soil or climate, so he sold the property, and in 1863 bought land at McLaren Vale, and planted 90 acres of vineyard, which he called “Tintara”, a name which has since been registered by Messrs. Burgoyne as a trade mark, and is advertised all over

England. Dr. Kelly worked the Tintara Vineyard till 1878, when it was bought by Thomas Hardy and has since been increased to 150 acres. The Trinity Vineyard was long ago uprooted, and the land is back again in grass.

Pewsey Vale.

Pewsey Vale comes next in order. Joseph Gilbert began this vineyard in 1847, with 1 acre, the cuttings for which had been imported direct from England. The sorts for white wine were Verdeilho [*Verdelho*], Gousis, and Reisling [*Riesling*], and those for red wine were Carbenet [*Cabernet*] and Shiraz. Planting was continued at intervals till 1862, and the same assortment has been adhered to. There are now 25 acres at Pewsey Vale, and 46 at Wongalere. The latter is a vineyard 9 miles from Pewsey Vale and near to Williamstown. The Pewsey Vale clarets and hocks are always among the best made in the State.

Penfold's.

Dr. Penfold started the vineyard at Magill in 1848. It is well situated on the foothills of the Mount Lofty Range, 5 miles east of the city. On the death of Dr. Penfold, his son-in-law, T. F. Hyland, of Melbourne, became interested in the estate. Joseph Gillard, jun., has proved to be one of the best of our local vignerons, and he was appointed manager and for 33 years had control of the cellars and vineyards, while Mr. Hyland had sole charge of the business department, with headquarters in Melbourne. On Mr. Gillard's retirement, Mr Leslie Hyland took his place in South Australia, and Mr. Frank Hyland took charge of the office in Sydney. After a time a large distillery and bond store was built at the Grange Cellars (Magill), and then a champagne cellar. Extra vinelands were purchased and planted so that the total acreage in 1922 amounted to 224 acres. A large distillery and winery has been erected at Nuriootpa, a large winery at Eden Valley. Penfold's Wines, Limited, have recently bought Mr. Pridmore's winery and freehold at McLaren Vale, and they hold vineyards and cellars in New South Wales.

Clarendon.

Clarendon Vineyard, situated 18 miles from Adelaide, on the River Onkaparinga, in a beautiful locality, was planted in 1849 by Mr. E. J. Peake, S.M., with cuttings imported from Spain, consisting of Pedro [*Pedro Ximénez*], Palomeno [*Palomino*], Temprano [*Tempranillo*], and Doradilla [*Doradillo*] (white) and Molar-Negro [*Mole Negro*] and Ferastia- [*Fiesta-*] Colors (red), with which assortment 4½ acres were planted. In 1851 further planting took place up to 40 acres, with usual assortments, obtained, apparently, from McArthur. Mr Peake built a fine cellar and planted a large orchard. After his death the property was worked by a company and was much neglected. Then it was bought by Mr. Joseph Gillard, sen., of Sylvania Vineyard, near to Adelaide, who took up his residence there, and his younger son (Mr. W. H. Gillard) remained and managed Sylvania. The Clarendon Cellar has always been noted for its dry wines.