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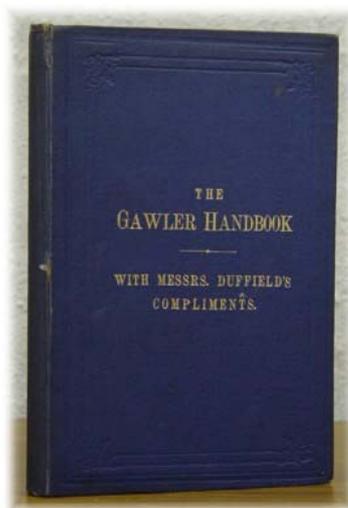
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T H E

Gawler Handbook:

A record of the Rise and Progress of that
important Town;

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

Memoirs of McKinlay the Explorer and Dr. Nott.

BY GEORGE E. LOYAU,

(Late Editor of the "Gawler Bunyip.")



Adelaide:

GOODFELLOW & HELE, KING WILLIAM STREET.

1880.

PREFATORIAL.

THIS sketch of the town of Gawler is not perhaps as complete as some old residents might desire, but no pains have been spared to make it worthy the purpose it is intended to serve, both as a handbook and as a short *resumé* of the rise and progress of the locality. Unfortunately too few records of an historical character have been kept; but there are several of the early residents living who have kindly supplied the compiler with particulars of many of the most interesting events which have happened in Gawler and its surroundings since the formation of the town. To many readers it will be a resuscitation of old times; it is hoped that the work will have the advantage of being reliable and useful; and no doubt it will merit a claim on the sympathies of residents in "Colonial Athens," as anecdotes and memoirs of those long associated with it are here introduced. A number of facts and statistics have been kindly supplied by Messrs. Jas. Martin, J. Mitchell, J. Thoruley, W. Malcolm, J.P.'s, E. Lane, sen., J. Rudall, W. R. Lewis, W. Barnet, sen., W. Barnet, H. Dean, Rev. Canon Coombs, Right Rev. Abbot Alcock, O.S.B., Rev. Auselm Fox, O.S.B., D. Thompson, W. J. Oldham, and others, to whom the author returns sincere thanks; the valuable assistance thus given enabling him to present the book in a more readable and attractive form than could otherwise have been done. The records of the *Bunyip* have been drawn on at intervals, the information from such source being deemed more reliable than aught which could be obtained elsewhere. The *South Australian Gazetteer*, a work now out of date, has also supplied the author with information respecting the district as it appeared some years ago. Some of the sketches in the book first appeared as "Jottings in and round Gawler," but being appropriate, the author has considered their republication necessary. As may naturally be expected, much has been left unsaid which ought to have appeared, but the reader will pardon errors and omissions on learning that all defects will be remedied in a second edition of the work, which it is projected to publish at an early date.

THE GAWLER HANDBOOK.

CHAPTER I.

THE FOUNDATION OF GAWLER—POSITION—EARLY DAYS—GOVERNOR GAWLER—DR. NOTT'S ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE TOWN UP TO 1860.

GAWLER is a postal town and municipality in the electoral district of Barossa and hundreds of Nuriootpa, Mudla Wirra, and Barossa, and lies in 30 deg. 35 min. S. lat., 138 deg. 50 min. long., in the counties of Gawler and Adelaide. The town is situated between the two branches of the Gawler River, named the North and South Para, which unite at the western boundary of the Park Lands and form one river. It is distant about 25 miles from Adelaide, lies near the foot of the Barossa Mountains, a continuation of the Mount Lofty Ranges, which are seen rising to a considerable height at some ten miles south and east of the town. These ranges are rich in mineral deposits of lead, silver, gold, and copper; and mines of the latter—to which reference is made in coming chapters—have been successfully worked. The district is chiefly agricultural, and there is a large area under wheat, while the vine is extensively cultivated. Some of the best South Australian wines are made at Para Para, the seat of the Hon. W. Duffield, M.L.C.; at Mr. F. bis Winckel's, Buchsfelde; the Saltram Vineyards; and by Mr. J. Fendon, near Salisbury.

The North and South Para Rivers, between which, as before stated, the town of Gawler is situated, are two fine streams, rising in the main or Adelaide range; and after flowing for some miles through good pastoral country, form by their confluence what is called the Gawler River. From Gawler this takes a tortuous course in a W.S.W. direction for about twenty miles, when it falls into the Gulf St. Vincent, at Port Gawler. During the summer months it is mostly dry, and at all times, either from the mineral character of the country through which it passes, or from the salt water amalgamating with it at its mouth, the water is not very palatable or pleasant to drink.

Governor Lieut.-Colonel George Gawler, from whom the

through Gawler on his daring expedition—one which, it is hoped, will crown his brow with fresh laurels, and place him in the same rank as Franklin, McClure, and Livingstone. God speed the gallant party on their way!

“And now our space is exhausted. We have chronicled no great events. The peaceful annals of our town have none to show, but the early years of a young township in a new colony, remote from all the great centres of civilization, may still present features worthy of being photographed and preserved. If the photograph, however rough in its execution, has been clear and correct in its outlines, we are content.”

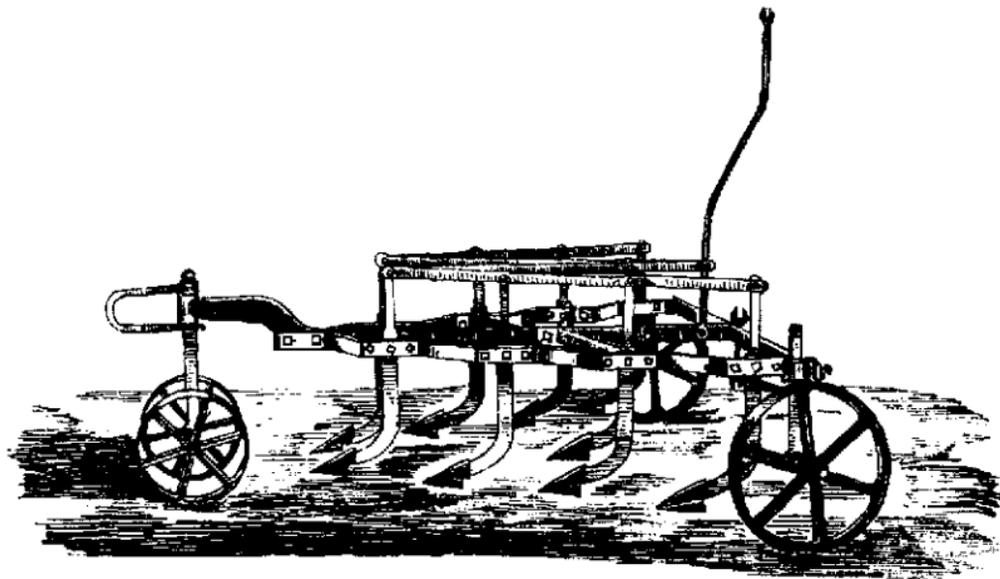
CHAPTER II.

GENERAL PROGRESS FROM 1860 TO 1880.

OLD residents—and these are now few—are well acquainted with the many and startling changes which time has made in the aspect of Gawler since the sketch in the foregoing chapter was written. Drs. Nott and Lewis, Messrs. George Isaacs (better known as “Pendragon”), and E. L. Grundy, whose literary abilities were of a high order; Mr. John Auld, who erected and presented to the Presbytery the handsome kirk in Cowan-street; Host Calton, who once dispensed creature comforts at the Old Spot; Brothers Joe Rayson, Arch Flam of the Humbug Society; Mr. Mold, the first President of the Institute; Mr. James Harris and Dr. Wilkinson, Sturt, McKinlay, and Stuart, the well-known explorers—have all passed away, together with others of whom no record has been kept.

Even Dr. Nott, who might truly be designated the local historian, would, were he able to view the town at the present time, hardly credit the spirit of progress which has prevailed, and is still extant here, or be prepared to find so many and great changes in so brief a period. The streets have been improved and beautified, new residences are going up daily, while in Murray-street handsome structures are rapidly being reared, adding materially in character and style to this the first town of any magnitude out of Adelaide. Among these are the Institute, Banks, Town Hall, Councillor Cox’s shop, and Pile’s Buildings, two fine residences, erected by Messrs. Allen and Chapman.

James Martin & Co.'s



Improved Scarifier.

The present members for the district are Messrs. Basedow and J. W. Downer. Both are highly esteemed by their constituents, and it is universally admitted that by the influence they have exercised in the House several important measures have been passed. Mr. Downer is the most ardent advocate for Law Reform the colony has yet produced, and there are none can speak more authoritatively on the subject than he.

CHAPTER XXV.

OLD RESIDENTS, LIVING AND DEAD.

Gawler was a lively place in the good old days, principally through the energy of the North-Eastern squatters, many of whom visited and did all they could for the advancement of the town. Mr. McKinlay supplied the market with meat from his run on the Darling—a station then under the able supervision of Mr. R. Boucaut. Mr. Pile brought horses suitable for the farmers from Sydney, and Mr. R. Holland supplied the store sheep and cattle from the same place. Weekly sales were held at this time by Mr. G. Warren at the Old Bushman Yards. Among the first lady residents, and still living, are Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Crackle, and Mrs. Freestun, all of whom seem likely to last many years yet. Mrs. Reid was the first white lady to cross the Gawler Plains and settle on the site now occupied by the town.

Mr. S. King, of Kingsford, may claim to be among first residents, as may also Mr. J. Harvey, of Willaston, who is still in that locality. Also the Hon. W. Duffield, M.L.C., and Messrs. E. Clement, L. S. Burton, Jas. Martin, J. Mitchell, F. Frankel, J. Pile, J. Rudall, H. Dean, J. C. Wilkinson, G. Warren, J. and R. Fotheringham, T. O. Jones, A. J. Woodman, W. R. Lewis, W. Austin, Dr. Popham, W. S. Taylor, A. Forgie, J. Brooks, Rev. Canon Coombs, Jno. Jones, W. E. Livesey, J. Lemmich, E. Thorup, T. Barrett, W. F. Winecy, J. Annells, J. Turner, F. F. Turner, W. Tardiff, W. Allen, W. Kinnear, J. James, J. M. Bailey, J. Roediger, T. Engelbrecht, W. F. O. Michael, B. E. Deland, W. Barnet, sen., W. Barnet, jun., T. J. Mankey, H. E. Bright, sen., H. E. Bright, jun., E. S. Burkitt, W. Mackay, R. Barnfield, R. J. Turner, S.M., and others too numerous to mention.

Many deaths of residents have taken place since the forma-

siderable portion of the community engaged in pastoral pursuits, from which industry the town is dependent in no inconsiderable degree for support. The Adelaide management may be congratulated on having secured a gentleman of Teutonic origin as their local manager. 'Tis an old adage "that a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind;" and to the fortuitous circumstance of nationality, combined with his able supervision, the commercial success of the Bank is due. Mr. Cranz was previously associated with the Bank of South Australia for a period of above fourteen years. His geniality of manner, combined with his musical tastes, have secured for him a large number of personal friends. His long residence in the town, of which he has been a useful member, was instrumental in developing the interests of his shareholders by the influx of business consequent on his assumption of the management of the Bank. One of the gravest objections customers have in Banking matters is consulting new faces in the form of fresh managers. This difficulty was obviated in this gentleman because of his long connection with Gawler in his previous capacity. Mr. Cranz has deemed it prudent in the interests of his customers to open a Branch at Freeling for the transaction of business on Tuesdays and Fridays.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE HUMBUG SOCIETY.

FLAM! BAM!! SHAM!!!

One Gawler institution which has obtained a world-wide celebrity is the Humbug Society, and as little is known, except to a few Gawlerites, of the origin of this association, and still less of its objects and of its characteristics, in those jolly days when it was in all its vigour and glory, I think some information on these matters will not be out of place in this historical and descriptive work. The Society was founded on the spur of the moment, through a sudden inspiration with which Mr. Jefferson Stow and the late Mr. George Isaacs, both at that time residents in Modern Athens, were favoured. This occurred in the year 1859, when business was not very brisk, and too many persons had a considerable amount of spare time on their hands. The favorite place of resort then was the Globe Hotel, managed by the late Mr. George Causby, and previously by Mr. W. Square, an enterprising citizen, who has also joined the

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