

# GUNDAGAI

## 1829-1852



**Front cover:** The cairn marking the location of Gundagai's first hotel – the Murrumbidgee Inn.

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## **Acknowledgements**

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I recognise the research done by Dr David Lindley, a descendant of Thomas Lindley.

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## **Introduction**

It was the incorrect identification of the first inn at Gundagai that caused me to start this story. The cairn constructed to mark the site was located at the correct spot, but the old inn was identified as the Rose Inn, when it should have been the Murrumbidgee Inn.

Others were aware of the error, and thanks to the efforts of David Lindley and others the mistake was corrected in December 2021. An additional plaque has been placed on the cairn, to correctly identify it as the location of the Murrumbidgee Inn and a new interpretive sign has been installed at the site of the Rose Inn, Gundagai's second inn.

This article traces some history of Gundagai up until June 1852 when the great flood struck.

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## Earliest Settlement

In October 1824, settlement to the south [inland] of Sydney extended as far as Hamilton Hume's station, *Wooloobidallah*, which was located to the east of Yass [near Gunning].<sup>1</sup>

Some five years later when Sturt's party travelled along the Murrumbidgee, in the latter part of 1829, they stopped at O'Briens run at Yass and then travelled down to his [O'Brien's] station at "*Tuggiong*" [Jugiong], so named by the local Aboriginal natives. The next encounter with white men was at Warby's station opposite the junction of the Tumut River with the Murrumbidgee River, on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1829. It was Warby who advised Sturt that he would have to cross the Murrumbidgee to avoid the ranges on the right bank of the river, which would prevent them from continuing along that side. Warby offered to show Sturt a crossing he recommended. As Sturt explained,<sup>2</sup>

"We accordingly rode down to the river, to a place at which some stockmen had effected a passage – after a week's labour in hewing out a canoe."

This crossing place, used by Sturt, and referred to as Stuckey's Crossing place, would eventually catalyse the development of the town of Gundagai.

The expedition was forced to cross the river again some seven miles south. Now, back on the right bank, they were in an area known as *Nangaar* [presumably Nangus] by the local Aboriginal natives.

Sturt was aware of native campfires as he travelled down from Yass, but the expedition had not been approached by any of the Aboriginal people. Sturt attributed this to a "*misunderstanding*" between the natives and Stuckey's stockmen. According to Sturt the latter had "*fixed themselves on the river a little below Whaby's.*"<sup>3</sup> This was then the furthestmost settlement on the Murrumbidgee.

When George Bennett travelled down the Murrumbidgee in December 1832, he crossed the Murrumbidgee to visit the run of Mr Warby, called *Darbylara*, at the junction of the Tumut River and the Murrumbidgee River. On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1832 Bennett journeyed up the Tumut River to Keighern's *Brungul* run and then up into the mountains where the *Bugong* moths gathered.<sup>4</sup>

According to Bennett, the crows, called "*arabul*" by the local Aboriginal people, competed with the latter, in terms of consuming the moths. As Bennett explained, the Aboriginal word for the common crow were "*gundagiar*" or "*worgan.*" "*Arabul*" applied only to the crows in the high country, which feasted on the *Bugon* moths.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William Bland. *Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip, New South Wales, by Messrs WH Hovell and Hamilton Hume in 1824 and 1825.* 1831, p5. / Alan EJ Andrews. *Hume & Hovell 1824.* 1981. p43.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Sturt. *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia.* Vol.2, p24.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Sturt. *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia.* Vol.2, p29.

<sup>4</sup> George Bennett. *Wanderings in NSW.* Vol.1, p252.

<sup>5</sup> George Bennett. *Wanderings in NSW.* Vol.1, pp265-273. / *Tumut & Adelong Times.* 24<sup>th</sup> August 1926, p8.

Bennett listed some properties that existed below *Darbylara*, at the time of his visit,<sup>6</sup>

| Distance from previous station | Name of Run     | Lessee        | North/South Side of Murrumbidgee |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Station        | Minghee         | Warby senior  | North                            |
| 2                              | Gundagiar       | Hutchinson    | North                            |
| 5                              | Willeplumer     | Stuckey       | North                            |
| 4                              | Kimo            | Guisse        | North                            |
| 3                              | Wadjego         | Jenkins [Mrs] | North                            |
| 4                              | Nanghas         | McArthur, J   | North                            |
| 8                              | Jabtre          | Ellis         | South                            |
| 2                              | Wandubadjere    | Thorn         | North                            |
| 10                             | Kubandere       | Tompson       | South                            |
| 10                             | Billing Billing | McArthur, H   | North                            |

Bennett's list is not a complete recording of all settlement below *Mingay* in 1832, as the Murrumbidgee had been settled right through to Narandera and further west by that time.

In May 1832 it was reported that the Messrs McArthur, Throsby, and Ellis had all depastured stock on the Murrumbidgee.<sup>7</sup> These situations were presumably in the vicinity of Gundagai.

South Gundagai was originally a part of Willie Ploma, with Tarrabanda to the east.

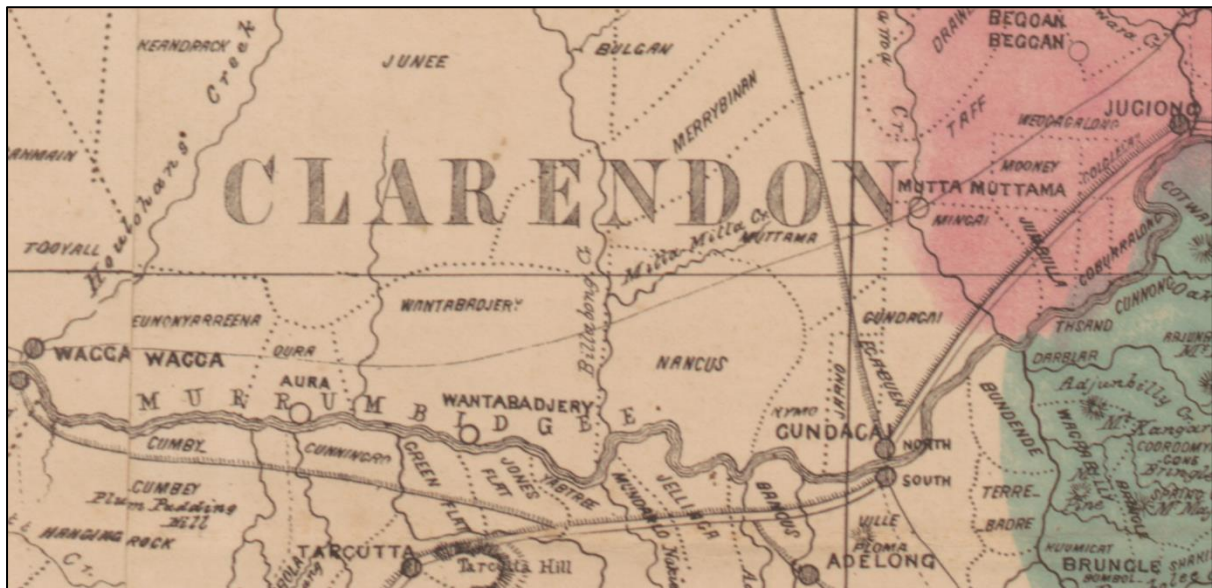


**Above:** Extract from Townsend's 1853 map showing the runs on the south side of the Murrumbidgee River, between the Tumut River junction and Yabtree. Courtesy NSW State Library [Maps/0086].

<sup>6</sup> George Bennett. *Wanderings in NSW*. Vol.1, p308.

<sup>7</sup> Sydney Gazette. 12<sup>th</sup> May 1832, p3.

On the north side of the Murrumbidgee Kimo lay to the west and Gundagai to its east, with Mingay east of that. The town of North Gundagai lay within the Gundagai Run.



**Above:** Extract from Owen's 1868 map, showing runs on the northern side of the Murrumbidgee River, between Jugiong and Wagga Wagga [county Clarendon]. Courtesy NSW State Library. [Z/M3 810/1867/1A].

By 1840 Charles Tompson and George Armytage were squatting on the Kimo Run.<sup>8</sup> By 1841 Tompson was in difficulties and the run was placed up for sale by the high sheriff.<sup>9</sup>

**LYONS v. TOMPSON.**  
**SHEEP.**  
 On WEDNESDAY, the 9th instant, at 1 o'clock precisely,  
**MR. SAMUEL LYONS**  
 Will Sell by Public Auction, at his Mart, George Street and Charlotte Place,  
**THE FOLLOWING LIVE STOCK**  
 1 Flock mixed Lambs and Wethers, 561  
 Ditto Ewes, 2 to 4 years old, 688  
 Ditto Ewes, 2 to 4 years old, 667  
 Ditto ditto, 4 to 6 ditto ditto, 661  
 Ditto ditto Lambs, 8 months old, 648  
 Ditto ditto, Wether Lambs, 690  
 Ditto Wethers ditto, 2 to 4 years old, 820  
 Ditto Ewes, 4 to 6 years ditto, 720  
 Rams 16.  
**Total Sheep, 5471**  
 Depasturing in Eight Flocks, all in a healthy state, and perfectly free from disease, and now running at **Kimo**, "Murrumbidgee River."  
 ALSO,  
**One Mare and Cart.**  
**Two Ploughs**

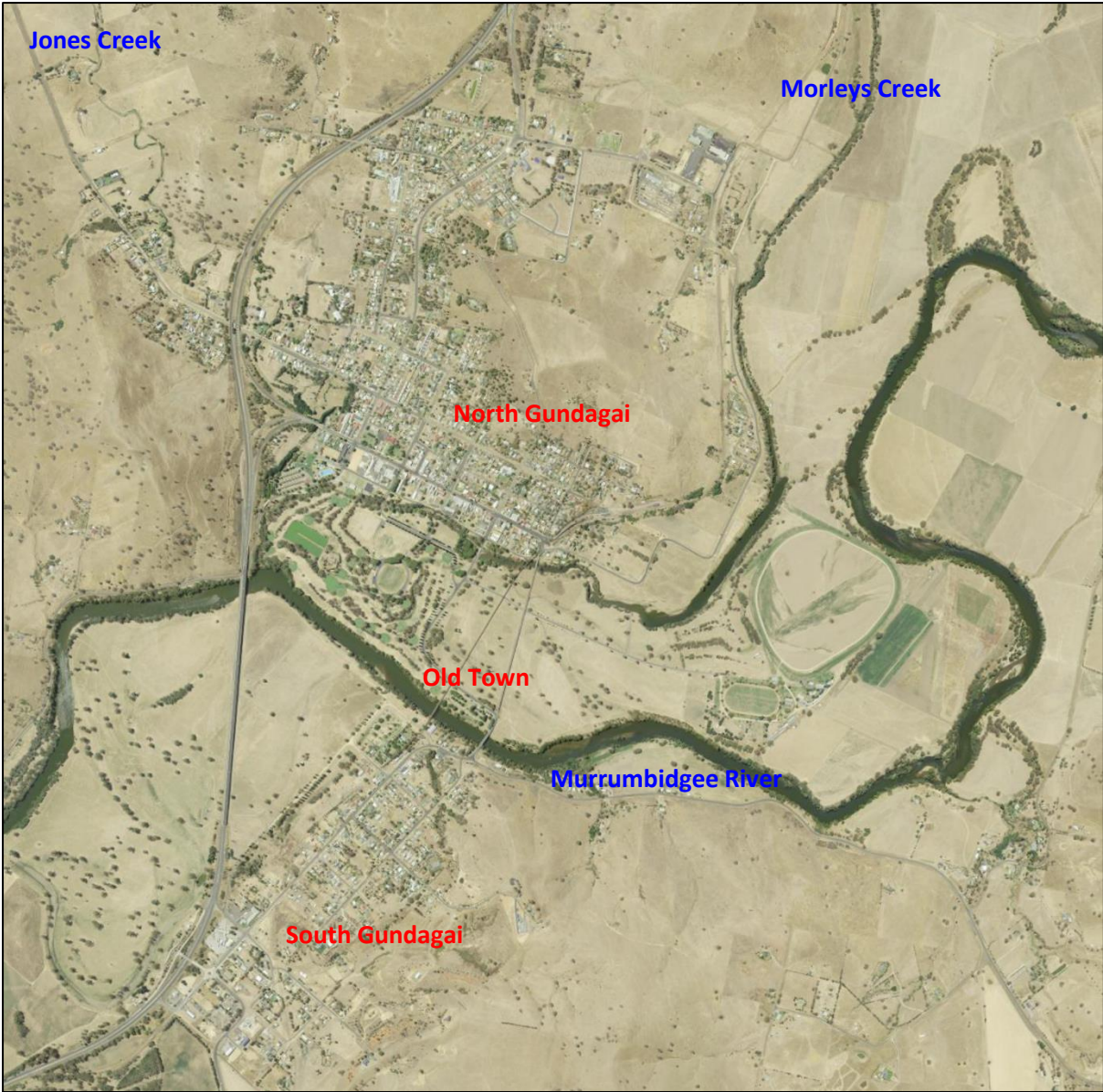
This Station is better than half the way to Port Phillip, and on the principal road to Port Adelaide, with good feed all the way to either place—holding out encouragement to speculators in Stock, travelling the before-mentioned district. The Sheep, situated as they now are, may be easily and readily driven on to either Settlements, free of half the expense, that would be incurred from any other part of the Colony. To new arrived settlers, desirous of obtaining some excellent Flocks, together with a first-rate run, with the advantage of the Wool, that must eventually be worth One Thousand Pounds. These Flocks deserve peculiar attention.

**Left & Above:** Sale notice for Tompson's Kimo Run and associated stock, in June 1841.

<sup>8</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1840, p541.

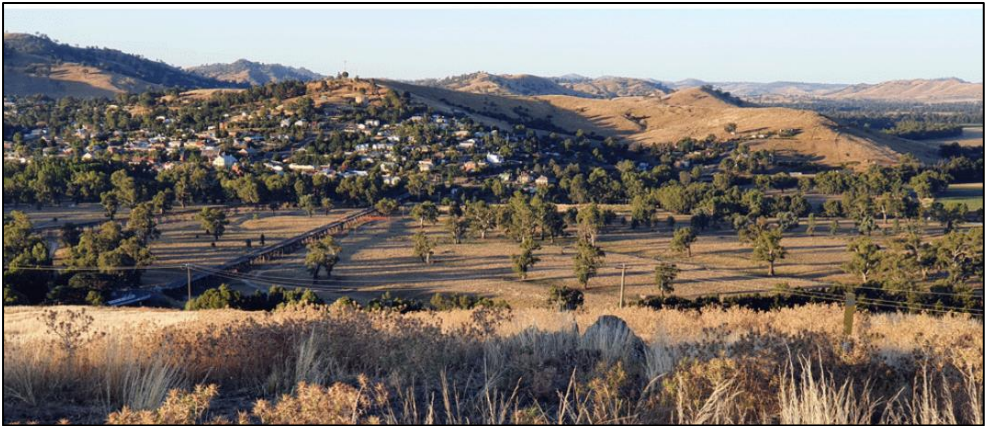
<sup>9</sup> Sydney Monitor. 4<sup>th</sup> June 1841, p4.





**Above:** Contemporary aerial view of Gundagai showing some of the major features. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. SIX.

The map above demonstrates how susceptible to flooding the old town was, lying between the Murrumbidgee River and Morleys Creek, with Jones Creek adding to the volume of water.



**Left:** Part of the Gundagai flood plain.

### Early Squatters on the Gundagai Run

The earliest reference found for squatting on the Gundagai Run was that of William Hutchinson in 1832.<sup>10</sup>

It appears that Hutchison was still at Gundagai in April 1838, when a traveller placed him at a location two miles north of William Adams Brodribb's property. The river crossing was said to be one mile from Brodribb's.<sup>11</sup> Correspondence from the Surveyor General's Office, in January 1838, refers to "*Brodribb's station on the Murrumbidgee*," but Brodribb's name does not appear in any government gazette listing of depasturing licenses issued for runs in or around Gundagai.

Brodribb [or Brodribb] was though listed, in October 1838, as having obtained a license for a run in the district of Moneroo [Maneroo]. Brodribb's residence was recorded as the *Snowy River*.<sup>12</sup> In April 1838 William Adams Brodribb was listed as a stockholder on the "*Gundigi Marsh*,"<sup>13</sup> and in 1840 he was listed as the occupant of a run in the Lachlan District [unidentified].<sup>14</sup> In May 1842, Brodribb still occupied a station at Maneroo. It seems that *Gundigi* was a short-term venture for Brodribb.



**Above:** Extract from Townsend's 1839 plan of Port Phillip Road, Jugiong Hill to Gundagai.<sup>15</sup> The plan shows Hutchison's settlement to the north, then Brodribb's property as Gundagai is approached, and then Andrews' Inn at Stuckey's Crossing Place.

By 1839 Hutchison was the licensee of the Tumberumberer [sic] Run.<sup>16</sup> Lady Jane Franklin [wife of the Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, Sir John Franklin] passed through Gundagai in April 1839

<sup>10</sup> George Bennett. *Wanderings in NSW*. Vol.1, p308.

<sup>11</sup> *Sydney Herald*. 9<sup>th</sup> April 1838, p2.

<sup>12</sup> *NSW Government Gazette*. 1838, p832.

<sup>13</sup> *Sydney Gazette*. 5<sup>th</sup> April 1838, p2.

<sup>14</sup> *NSW Government Gazette*. 1840, p172.

<sup>15</sup> State Records. Surveyors Crown Plans.R.1013A [SR.5195]

<sup>16</sup> Bingham. 1839. Commissioner of Crown Lands Itineraries

Lady Franklin recorded a brief account of her visit, which read, in part, as follows [commencing from the time that the party approached Gundagai from the south],<sup>17</sup>

“The river is very shallow, current sufficiently rapid, and the opposite bank very bad. It rises immediately from the water so that there is no space for cart and horses to form but must face the hill directly and worse bit before the top - an additional horse added, but jibbed in spite of lashings. At last caught up safely. Kitty went over twice with me and Sophie.

Over river, neat veranda and shuttered hut, kept by one Andrews, who has store and public house. Had no flour on hand. Walk with Dr. Hobson, about one quarter of a mile or more, to hut of Mr. Broderick. Formerly of VDL whom he knows, to see if he had flour. There are three brothers in this country engaged in same concerns, one living at Goulburn, another going to a new station at head of Murray, and the youngest brother here. Dr. Hodgson went ahead to warn of my approach, thinking they would not like to be taken by surprise.

And after a long time, the young man came out clean dressed and making a profound bow. Being asked whether he liked this best or VDL he said this - more room. They came from elder brother's farm on the Black Marsh on the Clyde, where they did not do very well but were well conducted young men. They have four stations here, going for better grazing under mountains at head of Murray, but blacks there bad. They have both sheep and cattle. One brother is taking 4000 sheep to Port Phillip. Dr. left something for bad eyes of one of brothers. He says it is very common to have eyes affected in this country. We asked about native dogs. He said they had nine sheep only killed by them since here - shewed him a pod of tree found by us - natives call it Corryjon [Kurrajong] and cut the seeds which are bed of fibers - which if they get into the eyes never see again. We heard that the Broadribs are going away because they are eaten out of house and home by being by the roadside. They fenced, of course at considerable expense, a paddock for themselves, and during two or three days of absence, to bring up their sheep found it entirely eaten off by persons who had let in their flock there - not their flocks only but themselves to be entertained. “



Brodrigg appears to have been an unregistered squatter on crown lands as there is no official record of him leasing land at Gundagai. Brodrigg records that he selected a station at Gundagai, which he stocked with 1,200 ewes, initially. This would probably have been in 1836. After three years at Gundagai drought caused Brodrigg to sell his holding to a neighbour, for the sum of one hundred pounds.<sup>18</sup>

**Left:** Lady Jane Franklin. Courtesy Australian Museum.

<sup>17</sup> *This Errant Lady. Jane Franklin's Overland Journey to Port Phillip and Sydney, 1839.* Edited Penny Russell. 2002. pp76 & 78.

<sup>18</sup> WA Brodrigg. *Recollections of an Australian Squatter: 1835-1883.* [1883. Reprint 1978.] pp3-14.

When Commissioner Cosby visited Jugiong and Gundagai in January 1840 [2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively], he made a single entry for Jugiong, that being a hut on the Jugiong Run of EB Green. The superintendent of this run was C Ballin and the number of residents was seven. There was nil stock on the run and nil cultivation. Cosby's note read "*The hut is intended to be opened as an inn.*"

At Gundagai Cosby recorded just one entry again, that of J Andrews, lessee and occupier of the Gundagai Run. The only building recorded was a slab hut. There was nil stock and nil cultivation. There were seven residents. Cosby's note read "*public house and stores.*"<sup>19</sup>

On his return trip from down river Cosby passed through Gundagai on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, where he visited the Gundagai Run of Edward O'Brien, who leased and occupied his run. There was a total of two residents – O'Brien and one other. There were seven acres of wheat sown, and stock consisted of one hundred and eighty cattle and six horses.

When Cosby sent in his half yearly returns for the district, O'Brien's Gundagai Run was listed as having an area eight miles by seven miles. The area of cultivation was now ten acres and the number of cattle had increased to 440 and there were now sixteen horses.

Edgar Beckham succeeded Cosby, as Commissioner for Crown Lands [Lachlan district] in 1841. Beckham's reports show that he visited Gundagai in May 1844, where he visited the two Gundagai Runs – Edward O'Brien's and Joseph Andrews'. The number of residents was 4 and 3 respectively. The buildings for both runs were "*slab huts.*" Each run had a cultivated area of twenty acres [hay & corn (?)]. O'Brien's stock consisted of 450 cattle, and twenty horses, while Andrews had 129 cattle, 22 horses, and 1,390 sheep.<sup>20</sup> In November 1844, Andrews still held his Gundagai Run, with seven residents present. The buildings still consisted of "*slab huts.*" Crops consisted of five acres of hay and some thirty acres of wheat. Stock consisted of 129 cattle, 22 horses, and 1,590 sheep. The run occupied an area of two miles by seven, consisting of lofty ranges and flats. O'Brien's Gundagai Run was still occupied by Edward and the number of residents was five. Crops consisted of twenty acres of hay and forty acres of wheat. Stock consisted of 450 cattle and 30 horses. O'Brien was also producing cheese and butter on the run. The area of the run was now described as three miles by seven miles, with large flats against higher ranges.<sup>21</sup>

The Kimo Run, in May 1844, was occupied by F Tompson, who was running 5,000 sheep, without any cultivation. The number of residents was ten, a relatively high number.<sup>22</sup> Tompson also held Oura, with some 28 residents present, and thirty acres of wheat sown. Stock on Oura consisted of 600 cattle, 30 horses, and 5,500 sheep. When Beckham returned, in November 1844, there were only three residents on Oura. Stock held was now 600 cattle and 30 horses. There were no sheep listed. Kimo was now leased to George Curlewis (?), with Frederick Tompson as superintendent. The number of residents was now fifteen and there were twenty five acres of wheat planted. Stock consisted of two horses and 5,000 sheep.

In April and November 1845, O'Brien and Andrews still occupied their respective runs. In October 1846, O'Brien still occupied his Gundagai Run [23,600 acres], but Andrews now occupied Kimo [16,000 acres]. There was no entry for Andrews' Gundagai Run.

In August 1848, Beckham listed O'Brien's Gundagai Run [23,000 acres] and Andrews' Gundagai Run [2,560 acres]. Andrews still held Kimo [16,000 acres], as well.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Itinerary of Henry Cosby. Commissioner of Crown Lands. Lachlan District. [1838-1840]

<sup>20</sup> Itinerary of Edgar Beckham. Commissioner of Crown Lands. Lachlan District. [1841-1849]

<sup>21</sup> Itinerary of Edgar Beckham. Commissioner of Crown Lands. Lachlan District. [1841-1849]

<sup>22</sup> Itinerary of Edgar Beckham. Commissioner of Crown Lands. Lachlan District. [1841-1849]

<sup>23</sup> Itinerary of Edgar Beckham. Commissioner of Crown Lands. Lachlan District. [1841-1849]

From 1838 to 1844, Edward O'Brien was settled on the Gundagai run.<sup>24</sup> O'Brien was still the licensee in 1848.<sup>25</sup>

**FOR POSITIVE SALE.**

**By order of E. A. Mackechnie, Esq., Official Assignee, in the Intestate Estate of the late Edward Hines O'Brien.**

**The Gundagai Run, Murrumbidgee River, with about 800 head of cattle, 250 head of horses, more or less.**

**MORT & CO.** have received instructions from E. A. Mackechnie, Esq., to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock, this day, Friday, 15th February, **THE GUNDAGAI RUN,** bounded on the north by the Minghee Run; on the east by the Murrumbidgee River; on the south by the town of Gundagai; and on the west by unclaimed back country.

The Homestead is situate about three miles from North Gundagai, and consists of—  
A Verandah Cottage, with 7 rooms,  
A Stable, and Men's Hut.

There are about 1900 acres fenced in, about 1200 acres of which forms a grazing paddock; the residue is subdivided into four enclosures, one of which is under cultivation.

With the above will be sold the following stock—250 head of horses, more or less, about 30 head broken in. 800 head of cattle, more or less, 150 head of which are reported to be fat and fit for market.

The following must be taken by the purchaser of the above at a valuation :—Wheat in stack, flour, and other stores, together with light cart and harness, gig and harness, dray and 10 working bullocks, plough, harrow, and roller, 20,000 shingles, more or less, furniture &c.

In 1840,<sup>26</sup> 1844,<sup>27</sup> 1845,<sup>28</sup> 1847,<sup>29</sup> and 1848,<sup>30</sup> Joseph Andrews was also listed as the lessee of the Gundagai run. No references to this run could be found post 1848, and it is assumed that Andrews' Gundagai Run was incorporated into his Kimo Run – less the area resumed for the village of North Gundagai

By January 1854 Messrs Granville RM Collins and Alexander Keith Collins occupied Kimo.<sup>31</sup> Gormly states that Andrews sold Kimo to the Collins brothers after the drought broke in 1852.<sup>32</sup> Granville bought his brother out, and he held the property until 1871,<sup>33</sup> at which time he sold to James Robinson who held it for the next forty years. When Robinson sold, in April 1911, the property had an area of 21,000 acres and a river frontage of ten miles.<sup>34</sup>

From 1840, and possibly earlier there were two Gundagai Runs. The one leased by Joseph Andrews [the smaller area], was the one that once included the town of North Gundagai.

Edward Hines O'Brien [aka "Sugar" O'Brien] passed away in 1855 [possibly in December], intestate.<sup>35</sup> By January the Gundagai Run was advertised for sale, this event to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1856.<sup>36</sup>

**Above:** Notice of sale for "Sugar" O'Brien's Gundagai Run, in January 1856.

<sup>24</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. [1838, p403], [1840, p171], [1841, p798], p1484], [1842, p1595-6]. / 1Beckham Itineraries. December 1844

<sup>25</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1848, pp1305-1328.

<sup>26</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1840, p1194.

<sup>27</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1844, p1280. / Beckham Itineraries. November 1844.

<sup>28</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1845, p1296-7.

<sup>29</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1847, p579-581.

<sup>30</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1848, pp1305-1328.

<sup>31</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 25<sup>th</sup> January 1854, p5.

<sup>32</sup> Gundagai Times. 10<sup>th</sup> March 1916, p4.

<sup>33</sup> Gundagai Times. 18<sup>th</sup> March 1871, p1.

<sup>34</sup> Cootamundra Herald. 28<sup>th</sup> April 1911, p4.

<sup>35</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 17<sup>th</sup> July 1856, p5.

<sup>36</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 24<sup>th</sup> January 1856, p7.

A sale of O'Brien's Gundagai Run was transacted, as follows, "800 head of cattle, at 68s, per head; 250 head of horses, with station given in, at 140s; and a large quantity of flour, drays, working bullocks, implements, etc., to be taken at cost."<sup>37</sup>

The buyer was not identified in the press reports. It is believed the buyer was Thomas Broughton who occupied the Muttama Run.<sup>38</sup> Broughton was based in Sydney and would have employed a superintendent, or superintendents, to manage the properties.<sup>39</sup>

In April 1862 the Kimo and Jones Creek Runs were offered up for sale by public auction.<sup>40</sup>

**For Positive Sale.**

**MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER.**

The **KIMO STATION**, together with 2500 HEAD OF CHOICE CATTLE (more or less).  
Terms at sale.

**M**R. BREWSTER has been instructed to sell by public auction, at his Rooms, Squatters' Exchange, George-street, on **WEDNESDAY, 2nd April**, at 11 o'clock,

**THAT VALUABLE PASTORAL PROPERTY** known as Kimo, containing some of the best fattening country in the favourite district in which it is situated.

**THIS DESIRABLE PROPERTY** has a frontage of nine miles to the MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER and the back country, is well watered by a never-falling creek about five miles from the river. With the exception of three miles the whole frontage is fenced in, and subdivided into paddocks, and all the most valuable portions of the run have been secured by purchase from the Crown, and consist of about 2208 acres (rich alluvial land).

The **IMPROVEMENTS** are a well-built cottage, with flower and kitchen garden, orchard well stocked with fruit trees, vines, &c., kitchen, stoves, men's huts, stable, large barn, dairy, stockyards, paddocks, &c.

**WITH KIMO** will be sold 2500 HEAD OF CHOICE CATTLE (more or less) and 2208 acres of purchased land.

Much care has been taken and expense incurred in the importation of bulls and purchase of the stock generally, which have been closely culled for the last seven years, and amongst which are about 400 **BROKEN-IN COWS**.

\* \* Stores, drays, stock horses, implements, and three pure bred imported bulls, to be taken at a valuation.

Comment on the above is considered unnecessary. **KIMO** is well known to the squatting community, both in Victoria and the southern portions of New South Wales. Its proximity to the Melbourne market, the gold-fields of Adelong, Lambing Flat, and the other extensive diggings, both in this and the sister colony, renders it second to none as a highly lucrative and advantageous **PASTORAL INVESTMENT**, and, as it is now in the market for **POSITIVE SALE**, the attention of capitalists is particularly requested to the above brief description.

**FOR POSITIVE SALE.**

**MURRUMBIDGEE DISTRICT.**

**JONES' CREEK STATION.**  
**WITHOUT STOCK.**

Terms at Sale.

**M**R. BREWSTER has been instructed to sell by public auction, at his Rooms, Squatters' Exchange, George-street, on **WEDNESDAY, the 2nd April**, at 11 o'clock,

**THAT PERMANENTLY WATERED STATION**, known as Jones' Creek, adjoining the **KIMO PROPERTY**, capable of depasturing 1000 HEAD OF CATTLE.

The most valuable portions of the run have been purchased from the Crown, are fenced in, and subdivided into paddocks.

Also, in a separate lot, 500 HEAD OF CATTLE, which will be delivered at Gundagai.

**THIS RUN** will be offered for sale **WITHOUT STOCK**.

**THE IMPROVEMENTS** comprise two comfortable cottages, with kitchen, garden, orchard, huts, stable, &c.

The above presents an excellent opportunity for proprietors of neighbouring stations securing increased room for their stock, or small capitalists, who may wish to become possessed of a comfortable homestead at a trifling outlay—**AS IT MUST BE POSITIVELY SOLD ON THE DAY NAMED.**

Above and Left: Notices for sale of Jones Creek and Kimo Runs in April 1862.

Right: James Robinson who purchased Kimo in 1871.<sup>41</sup>



<sup>37</sup> Goulburn Herald. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1856, p8.

<sup>38</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1858, p1.

<sup>39</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1857, p1112.

<sup>40</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 1<sup>st</sup> April 1862, p7.

<sup>41</sup> Sydney Mail. 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1902, p1436.

In May 1867, the Kimo and Gundagai Runs were up for sale by private treaty. Presumably they were owned by the same entity.<sup>42</sup>

**Right:** Notice for sale of Kimo & Gundagai Runs in May 1867.

The properties did not sell at this time and the two runs were offered up again in September 1867.<sup>43</sup>

The introduction of the Robertson Land Act saw selectors commence taking up parts of the Gundagai Run in the 1860's and continuing to do so, more extensively, from then onwards.

**Below:** Managers house and cattle, on Kimo, c. 1902.

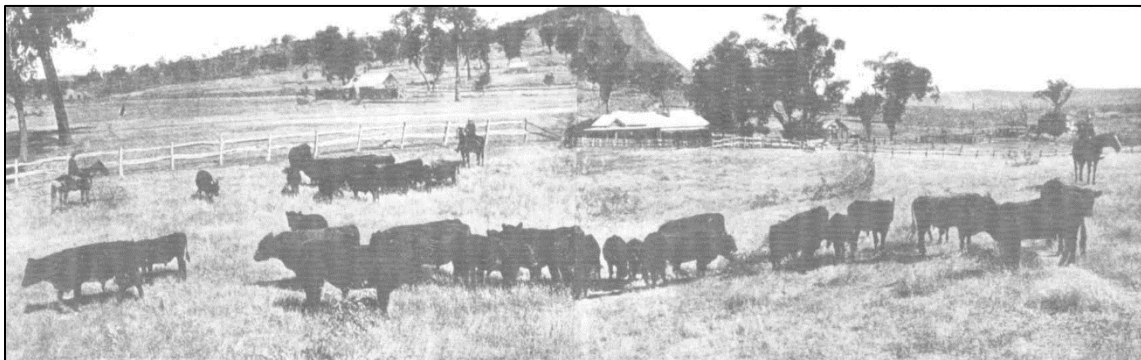
**VALUABLE STATION IN THE MURRUMBIDGEE DISTRICT,  
THE KIMO AND GUNDAGAI  
RUNS.**

**FINLAY AND CO.**

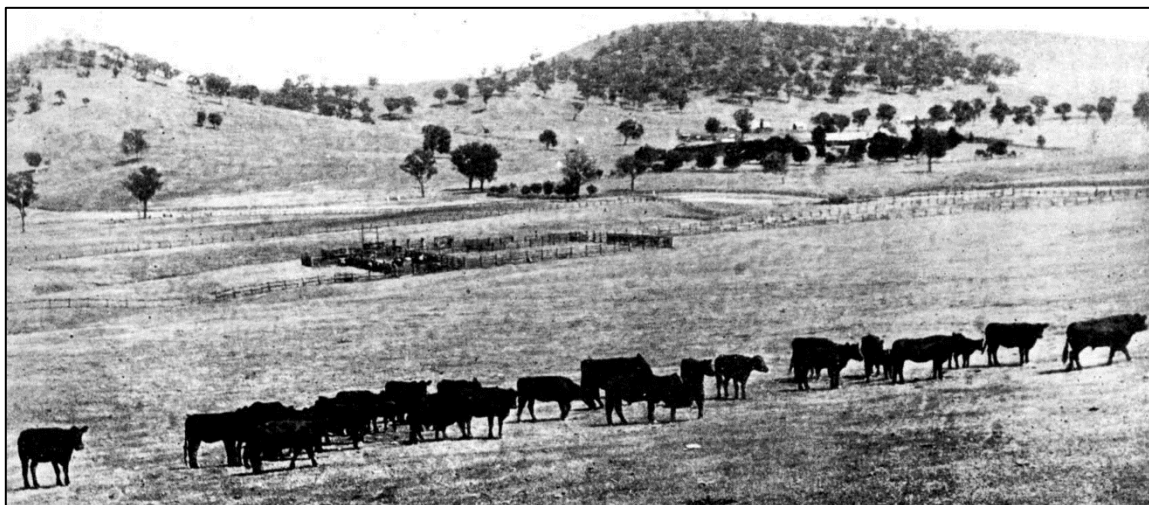
Have received instructions to sell by private contract, **THE KIMO AND GUNDAGAI RUNS**, containing respectively 28,000 acres and 8000 acres, with about 8 MILES frontage to the Murrumbidgee River, including in frontage 2320 acres of **FREEHOLD LAND**, with fattening paddocks of about 4000 acres. Also 1000 **HEAD CATTLE**, 600 of which are nearly fat, say at least 200 fit for **THE BUTCHER**; together with all the plant and grain, of which there is a very large quantity.

The paddocks will fatten annually about 1000 **HEAD CATTLE**, and the runs would carry, without interiering with the cattle, about 6000 **SHEEP**.

This is without exception one of the best runs in the colony for its size, and is always within reach of a ready market for either cattle or produce. The **FAT CATTLE** sold last year averaged £6 and £7 per head, taken from the stock-yard. The Improvements are of a very high order.



**Below:** Kimo homestead paddock, c.1902



<sup>42</sup> Goulburn Herald. 4<sup>th</sup> May 1867, p5.

<sup>43</sup> Goulburn Herald. 18<sup>th</sup> September 1867, p3.



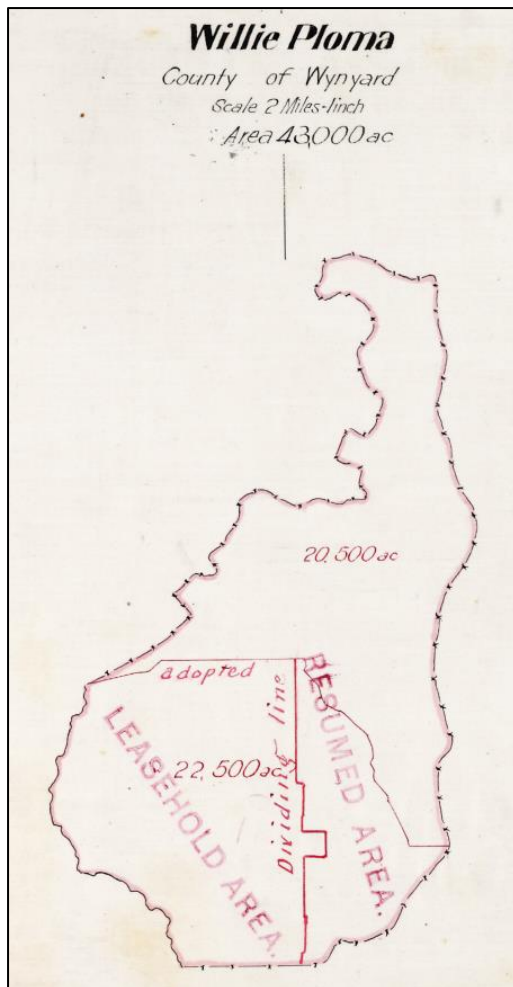
**Above:** Kimo homestead c.1886. Courtesy NSW State Library [PXA.659]



**Above:** The old River Road from Gundagai to Kimo, c.1886. Courtesy NSW State Library [PXA.659]



## Early Squatters on the Willie Ploma Run



### Early Squatting

1828, 20<sup>th</sup> October – Peter Stuckey.<sup>44</sup>

1829 – Peter Stuckey.<sup>45</sup>

1832 – Peter Stuckey.<sup>46</sup>

1837 to 1842 – Peter Stuckey.<sup>47</sup>

1848 – Peter Stuckey.<sup>48</sup>

The village of South Gundagai was originally part of the Willie Ploma run.

When Peter Stuckey died at Willie Ploma, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1859,<sup>49</sup> the property subsequently passed to his wife, Ann Stuckey, in 1861. Ann passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1863 and six years later the run was transferred to William Edwards. The latter immediately took a partner, in William Jessop. In 1875 the property was transferred to the Bank of NSW.<sup>50</sup>

**Left:** A map showing the boundaries of the Willie Ploma Run c.1885, as was being considered for resumption. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Maps.

There was more than one Willie Ploma homestead. In 1928 a c.1870's building was destroyed by fire. A press report provided the following details,<sup>51</sup>

“Between midnight and 1am on Sunday, a historic old building, the 'Willie-Ploma' homestead, situated on the roadside, about five miles from Gundagai, was burnt to the ground.

The building had lately been in the possession of Mr. Rheub. Jamieson, who was away. A number of neighbours went to the scene of the fire, but the flames had complete possession, and nothing could be done to save anything. The building was an old one, being erected over 60 years ago by Mr. Jessop, the man who constructed Jessop's Cutting, South Gundagai.”

<sup>44</sup> State Records. RJE Gormly. Stations in the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Districts [Willie Ploma].

<sup>45</sup> Charles Sturt. Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia. 1833.

<sup>46</sup> George Bennett. Wanderings in NSW. Vol.1, p308.

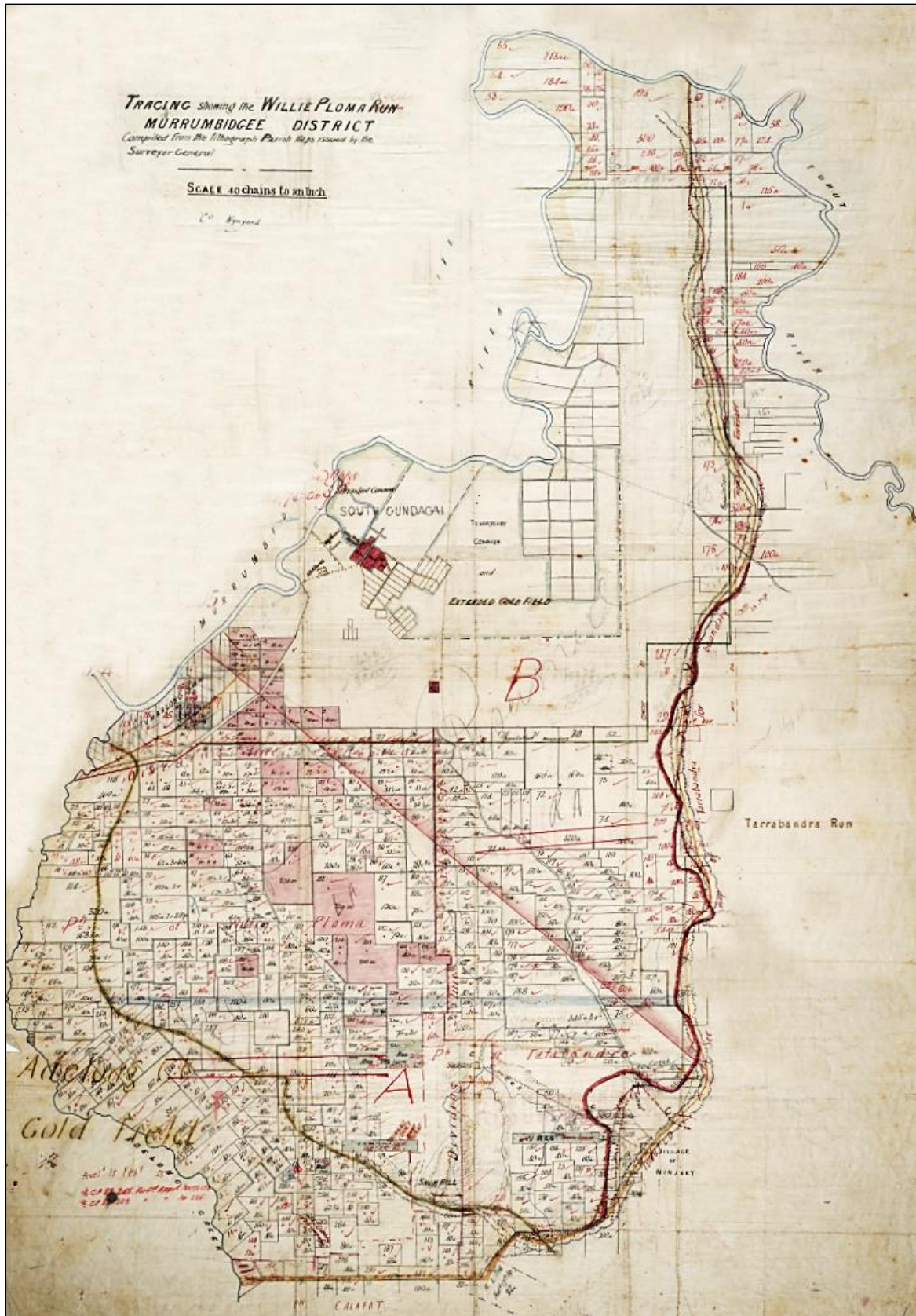
<sup>47</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. [1837, p45], [1838, p514], [1840, p171], [1842, pp1595-1596]. / Bingham. 1839. Commissioner of Crown Lands Itineraries

<sup>48</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1848, pp1351-1378]

<sup>49</sup> Goulburn Herald. 4<sup>th</sup> May 1859, p2.

<sup>50</sup> State Records. RJE Gormly. Stations in the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Districts [Willie Ploma].

<sup>51</sup> Cootamundra Herald. 20<sup>th</sup> December 1927, p2.



**Above:** A map showing the various portions that made up the Willie Ploma Run c.1885 and demonstrating how said run enclosed around the village of South Gundagai. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. Historic Maps.

## 1848 Descriptions of Runs<sup>52</sup>

### 1. West to east on north bank of Murrumbidgee River around Gundagai.

#### Name of Run – **Kymo**

Lessee: Andrews, Joseph.

Estimated Area - 8,090 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities - 250 Cattle, 4,000 Sheep.

Bounded on the east by Gundagai run; on the west by J. and W. Macarthur's run Nangus; on the south, by the Murrumbidgee River; on the north, scrub between it and F. Taaf's runs.

#### Name of Run - **Gundagai.**

Lessee: Andrews, Joseph.

Estimated Area - 1,800 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities - 100 Cattle, 800 Sheep.

Bounded on the east by Edward O'Brien's run; on the west by Kymo, in my possession, being contiguous; on the north by a dense scrub intervening between it and F. Taaf's run; on the south by the Murrumbidgee River.

N. B.—The Township of Gundagai having been formed on this run has reduced it from twice its present size to its present limited extent.

#### Name of Run – **Gundagai**

Lessee: O'Brien, Edward

Estimated Area – 24,600 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities - 800 Cattle.

Bounded on the east by the Murrumbidgee River; on the north and north-east by Dr Nicholson's run [Mingay]; on the west and north-west by the run of F Taafe, Esq. [Muttama]; on the south by the run of Mr Joseph Andrews; and south-west by Messrs W & J McArthur [Nangus]. Description – mountainous and hilly.

#### Name of Run – **Mingay**

Lessee: Nicholson, Charles

Estimated Area – 18,000 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 4,000 sheep.

A line from the river to the top of the Money Money Range passing by the folding ground of the original Kooroongurangula station, thence along the top of the Money Money Range, round the various heads of gullies which run to the Daisy-bed Flat, including all such gullies, to the rocky point opposite the road from Yass to the Sandy Falls, thence down the course of the Daisy-bed Flat to Mingay Creek, thence to Coolore down that creek, thence up a gully which comes in on the west side of Mingay Creek, and thence forming a circuit round the Ginger Beer Shop station to Jones' Creek, thence down the Fencer's Creek (passing an old hut and sheep yard of Mr. Wells) to Mates's point of the river.

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<sup>52</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1848. pp1305-1328.

## **2. West to east on the south bank of Murrumbidgee River around Gundagai.<sup>53</sup>**

### **Name of Run – Willie Plumah**

Lessee: Stuckey, Peter.

Estimated Area – 60,000 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 500 Cattle, 8,000 Sheep.

On the north and east by the Murrumbidgee River, commencing at the junction of the Tumut with that river, downwards (with the exception of the land marked out by the Government, for the township of South Gundagai,) to an imaginary boundary line about 1 mile to the north of Addilong Creek, running from the Murrumbidgee river to the Port Phillip Road, then by that Road to where it crosses the Addilong Creek; on the west by the Addilong Creek upwards, to an imaginary boundary line between the Messrs. Johnston's and my run; and on the south by an imaginary boundary line running from the Addilong Creek to the junction of the Tumut and Murrumbidgee rivers, and dividing my run from those of Messrs Johnston, Broughton, and Tooth.

### **Name of Run – Tarrabandra**

Lessee: Tooth, John [Estate of]

Estimated Area – 17,920 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 500 cattle.

Bounded on the east by the River Tumut; on the south by Gocup Flat; on the west by the William Plomer Range; on the north by another licensed station, called Bendenderra.

### **Name of Run – Bendenderra**

Lessee: Tooth, John [Estate of]

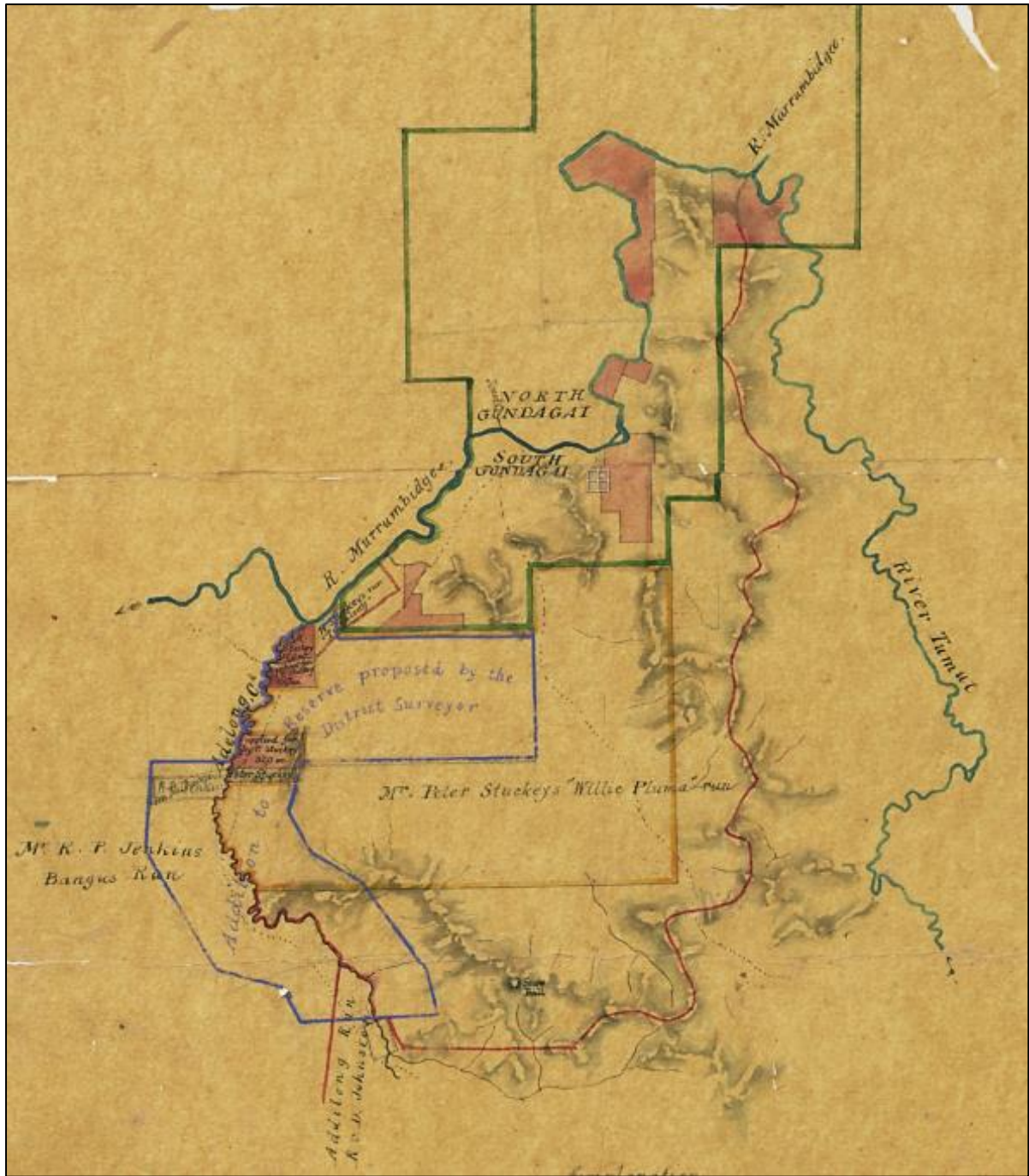
Estimated Area – 12,800 Acres.

Estimated Grazing Capabilities – 400 cattle.

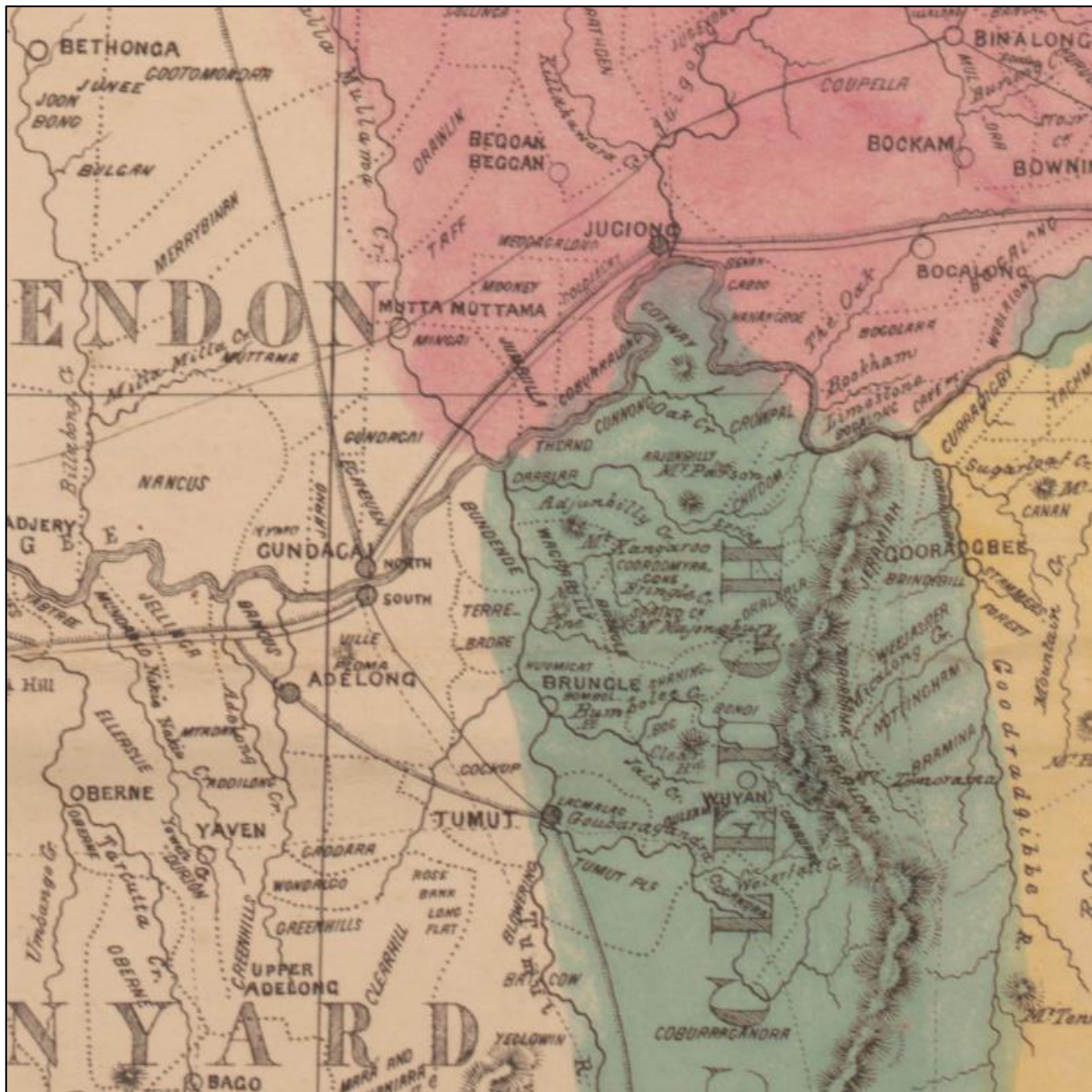
Bounded on the east by the River Tumut; on the north by the River Morumbidgee; on the west by part Willie Plomer range and the station of Mr. Petet Stuckey; On the south by another licensed station of Mr. John Tooth, called Tarrabandria.

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<sup>53</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1848. pp1351-1378.



**Above:** 1858 tracing from surveyor's sketch book showing proposed addition to the reserve at South Gundagai. The red line defines the boundaries of Peter Stuckey's Willie Pluma Run. The pink shaded areas are those set aside. Courtesy NSW State Records. NRS13886-1-[X769]. Sketch book 8, folio 27.



**Above:** Another extract from Owens 1868 map of NSW Riverine squatting runs, featuring the runs around Gundagai. Courtesy NSW State Library.

## Gundagai Inns

The site for the town of Gundagai was fixed on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1838, by order of the Colonial Secretary, Edward Deas Thomson.<sup>54</sup> The new town was described as being located on the Murrumbidgee, some fifty four miles distant from Yass on the road to Port Phillip.

Stuckey had already established a punt at this place before June 1837.<sup>55</sup>

### 1<sup>st</sup> Hotel

The first hotel to be licensed at Gundagai was the Murrumbidgee Inn, on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1838. The inn was said to be located at Stuckey's Ford.<sup>56</sup> The license was issued by the Yass Bench to Joseph Andrews.

One source, "*Old Hand*" claimed that Edward Bernard Green built the Murrumbidgee Inn and that it was originally a slab construction. Andrews, it was claimed, sold on commission for Green for a period of two years and then purchased the buildings and business for about £700.<sup>57</sup> This claim does fit with Green's efforts to establish a coach route between Yass and Melbourne, but £700 would have been an enormous sum to pay for a slab building, at that time, and this figure does not sound realistic.

An account of a journey from Sydney to Port Phillip, in April of an undisclosed year, was published in 1847. The account detailed the experiences of a gentleman identified as J.B., and his companions as they travelled down through Campbelltown, Berrima, Goulburn, Gunning, and Yass. The latter town was described as "*the last post town or even collection of houses on the track to Port Phillip.*"

After leaving Yass the group travelled to Bogolong. After dining at that place they headed for the Murrumbidgee River and struck its banks later that same day, "*in the vicinity of a small station, the property of a man well known in the neighbourhood, under the cognomen of Sugar O'Brien.*"

After locating O'Brien and following his directions, the group travelled some four miles to reach "*Green's Inn, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee, close to the general crossing place.*"

It is not clear where this "Green's Inn" was located – it could have been Jugiong or Gundagai. The distance travelled by J.B. suggest it was Gundagai.

A description of the inn read as follows,<sup>58</sup>

"By the word 'Inn', my readers must not imagine I mean what in England that word is understood to convey; I apply the word in its Australian acceptation, meaning thereby, as the case may be, a log, slab, bark, or weatherboard edifice, covered with bark, and through the sides and roof of which the winds of heaven have free ingress and egress; the floor as nature made it, the windows unglazed with a gunny-bag or sugar-mat for a shutter, and the door most probably a sheet of box-bark."

A description of the groups' stay at Green's sheds some light on conditions in those days,

"After a supper of salt-pork, mutton, and sea-biscuit (as we preferred the latter to the bad flour of which the damper was made), we diligently applied ourselves

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<sup>54</sup> NSW Government Gazette.1838, p819.

<sup>55</sup> Gundagai Independent. 8<sup>th</sup> January 1948, p3.

<sup>56</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1838. License # 277]

<sup>57</sup> Empire. 31<sup>st</sup> August 1852, p4.

<sup>58</sup> Bentley's Miscellany. Vol.22. [J.B.] ketch of Personal Adventures During a Trip Overland from Sydney to Port Phillip. pp343-353.

to Green's bad sherry, at twelve and sixpence per bottle, notwithstanding our day's ride of nearly seventy miles, it being our last night in company, my friends' route and mine separating at that point. Morning dawn found us dwelling on scenes of the past, and recounting plans for the future, as, in consequence of the vast quantity of sand-fleas that inhabited the bed-places, composed of a hay-pack laid upon a sheet of bark, supported by four forked sticks, with transverse pieces laid across, we found it impossible to obtain any rest. A plunge in the half-dry current of the river renovated our system, after partaking of some greasy fritters, mutton-chops, and tea, separated on our several routes."

The story includes a hold up of the mail coach and the shooting of numerous persons – bushrangers, police and others. No record of such an event could be found, suggesting the published item was, in parts, fictional, but the accuracy of names and places quoted indicates the writer was familiar with the district and its publicans. All publicans quoted were from the period from 1839 through till 1847, while the transgressions of Kangaroo Jack would appear to date from the late 1830's into the early 1840's. The item was published in 1847, but the events and people referred to suggest the story is based on events that occurred from the late 1830's onwards?

### **Edward Bernard Green**

Edward Bernard Green was licensee of the Green Gate hotel on the Murrumbidgee in 1838.<sup>59</sup> In 1839 he was the licensee of the Squatters Arms at Bogolong [later Bookham],<sup>60</sup> and then from 1840 till 1843 he was the licensee of the Bookham Inn.<sup>61</sup> It is believed these were all one and the same hotel, located at Bogalong.

Green had arrived in the colony in 1831, serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment. When he retired Green purchased the Bogalong Run, to the south of Yass. When George Bennett travelled through NSW in 1833, he stopped at Mr Hunt's Bugalong [sic] Station, which was then better known as Carroll's Station, named after the overseer of the run. Hunt was the son-in-law of Thomas Williams. It is believed Williams held the license up until 1838 when he sold the run to Green.

Green was settled at Bogolong by January 1838 when he was appointed as an agent for a Sydney newspaper.<sup>62</sup> Green was listed as the licensee of the Bogalong Run for the period 1838 till 1845,<sup>63</sup> and he may well have held the license for another year. In 1847 and 1848 the Bogalong Run was licensed to Thomas Williams.<sup>64</sup> [Note: There was more than one run named Bogalong, or Bogolong, in the Yass district].

In September 1839 Green, of Bogolong, gave notice that he had secured a lease of the new inn at Jugiong, which was located on a five acre block of land. He warned all persons not to trespass on same, declaring that he had an option to extend the then lease, at the time of its expiration.<sup>65</sup> Green was running a mail coach service between Yass and Melbourne,<sup>66</sup> which would explain why he needed a string of inns, or places to change horses.

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<sup>59</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1838. License # 279]

<sup>60</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1839 License # 109]

<sup>61</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1840, License # 177], [1841, license # 278], [1842, license # 188], [1843, license # 443].

<sup>62</sup> Australian. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1838, p2.

<sup>63</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. [1838, p402], [1840, p171], [1841, p1484], [1842, p1595-6], [1843, p1396], [1844, p1280], [1845, p1296-7].

<sup>64</sup> NSW Government Gazette. [1847, p579-581], [1848, pp1305-1328]. / Rev. Brian Maher. "Binalong. Beyond the Limits. 2003. p30.

<sup>65</sup> Sydney Herald. 11<sup>th</sup> September 1839, p3.

<sup>66</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 10<sup>th</sup> October 1844, p4c6.



A report in September 1838 confirmed that at that time there were only two inns beyond Yass – one at Bogolong [Green] and one at Stuckey’s Crossing [Andrews]. The development at Bogolong, aside from the inn, consisted of two blacksmiths’, a wheelwright, and some stockyards.<sup>67</sup> The article stated there was a need for a good punt to ford the Murrumbidgee, noting that the Melbourne mail had to be transported across this river in a hollowed log, suggesting there was no punt at Stuckey’s Crossing place in 1838, which questions the claim that Stuckey had a punt in 1837. There was pressure to establish a police presence on both the Tumut and Murrumbidgee Rivers, particularly so because of hostilities from the local Aboriginal groups in both the region surrounding Gundagai and Tumut, and along the Murray.<sup>68</sup> Activities by bushrangers was also common around this time.

The killing of Faithfull’s men, which took place on the road to Port Phillip in May of 1838,<sup>69</sup> heightened alarm amongst the white inhabitants of the interior regions.



**Above:** 1838 surveyor’s sketch book plan of Gundagai, showing the location of Brodribb’s huts, and the site of the river crossing – listed as a “ford”, and not a punt. Courtesy NSW State Records. NRS13886-1-[X754]. Sketch book 3, folio 85.

<sup>67</sup> Australian. 28<sup>th</sup> August 1838, p2.

<sup>68</sup> Australian. 28<sup>th</sup> August 1838, p2.

<sup>69</sup> Sydney Herald. 21<sup>st</sup> May 1838, p2.

By April 1839, Major Joseph Andrews was operating a punt at Stuckey's Crossing. According to Townsend,<sup>70</sup>

“At present the Murrumbidgee is crossed by a small punt measuring 9 feet 6 inches by five feet six inches, belonging to Andrews the publican at Gundaguy who charged £1 for allowing a dray load to be conveyed across in it without rendering any assistance whatever, not even a rope or paddles.”

When Commissioner Cosby visited Gondigi [sic] on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1840 the only lessee he listed was Joseph Andrews, who was living in a slab hut. The number of residents was recorded as seven. Andrews had nil stock [cattle, sheep, or horses], and he had not cultivated any land. The next nearest run was said to be one mile distant [presumably O'Brien's]. Andrews also occupied a public house and stores.<sup>71</sup>



**Above:** Extract from Crown Plan [1.G1028B] [John Bailey, June 1841], showing location of Andrews' Inn and store. Brodribb's huts are not detailed. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In February 1841 Gundagai township consisted of two buildings – Andrew's Murrumbidgee Inn and a blacksmith's shop. There were no other houses in the vicinity.<sup>72</sup>

It was in this same year [1841] that the first sale of town lots was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Gundagai Independent. 8<sup>th</sup> January 1948, p3.

<sup>71</sup> State Records. Itinerary. Henry Cosby, Commissioner of Crown Lands. 1839-1840.

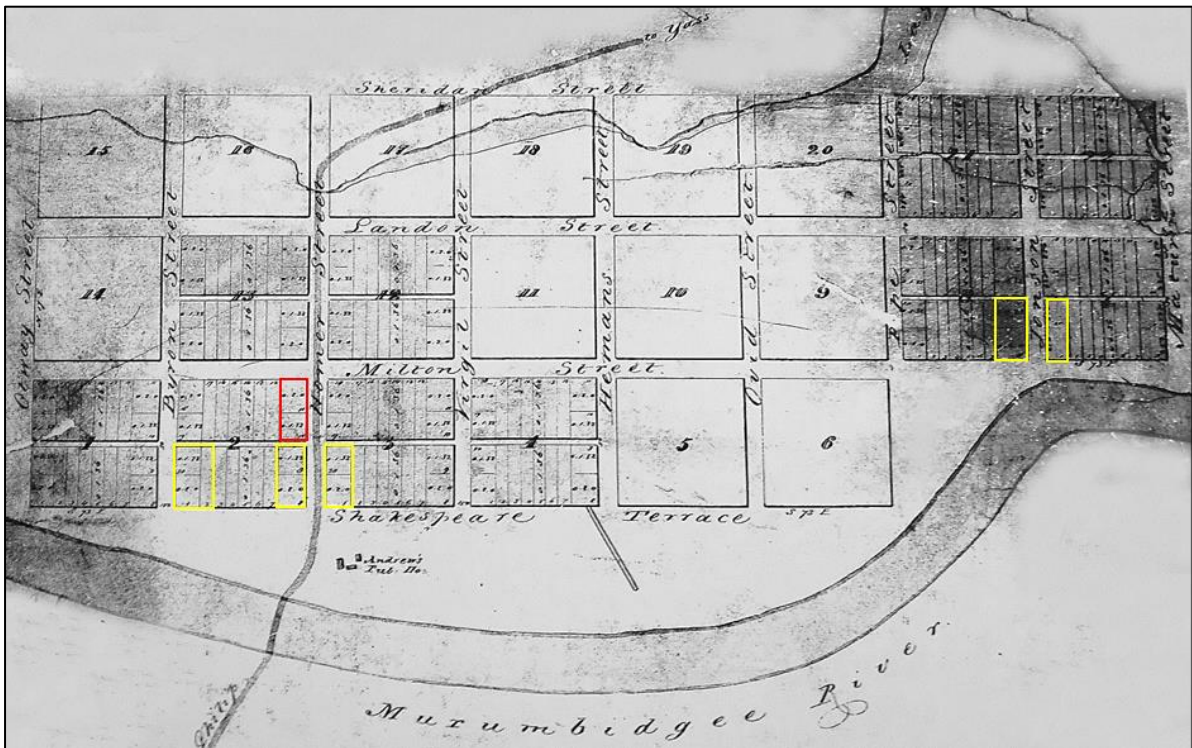
<sup>72</sup> Sydney Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> March 1841, p2.

<sup>73</sup> Sydney Monitor. 21<sup>st</sup> May 1841, p2.

**GUNDAGAI GENERAL STORE.**  
**R. DAVISON AND CO.** beg to intimate to the settlers on the Murrumbidgee River, and other parts near Gundagai, that they have opened a Store at the above place, where a select assortment of goods generally will be kept on hand, and sold at reasonable prices for cash.  
**N.B.—**In addition to the above, R. D. and Co. keep a large supply of cattle, sheep, and all other medicines, which will be sold at Sydney prices, and dispensed by a qualified person.

In April 1843 the Governor approved the establishment of a post office at Gundagai,<sup>74</sup> and Joseph Andrews became the first postmaster.<sup>75</sup> By the end of that year [1843] Robert Davison & Co. had established the Gundagai General Store.

Left: Davison & Co.'s December 1843 advertisement for the Gundagai General Store.



**Above:** Larmer's 1841 plan of North Gundagai, showing the location of Andrew's inn, adjoining Stuckey's Crossing Place.<sup>76</sup> No other buildings are recorded. At the first sale of town lots, in August 1841, Joseph Andrews purchased nine allotments, highlighted with yellow borders in the above plan. The red border defines the allotments purchased by Edward Norman, upon which he constructed the Rose Inn. Courtesy State Records.

When Joseph Andrews first licensed the Murrumbidgee Inn the land on which it stood would have been part of the run leased to either Hutchison, or Edward [Sugar] O'Brien. Andrews would, presumably, have required permission of the run holder before he could proceed to erect his slab inn. If Green was involved in the arrangements, then he too would have had to deal with the occupier of the run. James Gormly [MLA], a son of one of the early settlers at Gundagai, claimed that it was Andrews who built the first inn at Gundagai.<sup>77</sup> In September 1852 a correspondent of the

<sup>74</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 1<sup>st</sup> April 1843, p2.  
<sup>75</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 4<sup>th</sup> December 1843, p2.  
<sup>76</sup> State Records. Surveyors Crown Plans.G.1028B [SR.2823]  
<sup>77</sup> Gundagai Times. 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915, p2.

Goulburn Herald repudiated the claim that there was a business connection between Green and Andrews.<sup>78</sup>

Andrews renewed the license for his Murrumbidgee Inn for each year up until 1846 at which time it was transferred to George Gallogly.<sup>79</sup> The latter renewed the license in 1847,<sup>80</sup> and then, in 1848, it was renewed in the name of Mary Ann Gallogly [listed as the Murrumbidgee Cottage].<sup>81</sup> From 1850 until 1852, Gerald Hemphill was the licensee of the Murrumbidgee Cottage Inn.<sup>82</sup>

Mary Ann Gallogly [nee Andrews] was the daughter of Joseph Andrews. In 1846 she married George Gallogly.<sup>83</sup> George Gallogly died on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1848.<sup>84</sup> Mary Ann subsequently married Henry Turnbull in 1849.<sup>85</sup>

Given that Andrews purchased several town allotments in August 1841, it is reasonable to question whether he removed his inn to one of these allotments? No evidence was found that he did move his inn, although the old inn was situated on Crown land up until the time of its demise in the 1852 flood. It is assumed the site was a part of his leased Gundagai or Kimo Run.

On the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1840, the Murrumbidgee Inn was held up by two bushrangers. Joseph Andrews was away from the house and the two bushrangers forced Mrs Andrews to supply them with tea, sugar, tobacco, and other items. A group of men had only recently crossed over the river and were camped on the opposite side of the Murrumbidgee River. An alarm was raised and the men - Howe, Peacock, Clerk, and a 4<sup>th</sup> man – crossed back over the river in the punt. The men were armed, but the two bushrangers fled before the group could attempt to arrest them. Meanwhile three members of the Border Police had ridden from Papp's Inn at Coolac, which place had been held up on the previous night.

One of the bushrangers was subsequently sighted riding across the Gundagai flats. The armed men rushed the man, who surrendered, and attempted to pass himself off as a police officer. The man was interrogated and revealed the location of his fellow thieves. By evening time four bushrangers were locked up in Mr Andrews' hut. A description of the bushrangers stated that they were all dressed in, "*shooting coats and glazed caps, decorated with a profusion of blue ribbons, and were armed with double barrelled guns and nine pistols.*"<sup>86</sup>

A second report claimed that the "*Blue Cap*" gang, and the Border Police group, were one and the same.<sup>87</sup>

Andrews, postmaster and inn keeper at Gundagai, was held up again in the latter part of 1843 by five armed bushrangers and robbed "*of a considerable sum.*" The leader of the gang was shot and wounded by a neighbour of Andrews, but the gang all escaped.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Empire. 20<sup>th</sup> September 1852, p3.

<sup>79</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1846. License # 326]

<sup>80</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1847. License # 645]

<sup>81</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1848. License # 431]

<sup>82</sup> Goulburn Herald. 21<sup>st</sup> December 1850, p4. / Empire. 15<sup>th</sup> July 1852, p3. [no references found for 1851]

<sup>83</sup> NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 382/1846 V1846382 31C.

<sup>84</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 5<sup>th</sup> February 1848, p5.

<sup>85</sup> NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 409/1849 V1849409 34C.

<sup>86</sup> Australian. 20<sup>th</sup> October 1840, p2.

<sup>87</sup> Australian. 20<sup>th</sup> October 1840, p2.

<sup>88</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 4<sup>th</sup> December 1843, p2.

In April 1847, Gundagai hosted a two day race event, with entries to be made at Gallogly's Murrumbidgee Inn.<sup>89</sup>

**GUNDAGAI RACES.**

TO take place at Gundagai fifth and sixth April, 1847, when the following Prizes will be run for, viz. :—

**FIRST DAY, 5th APRIL.**

**First Race.**

The TOWN PLATE of £20, for all horses that never won an advertised price, except a hack or hurdle race; 2 mile heats; entrance, £1 1s.; catch weights; the winner of this race not allowed to run in any other race during this Meeting, unless the Hurdle Race; three bona fide entrances or no race; the second horse to receive back his entrance money.

**Second Race.**

The TWO YEAR OLD STAKES, for all two-year-old colts and fillies that never before won an advertised prize; heats, three-quarters of a mile; entrance, £1; three entrances or no race.

**Third Race.**

For a SADDLE, valued £6, for all hack horses that never won an advertised prize; post entrance; one mile heats.

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**SECOND DAY, 6th.**

**First Race.**

A Hurdle Race for a SADDLE, valued £6, with £1 added, for all horses; no horse disqualified to run in this race; three leaps; one mile heats; post entrance.

**Second Race.**

A new Set of BREAKING-IN TACKLE, for all horses beaten during these races.

—

Mr. JOHN SPENCER, } Stewards.  
 Mr. THOS. HANLEY, }  
 Mr. JOHN MASSEY, Judge.  
 Mr. H. SPEPPINGS, Clerk of the Course.  
 Mr. CHARLES SIMPSON, Treasurer.

All decisions of the Stewards to be final. Entrances to be made before ten o'clock, a. m., on each day of racing, at Mr. Galloghly's, Murrumbidgee Inn, Gundagai. 394

Left: Notice of the Gundagai Race meetings in April 1847.

A similar two day event was held in April of the following year [1848], with entries again to be submitted at the Murrumbidgee Inn, on the first day, and at the Blacksmith's Arms on the second day.<sup>90</sup>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Hotel

The second hotel to be licensed at Gundagai was the Rose Inn, on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1842, with Edward Norman as the first licensee.<sup>91</sup> Norman purchased allotments 10 and 11, of section 2, in August 1841. The Rose Inn was located on allotment 10.

Licenses of the Rose Inn from 1842 to 1852 were as follow,

- 1842-1845: Edward Norman<sup>92</sup>
- 1846-1850: Charles Simpson<sup>93</sup> [1849<sup>94</sup>] [1850<sup>95</sup>]
- 1850-1852: Thomas Lindley<sup>96</sup>

**PUBLIC HOUSE, AND PUNT, AT GUNDAGAI,**

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

**THE ROSE INN, Gundagai, together**  
with the License, Furniture, Fixtures, &c.

**ALSO,**

**A Punt, now plying on the Murrumbidgee River.**

For further particulars apply to Mr. James Middleton, No. 178, Pitt-street South, Sydney; or on the premises

**Gundagai, December 27 10,270**

In December 1845, the Rose Inn at Gundagai, along with an associated punt, was offered up for sale, by private contract.<sup>97</sup>

Left: 1845 notice of sale for Rose Inn and punt at Gundagai. This advertisement continued through into 1846.

<sup>89</sup> Bell's Life. 27<sup>th</sup> March 1847, p4.

<sup>90</sup> Bell's Life. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1848, p4.

<sup>91</sup> State Records. Treasury Butts and Certificates of Publicans Licenses. [1842. License # 230]

<sup>92</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses.1842, license # 230; 1843, license # 366; 1844, license # 119; 1845, license # 192.

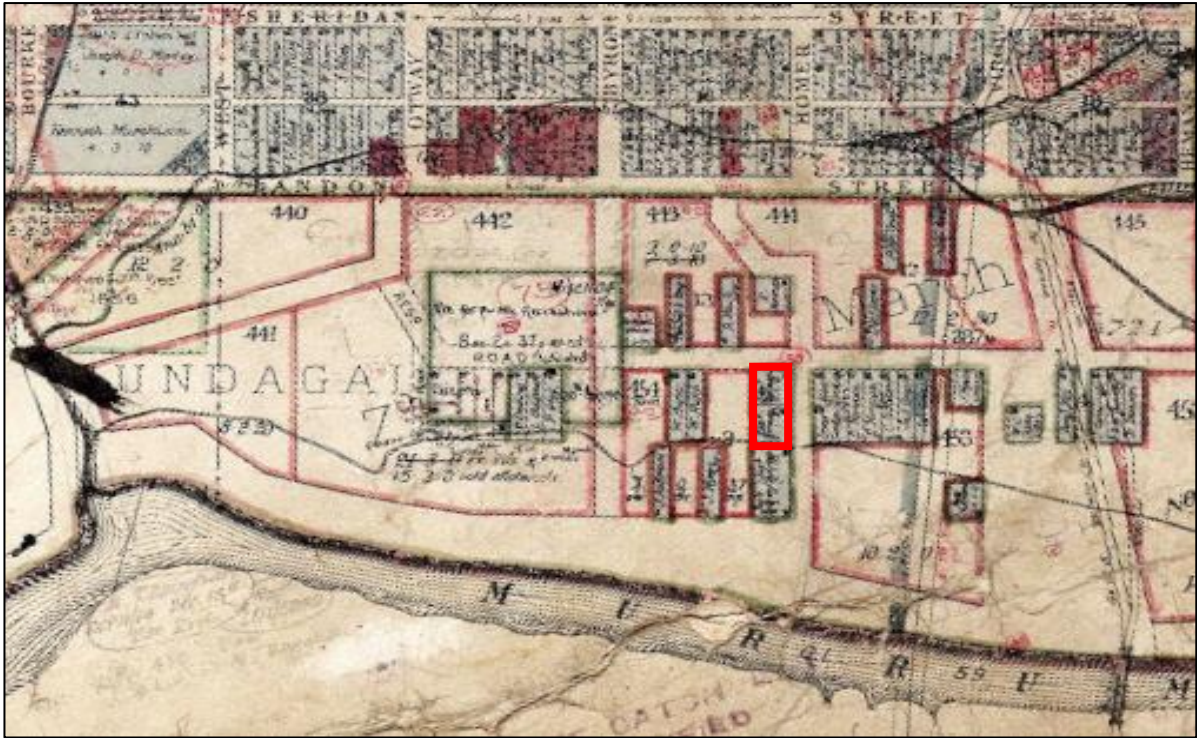
<sup>93</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses.1846, license # 237; 1847, license # 178; 1848, license # 128.

<sup>94</sup> Goulburn Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1849, p3; 14<sup>th</sup> July 1849, p6.

<sup>95</sup> Goulburn Herald. 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850, p6.

<sup>96</sup> Goulburn Herald. 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850, p6; 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1850, p6; 4<sup>th</sup> January 1851, p3.

<sup>97</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 31<sup>st</sup> December 1845, p3.



**Above:** Extract from 1930 town plan showing allotments 10 & 11, as purchased by Edward Norman in August 1841 [highlighted with red boundary]. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.



**Above:** Extract from 1845 plan [presumed Larmer] [1.G1028C], showing the Rose Inn building on allotment 10, section 2, town and parish of North Gundagai. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

**ROSE INN, GUNDAGAI.**

**C**HARLES SIMPSON returns his grateful thanks to all parties travelling on the Port Phillip Road, and the inhabitants of the Yass district, for the liberal patronage received during the time he kept the Star Inn, Reedy Creek; and begs to announce to gentlemen and all persons, that he has commenced business at the above Inn.

C. S. pledges himself to conduct his new establishment with his usual attention and civility, and can with confidence, having ensured regular supplies of the best description, enabling him to make all parties comfortable who may favour him with a visit, and moderate charges, at the Rose Inn, Gundagai.

N.B.—Wines and spirits wholesale.

1084

In July 1846, Charles Simpson advertised his move to the Rose Inn.<sup>98</sup>

**MOST IMPORTANT TO CAPITALISTS, AND OTHERS.**

**T**O BE SOLD, for the Term of Five Years, a HOUSE and STORES, situated in one of the best situations in the colony, situated in the town of Gundagai, in the line of Mr. Charles Simpson, the Rose Inn. Comprising as follows:—

- 1 Store, 36 feet by 20
- 1 Parlour, 1 sitting-room, 1 bed-room, 15 ft. long.
- 1 Large detached kitchen,
- Stable, and large hut, together with a large garden.

This is one of the best opportunities that could offer itself for a capitalist, and possession will be given immediately. For further particulars inquire at the Stores, Gundagai; or, of Mr. EMANUEL CRABB, Golden Fleece, Castle-reagh-street, Sydney.

The stock of the stores to be taken at a fair valuation.

6430

Charles Simpson placed his house and store up for lease in April 1848.<sup>99</sup>

Left: Notice of sale by Charles Simpson in April 1848.

<sup>98</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 18<sup>th</sup> July 1846, p1.

<sup>99</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1848, p4.

|  |   |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |
|--|---|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <p align="center"><b>GUNDAGAI RACES</b></p> <p><b>W</b>ILL take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 18th and 19th days of April, 1848, when the undermentioned Prizes will be contended for.</p> <p align="center"><b>FIRST DAY, TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>FIRST RACE.</b></p> <p>The <b>GUNDAGAI TOWN PLATE</b> of Thirty Sovereigns, with Sweepstakes of two sovereigns each added; heats, twice round the course; entrance, three sovereigns; three entrances or no race. Weight for age.</p> <p align="center"><b>SECOND RACE.</b></p> <p>The <b>MAIDEN PLATE</b> of Sixteen Sovereigns, for all horses that never won an advertised prize; weight for age; heats, one mile and a half; entrance, two guineas.</p> <p align="center"><b>THIRD RACE.</b></p> <p>The <b>INNKEEPER'S PURSE</b> of Ten Sovereigns, for hacks known to be untrained; entrance, one pound to be added; heats, once round the course; three entrances or no race.</p> <p align="center"><b>SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>FIRST RACE.</b></p> <p>The <b>SQUATTER'S PURSE</b> of Twenty Sovereigns, for all horses the <i>bona fide</i> property of Squatters, and in their possession at least two months previous to the races; heats, twice round; entrance, three sovereigns; three entrances or no race.</p> <p align="center"><b>SECOND RACE.</b></p> <p><b>HURDLE RACE</b> of Fifteen Sovereigns; entrance, two sovereigns; distance, two miles and a half; eight leaps, 3 feet 6 inches high; weights, 3 years, 8st.; 4 years, 8st. 9lbs.; 5 years, 11st. 7lbs.; 6 years and aged, 12st.</p> <p align="center"><b>THIRD RACE.</b></p> <p>The <b>BEATEN STAKES</b> of Ten Sovereigns, for all beaten horses during the meeting; to be handicapped by the stewards; post entrance, one guinea to be added.</p> <p align="center"><b>JUDGE—</b><br/><b>MR. JOHN CROWE.</b></p> | <p align="center"><b>STEWARDS—</b><br/><b>Messrs. H. STUCKEY</b><br/>— <b>JOHN LUPTON</b><br/>— <b>JAMES M'DONALD.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>CLERK OF THE COURSE—</b><br/><b>MR. ROBERT RILEY.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>TREASURER—</b><br/><b>MR. C. SIMPSON.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>HONORARY SECRETARY—</b><br/><b>MR. J. H. CLAKE.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>RULES AND REGULATIONS.</b></p> <p>Weights to be carried at the meeting, except where they are particularly specified.</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Two years old .....</td><td>7st. 0lbs.</td></tr> <tr><td>Three ditto .....</td><td>8st. 0lbs.</td></tr> <tr><td>Four ditto .....</td><td>9st. 0lbs.</td></tr> <tr><td>Five ditto .....</td><td>9st. 8lbs.</td></tr> <tr><td>Six and aged .....</td><td>9st. 12lbs.</td></tr> </table> <p>Mares and Geldings allowed three pounds, except in those races where the weights are particularly specified.</p> <p>No person allowed to enter a horse unless he be a subscriber to the amount of two pounds, except for the Innkeeper's Purse, for which one pound will qualify.</p> <p>No subscriber will be allowed to enter a horse unless it be his <i>bona fide</i> property, without the required subscription.</p> <p>No Publican allowed to erect a Booth on the Course, unless he be a subscriber to the amount of five pounds.</p> <p>All private matches to be run on the second day of the races, before 12 o'clock in the day.</p> <p>No false starts allowed, and all decisions of the majority of the stewards to be final.</p> <p>All entrances to be made for the first day of the races, before 10 o'clock, a.m. on the same day, at the "Murrumbidgee Inn," and for the second day, the 19th, at the "Blacksmith's Arms," before 10 o'clock on the same morning.</p> <p>To start precisely at 12 o'clock.</p> <p align="right"><b>J. H. CLAKE,</b><br/>Honorary Secretary.</p> <p>N.B.—It is left to the discretion of the stewards, provided there are any surplus funds, to add whatever sums they may think proper, to any of the different prizes to be contended for.</p> <p align="right">1218</p> | Two years old ..... | 7st. 0lbs. | Three ditto ..... | 8st. 0lbs. | Four ditto ..... | 9st. 0lbs. | Five ditto ..... | 9st. 8lbs. | Six and aged ..... | 9st. 12lbs. |
| Two years old .....  | 7st. 0lbs.  |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |
| Three ditto .....  | 8st. 0lbs.  |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |
| Four ditto .....   | 9st. 0lbs.  |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |
| Five ditto .....   | 9st. 8lbs.  |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |
| Six and aged .....   | 9st. 12lbs.   |                     |            |                   |            |                  |            |                  |            |                    |             |

Above: Race meetings continued to be held each year. [Above: Bell's Life. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1848, p4]

In February 1849, Charles Simpson offered the Rose Inn for sale, by public auction, said sale to take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. A description of the property read as follows,<sup>100</sup>

"The house stands on an elevated healthy site, on one acre of land, in the main street leading to the Ferry. It is substantially built, and contains ten rooms, neatly finished, plastered, and painted. The bar is particularly well fitted up with beer engine, spirit fountain, painted 'Toms' and kegs, and the whole is most respectably furnished with every description of furniture, which can be taken at valuation."

<sup>100</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 19<sup>th</sup> February 1849, p4.



Other features included a substantial detached brick kitchen, servant's rooms, a granary, a store 30ft x 12ft, a six stall stable, and several sheds. The sale also included several allotments of land in the village, and a large punt.

In September 1850, Thomas Lindley applied for the license of the Rose Inn to be transferred from Charles Simpson to himself. Lindley submitted a number of testimonials, but the bench deferred a decision pending further investigation. The latter was a response to the fact that Lindley had been refused a license at Yass.<sup>101</sup> Lindley's application was subsequently approved.



**Above:** A contemporary aerial view showing the approximate location of the Murrumbidgee Inn and the Rose Inn. Courtesy Google Earth.

<sup>101</sup> Goulburn Herald. 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850, p6.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Hotel

The third hotel at Gundagai was John Spencer's Thatched Cottage, later known as the Family hotel. This hotel was located in South Gundagai.

The Thatched Cottage was first licensed to John Spencer in 1843 and he held the license under this name until 1847.<sup>102</sup> In 1848 Spencer renewed the license under the name of the Gundagai Family hotel.<sup>103</sup> Spencer was still licensee of the Family hotel at Gundagai in 1849,<sup>104</sup> but for the period April 1850 until March 1851, his license was not renewed. Spencer's license was renewed by the Gundagai Bench in March 1851 and he still held the license in June 1852 when the great flood struck.

**THE  
GUNDAGAI FAMILY HOTEL.**

—o—  
**JOHN SPENCER,**  
**The Proprietor of the above House at  
SOUTH GUNDAGAI,**

**B**EGS respectfully to inform his Friends and Travellers on the MELBOURNE ROAD, that he has lately considerably enlarged his house, and consequently greatly increased his accommodation for guests.

J. S. would observe that his **SPIRITS, WINES,  
AND MALT LIQUORS,**

**ARE THE BEST THAT CAN BE PROCURED.**

And as he grows his own Hay and Corn, there is  
**No stint for Horses, &c.**

—o—  
**SPENCER'S NEW PUNT.**

**J. SPENCER** would likewise call the attention of Stockholders to his having completed a PUNT at a considerable expense, built on the American principal, which is now at work, thereby doing away with

**THE PREVIOUS MONOPOLY.**

The **FARES** he has **REDUCED ONE-HALF**, and he would respectfully submit to Stock-holders, Carriers, and to **ALL TRAVELLERS**, that they should patronize **SPENCER'S NEW PUNT.**

**A Good Paddock provided**

For those that **PATRONIZE** his Punt—**GRATIS.**

**Left:** John Spencer gave notice, in August 1849, of additions to his Family hotel, and promoted his new punt.

Spencer suffered an indignity in April 1850, when the local bench declined to renew his license, based on evidence of a former employee, whose evidence was not collaborated. Spencer appealed to the Colonial Secretary, but to no avail.

Spencer's woes were aggravated by a charge that he had allowed a "*Punch and Judy*" show to be given in his hotel. For this offence he was fined fifty pounds and his license was confiscated. Spencer appealed to the Colonial Secretary who wrote to the Gundagai bench, suggesting the fine should be waived. In September 1850, the bench chose to ignore the advice of the Colonial Secretary and insisted the fine stand. The bench declined to issue a license and Spencer's hotel remained shut.<sup>105</sup>

It was not until the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1851 that John Spencer's license was restored, by the Gundagai bench. The bench consisted of three JP's – Jenkins, Smith and Waugh.<sup>106</sup>

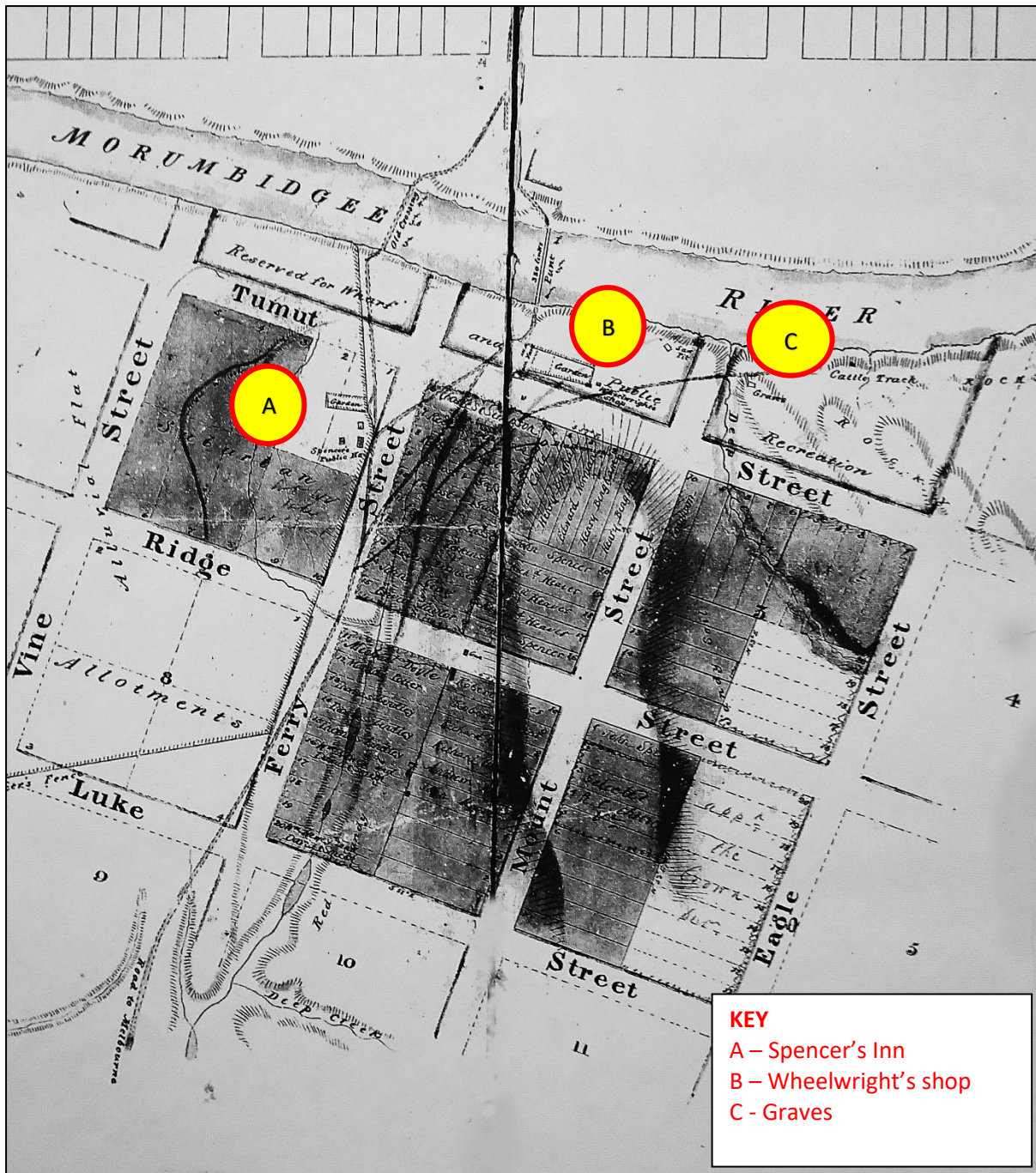
<sup>102</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses. 1843, license # 521; 1844, license # 120; 1845, license # 537; 1846, license # 5; 1847, license # 27.

<sup>103</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses. 1848, license # 327.

<sup>104</sup> Goulburn Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1849, p3; 1<sup>st</sup> September 1849, p7.

<sup>105</sup> Goulburn Herald. 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850, p6.

<sup>106</sup> Goulburn Herald. 10<sup>th</sup> May 1851, p5.



**Above:** Larmer's 1845 plan of South Gundagai, showing the location of Spencer's inn, facing Stuckey's Crossing Place,<sup>107</sup> along with several other edifices. Courtesy State Records.

<sup>107</sup> State Records. Surveyors Crown Plans.G.1028D [SR.2824]

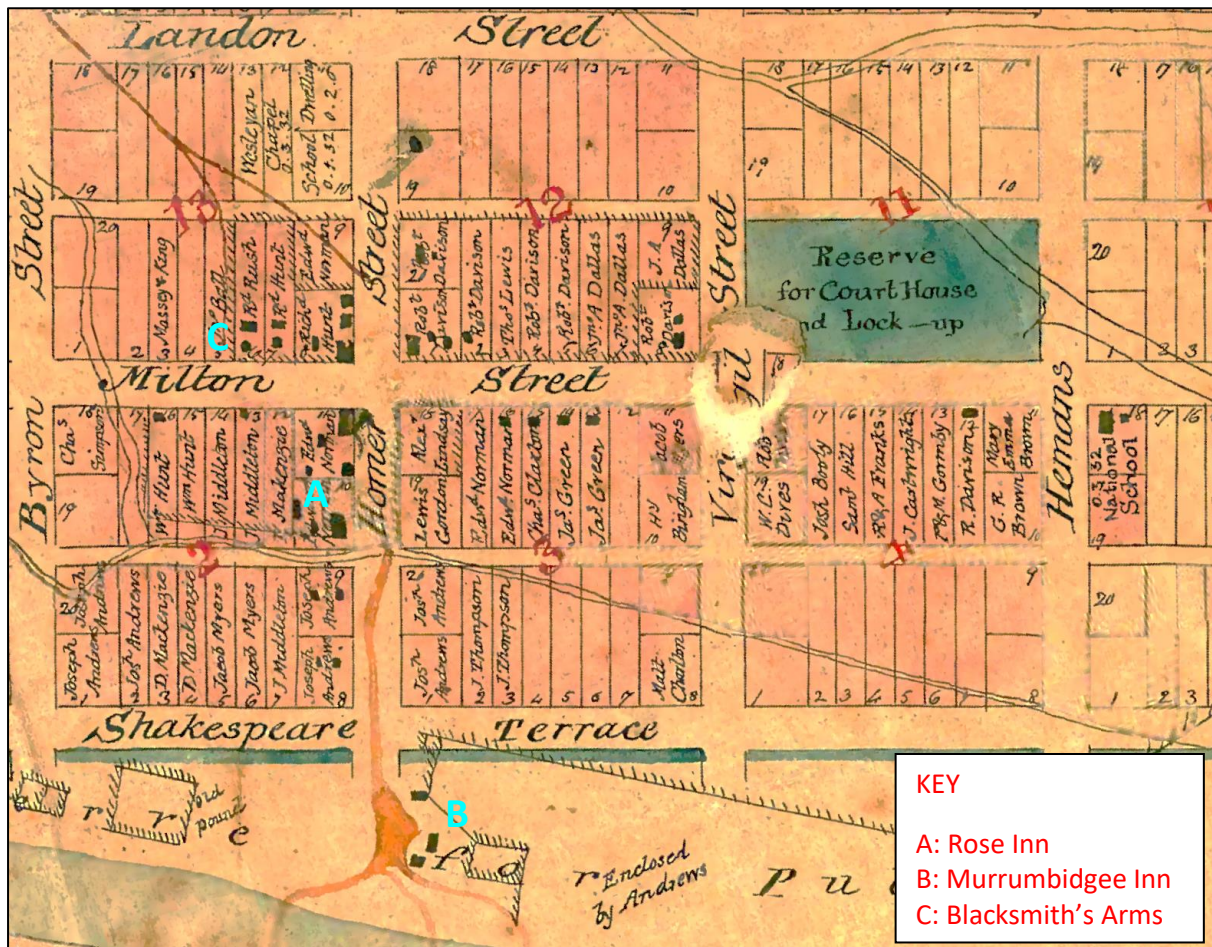


**Above:** Extract from Larmer’s 1850 crown plan showing Spencer’s inn at South Gundagai [A], along with the Murrumbidgee Inn [B], and the Rose Inn [C], in North Gundagai. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. [1.G1028].

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Hotel

The 4<sup>th</sup> hotel at Gundagai was the Blacksmith's Arms. This hotel was first licensed to John Massey in December 1847.<sup>108</sup> Massey renewed the license in 1848.<sup>109</sup>

In April 1849, the publican's license held by Thomas Ford, for a house at Little Billybong, was transferred to John Massey, a farrier, late of Gundagai.<sup>110</sup> Robert Riley was now the licensee of the Blacksmith's Arms.<sup>111</sup> No records could be found for the years 1850, or 1851, but Robert Riley was the licensee when the 1852 flood struck and it can be taken that he held the license for the period 1849 to 1852.



**Above:** Extract from early Crown Plan, showing possible site of Blacksmith's Arms hotel. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. [G.1208 (4)]

John Massey and Robert Riley purchased allotment 3 of section 13 in 1848,<sup>112</sup> and this could be where the Blacksmith's Arms stood, but no definitive evidence could be found to prove this.

<sup>108</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses. 1847, license # 676.

<sup>109</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses. 1848, license # 132.

<sup>110</sup> Wagga Wagga Bench Books. 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1849.

<sup>111</sup> Goulburn Herald. 9<sup>th</sup> June 1849, p5.

<sup>112</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1849, p258.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Hotel

The 5<sup>th</sup> hotel at Gundagai was the Noah's Ark Inn, originally licensed to Joseph Morley in 1848,<sup>113</sup> and held by him until 1852.

Noah's Ark Inn was originally located opposite the old flour mill and stood at that spot until the 1852 floods, after which Morley relocated up to Sheridan Street. According to Mrs Emma Morley the last of the ruins of the old inn [stones] were removed around 1880.<sup>114</sup> Joseph Morley's son, Harry Morley, claimed that the hotel was located where Tom Gardner's fowl house stood in 1912.<sup>115</sup> Harry also claimed that after the 1852 flood, Joseph named the hotel Noah's Ark, which is clearly wrong. Harry Morley was only four years old in 1852, and his account of events would not be from personal observation.

Michael Norton described the old hotel as a wooden structure and confirmed that it was opposite the flour mill of Hanley & Flood.<sup>116</sup>



**Above:** A post 1902 photo of the flour mill, with the viaducts in the background. The Noah's Ark Inn was, presumably, located somewhere in the foreground of the old mill. Courtesy John Henry Harvey.

A survivor of the '52 flood, Mrs Foster, stated that Noah's Ark hotel was situated between Sheridan Street and the old mill. When the situation started to look dangerous, in 1852, her husband insisted that she, and the children, relocate to this hotel, which was on higher ground. One of her children was only two weeks old.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> NSW State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans Licenses.1848, license # 728.

<sup>114</sup> Gundagai Times. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1890, p2.

<sup>115</sup> Gundagai Independent. 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1912, p4.

<sup>116</sup> Cootamundra Herald. 19<sup>th</sup> February 1898, p3.

<sup>117</sup> Gundagai Independent. 8<sup>th</sup> May 1912, p4.

According to JCM, Morley's Noah's Ark, was the first hotel built on the northern side of Morley's Creek.<sup>118</sup>

In 1895, a writer claimed that a portion of Leary's hotel, in the main street of Gundagai, featured part of the old Noah's Ark hotel.<sup>119</sup> Leary's hotel, in 1895, was the Criterion hotel.<sup>120</sup>



**Above:** An early photo of the old flour mill taken from the west. Courtesy Gundagai Museum.



**Above:** An early photo of the old flour mill taken from the east, showing extensive flooding. Courtesy Gabriel Collection.

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<sup>118</sup> Gundagai Times. 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1890, p2.

<sup>119</sup> Freeman's Journal. 27<sup>th</sup> April 1895, p17.

<sup>120</sup> NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1895, p5505.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Hotel

The 6<sup>th</sup> hotel at Gundagai was Daniel Smith's Squatter's hotel at South Gundagai. No official records could be found of a license being issued for this hotel.

One source states that Smith was granted a "beer & wine" license in October 1848, and this may have been the precursor to a Publican's License.<sup>121</sup>

According to one report, in 1850, Smith "has lately obtained a publican's license for a house not so good as some of the stables in Gundagai." Smith was living opposite Mr Spencer of the Family hotel [South Gundagai] and had previously resided with Spencer, as a domestic servant. The hotel building was owned by Mr Davidson, of Gundagai.<sup>122</sup> A report in December 1850, confirmed that Smith's hotel was located opposite Spencer's Family hotel, which latter business, in 1850, was closed.<sup>123</sup>

**TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS —**  
To let, on very easy terms, to a respectable tenant, the Squatter's Hotel, South Gundagai, now having a general license. The house, which is commodious, is situate on two half-acre allotments, facing the Ferry, between North and South Gundagai, and commands besides the town and neighbourhood, the traffic of the Great South Road, now much increased by parties travelling to the Diggings. The expenses of going in, exclusive of the ensuing license, about Forty Pounds. Apply personally, or by letter pre paid, to R. D., at R. Fawcett's Auction Rooms, George-street.

Left: Notice, in June 1851, to let the Squatter's hotel, South Gundagai.<sup>124</sup>

The two half acre allotments [two roods each] were presumably allotments 7 and 8 of section 2.

There were no references to Daniel Smith or his hotel in the reports of the 1852 flood and it is assumed the hotel had closed in 1851.

In August 1851, Daniel Smith advertised to let, three allotments of land at South Gundagai, which featured a working brewery.<sup>125</sup> It is assumed that Robert Davidson owned the three allotments, and that these were allotments 6, 7, and 8 of section 2, town of South Gundagai, directly opposite the Family hotel of John Spencer.

**To be Let,**  
*For a term of Five or Seven Years,*  
**THREE ALLOTMENTS OF LAND IN SOUTH GUNDAGAI** On one of which is erected a substantial BREWERY in full working order, with Malt House, Kiln, &c., complete.  
Apply, if by letter, pre paid, to  
**Mr. DANIEL SMITH,**  
Gundagai.

Left: Daniel Smith's August 1851 notice of a brewery to let at South Gundagai.

Allotment 6, section 2, had originally been purchased by Charles Simpson, but the latter had forfeited his deposit. Davison may have secured this lot, but no record could be found to confirm this.

<sup>121</sup> Brendan O'Keefe, Michael Pearson, and Marcia McIntyre. *The Watermen of Gundagai*. 2002. pp50-51.

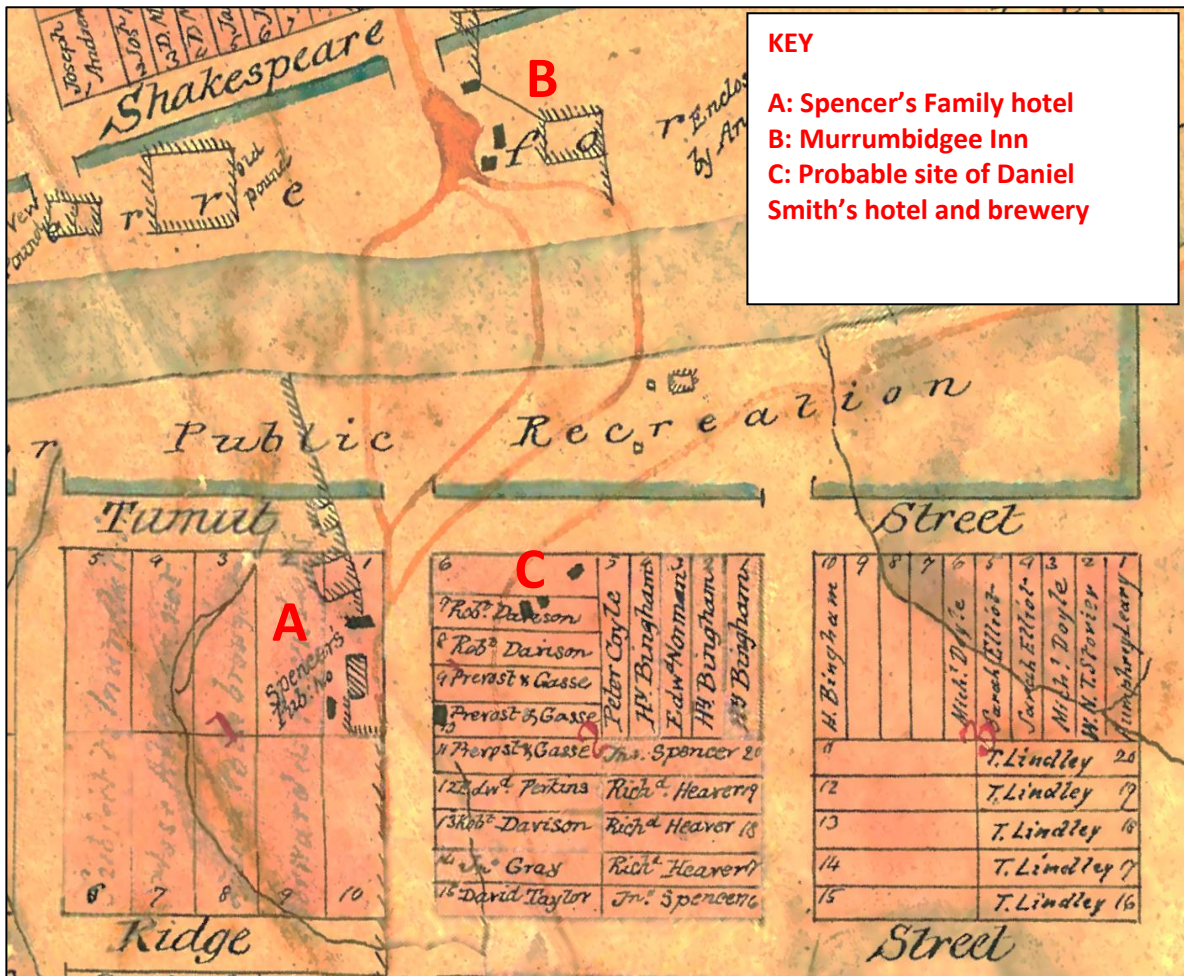
<sup>122</sup> Goulburn Herald. 27<sup>th</sup> April 1850, p6.

<sup>123</sup> Goulburn Herald. 21<sup>st</sup> December 1850, p3.

<sup>124</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 18<sup>th</sup> June 1851, p4.

<sup>125</sup> Goulburn Herald. 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1851, p5.





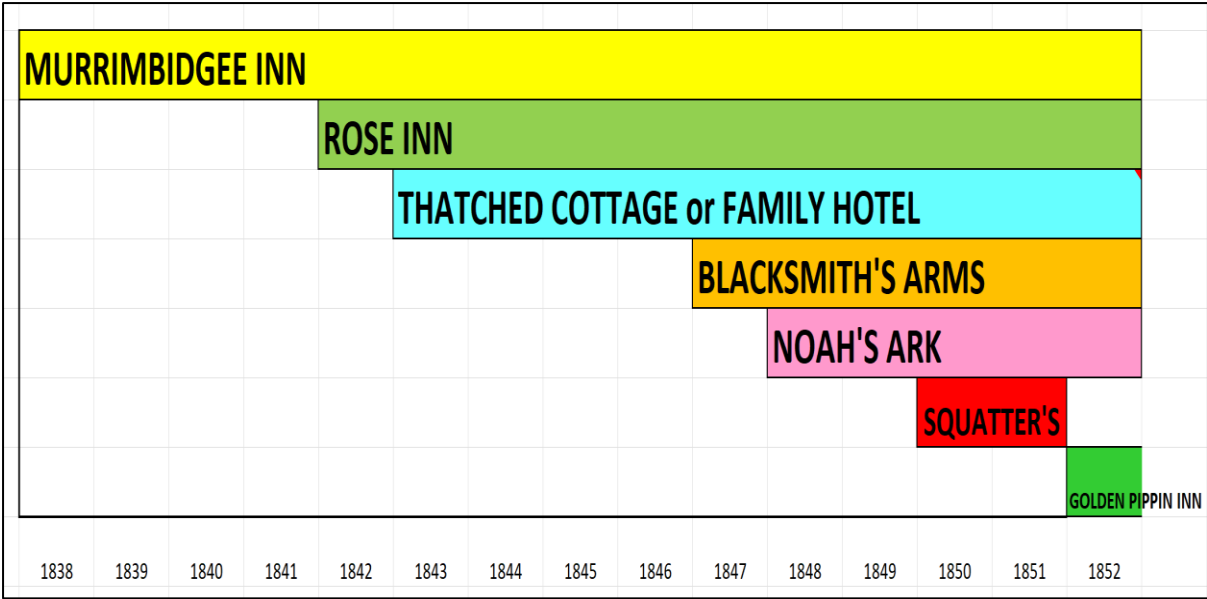
**Above:** Extract from early Crown Plan, showing probable site of Daniel Smith's hotel and brewery on allotments 6, 7, and 8, of section 2, directly opposite Spencer's Family hotel. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. [G.1208 (4)]

### 7<sup>th</sup> Hotel

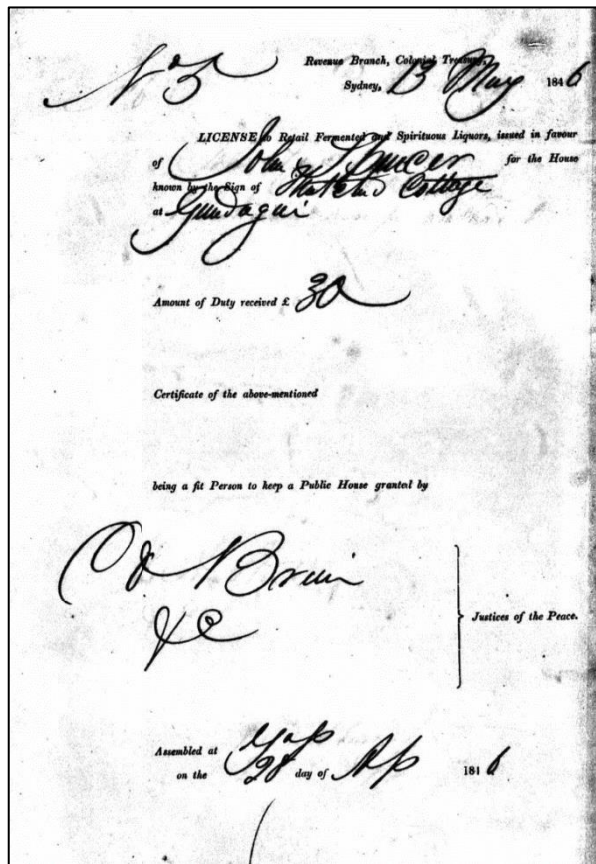
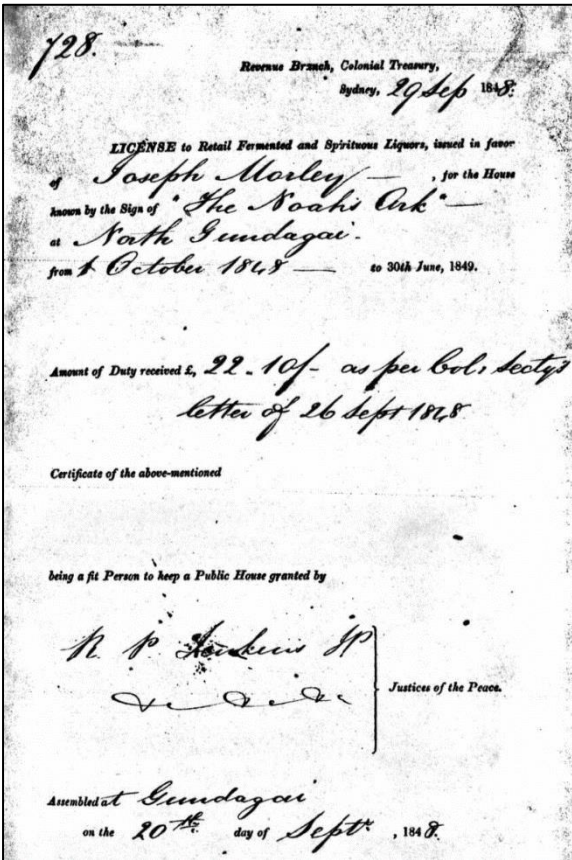
The 7<sup>th</sup> hotel at Gundagai, and the last to be licensed before June 1852, was the Golden Pippin Inn. This hotel was licensed to Charles Jones in 1852,<sup>126</sup> when the great flood struck, but no other information concerning this hotel could be found.

One possibility is that the Golden Pippin Inn was previously the Squatter's hotel, at South Gundagai. Several reports of the 1852 flood refer to Jones' Golden Pippin hotel and Spencer's Family hotel in sequence, suggesting the two hotels were near each other?

<sup>126</sup> Goulburn Herald. 17<sup>th</sup> July 1852, p6.



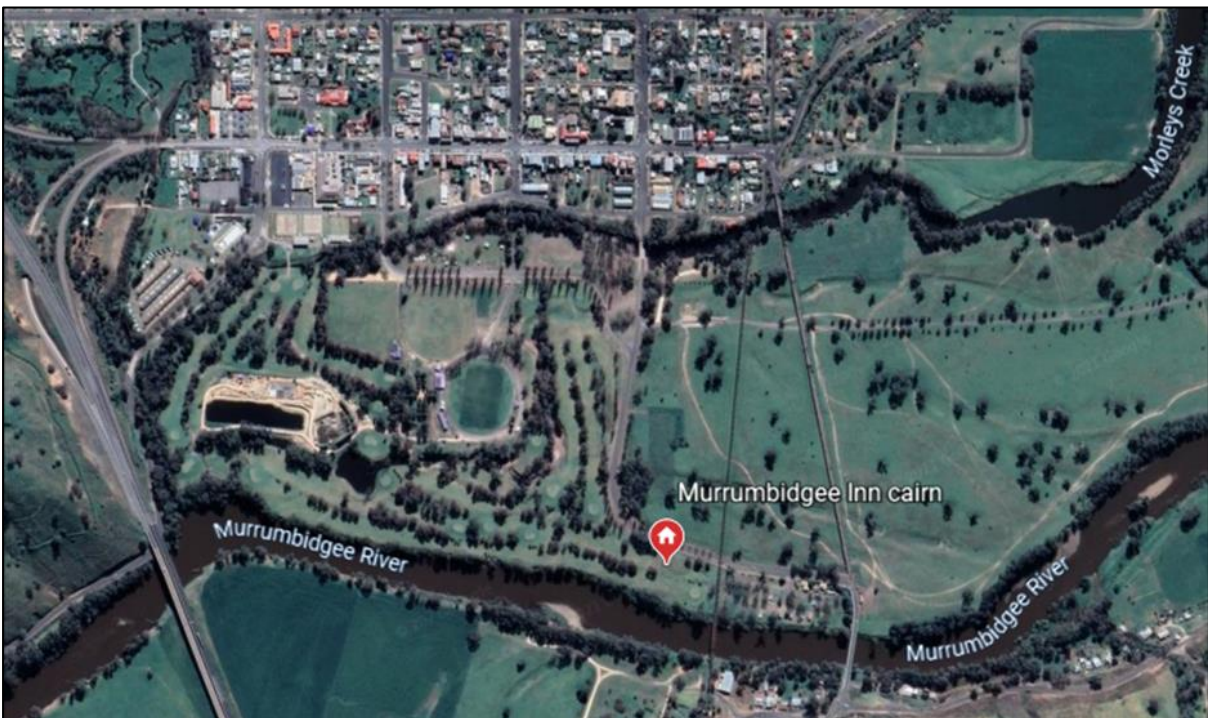
Above: A timeline showing the licensed hotels that existed at Gundagai between 1838 and 1852.



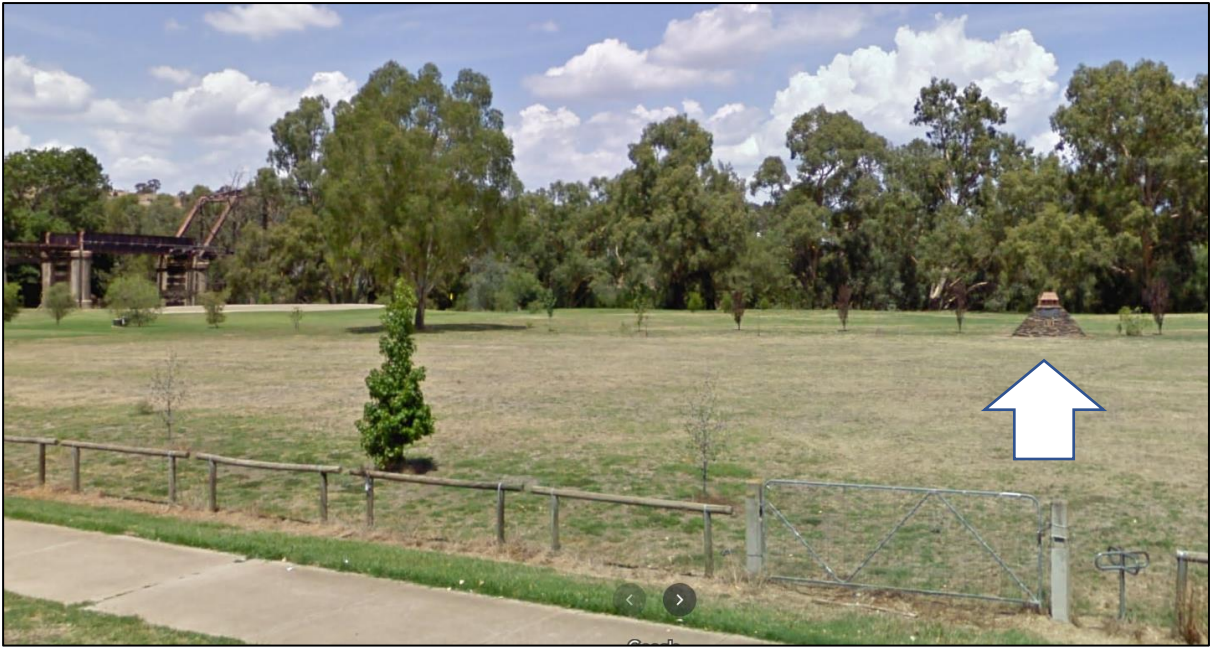
Above: Extracts of early license approvals for Joseph Morley and John Spencer.



**Above:** A contemporary aerial view showing the location of early hotels at North Gundagai. Courtesy Google Earth Pro.



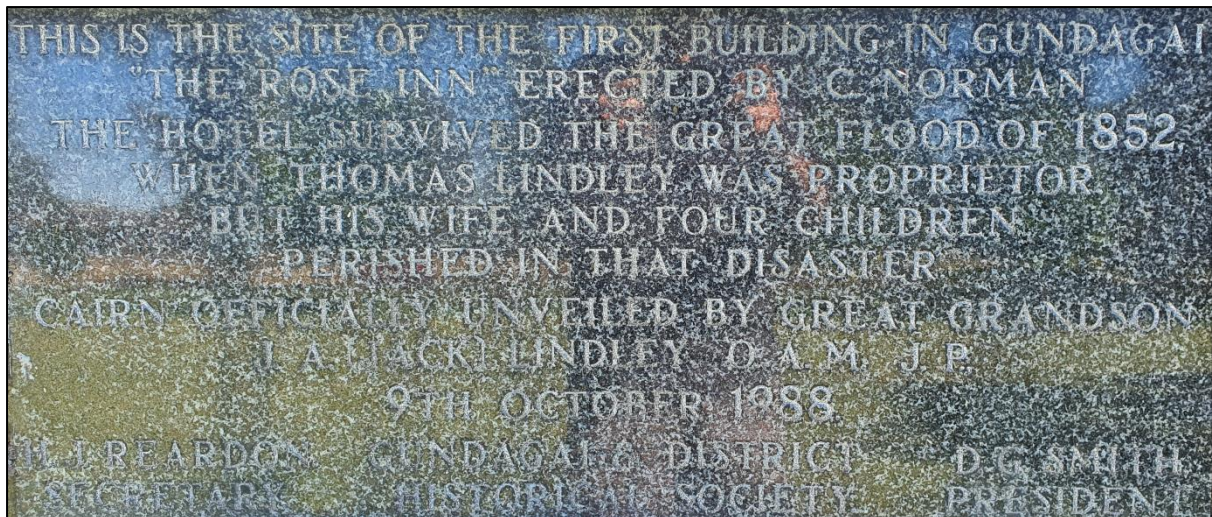
**Above:** A contemporary aerial view showing the location of the old Murrumbidgee Inn cairn, Gundagai's first public house. Previously [1988] declared to be the sight of the Rose Inn, which was actually Gundagai's 2<sup>nd</sup> public house, situated to the north-west of this site. Courtesy Google Earth.



**Above:** The cairn on the flat at Gundagai that marks the location of the original Murrumbidgee Inn.



**Above:** The amended cairn, featuring the old and new plaque, on the flat at Gundagai in December 2021.



**Above:** The original plaque on the cairn, which reads as follows,

“This is the site of the first building in Gundagai, the Rose Inn, erected by C Norman.

The hotel survived the Great Flood of 1852, when Thomas Lindley was proprietor, but his wife and four children perished in that disaster.

Cairn officially unveiled by great grandson, J. A. [Jack] Lindley, O.A.M., J.P., 9<sup>th</sup> October 1988.

H. J. Reardon, Secretary. Gundagai & District Historical Society. D. G. Smith, President.”

**This Cairn was donated by the Lindley Family in memory of family who perished at the Rose Inn. The Rose Inn site was later found to be north-northwest of this location on the other side of Middleton Drive.**

**This is in fact the site of the first public house, the “Murrumbidgee Inn”, to be established and licensed in Gundagai, erected by Joseph Andrews in 1838.**

**At the time of the 1852 flood, the “Murrumbidgee Cottage Inn” was licensed to Gerard Hemphill. Hemphill and his wife, Anne, and four of their five children, Jane, Rebecca, James and Ann, all lost their lives in the flood; another son, John, was rescued from a tree near the Inn. The Inn, its stables and outbuildings were all destroyed in the flood.**

**Above:** The new plaque [December 2021], fixed to the old cairn, which corrects the 1988 error.

At the same time, in December 2021, a new plaque was unveiled showing the correct location of the original Rose Inn.



The new Interpretive Sign showing the true location of the original Rose Inn

# ROSE INN

**SECTION 2,  
ALLOTMENT 10**

**12 August 1841**  
Edward Norman purchased Section 2, Allotment 10 at a Crown land sale. Construction of Rose Inn and commencement of trading.

**October 1844**  
Gundagai township experienced its first flood as the Murrumbidgee River waters covered the floors of houses.

**Early 1845**  
Charles Simpson purchased Rose Inn from Edward Norman and continued trading.

**13 November 1850**  
Thomas Lindley purchased the Rose Inn and is granted a Publican's License.

**20 August 1851**  
Gundagai township endured its second major flood in 8 years with considerable property loss but without loss of life.

**25 June 1852**  
Floodwaters returned resulting in considerable loss of life. The official death toll was 75, likely upwards of 90 due to many unaccounted for travellers.

At the Rose Inn Lindley's wife Hannah Sophia Lindley initially took refuge in the loft of the brick kitchen building with her 4 children George, Emma, Thomas and Hannah and the cash box. With them were Lindley's servants Anne Farrell and Mary Anne Smart and 4 others. They were last seen retreating to the roof of the stable, a building that was apparently on higher ground.

"As soon as the waters rose above the eaves she threw the box into the river and embracing the little ones, submitted herself to the inevitable fate which awaited them all".

Thomas Lindley was in Yass at the time of the flood. The Rose Inn stood the flood but the kitchen, two stables, a store and fences were lost.

**30 June 1853**  
On the night of 12 July 1853 the township endured its greatest flood known to white residents. The Rose Inn stood but was considerably damaged and rendered "uninhabitable". There was no loss of life. Lindley abandoned Section 2, Allotment 10 to rebuild in North Gundagai (Old Rose Inn, Sheridan Street, 1853) and South Gundagai (Rose Inn, Tumut Street, 1854)

**At this site on the night of 25th June 1852, all 11 residents of the Rose Inn perished in the raging floodwaters of the Murrumbidgee River.**

**Hannah Sophia Lindley**  
wife of Thomas Lindley

**George Lindley**  
aged 6 years

**Emma Lindley**  
aged 5 years

**Thomas Lindley**  
aged 3 years

**Hannah Sophia Lindley**  
aged 1 year

**Mary Scott & her child**  
name unknown

**Anne Farrell**  
Lindley's servant

**Mary Anne Smart**  
Lindley's servant

**James McNamara**  
Traveller

**John McKinnon**  
Traveller

**Site Survey  
Rose Inn  
Section 2, Allotment 10**

Base Data: Plan showing proposed reallocation to North and South Gundagai - Surveyor J. Larnac, 1850 (NSW State Records Authority AD 88013)

## Gundagai Town

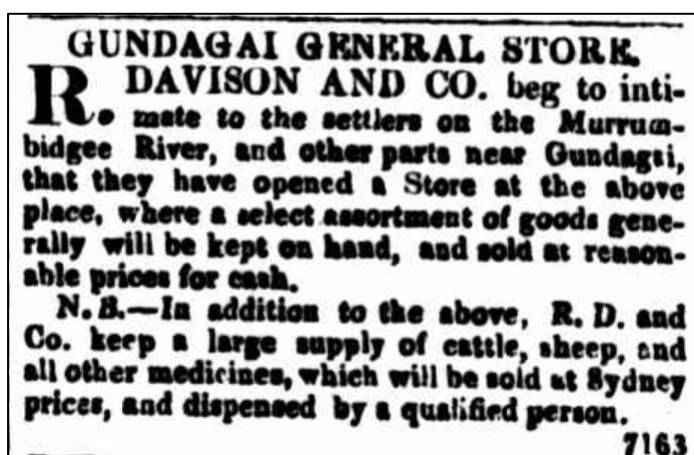
A site for the village of Gundagai was fixed on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1838.<sup>127</sup>

In March 1841, Gundagai featured one public house and a blacksmith's shop.<sup>128</sup> There were no other buildings in the village.

In August 1841, the first sale of lots, by public auction, took place at Gundagai.

In March 1843, the government established a post office at Gundagai,<sup>129</sup> with Joseph Andrews appointed postmaster.

In December 1843, R Davidson gave notice that he had opened his Gundagai General Store.<sup>130</sup>



Left: December 1843 notice from R Davidson.

In February 1844, John Tooth gave notice that he was establishing a “cattle & sheep boiling establishment” on his run, *Tarrabandra*, at the junction of the Tumut and Murrumbidgee Rivers.<sup>131</sup> It is assumed that drought conditions had existed for some time prior.

In July 1844 a correspondent advised that Edward Norman, a local inn keeper, had established a new punt at Gundagai, at a cost of some four to five hundred pounds. There is no mention of an earlier punt, and it is assumed that although a punt did exist in earlier times, its existence was irregular. The writer claimed that prior to the establishment of Norman's punt, drovers and teamsters faced delays of weeks before they were able to cross the river. The writer also noted the large quantity of stock – cattle and sheep – being driven to the local boiling down works, and the poor condition of said stock, as a consequence of the “*inclemency of the weather*,” which had resulted in a shortage of autumn feed.<sup>132</sup> A month later, in August, the same correspondent noted that the *Tarrabandra* establishment had ceased work, due to a shortage of stock. The recent weather had provided rains and some grass, and presumably stock owners were now holding on to their stock.<sup>133</sup>

In August 1844, Gundagai was the beneficiary of numerous natural gifts – “*the river abounds with fish and affords good duck shooting; the land is exceedingly rich, and capable of maintaining a dense population.*” The mail passed through the town once a week, and commerce was expanding. The

<sup>127</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1838, p819.

<sup>128</sup> Sydney Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> March 1841, p2.

<sup>129</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 1<sup>st</sup> April 1843, p2.

<sup>130</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1843, p1.

<sup>131</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 29<sup>th</sup> February 1844, p1.

<sup>132</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 29<sup>th</sup> July 1844, p2.

<sup>133</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 20<sup>th</sup> August 1844, p2.

town boasted “two wheelwrights, three blacksmiths, two tanners and curriers, three shoemakers, one harnesser, one storekeeper, two surgeons, and three inn keepers.” A flour mill was planned.<sup>134</sup>

By end August 1844, the district had experienced heavy falls of rain and flooding of the village at Gundagai had occurred. A writer referred to “a pygmy ocean, studded with small islands, in the midst of which our Vulcan’s forge rolled its dark column of smoke, and emitted its bright flame, like a miniature volcano amid the waters.”<sup>135</sup> Worse was to come.

Heavy rains in October 1844, saw a continuation of the local flooding at Gundagai. By the 10<sup>th</sup> October the river had risen “beyond the highest water-mark for many years,” but a break in the rain caused some optimism. The rain recommenced and continued for a number of days. On the evening of Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, the river was two feet nine inches above the previous highest mark, and two men were forced from their hut to a nearby kitchen. A resident wrote,<sup>136</sup>

“We had, whilst assembled at prayers a few minutes before, heard shouts from one of the sheep stations, which was attributed to the watchman in order to scare the wild dogs; its meaning now burst upon me with a fearful certainty - the people were being driven from their huts and I knew from their position, they had no means of escape as for days previous they had been hemmed in on an island, from which for a woman with four children or a man who could not swim well, there was no escape. Throughout the night shouts and cries could be heard in all directions and the river rose fearfully, breaking its banks in all directions, and effectually cutting off all egress to the ranges. As we were several feet still above the level of the water, we did not deem it possible the flood would or could reach us, and we had retired for the night comparatively easy. At four o'clock in the morning the waters rushed over the banks and drove the people from the kitchen, and we were all soon busily and cheerlessly engaged in securing all property from the probable effects of the water. At day dawn the river could be seen, without the aid of marks, encroaching upon us and no time was to be lost; distant and continuous shouts and cries too plainly convinced us of the painful position of others, and by the time I had placed all our goods upon the lofts of the hut, the water broke through our dwelling with a dismal and hissing rush, and in an instant the mighty river was exerting the strength of its foaming and boiling current upon us; we constructed a platform for my family, and most providentially the working bullocks and horses having retreated during the night from the waters to the high ridge on which our hut was erected we secured them, and by wading to the middle in the flood, succeeded in yoking them up, and getting my family with some necessary comforts away from the dwelling to a small ridge at about 200 rods distance, which still held up its grassy form above the flood about three feet, and gratefully did we take possession of it as a hill of refuge. All around us now was one wide waste of eddying and boiling stream and the rushing roaring sound of the mighty waters was awful; beyond where we were there was no escape and the space was a confined one of a few hundred rods.”

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<sup>134</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1844, p3.

<sup>135</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1844, p2.

<sup>136</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 29<sup>th</sup> October 1844, p4.



The river height peaked around 3pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> October the resident returned to his hut, with his family. The woman he alluded to in his comments had been compelled to take refuge in a tree, along with her four children and a man who had been staying in her hut on the fateful night. They had taken sanctuary in the tree on the Monday and were trapped there until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. During that period, they had no food except a chook that was driven to the tree by the floods. On the third day the children ate the raw chook. The youngest child was some six months old, and another was just able to crawl. The woman's husband could see his family but was unable to offer any assistance. The township was said to be completely under water. All buildings were flooded to a minimum depth of three to four feet, and many were flooded to the roof line. Joseph Andrews was said to have "suffered severely" in terms of his losses.

The resident concluded, "*The position of Gundagai as a government township is no longer tenable; no one would receive the allotments now as a gift, and the government have no alternative but to remove the site and allow the present holders of allotments the choice of others in the newly defined village.*"

The efforts of Edward Norman, in helping his fellow citizens, were recognised. His oven escaped the ravages of the flood, and he was able, "*with the aid of a punt, with four oars, temporarily rigged,*" to secure wood for the oven and to bake meat and bread for all, until such time as he ran out of flour.

A body was seen floating down the river on the Wednesday [16<sup>th</sup>]. Other reported deaths included a man at Jewging [Jugiong], one at Bagelong [Bogolong], and another near Yass. A servant of Charles Tompson, named Thomas Arms, drowned while attempting to rescue a woman and her child. Mrs Guise was compelled to take refuge on the roof of her hut, along with her two children, until she was rescued by Aboriginals in a bark canoe. Her husband was away in Melbourne at the time.

The punt at the crossing place was saved and was back in action by the 23<sup>rd</sup> October [1844].<sup>137</sup>

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October, the local Commissioner for Crown Lands, Henry Bingham, visited Gundagai for the purpose of carrying out an inquiry into the death of an Aboriginal man named *Gothering*. The latter had drowned in a creek near the Murrumbidgee River, during the flooding. Bingham wrote to the Colonial Secretary and his letter read, in part, as follows,<sup>138</sup>

"I would not be doing justice, to the Aboriginal Natives of this part, if I did not state, that during the severe and continued floods, caused by the overflowing of the waters of the Murrumbidgee and Tumut Rivers, that in the hour of peril, alarm, and danger, the blacks were most active in cutting canoes and rescuing the men, women, and children, from their huts, fast filling with water, and saved many of them from a watery grave: in fact, their conduct was noble and praiseworthy; and should His Excellency the Governor be pleased to sanction my small requisition in their favor, I consider, it would do much good, and that they (Blacks) merit some reward, in order to stimulate them to such actions and conduct, as we know not now, when they may be again called on, under similar trying moments, for exertion."

Through the Colonial Secretary, the Governor directed that Bingham's letter be published in the Sydney press and in the Government Gazette. It is not known if any reward was given to the First

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<sup>137</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 29<sup>th</sup> October 1844, p4.

<sup>138</sup> The Australian. 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1844, p3.

Nations People that saved lives. No reports could be found that identified how many people were saved, or that identified the local Aboriginal men who performed the rescues.

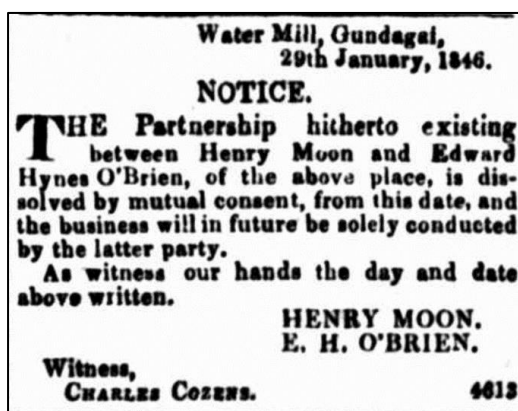
As a consequence of the 1844 flood, Spencer had been in correspondence with the Colonial Secretary and had been pushing for the town to be moved to his side of the river, which clearly would have been financially beneficial for Spencer. It appears that the majority of the locals were not in agreement with Spencer, who was though supported by the Commissioner of Crown Lands [Murrumbidgee], Henry Bingham. The established citizens wanted the town to remain on the north side of the river, but to be moved to higher ground towards the range and away from the river. A petition was raised and forwarded to His Excellency the Governor rejecting Spencer's perspective that the town could be readily moved without concern due to the fact that very little development of any significant nature had taken place. The petitioners pointed out that four of the buildings in the town [inns, stores, and dwelling houses according to the petition] had cost between one hundred and five hundred pounds to erect.<sup>139</sup>

In January 1845, the mail contract now provided two deliveries each week, under the auspices of a new contractor, Mr Green. Construction of the new flour mill was well underway with the proprietor hoping to commence grinding on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. [The opening of the mill was delayed. A report in July 1845, noted that the associated dam had been washed away and that it was unlikely that construction of the mill would be completed].<sup>140</sup> The mill was a watermill, owned by Henry Moon and EH O'Brien.

According to JCM, in 1843 O'Brien and Moon,<sup>141</sup>

"cut a race across the point that is now known as Lindley's Island, opposite Mrs Lindley's residence, and built a fine flour mill, intending to drive it by a water wheel from the race. The mill was finished in January 1844, and they were ready to commence work, but Fate decreed otherwise, for on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the following month a flood came down and carried the mill and all the machinery away, the only thing left to mark the spot being three large posts which stood there for many years."

In March 1846, these two gentlemen gave notice that their partnership was dissolved, and that O'Brien was now the sole proprietor.<sup>142</sup>



Left: Henry Moon and EH O'Brien give notice of the dissolution of their partnership in the Gundagai Water Mill.

<sup>139</sup> Petition to the Governor. Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council. 1852.

<sup>140</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1845, p1.

<sup>141</sup> Gundagai Times. 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1912, p2.

<sup>142</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 21<sup>st</sup> March 1846, p3.

By January 1845 the citizens of Gundagai had been made aware, through Commissioner Bingham, that the governor was considering a proposal to relocate the town to the south side of the river. Many objected to this proposal and wrote to the governor asking that any decision be put on hold until such time as the people could respond with a memorial emanating from a consultation with all local residents.<sup>143</sup> It was Bingham who had initiated the proposal, in November 1844, and the Colonial Secretary wrote back to Bingham in December 1844, to advise that the governor had approved of allotments being created at South Gundagai, but that the allotments would need to be first surveyed. In response to Bingham's suggestion that owners of town allotments in the original surveyed village [on the flood plain] be allowed to exchange these lots for allotments on higher ground, the Colonial Secretary, infamously, wrote,<sup>144</sup>

“His Excellency further directs me to inform you, that he cannot, however, sanction the proposed exchange of the flooded allotments, as he considers that what a man buys, he buys for better or for worse.”

In 1844 and 1845, Gundagai was visited by Mrs Chisholm, as she sought to find employment for the emigrants she represented.

In February 1845, several privately owned punts were operating at Gundagai.<sup>145</sup> One writer suggested the governor should grant leases to these individuals, granting them exclusive rights for crossing the river at Gundagai. This proposal was supported by Edward B Green, the contractor for the Port Phillip Mail, who, having several years' experience in crossing the river at Gundagai, applauded the services provided by the privately owned punts.<sup>146</sup>

In February 1845 the town of Gundagai consisted of two hotels, one store [the owner of which described himself as a surgeon and druggist], two shoemakers, one saddler [also a tanner and tailor], and one blacksmith. The population consisted of the occupants of these businesses and their servants.<sup>147</sup> This description came from John Spencer whose business was located on the Port Phillip side of the Murrumbidgee River [south bank]. Spencer neglected to mention that the new mill was almost completed and expected to commence grinding from the 1<sup>st</sup> March.<sup>148</sup> The tanner and carrier may have been Richard Hunt, who, in February 1846, was declared insolvent.<sup>149</sup>

**GUNDAGAI GENERAL STORE.**

**T**HE Settlers on the Murrumbidgee, and adjoining neighbourhood, can be supplied with every description of Store Goods, at the above establishment, at very reasonable prices, for cash, by

**R. DAVISON,**

Who continues to purchase colonial produce on the most liberal terms. **2598**

Left: August 1845 advertisement by Robert Davison. Davison was the “surgeon and druggist” referred to by Spencer.<sup>150</sup>

<sup>143</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1845, p4.

<sup>144</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 29<sup>th</sup> January 1845, p3.

<sup>145</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 26<sup>th</sup> February 1845, p3.

<sup>146</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 12<sup>th</sup> March 1845, p2.

<sup>147</sup> John Spencer., surgeon and inn keeper. Correspondence to the Colonial Secretary. Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council. 1852.

<sup>148</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1845, p4.

<sup>149</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1846, p256.

<sup>150</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 30<sup>th</sup> August 1845, p1.

**GUNDAGAI RACES,**

**T**WO take place at Gundagai, 5th and 6th April, 1847, when the following prizes will be run for, viz. :—

**FIRST DAY, 5TH APRIL.**

**FIRST RACE.**

The TOWN PLATE of £20, for all horses that never won an advertised prize, except a hack or hurdle race; 2 mile heats; entrance, £1 1s.; each weighs; the winner of this race not allowed to run in any other race during this Meeting, unless the Hurdle Race; three bona fide entrances or no race, the second horse to receive back his entrance money.

**SECOND RACE.**

The TWO YEAR--OLD STAKES, for all two-year-old colts and fillies that never before won an advertised prize; heats, three quarters of a mile; entrance, £1; three entrances or no race.

**THIRD RACE.**

For a SADDLE, valued £6, for all hack horses that never won an advertised prize; post entrance; one mile heats.

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**SECOND DAY, 6TH.**

**FIRST RACE.**

A Hurdle Race for a SADDLE, valued £6, with £4 added, for all horses; no horse disqualified to run in this race; three leaps; one-mile heats; post entrance.

**SECOND RACE.**

A new Set of BREAKING-IN TACKLE, for all horses beaten during these races.

Mr. JOHN SPENCER }  
 Mr. THOS. HANLEY } Stewards.  
 Mr. JOHN MASSEY, Judge.  
 Mr. H. SPEPPINGS, Clerk of the Course.  
 Mr. CHARLES SIMPSON, Treasurer.

All decisions of the Stewards to be final. Entrances to be made before ten o'clock, a.m., on each day of racing, at Mr. Galloghly's, Murrumbidgee Inn, Gundagai. 384

By April 1847 the town was established enough to host a two day race meeting.<sup>151</sup>

Left: Notice of the Gundagai Races in April 1847.

In July 1847 Edward Floor proposed constructing a steam flour mill at Gundagai, he having already purchased the necessary equipment.<sup>152</sup> The project was delayed,<sup>153</sup> but construction was underway in October 1848.<sup>154</sup> It is not known when the mill opened but in April 1850 it was available to let.<sup>155</sup>

In the same month, July 1847, a man named Benjamin gave notice that he had opened the Australian & Gundagai store, at Gundagai.<sup>156</sup>

Below: Notice of Benjamin's new store at Gundagai.

**AUSTRALIAN AND GUNDAGAI STORE.**

**M**R. L. BENJAMIN begs to apprise settlers and others of the surrounding districts of the Murrumbidgee and Tumut, that he has opened a large establishment at Gundagai in the line of Mr. Charles Simpson, where they will find it greatly to their advantage by making their purchases, as it will be a great saving to the settlers by sending their orders to the above establishment. Further, it will save all risks and trouble in sending their drays further on.

July 27. 1619

August 1847 saw flooding at Gundagai and at Albury, which isolated the towns for several weeks.<sup>157</sup> The water at Gundagai rose to within two feet of the 1844 high water mark.<sup>158</sup>

In December 1847, the governor established a Court of Petty Sessions at Gundagai.<sup>159</sup> Earlier in the year the Governor had established a Court of Petty Sessions at Wagga Wagga, much to the dismay of the good citizens of Gundagai, who felt that they were more deserving. Many an angry letter, or report, on the subject appeared in the Sydney press. In January 1848, the Colonial Secretary announced that David Smith had been appointed to the position of Clerk of Petty Sessions, Gundagai.<sup>160</sup>

<sup>151</sup> Bell's Life. 20<sup>th</sup> February 1847, p3.

<sup>152</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1847, p3.

<sup>153</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 27<sup>th</sup> July 1848, p4.

<sup>154</sup> Goulburn Herald. 28<sup>th</sup> October 1848, p3.

<sup>155</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1850, p4.

<sup>156</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 28<sup>th</sup> July 1847, p1.

<sup>157</sup> The Sentinel. 12<sup>th</sup> August 1847, p3.

<sup>158</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 16<sup>th</sup> August 1847, p3.

<sup>159</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1847, p1378.

<sup>160</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1848, p11.

In association with this, Henry McDonald was appointed Chief Constable at Gundagai, in February 1848.<sup>161</sup> McDonald was settled in Gundagai before May 1848, at which time he took Benjamin Smith, a brickmaker of Gundagai, to court, charging him with assault, while he was performing his duties. Smith was sentenced to six months hard labour in Goulburn Gaol.<sup>162</sup>

A rather dismal image of Gundagai was portrayed by a correspondent in February 1848. The writer, presumably, was an employer of shepherds. His review of the subject read as follows,<sup>163</sup>

"To such as look no further than mere amusement, the establishment of races in this district may appear very desirable, and those who have bestirred themselves in the matter have no doubt done so with a good intention, but with parties to whom a concourse of men and beasts, and trials of speed between stock-horses, are but secondary considerations, the establishment of races at Gundagai, (or districts similarly circumstanced) is viewed as a positive evil. There is here but a limited resident proprietary; a large proportion of public-houses; a prevailing tendency to drunkenness amongst the lower orders; no police surveillance; and from the peculiar duties of servants in pastoral districts, and the little control that can be exercised over their movements, the risk of severe losses to proprietors from the temptation of a race-course is immense. Shepherds will leave their flocks "camped" under a tree whilst they run off, "just to see one race."

"Shipmates" and "cousins," to say nothing of "sweethearts," always abound on a race-course; a glass of grog is indispensable on a meeting of friends of course; "treat" follows treat in hilarious succession; the gentle shepherd prostrates himself to dream of Arcadia; wakes towards sunset with the "sound of many waters" in his ears, finds himself on the river, and rouses up with a certain dreamy idea that he left his master's flock of sheep about 10 o'clock, at some four or five or seven miles distance, and manages to reach his station and let his superintendent know, "that, he never left the tail of his flock all day, and just as he was coming off a range, down into a deep creek, two native dogs came into the head of his flock, and in spite of all he and his incomparable dog 'Bull' could do, split the sheep, and run them right away; and he had been walking ever since, but could not find them." Next day brings to light the sad tragedy which has been enacted through the night, and dead and wounded sheep are brought to swell the settler's losses, accruing, because Jack or Jem could not resist the temptation of going "just to see one race." Stockmen also neglect their duties, and instead of riding their masters' horses to perform their proper work, keep them up for "the races," where they bet and lose, and grumble, and get drunk, and contract debts, and pay the whole in some shape out of their master's property. In fact the evils which result from races, in districts like this, are incalculable."

A court case in February 1848 confirmed that Joseph Sears was conducting a combined butcher shop and bakers shop at Gundagai.<sup>164</sup> Another case, in August 1848, confirmed that William Pearce was

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<sup>161</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1848, p213.

<sup>162</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 30<sup>th</sup> May 1848, p3.

<sup>163</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 21st February 1848, p2.

<sup>164</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 8<sup>th</sup> February 1848, p2.

conducting a boot & shoe shop at Gundagai.<sup>165</sup> In October 1848 a brewery was established, and same was issued with a wine & beer license by the local bench.<sup>166</sup> A license for a new hotel was issued in the same month.<sup>167</sup> The brewery was built on Crown Land, without permission, and In December 1848, the proprietor was fined two pound ten shillings and his building and equipment were threatened with seizure. The court suspended such action pending an appeal, by the brewer, a man named Daniel Smith, to the governor.<sup>168</sup> It is assumed Smith conducted the brewery for several years, at least until September 1851, when he offered the property for sale.<sup>169</sup>

**To be Let or Sold,**

**T**HREE ALLOTMENTS OF LAND IN SOUTH GUNDAGAI, on which is erected a substantial BREWERY, with cellar, malt house, kiln, store room, and stock of Malt, from 1 to 300 bushels, with all the necessary utensils, in first-rate working order. There is also an excellent Garden, securely fenced in.

Apply to Mr. DANIEL SMITH of WM NEWBY, on the premises.

Left: Sale of Smith's brewery in September 1851.

In May 1848, the Gundagai CPS established a pound, in Shakespeare Terrace, and appointed Isaac Barrow, pound keeper.<sup>170</sup>

The summer and autumn of 1848 was a period of drought on the Murrumbidgee.<sup>171</sup> Heavy rains came in June 1848 but were too late to provide winter feed, and local flooding saw stock drowned.<sup>172</sup> The second half of the year saw a bumper crop of wheat, while wool and stock also performed well.<sup>173</sup>

In November 1848, Gundagai had five licensed hotels.<sup>174</sup>

1. Murrumbidgee Cottage Inn
2. Rose Inn
3. Family Hotel
4. Blacksmith's Arms
5. Noah's Ark

Most of the town was down on the flat in 1848, but some buildings existed on the northern side of Morley's Creek.

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<sup>165</sup> Goulburn Herald. 12<sup>th</sup> August 1848, p2.

<sup>166</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 26<sup>th</sup> October 1848, p3.

<sup>167</sup> Goulburn Herald. 14<sup>th</sup> October 1848, p4.

<sup>168</sup> Goulburn Herald. 16<sup>th</sup> December 1848, p3. / Sydney Morning Herald. 16<sup>th</sup> December 1848, p2; 30<sup>th</sup> December 1848, p3.

<sup>169</sup> Goulburn Herald. 13<sup>th</sup> September 1851, p7.

<sup>170</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 27<sup>th</sup> May 1848, p2.

<sup>171</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 27<sup>th</sup> May 1848, p2.

<sup>172</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 17<sup>th</sup> June 1848, p3.

<sup>173</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 19<sup>th</sup> January 1848, p3.

<sup>174</sup> Goulburn Herald. 18<sup>th</sup> November 1848, p3.

A description of these read as follows,<sup>175</sup>

“In 1848 the late J. D. Morley kept a hotel called the Noah's Ark, which stood opposite Jones' mill; this was the first hotel on the North side of Morley's Creek, the remaining business places on the north side of the creek being a general store kept by a Mr. Chalders, which stood at the corner (next to the bridge) of Tom Gardner's lucerne paddock; a bakery and store stood in the opposite corner of the lucerne paddock, kept by Joe Seare. Further along the creek, about opposite N. Hawke's residence, was a butcher's shop kept by the late Ben Cooper and Joe Baker; on the corner opposite Wilson's coach factory, on the east side of Homer-street, a Mr. Barrow kept a school across the street. Mr. James Madden worked at his trade, that of a shoemaker... At this time there stood upon the flat in Homer-street a wooden structure called the stocks, where, for the safety, of the public, offenders were compelled to sit for so many hours at a time, with their legs passed through a hole, half of which was in two separate planks, one being placed under and the other over the legs of the person, which made it impossible to escape. This structure was washed away by the '52 flood, and was not replaced, but the posts marked the spot for many, years after.”

In March 1849, John Spencer, of the Family hotel, launched a new punt. A new medical man, named Waugh, arrived in the same month.<sup>176</sup> Prior to his arrival, Mr Davidson and Mr Spencer had provided the town's medical services.

Spencer made some additions to his hotel in 1849, and in August of that year gave notice to the public of the changes and highlighted his new punt.<sup>177</sup> A month later, in September 1849, the Governor declared Gundagai “*to be a place at which a ferry shall be established, and at which tolls shall be collected.*”<sup>178</sup> Presumably Spencer would have been aggravated by this decision. The right to conduct the ferry at Gundagai was shortly advertised for lease. The right was to be sold by public auction [twelve month lease].<sup>179</sup>

1850 commenced with the establishment of two new stores at Gundagai – one by a Mr Martin, who had recently arrived from England with store goods; and the other by Mr Turnbull, who had leased a new building constructed by Mr Simpson. Mr Gasse had contracted for construction of a new store on the south side of the river.<sup>180</sup> A press report claimed that there were six hotels at Gundagai in January 1850. The latest would have been the Squatter's hotel at South Gundagai.

In February 1850 South Gundagai featured two public houses of poor accommodation, one small brewery, and a blacksmith's shop. In comparison North Gundagai featured four hotels, a steam flour mill, four substantial stores, along with “*butchers, bakers, blacksmiths and carpenters' shops.*” The northern side also featured several private residences and numerous huts.<sup>181</sup> The population at the

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<sup>175</sup> Gundagai Times. 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1890, p2.

<sup>176</sup> Goulburn Herald. 31<sup>st</sup> March 1849, p5.

<sup>177</sup> Goulburn Herald. 11<sup>th</sup> August 1849, p5.

<sup>178</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1849, p1313.

<sup>179</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1849, p1579.

<sup>180</sup> Goulburn Herald. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1850, p6.

<sup>181</sup> Correspondence – Surveyor Larmer to Surveyor General. Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council. 1852.

time was said to be upwards of 250 people at North Gundagai, and not more than twenty at South Gundagai.

**H. M. TURNBULL,**  
**B**EGS to inform his friends and the public that  
he has COMMENCED BUSINESS as a  
**STOREKEEPER,**  
on those spacious premises lately erected by Mr. C.  
SIMPSON, NORTH GUNDAGAI, and trusts by selling  
*Good Articles at Reasonable Prices,*  
to merit a share of their patronage.

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**Horse and Cattle Medicines.**

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*All kinds of Colonial Produce Purchased.*

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**NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER STORE.**

Left: Advertisement for Henry Turnbull's new store in April 1850.

In March 1850, the Chief Constable, McDonald, was dismissed after he made serious allegations against Mr Jenkins, a local magistrate. McDonald was replaced by Michael Norton, of Wagga Wagga.<sup>182</sup>

In November 1850, the Governor visited Gundagai, and as part of his itinerary he inspected the recently completed National School building.<sup>183</sup>

1850 was a year of drought. In November of that year a correspondent declared that there had been no rain to speak of during the past nine months, and that feed had never been so scarce.<sup>184</sup>

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 1851, John Spencer and Thomas Lindley had the rights to conduct a ferry at Gundagai. Their lease, with the government, was for five years and the annual fee was one pound.<sup>185</sup>

Torrential rains fell in May 1851, bringing about an end to the most recent drought.<sup>186</sup> The discovery of gold [Bathurst] saw the regular movement of parties of men travelling from Port Phillip to the newly discovered goldfield.<sup>187</sup>

The rains continued throughout July, and heavy falls between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August [1851] saw the river rise to a level some eighteen inches lower than the 1844 flood. Gasse's new store [a timber structure] was completely destroyed by the flood waters,<sup>188</sup> and the punt was rendered incapacitated.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Goulburn Herald. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1850, p6.

<sup>183</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1850, p3.

<sup>184</sup> Goulburn Herald. 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1850, p6.

<sup>185</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 13<sup>th</sup> March 1851, p2.

<sup>186</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 13<sup>th</sup> May 1851, p2.

<sup>187</sup> Goulburn Herald. 26<sup>th</sup> July 1851, p6.

<sup>188</sup> Goulburn Herald. 30<sup>th</sup> August 1851, p3. / Sydney Morning Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> September 1851, p5.

<sup>189</sup> Goulburn Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> September 1851, p6. / Sydney Morning Herald. 6<sup>th</sup> September 1851, p5.



The 1851 Census provided details for the population of Gundagai. The latter consisted of 623 males and 396 females. All female residents were classified as free persons. The male population were all free except for nine ticket of leave holders. Total population for Gundagai was 1,019 people.<sup>190</sup>

In January 1852 a correspondent declared *“two-thirds of our little community is off to the diggings.”*<sup>191</sup>

In June 1852 a new room was opened for the purposes of conducting Sunday School, and other religious practices.<sup>192</sup> In this same month Henry Turnbull advertised a huge range of newly received goods, for sale at his Victoria Store.<sup>193</sup>

James Gormly [MLA] gave the following account of the town as it was in 1852,<sup>194</sup>

“Gundagal had, in 1852, a large weather-board building on a stone foundation about 3 feet above the ground level, which was used as a National School and teacher's residence. This building was situated only about two chains distant on the east side, where the bridge approach viaduct now stands. The residence of Dr Waugh, including his dispensing shop, stood, I think, just under the viaduct, and my parents' home was next to the doctor's. Dr Davidson's establishment having been the first store in the place, was a weatherboard structure, with a ground and first floor; the latter being used as the residence of the family. Turnbull had a new brick building which was used as a general store and residence. The court-house was a weatherboard building. There were four hotels on the north side of the river and two on the south; Morley's being on the outside of the creek. Hunt had a saddler's shop, which, at the time of the flood, was well-stocked with goods. Scott kept a butcher's shop and Foster a wheelwright and black-smith's establishment. The late Hon. Edward Flood and Thomas Hanley erected a brick steam flour mill in 1848, and the old building, although not used for many years, still stands; seemingly as solid as when first erected. Spencer and Jones had hotels on the south side of the river, and Gasse a store close to the ferry.”

In June 1852 a terrible tragedy struck Gundagai. The Murrumbidgee River overflowed and flooded the township on the flat causing the deaths of a large number of residents.

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<sup>190</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1851, p1811.

<sup>191</sup> Goulburn Herald. 10<sup>th</sup> January 1852, p4.

<sup>192</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 16<sup>th</sup> June 1852, p3.

<sup>193</sup> Sydney Morning Herald. 19<sup>th</sup> June 1852, p7.

<sup>194</sup> Australian Star. 12<sup>th</sup> July 1902, p4.

**GUNDAGAI.**

**H. M. TURNBULL AND CO.,** Victoria Store, beg to inform the Settlers and Inhabitants generally of Gundagai, Tumut, Jugiong, and the surrounding districts, that they have just received a large and varied assortment of goods, most carefully selected, before the rise took place in the price of Merchandise generally; of superior qualities, and which they are prepared to offer on the most reasonable terms for Cash.

**SPIRITS, WINES, TOBACCO, &c.**

Martell's and Hennessy's best brandy, British Plantation rum, 33 O.P., the best ever brought to the district; Geneva, in cases and half cases; superior pale sherry wines, in wood and bottle; Hunt's and Sandeman's port wine, in wood and bottle; cherry brandy, lemon syrup, peppermint, white and red ginger wine, spiced wine, cloves, brandy bitters, Vieux Cognac (1 dozen cases,) Parfait l'Amour.

TOBACCO - Barrat's, Kerr's, Dunlop's, and other best brands.

**GROCERIES.**

TEA—Hysonskin and congou, in chests and half-chests.

SUGAR—A few tons of very superior sugar, which, having been purchased for cash at considerably less than its value, will be sold at the same rates as inferior qualities are sold at in the surrounding districts. Coffee, oatmeal, raisins, currants, bottled fruits, jams, herrings, in tins, sardines, anchovy paste, pickles, sauces, chutney, mustards (lbs. and half-lbs.), soap, candles, soda, candlewick, sago, arrowroot, pearl barley, salmon in tins, starch and blue, curry powder, spices, table salt, Liverpool salt, saltpetre, Bath bricks, Day and Martin's blacking, rice, hops, nutmegs, vinegar, salad oil, &c.

**WOOL-PACKS, SHEEPSHEARS, AND A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF SHEARING SUPPLIES.**

**DRUGS.**

Epsom salts, senna, cream of tartar, tartaric acid, carbonate soda, Holloway's Pills and Ointment, Seidlitz powders, Butler's Decoction of Sarsaparilla, hydrodate of potasse, essence of lemon, &c.

**PERFUMERY, &c.**

Assorted essences, lavender water, Eau de Cologne, fancy and Windsor soap, hair, tooth, nail, shoe, scrubbing, dandy, and other brushes, tortoiseshell and back combs, rack and small tooth combs, dressing cases, wax vestas, toys, chimney ornaments, &c.

**IRON MONGERY, &c.**

Spades and shovels, cross-cut, pit, and hand saws, camp ovens, iron pots, saucepans, oval boilers, axes, adzes, tomahawks, cross-cut, pit, and handsaw files, T hinges, brass butt hinges, 3 inch batten, shingle, hurdle, wrought lath, and horse shoe nails, Wilkinson's sheep-shears, rag stones, twine, raddle, packing, and sail needles, knives, gunpowder, shot, gun caps, fishing hooks and lines, plated and metal spurs, hammers, shoemakers' hemp and flax, frying pans, tea kettles, table and pocket cutlery, butchers' knives, steels, buckets, hair brooms, tallow lamps, flat irons, American Augers, gimblets, rim and stock locks, glue, shaving and tinder boxes.

**THREE-BUSHEL BAGS.****STATIONERY, &c.**

Foolscap; bank, yellow, and blue wove post; envelopes, steel pens, black and red ink, Primers. A large assortment of entertaining Works, among which will be found cheap editions, beautifully illustrated, of Charles O'Malley, Harry Lorrequer, Tom Burke of Ours, Roland Cashel, The Knight of Gwynne, Valentine M'Clutchy the Irish Agent, Carleton's Tales of the Irish Peasantry, and many other popular Works too numerous to particularise.

**TINWARE, &c.**

Camp kettles, oval dishes, pannikins and quart pots, tea pots, lanterns, oil cans, and every kind of tinware in general use.

**SADDLERY.**

Saddles of all kinds, hobbles, valises, coat straps, harness, girths, saddle cloths, whips, and a complete assortment of saddlery generally.

**DRAPERY, &c.**

Scotch twill, blue serge, fancy regatta, and white long cloth shirts, cotille stays, white and coloured corded and sateen stays, light and dark printed cambrics in great variety; Hoyle's prints, plate prints, mousselin de laine dresses, Orleans cloths, cobourgs, merinos, alpacas and cashmeres, in richly assorted colours - the attention of the ladies is particularly requested to these last named goods; navy blue prints, derry, horrockses and other long cloths, grey domestics, moleskins, Welsh and Lancashire flannels, pilot cloth, colonial and English tweed trousers and coats, cotton and linen bed ticks, 8-4 and 12-4 sheeing calicoes, white counterpanes, gala plaids in great variety; rough and dressed holland; a large and varied assortment of ready made clothing, merino and lambswool vests and pants, gloves of all kinds, worsted boots, gaiters, and bootakins, children's and women's newest style of polkas, damask table cloths, hosiery of all sorts. A large and varied assortment of fancy goods suitable for the present season, and far too numerous to particularize within the limits of an advertisement.

Above & Right: Henry Turnbull's, advertisement in June 1852.

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