

SUB-PRECINCT - KOORINGA

3.4 Thames St. Cottages [1846-7]

Category - Streetscape

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE - National/State

National: Among the earliest domestic buildings in Australia still in occupation.

State: A fine example of South Australia's Cornish heritage.

PRESENT SIGNIFICANCE

Local: An attractive relic of the original town of Kooringa and a tourist attraction.

DESCRIPTION

The Thames St. cottages form an obvious and attractive streetscape. The integrity of their architecture and of their on-the-street Cornish character has largely survived. This particular row is a survivor from many similar rows of cottages in this area. The single large chimney serving the four rooms of each cottage is an interesting feature. The separate identity of each cottage in the row has been maintained. Integrity of buildings is good.

HISTORY

The cottages were built, maintained and leased by the mining company to its miners throughout the lifetime of the mine.

The first cottages were erected in 1846 and had earthen floors.

Historical Significance

This item is significant because it is so much a part of the historic fabric of Burra. Burra is one of South Australia's most historic towns - Copper mining at Kapunda and Burra helped rescue South Australia from economic depression in the eighties. In the late 1800s, the copper mine at Burra was much richer than that at Kapunda. The one-time wealth of Burra & the cultural diversity of the miners and their families are reflected in the buildings of Burra. They exemplify the social history of the town. This item is of importance because it contributes to this sense of social history.

and from the latter 120 miles, in the county of Macdonnell. Kingston is situated on the main line of mail road from Adelaide to Penola. A belt of grass runs from Kingston along the sea beach from Maria creek to the mouth of the Neales river, with good grassy flats interspersed, width from 1 to 3 miles; outside this is a large swamp, which runs parallel with the sand-ridges. About 60 miles of swamp becomes the Coorong, at the Salt creek, to which creek, from the small crafts come up with rations, &c., for the settlers. Wheat, oats, barley, and onions are grown along the beach side of the swamp; but the country is occupied for pastoral purposes, principally sheep. There are no mines of any value, although lately there have been some specimens of coal found, and indications of petroleum. A company has been formed, and are boring for the above minerals. The nearest places are Robe, 3 miles S.E., and Narracoorte, 65 miles E., on the main road to Mount Gambier. With these places there is communication by mail vehicles, which run twice per week; and with Adelaide, 195 miles N.W., by sea; and overland by mail. The cutter *Swallow* and the schooner *Kangaroo* trade regularly to Adelaide. The hotels in Kingston are the Kingston Arms and the Ship Inn. The surrounding country is generally very flat, excepting slight ranges or rises of a few feet only in elevation. Large patches of fine country lie to the E. and N.E. A large portion of the district is thinly covered with water at certain times of the year: the Government have made a commencement of its removal, by which millions of acres of agricultural and pastoral land will be recovered. The population of Kingston numbers about 240 persons. Narracoorte, a central and rising township, is nearly E., and is elevated above Kingston 200 feet; population of Narracoorte probably 400. The population of Robe town is about 400; Robe town has been established about 15 years. This port (Caroline) is situated about in the centre of the S.E. district of South Australia, within 63 miles from the western end of the colony of Victoria, and is the nearest port to a large and fertile bush country in Victoria and in South Australia. The geological formation is generally limestone rock with deep post-pliocene deposit, filled with shells and soft black or whitish clay, forming inland into limestone crusted morasses. The resident magistrate is J. Cook, Esq., J.P.

KINGSTON (Co. Burra) is a hundred in the N.W. point of the county, containing a large block of purchased land, probably a third of its area, the remainder being taken up for pastoral purposes.

KINGSTON MINE (Co. Burra.) See KOORINGA.

KINGSTON, MOUNT (27° 58' S. lat., 135° 50' E. long. (Flinders district)) is a solitary hill lying on the S. bank of the Neales river. It springs from a low range of sand-hills lying to the N.W. of Mount Younghusband. Sandstone and limestone.

KINGSTON STATION (S.E. district;) lease, No. 989; occupier, P. Roberts; area, 14 square miles; rental £7 per annum. This run lies to the N.E. of Tilley's swamp, the next post town being Kingston.

KIRADIRITE CREEK (Flinders district) is a small watercourse lying to the S. of lake Buchanan. Sandy and grassy plains.

KIRBY ISLAND (Spencer's gulf.) See SIR J. BANKS'S GROUP.

KIRBYBOLITE (or KYHBOLITE) RUN (S.E. district;) lease, No. 163; occupier, J. Affleck; area, 64 square miles; grazing capability, 11,500 sheep, or 177 per square mile; Goyder's valuation, £354 12s. per annum, deducting improvements valued at £2677. This run lies 210 miles S.S.E. from Adelaide, and 80 miles E.N.E. of Guichen bay, where the wool is shipped.

KIRBY'S HILL (Co. Hindmarsh) is a survey point and slight elevation, lying in the hundred of Goolwa, and about 4 miles N. of port Elliott.

KIRKALA RUN (Port Lincoln district;) lease, No. 675; occupier, H. A. Crawford; area, 82 square miles. This run lies on the E. side of Sreaky bay, 7 miles from the Flinders post office; and also includes Piltiniby, lease No. 1129, and Perlubie, lease No. 1090, their areas being respectively 27 and 14 square miles. In these leases, there are 12 stations.

KIRTON POINT (Co. Flinders) is a projecting point on the N. side of port Lincoln near Boston Bay.

KIRWAN MINE (N. district) is a copper mine lying 202 miles N. of Adelaide and 72 miles N.E. of Port Augusta on the Arkaba run; 3 shafts have been sunk, the

depth of which is 21 fathoms. The country consists of soft light killas and pipeclay, and several tons of good ore have been raised, but the mine has not been lately worked.

KLEMMZIG (Co. Adelaide) is a small agricultural hamlet lying near the postal village of Campbelltown, and inhabited by a few farmers and gardeners.

KNOTT'S HILL (Co. Adelaide) is a point in the coast range, lying about 2 miles distant E. of Wickham's hill.

KONDOPARINGA (Cos. Adelaide and Hindmarsh) is a district council in the electoral district of Mount Barker. It is under the control of a chairman, the present one being Mr. Thos. Jones, of Springgrove meadows, and 4 councillors. The receipts and expenditure of this district council for 1865 were as follow:—Assessment, £5810 10s.—Rate 6d. in the pound; rates collected, £103 17s. 4d.; total receipts, £511 8s. 2½d; office expenses and salaries, £127 8s. 10d.; expended on public works, £288 5s. 8½d. The population numbers 1196 persons, the area is 78 square miles, or 49,920 acres; land under cultivation, 4036 acres; and number of dwelling-houses, 236.

KONDOPARINGA (Co. Hindmarsh) is a central hundred of the county, having about half its area of purchased land, and the remainder scrubby and mountainous pastoral country.

KONETTA RUN N. (S.E. District,) lease No. 356; occupiers, Palmer, Murphy and Henty; area, 55 square miles; grazing capability, 7500 sheep or 136 per square mile. Goyder's valuation £254 per annum deducting improvements. This run forms part of the Gillap run, and lies 220 miles S.S.E. of Adelaide, and 24 miles E. by S. of Guichen bay, where the wool is shipped.

KONGORONG (Co. Grey) is a S. hundred of the county, containing about a third of sold land, and lying on the S.W. coast. For population, &c., see BENARA HUNDRED.

KONGORONG (Co. Sturt.) See SWANPORT.

KONKABENA RUN (W. district;) leases, No. 1102, 1114, and 1152, having respective areas of 18, 65, and 65 square miles. Occupiers, Dalwood, Goode, and Goode. This run lies at Sreaky bay; the post-town being at Flinders, on that bay.

KOONDOOLEA (Flinders district.) See PONARA.

KOORAKILDE (Flinders district.) See PONARA.

KOORINGA, 33° 40' S. lat., 138° 45' E. long. (Co. Burra,) is a postal township in the electoral district of the Burra, and hundred of Kooringa. It is situated on the Burra creek, about 50 miles N. of Kapunda, and is in daily communication with Adelaide by mail to Kapunda, and thence per rail to Adelaide. Kooringa is situated on a very irregular ground broken up in many places by fissures and watercourses; the situation and peculiarities of the creek divide the township, which is scattered over a considerable area; there is no corporation or district council, although efforts are being made to obtain the former. Kooringa has its institute, post office and money order office, and telegraph station. It is surrounded by a chain of undulating hills, in many parts of which and in several localities copper ore is found, together with promising specimens of silver lead ore. Irrespective of the Burra Burra mine, there are other recent mineral discoveries now in active working, and considered very promising. There are no rivers near Kooringa; there are the Burra, Baldina, and Gum creeks, but the summer waterholes alone can be relied on. Gum creek is about 7 miles on the Clare road S.W. from Kooringa, Baldina about same distance among the hills and in the N.E. direction from Kooringa, and the Burra creek divides the township. The great Burra copper mines lie to the N. of the township on the Burra creek. (See BURRA.) Kooringa has no mills, but there is a brewery and a candle manufactory in the township. It is principally a mining and pastoral district, with a few sections under wheat cultivation, but those are scattered and at distances varying from 4 to 7 miles from the township. The pastoral lands are principally devoted to sheep-farming. Besides the Burra Burra mine, there are several other mines in course of working, and as follows: The All Nations mine, Flinders mine, Scrubbers' Camp mine, Kingston mine and Karkulto mine. The two former are worked by a Melbourne company, who are sanguine as to results. The lode is not expected to be cut yet, although copper of rich percentage has been found. The Scrubbers' Camp mine is looking very promising; it is situated about 28 miles N. of Kooringa; there are several fine branches of promising ore, principally blue carbonates, 3 average stones trying 20 per cent. It is expected a

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main lode will be struck. The Kingston mine is situated about 7 miles N.E. of the place, is thought promising; some stones of ore, oxide of copper, tried 34 per cent, while specimens of silver lead have been found on same property. The Karkulla is the property of and worked by the South Australian mining association; is 15 miles N. of Koorunga on Adelaide road; its produce being principally iron ore, used in smelting the copper ore. The nearest places are Redruth, 1 mile N.W.; Copperhouse, 2 miles W.; Hampton, 1½ mile N. by E.; Sod Hut, 8 miles S. on the Adelaide road. There are no townships of any note nearer than Mintaro and Clare, situated 21 and 25 miles S.W. and W. With these places there is communication by coach (Rounsevell's), and with Adelaide communication per mail to Kapunda, and thence by rail; the distance from Koorunga to Adelaide being about 99 miles. Koorunga has no benevolent asylum, but a benevolent association has been in course of active operation for the relief of the poor. There is a hospital belonging to the South Australian mining association, and but expressly for the accommodation and benefit of the miners employed on the Burra mine, but accessible to the poorer classes on obtaining permission from the mine authorities. The hotels in Koorunga are, the Burra, Miners' Arms, and the Pig and Whistle. In the township there is a local court, post and money order office, telegraph station, branches of the National bank and of the Adelaide and South Australian insurance companies, a public pound, a Masonic lodge (E. C. No. 585), an Oddfellows' lodge (M.U.O.F.) and a Foresters' court. The resident magistrates are T. S. Porter, T. H. Mayne, and M. McDermott, Esqs. Ranges of hills meet the eye in all directions around Koorunga, with occasional flats; the main road in many directions undulating and hilly, particularly between the Burra and Sod Hut, S., while as far as Mount Bryan, in N. direction, a distance of 15 or 20 miles, the road is remarkably level and good, and situated on a far between two ranges. The population of Koorunga, Redruth, Aberdeen and Hampton is about 3100 odd, and the number of houses about 460 but 120 of which are unoccupied. The want of a corporation here is much felt, and would remedy many existing evils. The approaches to the cemetery here are extremely bad and even dangerous in crossing the creeks and watercourses the remains of the dead have more than once nearly been precipitated to the ground, the road being metalled only as far as the postoffice. It would be a considerable comfort and advantage to continue the metal road as far as Redruth, the present road between Koorunga and Redruth being extremely bad. The geological formation of the district consists of blue, grey and brown Arenaceous sand and sandstone, dipping E. and W. from 20° to vertical.

KOORINGA (*Co. Burra*) is a hundred lying in the W. part of the county, and on the E. slopes of the main range of hills. It consists almost wholly of purchased land, of which 2 blocks of 20,000 acres each belong respectively to the South Australian mining association and the Princess Royal mining company. This hundred is celebrated for its world-renowned Burra Burra copper mines, which are situated on the land belonging to the former company. The townships of Koorunga, Redruth, Littlehampton, and Copperhouse are in this hundred. The area of this hundred exclusive of towns, is 57,600 acres, of which 427 acres are under cultivation. The population of that portion numbers 437 persons, chiefly miners and agriculturists.

KOORLUNGA RUN (*Co. Stanley*;) lease, No. 58; occupier, J. Hope; area, 3 square miles; rental and assessment, £197 18s. 4d. This run lies on the Broughton and Rocky rivers, to the N.N.E. of port Wakefield.

KRONGART RUN (*S.E. district*;) lease, No. 181; occupier, E. Cameron; area, 36 square miles, including land in the hundreds of Grey, Monbulla, and Penola. The actual area is 12½ square miles; grazing capacity, 1600 sheep, or 133 per square mile. This run is watered from swamps, and lies 250 miles S.S.E. of Adelaide, 75 miles E. by S. of Guichen Bay, and 45 miles N. of Macdonnell bay.

KUTRO (*Co. Adelaide*) is a hundred in the S.E. of the county, containing about half its area of purchased land, much of which is cultivated. The remainder is hilly and rugged, and is used for the depasturage of a few sheep and cattle by the neighbouring farmers.

KUKANA RUN (*W. district*;) See VENUS BAY RUN.

KULPARA (*Co. Daly*) is an E. hundred of the county, consisting principally of pastoral land, rich in mineral wealth, and forming part of the Moonta and Wallaroo mining district. There are some small blocks of purchased land lying in the W. part of the hundred.

KURILLA MINE (*Co. Daly*) is one of the Wallaroo mines, lying to the N. of the Murray mine, and containing some good branches of fine yellow sulphuret ore.

KYHGBOLITE RUN (*S.E. district*;) See KIRBYBOLITE.

LACEPEDE BAY (*Co. Macdonnell*) lies to the N. of Guichen bay on the S.E. coast, and forms the S. part of the extensive bight to the S. of Encounter bay and the Murray mouth. It offers excellent anchorage, as no heavy seas can enter. Fresh water may be had in any quantity by digging in the sand-banks near the beach. At the head of this bay and on port Caroline, an inner harbour is situated, the township of Kingston. Its heads are known as Capes Bernouilli and Morard de Galles. See CAROLINE PORT. There is an aboriginal station on this bay.

LACEPEDE (*Co. Macdonnell*) is a hundred in the S.W. of the county, and lying on the coast of Lacedepede bay. The township of Kingston is in this hundred, the only land being a long narrow tract running N. and S., at the back of the township, and bordering the Maria swamp.

LACY'S GROUP (*Flinders district W.*) is the name given to 2 rocky islands, and a detached reef, of which the larger island lies W. by S. 5 miles from Evans island. This island is circular, and about half-a-mile in diameter, and is of considerable elevation.

LAGOON HILL (*Co. Burra*) is a peak and survey point in the main range, lying about 4 miles S.E. of the township of Apoinga.

LAKE EYRE, (*Flinders district N.*) In his despatch to Adelaide, of September 1840, Major Warburton, who has been exploring the N.E. part of the colony, in speaking of Lake Eyre, says that the Barcoo river flows into it upon the E. side, and that its banks are boggy, interspersed with deep ravines, and covered with tangled masses of polygonum, forests of gigantic marshmallows and heavy timber. He also reports that the natives are rank cannibals, frequently eating one another. See also EYRE LAKE.

LAKE HOPE, (*Flinders district*;) See HOPE LAKE.

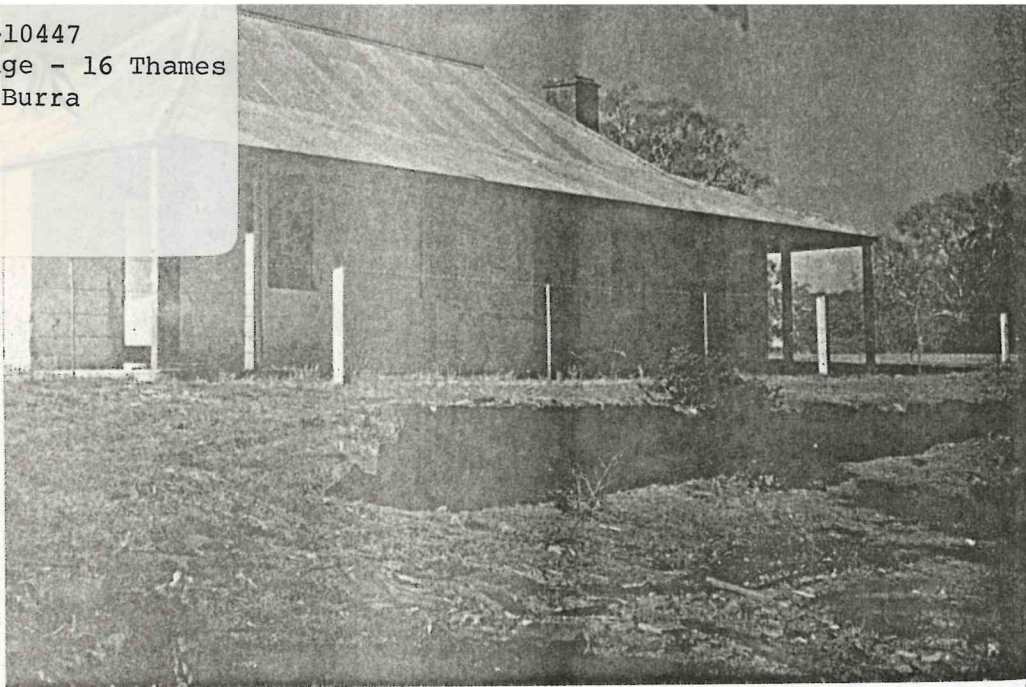
LAKE SUNDAY STATION (*York's peninsula*;) lease, No. 71, is the head station of Messrs. Rogers, Lander, and Stephen, and has an area of 47 square miles; grazing capability, 7500 sheep, or 160 per square mile; Goyder's valuation, £397 10s., deducting improvements valued at £812 10s. The nearest post towns are port Adelaide, 70 miles by sea, E.N.E. across St. Vincent's gulf; or by land, Moonta, 90 miles N., and Wallaroo, 100 miles N. by W. This run also includes lease, No. 21, Oyster bay station.

LALEE RUN (*S.E. district*;) lease, No. 185; occupier, J. Ellis; area, 5 square miles; grazing capability, 780 sheep, or 195 per square miles; Goyder's valuation, £42 per annum, deducting improvements. On this run, and on a purchased section of land in the hundred of Gambier, are 900 sheep, 25 head of cattle, and a few horses. This run lies 270 miles S.S.E. of Adelaide, and 33 miles by road, N.N.E. of port Macdonnell, where the wool is shipped.

LANGHORNE (or LANGHORNE'S) CREEK, 35° 18' S. lat., 139° 6' E. long. (*Co. Hindmarsh*;) is a postal township in the electoral district of Mount Barker, hundred of Bremer, and under the control of the Bremer district council. It is situated on the creek of the same name, and on the main road from Adelaide to Wellington, 5 or 6 miles N. of the N. shore of Lake Alexandrina. The district is an agricultural one, wheat being extensively grown in the neighbourhood. Langhorne has 2 stores, a post office, telegraph station, wheelwrights', blacksmiths', and other shops, and a public pound. The resident magistrate is J. D. Cave, Esq., J.P.; and 1 hotel—the Langhorne's bridge (M'Callum's). The nearest places are Milang, about 10 miles S.W.; Strathalbyn, 9 miles W.; Wellington, 20 miles E.; Mount Barker, 20 miles N.; there being no direct mail communication except with Strathalbyn and Wellington, with which places, as with Adelaide, 45 miles N.W., there is communication by mail coach four times a week. There are also 4 carriers' waggons plying to Adelaide and Wellington weekly. The surrounding country is flat; the soil consists of light sandy loam, abounding in limestone, and admirably adapted for the growth of wheat. The population numbers about 100 persons. The townships of Langhorne, Kent town, and Bremerton are generally known as Langhorne, or Langhorne's creek. The number of inhabitants actually in the township is small; but the district around is thickly populated.

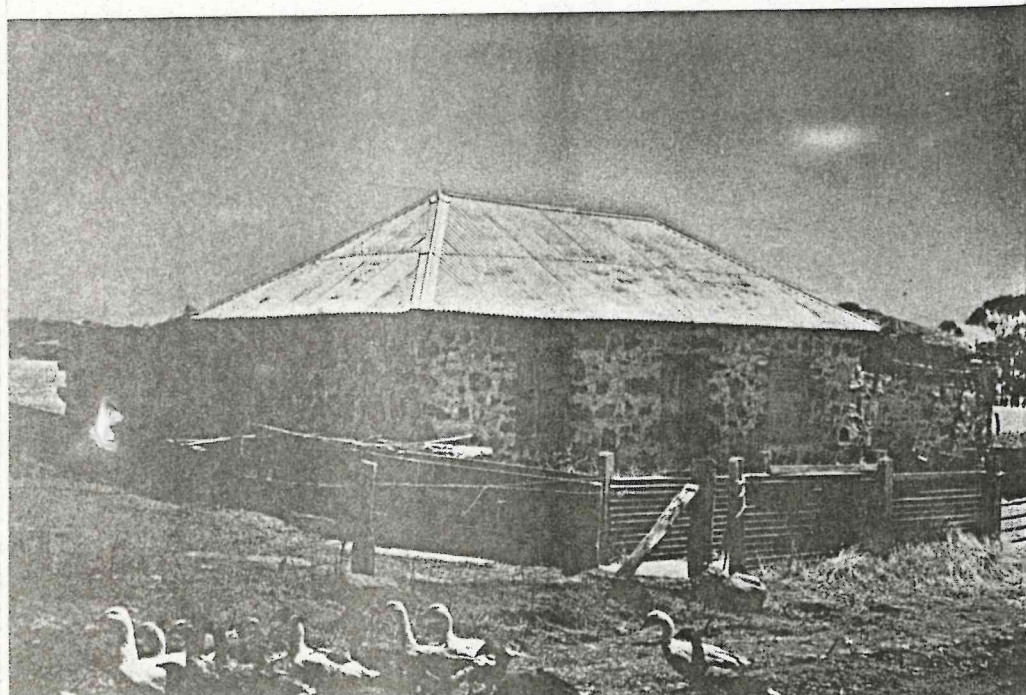
LANGTON ISLAND (*Spencer's gulf*;) See SIR J. BANKS'S GROUP.

LANNES, (DOMEY of the Admiralty charts,) CAPE (*Co. Robe*;) is the S. head



'Moorooro', house of William Jacob, near Rowland Flat

Miner's Cottage, Wheal Barton, near Truro



CHAPTER XXII

KOORINGA

-1850/51

16 February—The township of Kooringa,¹ in which the great Burra Burra Mine is situated, is in the county of Stanley, and forms portion of a special survey² of 20,000 acres taken by two companies of proprietors, of whom the South Australian Mining Association³ became the fortunate possessors by lot of the northern half; the southern half falling to the lot of the Princess Royal Company.⁴

This township, scarcely more than four years old (the mining company being only established in 1845), is already thickly populated with persons, almost all dependent on the neighbouring mine and Smelting Works.⁵ It is laid out in a valley through which runs the Burra Creek,⁶ and is separated by the hills from the mine, which lies in another valley, a short distance beyond. Two other villages, or rather collection of dwellings, called Aberdeen and Redruth,⁷ also extend along the creek in question.

¹ Original Number XXI. Kooringa is now known as Burra.

² 16 October 1845.

³ 10,000 acres in the name of W. Allen and S. Stocks, representing the *South Australian Mining Association*, which was established in March 1845 to enable the colonists to preserve the minerals from speculators overseas. Capital, £2320. Directors: William Allen, Frederick John Beck, Montague Featherstonehaugh, George Strickland Kingston, William Peacock, William Paxton, Christopher Septimus Penny, William Sanders, Thomas Waterhouse. Secretary, Henry Ayers. Chief Mining Captain, Henry Roach.

⁴ *Princess Royal*, 10,000 acres in the names of Charles Harvey Bagot and George Frederick Aston. Established 16 October 1845, on the Southern Moiety of the Burra Creek Special Survey. Capital, £20,000 in 400 shares of £50. Trustees: Captain C. H. Bagot, John Grainger, George Tinline. Directors, Capt. C. H. Bagot, C. M. Bagot, W. H. Clark, R. B. Colley, J. Grainger, R. Stuckey, G. K. Thornhill.

⁵ Patent Copper Company. Formed in England, 1848. Manager, G. S. Walters, Adelaide; Superintendent, T. H. Williams, Burra. See: *Register*, 16 December 1848; *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike, pp. 337-8.

⁶ Burra Creek rises north of Redruth, flowing south-east to the Murray River, near the North-West Bend.

⁷ Aberdeen and Redruth, east and west of the Burra Creek, now Burra North.

This creek with its habitations *in*, not *on*, the banks on both sides, forms one of the most singular spectacles ever beheld. The miners, in the true spirit of burrowing, to which their habits incline them, have excavated dwellings like rabbit-holes, in lines, as thickly under the banks of the creek as they could be placed; a foot or two only intervening between the several habitations, sometimes merely a mud bank as a division wall. Some have one room, others more; all have one or more chimneys, formed on the bank top, and in most cases of barrels cemented in mud; some are of mud only, a few of wood formed square, and a very few of brick. All these chimneys rise up at intervals like tree stumps in a roadway, and the public path runs along the banks and over the house tops. Sometimes these chimneys protrude before you only just in time to be avoided as you step aside, while their reeking smoke rises into your very nostrils. These rabbit-burrows are also variously constructed; some have mere holes for doors or windows; some have substantial doors and glazed sashes; a few have shingled verandahs, and many are whitewashed outside; while some, in addition, are papered and carpeted within. A person named Magers, in particular, has a carpeted room in his subterranean dwelling. The sight of the busy industry of the inhabitants of the creek, on each side of the saffron-coloured stream from the mine constantly pouring down, is very curious; washing and hanging out clothes, scouring pots, and other domestic occupations being visible at every frontage.

The population of Kooringa, Aberdeen, and Redruth is about 4300 persons, of whom, it appears, 2600 inhabit the creek—an immense majority. The total population of the locality has been over-rated till the late census returns. The closely-packed portion of the inhabitants occupying the creek is, according to medical authority of experience, unhealthy, as infantile diseases are greatly prevalent; but this system of locating seems too rooted to be easily eradicated; and it would be a revolution, instead, which should enable this mass of mortality to shift its abode; a dislodgment, however, may sooner or later take place under very alarming circumstances. The rise of a heavy flood in the creek, from the winter rains, would submerge this whole subterranean city, wash out all the families, and render the dwellings a waste of

mud, dirt, and copper washings, available only, after a long period, to a renewal of the mania for burrowing in the very same spot. On the actual occasion of such a catastrophe seventy or eighty families were washed out; the goods and money swallowed up to some amount which can never be reclaimed. One person is reported to have lost £300 in specie; but this may be a fable. It was, however, told to us confidently that some of these creek bank burrowers could produce £2000, realized by early workings at the mine. To sum up—there are not fewer than 600 tenements teeming with life, subject to an awful casualty. Fancy the rise of the creek and its consequent effects. Why, it equals the madness of living under Mount Vesuvius, in full reach of the lava, cinders, and ashes. Fire or water—each a miserable master. At all events, it cannot be considered that these creeks have invested their substance in a Savings Bank.⁸

The town itself contains one main and several transverse streets, and abounds with good shops and stores. A great number of small rows of houses had painted numbers on the doors; we observed these higher than one hundred; we were told that they belonged to the Company. The total number of houses is about 430, exclusive of those in the creek. There is a church of the episcopal establishment; the Rev. J. Pollitt⁹ is the incumbent, whose parsonage is about a mile beyond the smelting works.¹⁰ There are also chapels of the Wesleyans, Independents, and Roman Catholics, and schools belonging to each; one of the Sunday Schools was attended by more than one hundred and fifty children. The episcopal church¹¹ can accommodate at least 250 persons.

The trade of this place is conducted with a private circulating

⁸ 2 May 1851, the Burra Creek flooded, and £2000 of property was destroyed. A large amount of goods were lost by the creek dwellers, who generally hid their money in little holes, in their caverns. See: *Register*, 'Late Overflow at the Burra', 15 May, 18 May 1851; *The Savings Bank of South Australia*, L. J. Ewens.

⁹ Rev. James Pollitt (1813-81), curate of Kooringa and chaplain to the Smelting Works of Messrs. Schneider & Co. See: *Representative Men of South Australia*, G. E. Loyau, pp. 196-7.

¹⁰ Parsonage is on the far side of the Burra Creek, almost opposite to the present Church.

¹¹ The site of the church was donated by the Burra Copper Mining Company. Worship records commence in 1848.

medium of local promise notes. The Burra Company issues notes; the Copper Company does the same; those of £1 or higher distinguished by colour. The tradesmen, of course, follow the same system, and Boord Brothers¹² and Hutchens, storekeepers, issue their respective notes. All are payable in cash in Adelaide. Little other money is current, and silver is scarce; but as the storekeepers' notes (now before us) are as small as ten shillings and seven shillings and sixpence, the want of change is remedied. There is a total absence of every species of cultivation in this singular region. Fruit and vegetables are brought to this place from long distances. Mr Hawkin's¹³ garden at Bungaree (20 miles off), furnishes peaches, nectarines, and other fruit. What we saw were not large, and the peaches were clingstones; they were, however, ripe and good; free-stone fruit would hardly bear the carriage. Bethany, as we have noticed in speaking of that village, sends large supplies of peaches, chiefly from Fiedler's market garden, and such other fruit as will stand a journey of more than seventy miles. There is a Local Court for this district, of which Mr Lang¹⁴ is the Stipendiary Magistrate, as well as Commissioner of Police; and one or two legal practitioners reside here, as well as four English medical men, Messrs Chambers,¹⁵ Bull,¹⁶ Hill¹⁷ and Lloyd,¹⁸ and two German practitioners. The town contains four inns, all the property of Mr Paxton;¹⁹ there is a fifth in Aberdeen,

¹² Septimus Boord, Burra.

¹³ Misprint—George Charles Hawker, JP (1818-95), pastoralist and politician. Pastoral run at Bungaree, north of Burra. See: *Dictionary of Australian Biography*, P. Serle, pp. 411-2; *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia*, R. Cockburn, vol. I, pp. 14-5; *Reminiscences of G. C. Hawker*.

¹⁴ W. Lang.

¹⁵ Dr Henry Chambers, JP, surgeon. Arrived 1846, Kingston; 1850—Burra; 1858—Secretary Geelong, Victoria, Medical Association.

¹⁶ Dr George Bull, MD, Registered South Australia 1 July 1845. 'Dr Geo. Bull, MA, MD, Graduate in Medicine of the University of Cambridge, externe of the Hospital de la Charité, Paris, late one of the Hon. Physicians to the Liverpool Dispensaries, England, etc., etc., has commenced at Mt Barker the practice of his profession in all its branches'.—*Adv. South Australian*, 21 March 1845.

¹⁷ Dr William Farr Hill, surgeon. 1850—Koorunga; 1860-65, Encounter Bay. *Encounter Bay*, C. R. Hodge, p. 51.

¹⁸ Dr Charles Lloyd (—1857), surgeon, Burra.

¹⁹ William Paxton (c.1818-93), chemist, founder of the *South Australian Mining Association*. See: *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike; *Observer*, 9 September 1893, p. 30 (Obit.).

belonging to a different proprietor. The chief of these inns is the Burra Burra Hotel,²⁰ at the entrance to the town from Adelaide. Its appointments are first-rate, and all its arrangements upon the principles of an English inn or high class. This system of admirable hotel management is a novelty in this colony, and cannot as yet be, perhaps, and certainly is not, sufficiently appreciated. We are inclined to think that of the numbers who frequent this inn, few, perhaps, have for a long time past practically known the sterling comforts of so well conducted an establishment. The liberal table and the collateral luxuries, which in England for the essentials of elegant comfort, must of course be expected to be compensated; those who have reluctantly abandoned such comforts may find them here. A very spacious room has recently been attached to the hotel. It is more particularly built for a 'Freemason's Hall', but it is in use for public meetings. Its length is fifty feet, by thirty feet wide, and fifteen feet high, and it is, we believe, the largest room in the colony; in saying this, however, we do not recollect the dimensions of the Adelaide Exchange. We were conducted through the spacious cellars, abounding in a large supply of wine, liquors, and other tavern stores, from the Burra Director's Port, down to a collection of hams, loaf sugar, pewter pots, glass, and crockery.

On the day of our arrival a public meeting had been held in the hall, touching the choice of a representative for Koorunga, but it had adjourned without a decision; Mr Paxton, called on for requisition, had declined to stand, and from the strong feeling here expressed openly against any other Burra director, it will be difficult to predict who is likely to be elected, or, indeed, to come forward with any chance of success. Mr Kingston,²¹ we understand, is spoken of as likely to be in the field; we should suppose him to be a person well qualified.

On the evening of this day (15 February), there was a discharge of the electric fluid in flashes of almost incessant occurrence, more vivid and more intense than any which the oldest

²⁰ Burra Hotel, second floor added.

²¹ Sir George Strickland Kingston (1807-80), elected as Member for Burra, 1851. See: *Foundation and Settlement of South Australia*, A. Grenfell Price; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. II, pp. 264-65; *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike.

colonists here (and there were some early ones among us who were standing to view this magnificent spectacle) can remember to have seen. The blaze and the splendour of the coruscations from the south were almost blinding, but very little thunder followed. A smart rain fell briskly for about an hour, but left no marks of its effects in the morning.

Today (Sunday the 16th) we attended divine service in the church which was most respectably filled both morning and evening. The Rev. Mr Pollitt preached two excellent sermons (extempore) well adapted to the nature of his congregation, and the singing was accompanied by a seraphine. All the assembly appeared remarkably orderly and attentive.

The mail to this place comes in every weekday except Monday.

17 February—Of the Burra Burra Mine²²—the world's wonder—it might seem useless for us to attempt any sufficient description, most particulars respecting it being well known to persons taking an interest in such subjects. We however decide, *non obstante*, to record our own impressions on viewing it: which obstinacy may excusably arise from a long sojourn in the colony, a feeling for interests, and a want of opportunity, up to this hour, of personal observation.

We had made a cursory survey of the mine and its situation on the 15th, but on the 17th we went to visit it in detail, and worked our way in and out among the various busy spots, where the ore was extracting from the various shafts, commencing with Captain Roach's. Our companion descended Kingston's old shaft, which was in full work, and ascended by a new shaft, after winding and wading through various passages in this labyrinth of excavations. We next saw the ore crushed, jigged, and washed, and then laid out, to be assayed, weighed and bagged for smelting. We then ascended the engine-house and its various stories to view every part of the steam-engine, which is fifty-three horse-power. The water pumped up here at Roach's Shaft is not good, barely

²² Burra Mine. See: *South Australia and Its Mines*, F. S. Dutton, pp. 288-96; *Mines of South Australia*, J. B. Austin, pp. 18-23; *The Rush That Never Ended*, G. Serle; *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike.

drinkable; but from some shafts a flow of very sweet and good water is obtained.

The circling whims, with their horses in brisk motion, the buckets alternately racing up and down, the barrows rattling on tramways to deliver the contracted ore, the crushing and the jigging, the engine in motion, and the drays at work or arranging in rows and relieving their horses, of which a hundred were often turned loose together in a large yard, and all looking well fed; the busy employment of the individuals in front of the various houses and scattered dwellings, among others that of Captain Roach, at the end of a row with its neat green palings; the company's offices, where all seemed in a bustle, and the continual passing of men and boys among the piles of ore; altogether formed a scene new and striking to us on this our first visit to the 'Great Burra Burra'. We obtained some lovely specimens, particularly a few splendid ones of malachite which abounds in this mine; and we returned, wondering as well at all these things as at the employment given to nine-hundred persons in these works.

From the mine we proceeded in the afternoon to the Smelting Works; but Mr Williams,²⁴ the Superintendent, was absent, not to return till evening; and as these works are not shown without an order, we left our credentials in the office, and appointed to call on the morrow.

18 February—We set out today to inspect the Smelting Works of the Patent Copper Company,²⁵ and a clerk handed us over to

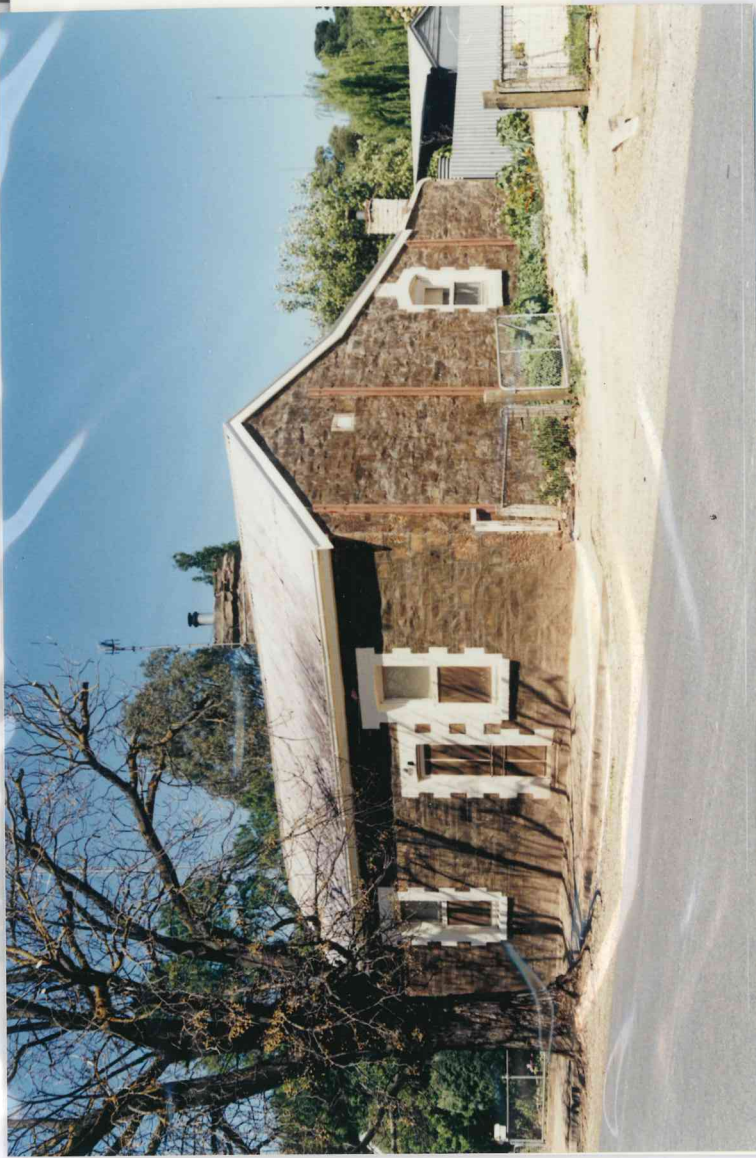
²⁴ Thomas H. Williams.

²⁵ *Patent Copper Company*—1848, 11 December the foundation-stone was laid by William Giles, Esq. (1791-1862); manager of the South Australian Company; at the Works of Messrs Schneider & Company; Patent Copper Company. *Southern Australian*, 19 December 1848, p. 2.

'1849—Fifth Stack or chimney is in course of erection, four being complete. Furnace and furnace house are in course of erection, also mechanics shop, offices, cottages for the workmen, etc. Operations will probably start in April.' *Southern Australian*, 20 February 1849, p. 2.

April—'At three o'clock, the new furnaces were ready for lighting; and on this occasion—so important to the future prosperity of South Australia—I was invited by Mr Walters (of London) to set fire to the first; and I have since been informed that "Latimer's Candle", as the stack was in jocular contrast named, has not been, and will not be, "put out".'

'To give you an idea of the establishment, the smelting house, with six stacks of chimneys, is 210 feet long. It is thought, hereafter, it may be





FILM 6
NO 9

NORTH EAST VIEW , 16 THAMES ST

BURRA
13-12-78