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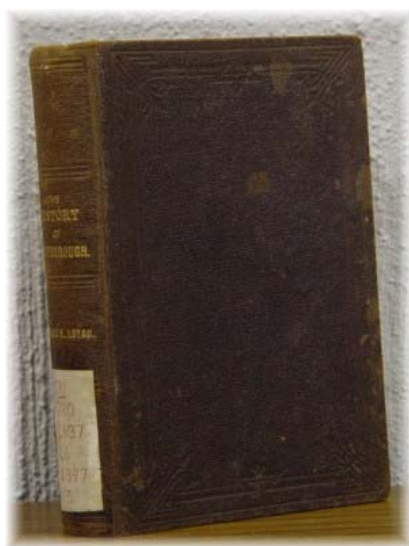
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THE HISTORY
OF
MARYBOROUGH

AND
WIDE BAY AND BURNETT DISTRICTS

FROM THE YEAR 1850 TO 1895.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

BY

GEORGE E. LOYAU,

AUTHOR OF "THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA," "TALES OF
THE EARLY DAYS OF SETTLEMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES," "AUS-
TRALIAN PRESS EXPERIENCES," "AUSTRALASIAN TALES AND
SKETCHES," "HISTORY OF GAWLER," POEMS, ESSAYS,
ETC., ETC.

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1897.

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PREFACE.

HOWEVER much opinions may differ in general, most people are agreed on one point, viz., that every town should have its archives, records, or chronicles, preserved for the benefit of coming generations. Till now, there has been no history of Maryborough compiled; and, in undertaking such, the author does so rather as a "labor of love" than with a view to profit. In no way can the multitude possess a thorough knowledge of the bygone past—with its strange events, its energetic and adventurous pioneers who won by hardihood and enterprise the land from the primitive savage tribes who ruled this favoured spot from long forgotten time—but through the medium of a work such as the present. "Advance, Maryborough" is a mere hackneyed sentiment, given as a toast at festive gatherings and social parties, but we have come to accept it as indicative of progress. Nevertheless, progress requires something more than after-dinner speeches and bumpers of wine to help it along; a true put-your-shoulder-to-the-wheel action with every man (not one man only), doing his best for the general weal of the community, is necessary. As may be expected, though much has been left unsaid herein, much has been recorded, and all errors and omissions will be remedied in the second edition of this work which it is projected to publish.

GEO. E. LOYAU.

Maryborough, March 31st, 1897.

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HISTORY OF MARYBOROUGH, WIDE BAY AND BURNETT DISTRICTS.

PART I.

EARLY SETTLEMENT—PIONEERS AND COLONIZATION—OLD MARYBOROUGH.



Open the volume of the past with reverence, knowing that it holds "the secrets of a prison-house," which has long contained them. Many of our pioneers who first beheld the land, and saw it was good for habitation or pastoral purposes, now sleep the sleep of the just, or, if there are a few yet left, there is ever a danger of their passing away, ere from their lips that information of actual experiences, and which must make these records so thoroughly interesting, can be obtained. Many of the descendants of the early pioneers have apparently but a vague and dim idea of past events, even in which they were mixed up in their earliest age. These are a few of the difficulties which beset the would-be historian, and to which an unwillingness to give information may be added. Still, if Maryborough is to have a reliable history it is important to obtain the best authenticated reports, but judicious discrimination can alone prevent publication of irremediable errors supplied by some who wish to unburthen their minds of superfluous knowledge and valueless information.

Our early history of pioneer settlement is so intimately associated with the exploration of its locality, that to comprehend what the Wide Bay District, with its mountain-fed streams—the Mary and Burnett rivers—was in the early fifties, it is necessary to state that in 1842 it was a veritable *terra incognita*, owned by New South Wales. Whilst the true explorers of the Wide Bay and Burnett districts were

PIONEER RESIDENTS, "OLD TOWNSHIP," 1849 TO 1852.

C.P.S. Powell, Senior-Constable McAdams, John Harwood, P.C.; J. Eaton, T. Ramsay, J. A. Bogild, S. G. Hill, S. Moreton, W. Canny, T. Rose, J. Buchanan, G. Howard, H. Stoward, R. Travis, A. W. Melville, H. Walker, J. Linklater, T. Purser, R. Lyons, R. Jones, G. W. Dart, Mrs. Harwood; Gregory family—Mesdames Blue, Goodwin, and Irwin; J. O. Neill, blacksmith; J. Macpherson, baker; C. Thompson, tailor; J. Milner (and wife), baker; A. Halloran; C. Hickson, blacksmith; W. E. Parry-Okeden, J. Cleary, J. H. G. Pountney, E. T. Aldridge, G. Surplice; Fitzroy Hotel, B. B. Moreton; S. Arnold, shoemaker; J. Scanlan, saddler; F. F. Nixon; Joseph Wilmott, farmer, left Wide Bay for Gladstone and died there in 1857; Jas. Dowzer, saddler; G. A. Watson, Geo. Furbur, Mrs. Furbur, J. Williamson, J. Hanlon; J. Martin, cabinetmaker; P. Graham, P. Byrnes, J. Ward, butchers; W. Fitzgerald, Dr. Palmer; C. Throsby, C.P.S.; Enoch Rudder, junr.; John Ward and Jas. Fanning, bootmakers; Dr. O'Neill, surgeon; J. Sim, sawyer and timbergetter; Elijah Smith, Henry and R. S. Palmer, Jno. Meyers; Rev. Edward Tanner, Church of England; J. Labatt, surveyor, left about 1858, and was afterwards P.M. at Warwick, died at Brisbane 1862; Peter Piggott, J. D. Walker, Rev. Father O'Brien, Roman Catholic; E. B. Uhr and family (boiling down works).

First Circuit Court held at Fitzroy Hotel in 1860.

The first Court of Law, and first land sales held in wooden "humpy" on Ululah Creek, 1852.

The township contained about fifty huts or gunyahs, and an equal number in population, comprising chiefly sawyers, timbergetters, splitters, and rough bushmen.

Elijah Smith, still living in Maryborough, was the first undertaker, making coffins for Furbur and Williamson, killed by blacks.

The pioneers of the medical profession were Doctors Palmer, Ward, Brown, Power, Lane, Little, R. Spence, and G. Archdall.

E. B. Uhr erected first house at Ululah Water Reserve.

G. D. Stedman had first sawmills on what was afterwards called "Sawmill Flat."

the small prices obtained for pine, which, as Mr. Taylor says, "went down to three shillings per hundred, with a stationary or lessening consumption, whilst wages were actually higher." At present Taylor Bros' Mills are busy and have contracts in hand likely to occupy them for some time to come.

RAMSAY, ARMITAGE & Co.'s SAW MILL,

Established in 1876 by Ramsay Bros., of Indah Sugar Mill and Plantation, is on the left bank of the Mary, near Irrawarra. For some time these works were in great repute, with good prospects of success. Mr. Armitage, the resident partner and manager, employed about 40 workmen who, with wives and families made up a settlement of 120 population. Though not so extensive in operations as other mills, and with less machinery, it furnished employment to quite an army of lumberers, sawyers, and others. Unfortunately through bad times its "glory has departed;" and silence marks the spot where once all was busy life.

SCOTT BROS.' SAW MILL,

At the S.E. end of Ann street, was established in 1874, and the plant of home manufacture comprised two engines of 50 and 26-horse power, a Cornish flue boiler, vertical frame saw (six blades), turning lathes, drilling, punching, planing, and other machinery. The bank of the river being steep was cut through to admit log timber, which was hauled to the mill by steam power. On the wharf, level with the top of the bank, 30ft. above high-water mark, was a travelling crane for lifting the hardwood from the punts or pine from the river. At this point the Mary is sufficiently deep to admit of vessels, drawing 10ft. of water, to lie at the wharf.

THE MARYBOROUGH MEAT INDUSTRY.

E. BOOKER'S ESTABLISHMENT.

The meat industry is well represented by Mr. E. Booker's large butchering establishment which is on a much more extensive scale than is generally known, as the following description shows:—

In the year 1859 when Maryborough consisted of but a few humpies in a clearing of forest, an energetic young man

SYNOPSIS.

PART I.

FRONTISPICE — Illustrations of Maryborough in 1860 and General Hospital.

Introductory Review of Early Exploration—Pastoralists and Overlanders—Visit of Andrew Petrie and Henry Stuart Russell in 1842, and Mr. Burnett in 1847—Early Settlement before Separation—Pioneers and Colonization—Murder of Furbur and Williamson—"Old Maryborough"—*Hon. Andrew Heron Wilson, M.L.C.*—"Doon Villa"—*E. T. Aldridge*, first white settler at "Old Township" in 1849—The Gregory Family (*Mrs. Margaret Irwin*, see also page 274; *Mrs. Sarah Blue* and *Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin*)—*Mrs. Harwood*—*James Douzer's* Arrival in 1854—Residents of West Maryborough or "Old Township" (*Chas Hickson, John Ward, Jas. Fanning, Charlie Thompson, Wm. Furbur, John Purser, H. Palmer, John Eaton* and others)—Establishment of School of Arts and General Hospital, &c. (p. 33.)

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NEW MARYBOROUGH, 1896.

View of Kent Street, looking East.

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