

*The following newspaper article includes early 'Hughes' history:*

*The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser (SA : 1880 - 1954)*

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A JEWEL CASKET

(By P.W)

Chinese with their Pigtails Caused not a Little Excitement:

IN a recent article of this series, we dwelt at considerable length with the Brakenridge and Fowler families, and before passing on to a review of other early pioneers and their historically interesting memoirs, we cannot do better than mention some of the outstanding recollections of the late Mr. C. W. Fowler, who held so many positions closely connected with the early days of Woodside. Among the happenings upon which Mr. Fowler would dilate were those at the time of the great gold rush of the fifties of last century, when men in their thousands to the diggings were wending their way. Among these were large numbers of Chinese, and there being no poll tax of £10 per head in South Australia as there was in Victoria in which the alluvial goldmines had been discovered, hundreds of the Celestials landed at Port Adelaide and made their way overland to Victoria. Two shiploads came to Mount Barker to camp for tile night, and caused not a little excitement in the town, coming down Gawler Street with their long pigtails trailing, their luggage across their shoulders, and their jog trot gait accentuating their foreign origin. From Mount Barker they made Wellington to cross the River Murray on their way to the goldfields. In 1850 there were no roads to Mount Barker, only tracks, and the first mail conveyance from Adelaide was a spring-cart with two horses and an outrigger, which was driven by driver Dix and took many hours to make the journey. Later five horse coaches took over from the primitive beginning described, and there was a guard at the back of the coach in a red coat and with a coach horn to blow when necessary. The guard's name was Armstrong, who later became the grandfather of Mrs. Humphries, of Mount Barker and Mrs. Saxon, of Littlehampton. There were five hotels in Mount Barker in those early days—the Mount Barker Hotel, kept by Charles Low; the Oakfield (later the site of the Rest Home), the licensee being Lachlan McFarlane; Gray's Inn; Gloag's Hotel (later known as the Crown); and another hostelry which later became the home of Dr. Chalmers, Mt. Barker's first medico.

From 1850 to 1860 Mount Barker was considered as a police headquarters, it being the only town at which four or more policemen were stationed. Sergeants Searcy and Rollison were two of those who had charge of the station at this time. When Sergeant Nixon was at Mount Barker a Queensland native, who had committed a murder and evaded capture for many months, was discovered on Baker's station near Tungkillo. He was discovered with some difficulty as he hid under the water in a lagoon, breathing through a reed. He was brought to Mount Barker and thence to Adelaide by Sergeant Nixon but en route to Adelaide he grabbed Nixon's sword and slashed him across the face with the weapon inflicting severe injury. The native was after trial hanged.

Mr. Fowler was wont to recall a trip on the Murray in the seventies in the steamer Jupiter (Captain King) going almost as far as Bourke, the river being in flood and the boat being

able to make a straighter course than if following the natural serpentine winding of the stream. Another of his recollections was the system of electing members of Parliament in those old days. Payment of members was non-existent. There was no such political group as the Labor Party, and the present organised system of voting was of the future. It was open voting. The polling booth was usually an hotel, and free beer was handed out during the speeches of rival candidates and others so disposed to take the floor. The elector eventually recorded his vote at a table with the urgers of the contending candidates looking over his shoulder and still shrieking the virtues of their individual employers in his ear, to be surely followed by abuse from one them when the vote was recorded. It was not unknown for an elector to be knocked over the head with a lump of wood by the agent of the candidate the elector had turned down. And such conduct as was to be expected eventually brought in secret voting, which Mr. Fowler lived to see inaugurated and to preside for many years as Returning Officer of the electoral district of which Woodside was portion. "

In the history of most towns it will be found that about the first meeting place is an hotel, generally followed by the erection of a church, in the case of Woodside the first hotel occupied the site of the existent Woodside hotel, the licencee having been transferred from the old inn at Inverbrackie. In 1853 John Dean secured the lease of it for five years at £2 per week, and sold it a year later to Robert Wilkie for £300. Mrs. Wilkie sold it two years later to James Johnson for £200, who in the same year disposed of it to a coffee-housekeeper named Hans Ferk for £2,300. After the pub a store was built by J. and R. Hunter, who conducted it until it was taken over by G. F. Lauterbach forty-odd years ago. It was at Woodside that the late Mr. Justice Bunday began his prominent association with the affairs of this State. Woodside in those pioneer days was an important police centre, three mounted police being stationed there. Mr. Bunday was first employed as a clerk in the Local Court, and then articulated to Mr. Gower. He then went into partnership with Captain Dashwood. Mr. Bunday was an ambitious man, and the Bunday Government was later responsible for many Acts which altered the trend of events in South Australia. At least one of them was his advocacy of the present site of the Murray Bridge. There were those at the time who fought hard for the bridge to be erected at Wellington, and they went so far as to have a road surveyed and in greater part constructed to shorten the distance to Wellington, the length of route being held to be a major consideration in the debates. But Mr. Bunday won the day. The road referred to is now known as Chunsey's Line, Mr. Chunsey being the surveyor of the route. Heaps of metal lay for generations beside the constructed road until the young mallee trees sprang up between the stones and grew to maturity. With the advent of the motor car the old road was rediscovered, and a delightful drive for many is now provided by its presence. But what really knocked the kick out of Mr. Bunday's opponents at that time was the report that the only place to build a bridge between Lake Alexandrina and Renmark was at Murray Bridge, then known as Edward's Crossing, where cattle for Victoria or from Blanchetown areas were swum over the Murray on their way to Adelaide. When the new railway bridge was to be built over the Murray, during the period of Mr. W. A. Webb's Chief Commissionership, it was proposed to build the bridge at the North end of Long Island and barges and men were there boring

for the bottom of the river. The writer of these articles happening to see one of the cores from the boring plant asked whence it came and on being informed of the purpose of the boring activities was able to inform the official in charge of the operations that he was wasting his time and the taxpayers' money, for prior to the birth of either himself or the writer the question of the sites for bridges over the lower Murray had been most fully explored, and the official documents of the early sixties of last century would disclose that Edward's Crossing (now Murray Bridge) was the only place at which to construct a bridge. Those who travel over the new railway bridge may see how close the new bridge is to the old one now used solely as a main road and footway.

But we are diverting, and must hark back to the recollections of the old pioneers of Woodside. One of the earliest settlers was the late Charles Neumann who was born in England in 1821 and arrived in South Australia on October 21st, 1837 a few months after the proclamation of the Colony. He died on September 7th, 1900, at Charleston. In his diary is recorded many incidents of interest. He speaks of the S.A. Land Company paying £20,000 to the Government for a special survey and the right of selection of land in the Onkaparinga district. On the land sheep were placed and shepherds put in charge of them. There were an overseer, three shepherds and three assistants. The blacks were sometimes defiant, and the wild dogs were troublesome when cold and hunger urged them, especially at lambing time. Fires had to be kept going at night to help protect the sheep. Mr. Neumann records that they had not been long on the new holding when two men, Geo. Stagg and Gofton called on them, carrying saddles, and asked for a night's lodgings. They said that they had lost their horses at Mount Crawford, where it was suspected they had been spying about with the object of stealing cattle. The man Stagg was later hanged for the murder of his mate Gofton. On another occasion, Mr. Neumann recalls, two notorious horse-stealers, Green and Wilson, stole all their flour, sugar and tea during their absence from the hut, which was near what is now known as the Woodside mines. During the time of the working of the Bird-in-Hand and other mines situated about two miles East of the town Woodside had a most prosperous time. That was between 1882 and 1890. Some hundreds of men were employed at the mines and gold to the value of £70,000 was won. There are those who, like Mr. Neumann, believe much wealth still remains in the gold bearing quartz reefs at Reefton Heights and elsewhere near, the town, and that with the modern mining methods and machinery these Woodside mines will at some future date provide employment for large numbers of men and prove source of considerable wealth, restoring the glory of those rollicking days of the eighties.

The immense possibilities of the Woodside district for dairying and grazing purposes has attracted much attention, and many holdings have changed hands at prices few parts of the State can command. On the whole the community is a prosperous one, well satisfied with its possessions, and happy in the knowledge that Woodside provides all that any reasonable person could wish for. Such was the opinion of the late Charles Neumann, who was one of the three original shepherds of the S.A. Land Company previously referred to. One of the other shepherds was George Melrose. The other was a young man named Bone it is thought but there appears to be no definite statement on the point.

Mr. Andrew Smillie Hughes is the oldest male identity living in Woodside at the present time, and a chat with the old gentleman is most informative. The history of his family commences with the arrival of Lawrence and Mary Stodart in South Australia with their children in the ship Palmyra in 1839). The family landed at Holdfast Bay and travelled to the Nairne district, where the township consisted of two cottages, one of which Lawrence Stodart acquired. He then purchased land and commenced to build a residence, but died before it was completed. His daughter Mary married William Frederick Hughes, son of George Robert Hughes, who arrived in the Colony in the ship Diadem in 1849. For some time the Hughes family stayed in Adelaide where George Robert Hughes engaged in his trade as a tailor, but later he, with his family, moved to Nairne. His son, William Frederick, was a storekeeper and builder, but after his marriage to Mary Stodart he purchased land in the Woodside district. The property "Bleakside" is still in the hands of the family. Andrew Smillie Hughes is the youngest son of the late William Frederick Hughes and was born at Bleakside in 1865. He was educated locally, and has continuously resided in the old home which he took over at his father's demise. By his marriage with Ruby Violet Dunn, daughter of the late George Dunn, of Gumbank, Charleston, there were joined two of the oldest families in South Australia. There are two surviving children, Richard Andrew, and Elizabeth Jane. The family has been associated with the State for over a century and few families have rendered such continuous public service. The father and three of the sons have each served as councillors in their local district councils. Andrew Smillie Hughes, like his father and elder brothers, has given service to his fellow citizens. For several years he was a councillor of the Onkaparinga district council, and for many years a committeeman of the Onkaparinga Racing club of which he is the only surviving life member. He has not missed a meeting of that historic club in all the years. Reference to the marriage of Andrew Smillie Hughes with Ruby Violet Dunn prompts some biographical recording of that particular Dunn family. "William Dunn arrived in South Australia with his wife and family on October 10th, 1840. A brother had arrived previously, and William joined him in pastoral pursuits at Charleston. He died on April 12th, 1879. William Dunn's son George (born 1843, died 1906) named his eldest son Lionel, and Lionel had a son whom he named Douglas, who also has a son named Douglas Malcolm. The parents of William Dunn came out to Australia in 1845, so that the last-named child, it will be observed, viz., Douglas Malcolm, represents the sixth generation of the Dunn family in Australia—truly a unique genealogical record. Miss Laura Amelia Dunn, the daughter of George, resides in the delightful old homestead Gumbank, erected in the English style by William Dunn in the early forties. It is one of the earliest houses erected in that part of the State.

We have previously mentioned the name of Gotthard Friedrich Lauterbach who, with Johannes Adolf Gustar Lauterbach, were sons of the original Johan Carl Friedrlck Lauterbach who came to the Colony at the age of 20 years. The two sons abovementioned became the proprietors of the Woodside Butter and Cheese factory, and their exhibit gained first prize at the London Dairy show of 1906 against the whole of Australia and Canada; Also a medal and a certificate. They also received first prize for 2cw.t. of cheese at the annual show of the Royal Agricultural Society of South Australia in Sept., 1907. Mr. G. F.

Lauterbach engaged in farming on the family's original property at Woodside and also associated himself closely with the public affairs of the district. He was auditor of the Woodside district council, and a committeeman of the local institute, and secretary of the Onkaparinga Agricultural, Hort. And Floric. society since its inception. Married in 1883 to a daughter of the late Henry Boreham, he had three sons and four daughters. The name of Lauterbach wherever it is mentioned recalls the town of Woodside. Way back in 1865 a gazateer gives the town this notice:—"Woodside is a postal township in the electoral district and hd Onkaparinga, and under the control of the Onkaparinga district council. It is situated on the Onkaparinga River, Mount Charles being 3 miles and Mount Torrens 8 miles North. The district is an agricultural one although gold has been found within two miles of the township, and the Bremer Ranges gold quartz diggings lie 23 miles to the East. The nearest places are Oakbank, 3 miles South; Charleston, 3miles North; and Harrogate, 8 miles East; the communication being by Rounsevell's mail car daily as also with Adelaide 22 miles North West. Two waggons also ply weekly to Adelaide for the conveyance of heavy goods. Woodside is on the main East road from Adelaide. It contains a post and money order office, a telegraph office, local courthouse, a German Lutheran and an English church, a Wesleyan and a Primitive Methodist chapel, a volunteer rifle corps, a branch of South Aust. Insurance Co., and a Foresters' Court. The resident magistrate is H. C. F. Esau, Esq., J.P. There are two hotels, the Woodside and the Bedford. Much of the surrounding land belongs to the S.A. Company. The country is hilly, and the soil alluvial over sandstone rock and quartzose slate. The population numbers about 300 persons, the number of dwellings being 70."