

Land Equals Wealth

Since Separation there has been a persistent struggle between pastoralists and selectors for control of rich landholdings; that conflict has been played out through a plethora of land legislation. Queensland assumed all the land laws of New South Wales and because of distance and communication problems the requirement that all land be surveyed first meant great delays in land alienation. Under the New South Wales Orders in Council dated 9 March 1847, the monopoly of alienation of land was conceded to the Crown and all pre-emptive rights were to be at £1 per acre. In Queensland until 1866 all land was alienated by either pre-emption or auction. Pre-emptions were continued in the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868* in the form of a concession or compensation for improvements. One acre could be pre-empted out of pastoral runs for every ten shillings of improvements on the resumed portion.¹

The *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1860* provided the basis for a comprehensive land policy for the new colony. The Queensland Parliament wanted to attract southern squatters with their capital, skills and experience. The *Brisbane Courier* criticized the legislation because it allegedly demonstrated the vested interests of some members of Parliament. Squatters' management skills were tested before they were issued with a lease. If the squatter failed to stock the land within nine months he became ineligible for a licence to a lease and the land was forfeited. Local Commissioners for Crown Lands had wide administrative powers but were powerless to enforce the land regulations or to set rent levels.

Rates of stocking were twenty-five sheep and five head of cattle or horses per square mile. Runs in the Brisbane Valley were small by comparison with the rest of Queensland. There was no limit on the number of runs that a lessee could hold, so wealthy pastoralists accumulated several runs in the Valley. Runs were seldom forfeited for failure to stock them but rather for failure to pay rents. The general conditions of leases were: fourteen years lease, rent payable in advance, ten shillings per square mile for the first four years after which the rent was reviewed. Thus pastoralists exploited and then forfeited land to agriculturalists.

The squatters' concession to agriculturalists was the introduction of the *Agricultural Reserves Act*

which allocated large slabs of land to be made available to anyone who paid £1 per acre and who was willing to live on it, fence it, and cultivate it. Similarly the *Immigration Regulations of 1861* encouraged immigrants to choose Queensland and become yeoman farmers. They were entitled to a Land Order worth £18 initially and £30 eventually when they proved that they were staying in the colony for at least two years.

Large numbers of Germans facing poverty and political strife and violence emigrated to Queensland. In the 1850s they came chiefly from Hesse, Baden, and Wurtemberg; in the early 1860s an immigration wave from Prussia followed those from Schleswig Holstein. The majority of German immigrants to Queensland in the 1870s were Prussians. Because of the American Civil War the government provided Cotton Bonuses at a rate of £10 for every 300 pounds of sea island cotton produced and £5 for the same quantity of other varieties. The government's aim was to encourage settlement and diversification of the economy. Cotton became a popular agricultural crop in the Brisbane Valley in the 1860s, centred on Fernvale, known then as Harrisborough and Stinking Gully. Cribb and Foote had a large ginnery there.

Divided control between the Lands Department and the Survey Office, and the considerable contacts and influence of Queensland's first Surveyor General, Augustus Charles Gregory, enhanced the squatters' influence. The civil service was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the survey and rent assessment problems. There was no long term land policy. Common gossip reigned about oblique and subtle favours to squatters in the selection of the half of the run to be resumed. Politicians and pastoralists preferred auctions for land at high upset prices so that pastoralists often acquired land at auction without competition, hindering agricultural settlement. Alternatively politicians really wanted to encourage immigration to provide labour for the pastoralists and to raise government revenue through land sales.²

The Brisbane Valley was always a dream for any investor or grazier. The lush river flats and secluded valleys, with dependable rainfall and only four or five days travelling from the port of Brisbane, made it attractive. However it was these qualities which caused the resumption of these

properties to satisfy the demand for viable land for selectors. After 1869 many of the runs were halved under Section 10 of the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*. In many cases the lessee could obtain grazing rights over the resumed portion by paying a rental of £2 per square mile, but no allowance was made in the assessment for 'unavailable land', meaning poor land useless for grazing. There was, however, no hesitation in taking up entitlements under Section 14 of the 1868 Act which allowed the holder to pre-empt up to a maximum of 2,560 acres, one acre for every ten shillings worth of improvements on the resumed area. Squatters became expert at 'picking the eyes' out of the country. By 1875 all the runs in the Brisbane Valley except Durundur and Mount Stanley had taken up their maximum allowable pre-emptions.³

There was a tremendous demand for stock in the 1860s to supply graziers establishing runs in northern and western Queensland and also a large demand from the growing immigrant population in Brisbane and the burgeoning sugar plantations. The Caboolture sugar plantation was one of the main markets for Durundur station.

At the same time, the graziers were determined not to allow selectors to control their destinies. A small number of graziers survived — the

McConnels, the Lords, the Moores, the Norths, the Bowmans — because of conscientious management practices. The others were taken over by the banks or sold up. The four decades up to Federation and the 1902 drought saw enormous initiative taken by graziers and selectors; all changes were described as improvements, and where German immigrants tended to recreate the German landscape. Land management practices suited the goals of the landholders to maximize profits in cattle and agricultural industries, chiefly maize and lucerne. Capital was invested to fulfill freeholding conditions.

Cressbrook

David McConnel implemented innovative land management practices in the 1870s, growing improved pastures and root crops in winter for cattle feed. He cultivated 150 acres. His turnips yielded twenty-four tons per acre or £60 per acre. He also grew marigolds, maize, lucerne, oats, arrowroot, vetches, barley, sorghum and prairie grass, all to feed stock. The natural grasses were considered sufficient for the summer but winter feed needed to be cultivated, and molasses was introduced as a cattle feed supplement in the 1870s. Fencing was introduced from the late 1860s

Mary McConnel and family in front of "Grandfather" bunya tree, 1885.

Back Row (L to R): David Rose, Mary McLeod, Edward John, James Henry McConnel.

Front Row (L to R): Henry P. Somerset holding Christina, Katherine Somerset with daughter Joan reclining in front, Hugh Rose in sailor's suit, Mrs Mary McConnel holding Mary Elspeth with Edgar McConnel in sailor's suit in front, Mrs Mary Elizabeth McConnel (wife of J.H.) with Barbara on her lap, Mary Somerset, Dorothea McConnel and Eric Walter McConnel. *John Oxley Library*



as a means of controlling livestock diseases, discouraging trespassing, preserving pastures and saving on labour. The McConnells renewed these improved pasture techniques eighty years later when Mr Duncan McConnell planted legumes and clovers in 1956 with Bureau of Industry support.⁴

Disease was used as a bargaining tool in offering for runs; in 1867 John McConnell at first refused to buy Conndonale run because of the pleuropneumonia amongst cattle and then promptly offered £3,750 for it with two thousand cattle.

By 1910 there were over one hundred and fifty miles of fencing on the twenty thousand acres of Cressbrook. The property is exceptionally well watered and in the higher country paddocks with no surface water, overshot dams were built. The McConnells commenced to ringbark trees early and for several years parts of Cressbrook resembled a plain of grey skeletons. The Mount Beppo land was recognized as choice farms with thick scrub with heavy black soil.⁵

The partnership of David Cannon McConnell and John McConnell was dissolved in 1862 with John retaining Durundur exclusively. John McConnell was the thorough gentleman building a seaside house at Sandgate in the early 1860s; he sat in the Legislative Council until 1868 and was a confidant of Governor Bowen and Dr W. Hobbs in Brisbane. David's son, J.H. McConnell took over management of Cressbrook in 1873 on return from England but David McConnell continued to hold the lease of Cressbrook until his death and in 1895 part of the run was opened for selection. The Bank of New South Wales took control of the lease as mortgagee only for the period 11 August 1876 to 29 September 1877 when it was sold at auction on 17 April 1879 and repurchased by David McConnell. The area was reduced to 78.5 square miles and the rent to £153 from 1 July 1880. There were progressive resumptions in the 1880s for selection and the lease was again sold at auction on 18 January 1882 with a much reduced rent of £56. Within three years the rent was reduced to £12 as the area of the run was halved from twenty-eight to twelve square miles. Under the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1884* the run was divided and the leased area fell to 4.75 square miles. That was virtually the end for the property's glory as a pastoral run in the pioneering sense. From then the McConnells operated by selecting land, creating a demand for land in the Cressbrook area; profiting out of land sales; running the property as a dairy and hereford stud, and concentrating the partnership on their central Queensland properties. That pattern has continued to the present.⁶

The McConnells had predominantly Shorthorn cattle including the best imported strains. It was not unusual to import a prize bull costing £600 on arrival in the Valley (equal to ten per cent of the cost of one of the station properties). It was J.H. McConnell who introduced Herefords to the Valley. The Shorthorn stud was sold to Bell and Dangar in New South Wales and in 1887 the Hereford stud was started, while breeding cattle were kept mainly at Durundur. By 1880 only cattle were grazed.⁷

Originally Cressbrook comprised a small township in itself three miles north of present day Toogoolawah. In the quadrangle were the school house, club, head office, large stables, outbuildings and yards. There was a neat garden around the house. There was also a chapel on the station. The centenary celebrations of Cressbrook held on 25 September 1941 attracted descendants of those who had worked for the McConnells for decades including Germans who had come in the 1840s. There was Mrs L.E. Nicholl of Brisbane whose grandfather was a shepherd in the 1840s, Tom Coleman, Gerald Ryan (who came in 1885), Mr & Mrs A.B. Dildivay, Mr & Mrs Stewart Smith, E.C. Smith, Harry Smith, David and Graham Smith whose ancestors were gardeners for the McConnells for five generations. The Dunlops worked on Cressbrook in the 1850s and Mrs Dunlop taught Mrs McConnell how to use the sewing machine.⁸

Colinton and Mount Stanley

John Balfour stayed on Colinton until 1862 and G. R. Forbes bought the property on Balfour's return to Scotland. Colinton West and Colinton East were amalgamated in 1869 and a ten year lease over 147 square miles was granted to George Edward Forbes. The one hundred and forty square miles of Colinton was leased for five years from April 1879 by Forbes and Raff at £2 per square mile. Together with Robertson they also held the 112 square miles of Mount Stanley run, subdivided into three blocks, **Mount Stanley, Diaper and Altyre**. They were consolidated with Colinton on 31 January 1884. The Mount Stanley run was mortgaged to the bank and H.P. Somerset later acquired part and it was divided into Grazing Farms thereafter.

Forbes died in 1885 and by 1891 resumptions had reduced Colinton to 122 square miles, considered capable of running 2,160 cattle. On 14 January 1890 the lease was transferred from Louisa Forbes to the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney and was forfeited in 1897. An old timer reminiscing in 1934 recorded that in the 1870s shearers at Colinton included the Blans, John Milner, John

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Lotterton ('Fat Jack'), Alec Forbes, George Lamb, Reuben Wir and Walter Sweating. From the 1880s the Moores managed Colinton and after the forfeiture of the lease they purchased the remainder of the run. Their major contribution to the development of the Brisbane Valley was the sale in 1904 of selections for dairy farms to supply the newly erected Standard Dairy Company's condensed milk factory.⁹

Kilcoy

Before the McConnels took over Kilcoy it was owned by Hon. Louis Hope and Hon. Robert Ramsay, the latter withdrawing from the partnership in 1866 when he bought into Eton Vale on the Darling Downs. A beautiful colonial home of red cedar was built in 1863 and Hope took over as sole lessee on 6 December 1865 and operated the station along the lines of the landed aristocracy. Hope pre-empted 990 acres in 1872 and another 5,969 acres in 1877. He forfeited the lease in September 1877 but purchased it again at public auction on 22 January 1880. It was then an area of sixty square miles at a rent of £120. The run was divided under the *Crown Lands Act of 1884*, and reduced in size to twenty-five square miles, and later to seventeen square miles before being forfeited in 1896. The Kilcoy freehold was bought by William Butler ('Hell-fire Billy') in 1908 and was cut up for land selection.¹⁰

Caboonbah

Further south Caboonbah was carved out of some of the McConnel's freehold land and Henry Plantagenet Somerset, son-in-law of David McConnel, took possession in March 1890. The fertility of the area and his solid financial backing enabled he and his capable wife to prosper. There were five thousand acres of rich alluvial flats in Caboonbah and Somerset also had ten thousand acres at Mount Stanley which was harder grazing country to work. Caboonbah is Aboriginal for the 'big rock' (Cabon gibba), an impressive precipice on which the homestead stands. An Ipswich brickmaker made all the bricks for the house in Sapphire Gully; the timber came from Nicholson's sawmill near Villeneuve. A Swiss carpenter, Birrer, made the household furniture out of red cedar and rosewood.

There were seven paddocks on Caboonbah for fattening one thousand head of bullocks. The river paddocks (Belle Brae and Jelkamarra) were used for house cows and horses. In 1902 a dairy (Boorran) which grew to three hundred cows was started with Shorthorn cattle from Hidden Vale station.¹¹



J.H. McConnel, Henry P. Somerset MLA and Lord Chelmsford, Governor, at Esk Show.
Duncan McConnel

Taromeo

E. Lotz had held the lease of Taromeo from 1860 to October 1865. The lease then passed to Alexander Swanson who received a ten year lease after the 1869 division. The Queensland National Bank bought the lease at public auction in July 1879. The lease was renewed for ten years from 1 July 1884 with the area increased to seventy-five square miles for an annual rental of £150. They also obtained 40 square miles of the neighbouring run, Altyre in 1886. From 1888 onwards Taromeo was progressively selected; however the QN Bank remained as lessee until 1897 when the station became an Occupation Licence.¹²

Eskdale

On the west Eskdale was purchased by Simeon Lord at a public auction on 1 December 1874. It had previously been leased by James Ivory. The lease was transferred to Alexander Cruickshank from 20 March 1878 to 17 April 1879, the transfer being the only way that a mortgagee could protect his interest in a leasehold. In 1884 the area was reduced to 32 square miles by government resumption. Simeon Lord and his sons, Francis, Frederick and Simeon Fitzherbert, formed a

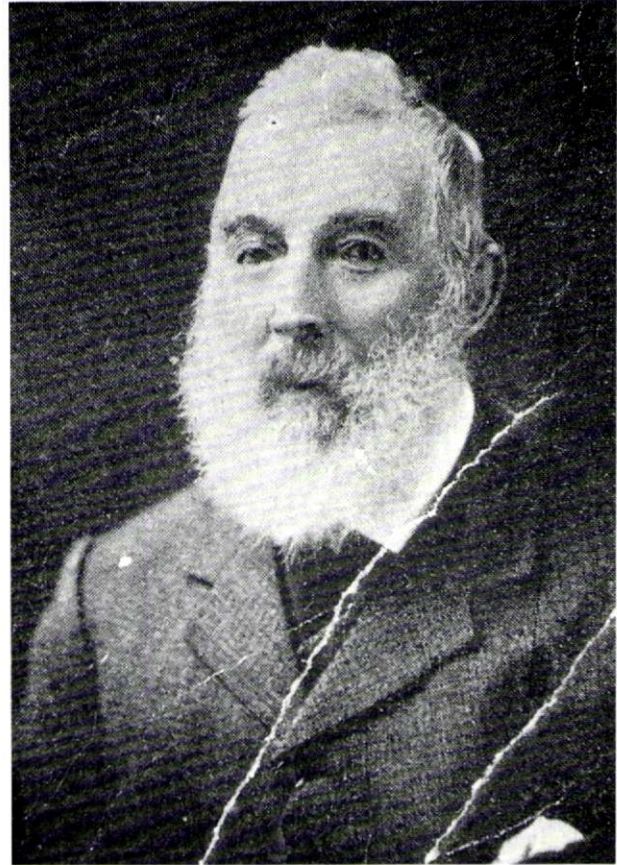
partnership in 1885 with each of the sons holding five thirty-sixths shares and the father the remainder.¹³ The Lord family continued to operate the property until 1931 when they sold to R.S. White and moved to Mount Stanley. However through that period the Union Trustee Company of Australia held the mortgage for varying periods from 20 September 1893. The area was progressively reduced by selection to 22 square miles until the run was opened to Occupation Licence under the 1897 Act. The property had plentiful water from Cressbrook Creek during the 1902 drought and so was able to sell cattle to the surrounding districts. The station was purchased by R.S. White on 24 September 1931 a month after the Eskdale homestead burnt down but the bank directed affairs on Eskdale through the 1930s.¹⁴

Buaraba

The Buaraba run remained intact until 1897. John Lublin purchased Buaraba for £3,411 from John Stirling early in 1858, being financed by T.S. Mort and Co. Lublin had immigrated to Sydney in 1830 as a cap maker, had gone insolvent in 1842, but in the next fifteen years accumulated land and collateral in Sydney sufficient to gain Mort's backing to come to the Moreton region. However Lublin failed as a grazier and left Buaraba in 1861, selling out to Joshua Peter Bell and John Alexander Bell. Some land was opened to selection and they were granted a ten year lease from 1 January 1869 for sixty-four square miles. Marmaduke Bell entered the partnership in 1879. At the end of 1881 the property was sold to the Darling Downs and Western Land Company Limited of which the Bells were shareholders and Buaraba was to be used as a stock depot. In 1886 it was divided under the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1884* with the company retaining 23.5 square miles along Buaraba Creek. The run was completely fenced into three good fattening paddocks, capable of running thirty head of cattle per square mile. The depression combined with the financial debacle of the Queensland National Bank broke them. The run was forfeited under the *Land Act of 1897*, and opened to selection. Patrick Dolan who had been a stock manager on the property for sixteen years, selected a lot of the land along Buaraba and Tarampa Creeks and the family has retained it ever since, although the homestead burnt down in 1930.¹⁵

Tarampa

In 1860 Tarampa lease was held by F.A. Forbes, former Ipswich storekeeper and investor in runs in western and northern Queensland. He was joined



Andrew Watherston.

G. Gillott

by James England in 1861. Forbes' economic fortunes suffered during the 1866–1867 depression and on 11 October 1866 England took over in his own right and successfully ran it. Kent and Wienholt bought Tarampa on 6 January 1874 and sold out ten years later to Samuel Watson and it was progressively reduced for selections. The government subsequently bought Tarampa from the Jondaryan Estates Company for £90,000 — £40,000 of the price in government debentures — and split it up into farms by 1903.¹⁶

Cooyar

Cooyar to the north west, once an Archer station, was closer to the mining areas and saw many itinerant settlers. The lease was held by Hope and Ramsay from 1862 to 1864 although financed by Kent and Weinholt. The lease was transferred to Alexander Campbell on 28 October 1869 and nearly a thousand acres was selected out of the 140 square miles in the next eight years. The lease was sold at auction on 17 April 1879 to John F. McDougall and from 1 July 1880 the area was reduced to eighty-seven square miles. Cooyar was transferred to the Mercantile Bank of Sydney on 12 March 1881, and was consolidated with Rosalie Plains in 1886.¹⁷

Emu Creek or Djuan Djuan

Emu Creek or Djuan Djuan run, thirteen miles from Crow's Nest township, was a T.S. Mort run in the 1860s. In November 1865 Mort sold the lease to McLean and Beit. Francis Archibald Primrose took over the lease in October 1870 and ran fifteen thousand sheep and 7,500 head of cattle. In 1873 the lease over 170 square miles passed to Peter McKillop but within ten years the herd was reduced to 4,458 cattle. Seventy-seven square miles were resumed in 1886 and the run was further whittled away by resumptions until in November 1900 only two small areas of hilly country remained which were opened for Occupation Licence.¹⁸

Crow's Nest

Crow's Nest was a Tooth property until 1874 when it was forfeited. Large areas were opened for selection as Homestead Areas under the *Homestead Areas Act of 1872*. The next lease was granted in 1884 over ten square miles to Edward W. Pechey, William Smith, Charles Barnes, Matthew Gleeson, Matthew Graham, and Augustus Mitchell. They forfeited it in 1892 in the enveloping depression and it was opened to selection.¹⁹

Wivenhoe

In the south east of the valley large slabs of Wivenhoe run were resumed for selection in 1868 but the Norths held the run until July 1872 when it was transferred to Alexander Campbell and John Hay. The following year the area was reduced by eight square miles to thirty-five square miles at a rental of £87. The government resumed another twenty-five square miles in 1875 for closer settlement and the run was forfeited in 1876. There was a seven roomed house, weather-boarded and with a separate kitchen and a store. Nearby was a large inn with extensive out-offices and garden, known as Wivenhoe Hotel from which race meetings and athletics and ploughing matches were organized.²²

Bellevue

Wivenhoe was divided in 1868 under the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868* and most was opened to selection. Joseph North and William North Snr selected 1,202 acres on 2 September 1869, Selection 787, which was named Bellevue. It was transferred to Alexander Campbell and John Hay on 10 June 1872 and later to Campbell and Henry Grosvenor Simpson. In 1886 Bellevue was purchased by George Condamine Taylor who owned it until his death in 1901. Mrs Taylor married Charles Lumley

Hill, a wealthy company director and former member of Parliament for the electorates of Gregory and Cook. Bellevue was an attractive proposition because of its rich river flats and four miles of river frontage. The Hills established the hereford stud and enlarged the homestead. In 1909 Colin Hill, manager, was in charge of seven hundred breeding cows.

After Lumley Hill's death in 1925 Bellevue was sold to E.J. Watts and family. In 1951 the property was bought by Chris White of Cunnamulla and owned successively by Kenneth McLean and Val and Mary Crowe. The Co-ordinator General acquired it in 1975 as part of the Wivenhoe Dam project and the homestead was removed to Coominya under the auspices of the National Trust. The house had been substantially rebuilt in cedar and chamfer board after the 1893 flood when the mud walls had dissolved in the water. In 1904 the Taylors added a western wing with a dining room, smoking room and guest suite. The station buildings then included stables, show ring, kitchen and domestic wing, bathrooms, dormitory block for the Brisbane Valley girls who worked as maids, and staff dining room. It cost \$38,000 to move the hundred square homestead in 1975 into Coominya and substantial restoration has been achieved under the Australian government's National Estate programme.²¹

The Brisbane Valley has been traditionally heavily stocked. Sheep predominated until 1869 and then declined from a peak of 247,551 in the Moreton region to one twelfth that number in 1880 because the 'catarrh' had been attacking the Moreton district sheep population since by 1846. The steamer, *Tamar*, brought breeders to Moreton Bay in 1847 for the Balfours and Bigges on Reedy Creek so they could then sell ewes, lambs, and wool. Pastoralists were slow to cope with disease and hesitant to appoint an Inspector of Scab in sheep in 1855. Pearce of Crow's Nest also had difficulty with sheep in the heavy rain in 1856. By the 1870s sheep were only a sideline. Graziers imported prize breeders more suited to the wet country of the south and England, as did David McConnel in 1873 with the Midland Downs sheep from the Cotswolds; but this was only an experiment.²²

Cattle numbers rose substantially from 178,300 in 1870 to 235,500 in 1875. Cattle came to the Valley from the northern tablelands of New South Wales as breeders and from the Burnett and Leichhardt Districts for fattening and sale. Captain Whish's and Raff and Co's sugar plantation near Caboolture, Brisbane and Ipswich butchers, and the Gympie goldfield formed growing markets.

John McConnel frequently sold one thousand cattle at a time, and also sold salted hides on the Sydney market.

Cattle stealing was rife as selectors and graziers vied with each other. Cattle mobs of several hundred moving from the Burnett for fattening and sale in Brisbane were easy prey for selectors. The requisites of water and fresh pick (the practice of letting them have a feed along the way) on unfenced selections caused antagonism. Free agistment was frowned on by the 'little-men' but widely practised by drovers. This topic was to consume enormous amounts of time in the debates of future Councils. The solution was generally to insist on the use of Camping and Water Reserves exclusively; but the roads were often known as the 'Long Paddock' and extensive droving forced many selectors to construct sturdy boundary fences as a priority capital investment. Drovers' work was hard, often enveloping whole families, working for the one grazier or butcher for many years. Injuries — gorings and camp-fire burns — went with the

job. Women often went as horsewomen as the job paid good money to use later on a selection.²³

The railway changed all that, with cattle marshalled to the yards at the Esk terminus but until the line was extended many continued to be driven all the way. Railing cattle predominated until the 1970s when cattle have been trucked directly from farm to abattoir. The Esk saleyards were in operation within four years of the opening of the railway to Esk, managed for a private company by the auctioneer, Councillor Tom Pryde who regularly conducted cattle sales at Esk. The selectors provided steadiness to the market while the graziers provided the bulk of the livestock. The management and marketing of the livestock industry in the Brisbane Valley unfolds itself in chapters on the cattle industry and the Shire Council.

Consolidation of Pastoral Traditions

The division of the old pastoral leases for selection from the 1860s and again at the turn of the century

Mount Brisbane station. 1959.

Mr & Mrs J. McConnel



History of the Shire of Esk

as the established families' estates were sold, produced a new generation of graziers, epitomized by families like the McConnells of Mount Brisbane, the Grieves of Glenhowden and Mary Macarthur Bowman of Mount Byron. Meanwhile graziers in the Mount Stanley area, such as the Webbs, the Davis's and the Lords have accumulated productive leasehold and freehold landholdings.

Mount Brisbane

Eric McConnel, left Cressbrook in 1890 and formed a partnership with Bigge of Mount Brisbane. When the lease expired they purchased twenty-five thousand acres and later subdivided 7,500 acres in one hundred to 250 acre lots. When Phillip Bigge died in 1913 Eric McConnel bought the homestead with ten thousand acres. The land was used mainly for grazing, fattening bullocks from the Gulf and Central districts, but 140 cows were also milked. The station also bred draught horses. After Eric McConnel died in 1926 the property was worked by the McConnel estate until 1946 when John Keith and Nigel Ross McConnel bought half each of the estate. John took the country on Reedy Creek and Nigel took the Brisbane and Stanley River country, built another house, and named it 'Inverstanley'.

Mount Byron

Mary ('Aunt Mamie') Bowman was the older daughter and third child of her family. After the Mount Brisbane partnership was wound up she moved with her mother and brothers and sister, Emmeline to Mount Byron where a new homestead was built. A woman of strong will and upright character, she managed the property with the help of William Hickey for sixty-one years until her death in 1951. She was a fine horsewoman, often riding side-saddle, and also managed several other blocks along the Brisbane River. She ran a dairy as well and there was a large orchard of grapes, citrus, plums, and peaches and passionfruit around the farm buildings. Her forthrightness ensured her success as a businesswoman, especially in her negotiations with Council and sawmillers over roads, fires and fences. Although she owned a 1908 Waverley car, it was rarely driven and in the 1940s she and Mr Hickey would drive into Esk in a horse and buggy. Her nieces and nephews loved to spend holidays at Mount Byron and be taken riding and mustering with Aunt Mamie. When Bill Bowman took over he rebuilt the house and worked the property until 1964.

Glenhowden

Glenhowden was the focus of the Grieve family grazing and dairying interests. The first portions



Caroline I. Bowman.

M. McIntosh

were selected in 1875 as part of the Colinton resumptions. Eventually Walter, John, Robert, James, Thomas and Alexander were all to own land separately and conjointly, totalling eleven thousand acres. Walter Grieve, a Scotsman born at Craiglands, Dumfriesshire, in 1813, arrived in Sydney in 1839 with John, Robert and Charles Balfour and they travelled north over the New England Tableland and Darling Downs to the Brisbane Valley in May 1841 when they took up Colinton. Walter Grieve worked on both Colinton and Mount Brisbane before opening butcher shops in Ipswich and Brisbane. He married Ann Gordon at Rosewood station, owned by her uncle, on 20 June 1851. Walter also worked on Bellevue and runs on the Downs and selected 639 acres (Portion 127, Parish of Esk) on 26 August 1875, and 360 acres (Portion 33, Parish of Colinton) on 25 September 1875 which became part of Glenhowden. As drought years followed development was difficult; he built a slab hut but suffered from ill health and lived with his son on Glenhowden until his death in 1896.

John Grieve, born in 1853, was educated at a private school in Ipswich. He worked as a shepherd for George Thorn and for Bell at Pine

Mountain, and with his father on the Downs, and droving cattle to the Dawson River. On 17 September 1875 he selected Portions 31 and 32, Parish of Nukinenda, which he named 'Glenhowden'. He built a five roomed house, and stockyard, fenced, cleared and cultivated paddocks. He steadily accumulated suitable grazing land until Glenhowden comprised Portions 31, 32, 36, 44, 43, 5V and 6V, Parish of Nukinenda and Portions 33, 37, 34, 35, 40, 57, 58, 113V, 62 and 63, Parish of Colinton. On 3 May 1887 he married Jessie Gordon. Born in 1858 in Parramatta, her father had sold cheaply the Glen Gordon freehold which contained the enormous gold wealth of Mount Morgan. The Grieves reared a family of seven children. John maintained Glenhowden as a sanctuary for wildlife and Aborigines gathered on Emu Creek for corroborees.

The brothers, John, James, Robert, Thomas and Alexander acquired twenty thousand acres of land at Glenhowden and 'Ellendale' at Mount Stanley. They redistributed the land in 1905; John retained Glenhowden, James took another part of Glenhowden which he named 'Glenlands'. Thomas sold his share to Robert and moved to Roseneath near Dalby. Alexander Ross Grieve developed Ellendale, sold it to Otto Devantier in February 1911 and continued with his share of Glenhowden. John and Jessie died in 1929 at Toogoolawah. John Gordon's son, John William (1889-1973), operated Glenhowden as a dairy after he returned from the war and sold out to the Websters in 1935. Robert James (1893-1962) who married Irene Francis, a well known Brisbane Valley farming family, bought a dairy farm on Gregor's Creek when Glenhowden was sold. Ernest Walter, Leith, Janet and Jessie Grieve bought **Caboonbah** from the Somersets in 1935 and converted the homestead to a successful guesthouse which brought visitors from Brisbane and Ipswich, attracted by the bushwalks, riverbank picnics and the dairyfarm activities, in a style that has only just been revived in Australia. Guests were driven to Somerset Dam for day trips and, in the evenings, Jessie (born in 1898), who learnt music at Ipswich Girls Grammar School, played the piano each night for guest sing-a-longs at Caboonbah. After the deaths of Leith and Janet in 1958 and 1959, Ernest and Jessie continued the guesthouse until 1962 when they sold it and retired to Toogoolawah. Ernest died in 1974 and Jessie, the youngest is the last remaining member of John and Jessie Grieve's family.²⁴

Mount Stanley and Linville

Since the 1880s the Davis, Bishop, Atthow, Ryan, Lord and Carseldine families have accumulated the

largest holdings in the Mount Stanley and Linville areas which their descendants still operate. John Davis selected Avoca in 1886 and Alfred and Tom Hawkins Louisavale. Numerous small farmers selected land along the Brisbane River tributaries. Whilst some farmers were spendthrifts and 'drank their biggest pigs' or bought a bullock team just to fatten and sell them, or lost out to mortgagees, others today like John Davis and his wife, Dolly, (daughter of former Esk Shire Councillor, James Williamson) have always looked to the achievements of the future, saving to buy more cattle land, now holding twenty thousand acres. George Bishop had Swansdown, and William and Julian Carseldine held Oakleigh and Morbank respectively. Since leaving Eskdale the Lord brothers have consolidated Mount Stanley property. Newcomers like William Wells were tested by the Irish but the 320 acres 'Wells Folly' did not fall to the mortgagee. The Atthows at Gira Gira had one of the district's largest houses, built by Ivy Atthow's father, Walter King, in 1918. But the dairying industry north of Linville died out in the 1950s. It is all cattle county now — Brangus, Brahman and Herefords.

Mary Macarthur Bowman.

M. McIntosh



History of the Shire of Esk

The Mount Stanley soldier settlement scheme in 1920 was a local disaster because the blocks were all too small. The few who survived had to have a hidden ace like a wife's money or a windfall to buy their neighbour's land. Most of the settlers — H. Young, F. Carseldine, H.J. and J. Gault, John and T.B. Douglass, J. Hatchman, A. Barbour, J. Millar, W. Bishop, A.E. Forsyth, T. Hawthorne, A.E. Relf, W. Fegan, D.B. Walker, D.S. Carseldine, B. Fester, T. Webb, G. Ryan, Patterson, J. McPherson, H. and C. Brown, R. Davis, G. Elmie and G.O. Carter — lost their land.

Ticks

The tick infestation of Queensland also severely affected graziers, dairymen and timbergetters. The ticks first appeared in the Brisbane Valley in the late 1890s, brought on stock travelling down to the Esk saleyards from the Burnett. Ticks spread to the bullock teams causing great irritation about the necessary quarantine regulations imposed by the Stock Board. Dips were constructed by cooperative companies formed amongst farmers, the Biarra dip opening on 22 October 1904. The Esk Saleyards Company constructed their's in 1903 and the Lowood Dip Company Limited bought their land in 1905. The southern areas of the shire appeared to have more ticks and fever outbreaks than the more isolated Avoca and Mount Stanley areas where regular dipping had been introduced in 1905. The Esk Shire Council introduced a Ticks By-Law in 1906 and by then there were seventy-six dips in the Esk district. The tick problem also encouraged farmers to cease running cattle on roads and reserves and the Esk Shire Council appointed a Herdsman in 1907. Those basic principles of stock management to reduce the effect of the tick on milk and beef production have been practised ever since. However the greatest success has been in introducing tick resistant cattle and graziers who retain British breeds realise the extra work required to control the ticks. The state government has also assisted farmers by providing tickicides at wholesale prices through the shire council.

The Biarra strain of tick (*Boophilus microplus*) was recognized on a Biarra farm in 1966. It was resistant to all contemporary acaricides and organophosphorus compounds. It was a genetic variation of tick, since recognized in other areas of Queensland, which had developed through the regular heavy use of tickicides by farmers. The Department of Primary Industry declared the area a quarantine area and farmers were prohibited from selling or moving animals and temporary spraying yards were erected on the Biarra road in



Walter Grieve.

G. Gillott

1967. The disastrous financial effects on dairyfarmers during a drought were so great that the children of the farmer on whose land the tick was recognized, were ostracized at the local school. DDT compounds were found to be effective against this tick however ticks respond genetically to whatever chemical challenge they are given. Ticks remain a rural problem especially in the rougher country.²⁵

Cressbrook

The beautiful basin centred on Cressbrook has been continuously worked by the McConnel family partnership. Some members of the family also had properties in central Queensland on which they concentrated their expertise since the 1890s. The 1902 drought and the growing restlessness of family members to realise on the assets of the J.H. McConnel and Co. partnership stimulated the sale of the Toogoolawah condensery to the Nestle company and ushered in a long period of unimaginative farming practices except for the successful Hereford stud. J.H. McConnel died on 7 June 1914. At his funeral one of his employees encapsulated Brisbane Valley farming philosophy — 'if there were more like him there wouldn't be no need for socialism'. Edgar McConnel ran Cressbrook until his death on 25 September 1947.

Mr Duncan McConnel, who took over in 1947, introduced improved pastures for his dairy herd in 1954 in the face of district scepticism. His sharefarmer, Mervyn Brieschke, found that the irrigated pastures accounted for \$1,000 gross per acre in milk production. Cressbrook has always had one of the largest milk quotas for the Caboolture factory and so has maintained a dairy industry in the Toogoolawah area in contrast to the Esk district where butter factory directors missed the opportunity of converting to milk in the early 1950s. To maintain a quality herd the McConnels have invested in Friesian cattle using artificial insemination so saving the need to prove bulls and then selling the second rate calves. Nevertheless the only way that Cressbrook can gain a larger milk quota is by purchase of more land.

The Cressbrook homestead was not occupied from 1960 to 1977 when Mr Duncan McConnel was managing Glenhaughton in central Queensland and on return he has tackled the task of restoration. The Cressbrook homes, the 'cottage', chapel, farm buildings and tanks and the achievement of the family deserve national recognition and attention.²⁶

Deer

The McConnels were instrumental in introducing the deer to the Brisbane Valley. The deer have become recognized as a distinctive feature of the shire. The Esk Shire Council selected the deer for the Council coat of arms and in 1985 Cr Lord presented to Council a set of deer antlers acquired at Mount Stanley in 1952, and they are now hung in the Council Chambers.

There had been deer in the Queensland Botanical Gardens in 1864 and John McConnel did not share the enthusiasm of the Queensland Acclimatization Society about the imminent arrival of the royal gift in 1873 when he wrote on 9 August 1873 to their Secretary, 'I could not undertake to take charge of the Red Deer you shortly expect from England . . . if the Lib. Committee think fit to turn them out on the Durundur run, they are welcome to do so and we will endeavour to place them on a part of the run where they are not likely to be molested.' The Society accepted a gift of six red deer presented by Queensland Victoria from the herd at Windsor Park in 1873. The two bucks were called Norman and Bolingbroke, and the four does, Atlas, Alma,

Glenhowden.

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History of the Shire of Esk

Ada and Martha. They arrived on the *Great Queensland*, J. and G. Harris took them up to Ipswich for display at G.H. Wilson and Co's yard in Limestone Street and they went out to Cressbrook in closed boxes on 19 September 1873. They were liberated on Scrub Creek. They multiplied in the Deer Reserve and by the 1930s they were coming down onto the flats.

Commercial deer farming commenced in the early 1970s in the southern states and in 1976 graziers in the Brisbane and Mary Valleys approached the National Parks and Wildlife Service for licenses to hunt deer. They formed the Queensland Deer Suppliers Association in 1977 and the Queensland Deer Breeders Association when the first deer farming licence was issued in 1978. From 1976 the Esk Shire Council has opposed the hunting of deer, especially helicopter capture of them, because they are protected animals and unique to the Brisbane and Mary Valleys. Experienced Brisbane Valley deer farmers are Alan Grieve who has red deer, Ross McConnel who has red and rusa deer on his 20,000 acre Nukinenda property and Ross Thomson of 'Tuckerimba' who has successfully farmed chital deer. Deer farming has become an exciting primary industry.²⁷

ENDNOTES

1. For a full assessment of the early land legislation in Queensland see Beverley Kingston, 'The Origins of Queensland's 'Comprehensive' Land Policy' *Queensland Heritage* Vol 1 No 2 (May 1965) pp3-9; The main legislation comprised:
Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1860
Crown Lands Alienation Act 1860
Pastoral Occupation Act of 1862
Pastoral Leases Act of 1872
Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868
Homestead Areas Act of 1872
2. For further details with particular reference to the Darling Downs see Duncan Waterson, *Squatter, Selector and Storekeeper: A History of the Darling Downs 1859-93* [Sydney, University Press, 1968].
3. QV&P 1875 Vol 2 pp781-786.
4. QT 10 May 1866; QT 23 October 1877 p3.
5. 89/1 Fryer Library, UQ.
6. *Esk Shire Directory* Vol 1 No 1 (July 1985) p7; TRE/15 p52, TRE/2 pp109, 128, (QSA); TRE/15 p52, TRE/2 pp109, 128, (QSA); The first lease of Cressbrook after Separation was for five years from 1 January 1862. It was reassessed in 1867 and a ten year lease granted from 1 January 1869 at a rent of £150 for 56,670 acres. Pre-emptions were done in 1874 and selections of 3,980 acres in 1877 with subsequent rent reductions.
7. QT 17 May 1864 p5; Jean Bull, *op. cit.* p15; BC 12 October 1922 p11.
8. ER 2 September 1933 and 3 October 1941; Notes by Mrs Doris Wait, Caloundra, 1971, in the Esk Shire Council Library Local History Collection.
9. Louisa Forbes, Frederick Pitman and Charles William Forbes, as executors for George Edward Forbes, and Alexander Raff became lessees of Colinton in 1885; LAN/AF793, (QSA); TRE/15 pp3,4, TRE/2 pp105, 113, 129, 132 and 138, (QSA); ER 29 September 1934.
10. For details of the careers of Louis Hope and Robert Ramsay see ADB Vol 4 pp418-419 and Vol 6 pp4-5; TRE/15 p21, TRE/2 p106, QSA.
11. E.O. Erikson, 'H.P. Somerset' (Unpublished manuscript held by Brisbane Valley Historical Society); 'Somerset's History of Caboonbah 1893-1904' [Esk Library Local History Collection]; ER 23 September 1933.
12. TRE/15 pp5,10, TRE/2 pp112, 130, 135, 140, (QSA).
13. Partnership documents held by the Lord family.
14. TRE/15 p54, TRE/2 pp101, 130, 135, (QSA); ER 22 August 1931 and 9 January 1942.
15. For full details of the fortunes of the Darling Downs and Western Land Company see D. Waterson, 'Pastoral Capitalism and the Politician Thomas McIlwraith and two land companies, 1877-1900' RHSQJ Vol XII No 6 (November 1986) pp401-416; LAN/AF791, TRE/15 p63, TRE/2 pp104, 132, 140, (QSA); Genealogical information on John Lubin provided by Mr John D. Dale of Clarendon State School.
16. For an assessment of F.A. Forbes' career see ADB Vol 4 p195; TRE/15 p50, TRE/2 p126, (QSA); QT 23 July 1903.
17. TRE/15 p6, TRE/2, (QSA).
18. TRE/15 p55, TRE/2 pp111, 129, 134, 139, (QSA).
19. LAN/AF 797, TRE/15 p51, TRE/2 p127, (QSA).
20. QT 17 May 1864 p5; QV&P 1872 pp1261-1268, 1874 Vol 2 p575 and 1875 Vol 2 p762.
21. *The Pastoralist's Review* 1909. *passim*; National Trust of Queensland leaflet, 'Bellevue Homestead'; CM 22 December 1950, 18 May 1953 and 7 June 1975 p22; QT 5 August 1978 p11, 21 December 1981 p7 and 23 May 1985 p6.
22. QV&P 1881 Vol 2 p969; MBC 10 October 1846, 9 October 1847 and 26 January 1850; *Empire* 19 July 1855; NA 1 March 1856; QT 28 January 1873 p3.
23. QV&P 1881 Vol 2 p970; 89/1, Fryer Library, UQ; QT 20 May 1869 and 28 February 1878.
24. Family History provided by Mrs G. Gillot, Fernvale.
25. R.H. Wharton, 'In Retrospect: Entomology and Animals' *Changing Patterns in Entomology* 1974 pp18-26; W.J. Roulston and R.H. Wharton, 'Acaracide Tests on the Biarra Strain of Organophosphorous Resistant Cattle Tick *Boophilus microplus* from Southern Queensland' *Australian Veterinary Journal* Vol 43 No 4 (April 1967) pp129-134; R.H. Wharton, 'Ticks With Special Emphasis on *Boophilus microplus* in R. Pal and R.H. Wharton (eds) *Control of Arthropods* (New York, Plenum) pp35-52; QT 23 August 1898, 28 July 1903, 9 February 1904 p4 c4, 29 October 1904, 7 March 1905 and 1 September 1964 p8; Batch 1C, A/8,850, QSA; File 06/190/2, A/12,330, QSA; ESKM 5 September 1906 p342, 27 March 1907, 8 May 1907 and 20 July 1967 p2,180.
26. Interviews with Mr Duncan McConnel of Cressbrook and Mr Ross McConnel of Inverstanley, 1986 and 1987.
27. Peter Owen (ed), *Deer Farming into the Nineties* (Brisbane, Owen Art and Publishing, 1986) pp11-12; ESKM 19 February 1976 p10,356, 26 July 1984 p3,671 and 28 March 1985 p4,052; BC 29 March 1864; QT 9 September 1873 p3, 18 September 1873 p2, 20 September 1873 p2 and 31 January 1903; ER 9 September 1933; CM 25 June 1986 p12; 89/1 Fryer, UQ.