

The Stones in Victoria

Introduction

As you will read in the authors' Preface the following pages constitute the second volume of their history of the Stone Family. In the first volume they told the story of the family's background in Bristol and its continuation in Tasmania after the arrival of Thomas and Ann Stone in Hobart on the 11th October 1819, accompanied by Ann's younger brother Joseph Withers.

Some of the information in that first volume can now be augmented by information shared by Peter Stone in Bristol and other research now made possible via the Internet. These have also made it possible to test some fondly held family myths which are no longer tenable.

In addition I have written a more detailed account of Thomas' and Ann's time at the King's Orphan School in a paper which may be accessed at:

<https://www.academia.edu/10954953/>

[THE STORY OF THOMAS and ANN STONE The King's Orphan School for Boys 1831-1836](#)

For this reason I believe that there is nothing to be gained by making that first volume available more widely without considerable editing.

The situation is quite different with respect to this second volume. The historical information has been enhanced by the authors' own memories of the members of the family which will not be found anywhere else as far as I know. I trust that it will not be thought that I am betraying any confidences in making it available, just as Nancy typed it up, to a wider audience.

There is also an opportunity to add to this story and I hope to hear from family members who can help in this way. I, for example have been able to add to what we know about two members of the Withers family.

On page 47 It is recorded that David Brainerd Ryland died suddenly on 23 July 1871 aged 51 years and that five hundred people attended his funeral at the Eddington Cemetery. What we are not told is that his wife Elizabeth, Ann Stone's youngest sister, lived on for another ten years until 16 April 1887 when she died in the Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum, Kew, Victoria suffering from "softening of the brain" according to the inquest. She had been admitted to the institution on 17 May 1878 with dementia and seems to have had no visits from friends at the time she died.

I have often wondered what happened to Ann's brother Joseph. In "Effloresco" volume 1, page 85 we learn that he followed his trade as a cooper in Hobart and acquired property in Campbell Street. He also married Anna Matthews, a widow with two sons. It is also stated that "Some of the Withers family are known to have visited Woodstock West".

It was therefore great to be contacted by one of Joseph's descendants in February 2018 with the information that Joseph and his family had migrated to Ararat, Victoria in about 1852 where he continued to work as a cooper. Many of the family lived in Ararat but his great-grandson James Frederick Thomas Withers moved to Casterton, Victoria in the 1920s where he was a hairdresser. One of his sons, Brian was born in 1936 as I was, so it is likely that when my family was living in Casterton in 1943-44 we were actually in the same class at school. My father worked in the Union Bank and should have been aware of local businesses but I don't remember him remarking on the connection—but what an interesting coincidence!

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"EFFLORESCO"

(We Flourish)

A History of
THE STONE FAMILY
Volume 2.

By ALEX. H. STONE
and
NANCY A. STONE

For Private
Circulation.

"Clunie Cottage"

P R E F A C E.

We recently completed Volume 1 of "EFFLORESCO" (WE FLOURISH) . A HISTORY OF THE STONE FAMILY.

This was the result of somewhat detailed research carried out by us in the Tasmanian Archives Hobart, supplemented by research carried out on our behalf in Bristol, England. In addition information was obtained from a wide variety of sources, acknowledgment of which is made on page iv of that volume.

This present volume (Volume 2) gives the history of the three brothers JOSEPH, EDWARD and ALFRED in Victoria, and could well be given the short title of THE STONES IN VICTORIA. Because of our special interests it deals in somewhat greater detail with JOSEPH and ALFRED.

It will be noticed that we have made use of direct quotes from various sources to give as clear a picture as possible of their life and work. Because it is only being circulated within the family (at no cost to them) we have not deemed it necessary to seek formal permission to use the quotes.

In addition to the above volumes we also issued

THE STONE FAMILY - A SHORT HISTORY - VOLUME 1.

with information extracted from the above two volumes, and primarily intended as 1983 Christmas Presents for our immediate family. However because of its interest we decided to share it with a wider circle of relatives.

We do ask that the text be not copied in any way without special reference to us.

A.H.S.

N.A.S.

"Clunie Cottage"

BENDIGO

31st 1983.

"EFFLORESCO" (We Flourish)Volume 2THE STONES IN VICTORIA

It is obvious that the rented farm, "Horfield", in Tasmania was unable to support Thomas (3) and his growing family which included five sons, so that when news of the discovery of gold in California reached them in January 1849, a lot of thought must have been given by the STONE boys as to seeking their fortunes over there.

It is estimated that some five hundred people sailed from Tasmania in 1849 for California (the "49'ers").

Joseph (23) and Edward (19) decided to try their luck, and left Tasmania in the latter part of 1849. There is no record of the ship on which they sailed.

It is expected that they disembarked at San Francisco. We do know that they went to the Sacramento gold fields, probably along the Sacramento River which discharges into the San Francisco Bay.

Edward and Joseph must have found conditions extremely difficult, as they were totally inexperienced in mining of any sort. It is said that any sort of accommodation was scarce, as were all the necessities of life. Furthermore, the goldfields were a lawless place, and the brothers each bought pistols for self-defence and, we expect, to guard their claim. These pistols are still preserved in 1983 by two different families.

That they had some success we know, for they were able to live and have money in their pockets. When they decided to leave Joseph took with him a little nugget of Californian gold which he later had fashioned into an engagement ring.

California was proclaimed a State in 1850, that is, while the brothers were still there. If they had stayed on they would have been entitled to a grant of 600 acres of land.

Edward and Joseph were now experienced miners, and with the discovery of gold

in Australia they decided ~~early in 1851~~ to try their fortunes closer to home, bringing their mining gear with them, and of course their money. ~~Again the name of the ship on which they travelled cannot be ascertained.~~

They arrived in Sydney later that year. There they learned that new gold fields had been discovered in Victoria. Gold was found at Clunes in March, 1850, and again in April and June, 1851; also at Mount Alexander, (Castlemaine), in July, 1851.

The brothers purchased horses and decided to ride south into Victoria, with the ultimate intention of reaching the diggings at Mount Alexander. They would have written home to "Horfield", and it is obvious that they suggested that their younger brothers, William (20) and Alfred (18), meet them there.

The Victorian Alps could be crossed 'over a saddle near Omeo', and they mined there for a while. It is recorded that some gold was discovered at Omeo in November, 1851, so prospecting would have been going on prior to that date.

While at Omeo, Edward became friendly with a man named McKenzie who was nicknamed "Fighting Mac". We are trying to ascertain just who he was, for he made such an impression on Edward that later he named one of his sons after this man.

Joseph and Edward eventually reached the Mount Alexander goldfield in December, 1851. From there they joined the new rush to the Bendigo Creek field. When they arrived there that same month, there were only about eight hundred people on Bendigo, mostly near Bendigo Creek.

We assume that William and Alfred obtained letters at the Mount Alexander Post Office when they arrived there as arranged, telling them to come on to the Bendigo diggings, for the younger brothers arrived there in January, 1852, and met up with their older brothers.

So now we have the four young brothers mining for gold on Bendigo.

On 1st July, 1852, the first Post Office was opened near where the Alexandra Fountain now stands; it was called "Bendigo Creek Post Office", and consisted of two tents, one for in-coming mail and the other for out-going mail. They would have used this post office to keep in touch with the home folk.

We know nothing of the brothers' movements during that year. People lived in tents, and there were tent stores selling everything that could conceivably be required by a mining community. We know that there were little fires everywhere - for cooking, and in the winter for warmth also.

As there were four men to share the living accommodation of the Stones, it is possible that they fashioned a hut with wooden walls and a canvas top, for many miners had such huts.

How much gold the brothers won is unknown, but they must have obtained enough to live on since they stayed on Bendigo without joining any rush to other fields.

It was usual, when a group of miners were working together, for one of the party to be detailed for a day or perhaps a week, to purchase stores and cook the meals. There is a tradition that, being the youngest, such jobs often fell on Alfred.

Towards the end of 1852 William became ill and was taken back to "Horfield", Tasmania, by Joseph. William died on 7th January, 1853, and was buried in the churchyard of the Congregational Church, Bagdad. A stone slab covers the grave.

Working men had left Tasmania for the goldfields and, as Thomas Junior was the only son left to work "Horfield", Joseph decided to stay to assist. He later promised his father that he would stay during the latter's lifetime.

It was general farming at "Horfield" - wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and fruit, with vegetables for their own use.

Edward and Alfred continued their mining operations during 1853, but as they were not terribly successful their thoughts turned towards the occupation they knew best - market gardening and farming.

Land was being thrown open for settlement during 1854, and they were able to purchase some 40 acres from the Crown at what was later to become known as Stones Creek, Lockwood (some 8 miles from Sadhurst as Bendigo was then called) with the idea of growing vegetables to supply the markets that fed the area.

Edward had his Californian money to put into the venture, but the younger

Alfred was unable to match this and so borrowed money from his brother Joseph who did not need his money at this stage.

The original Grants were in the name of Edward Stone, for Alfred was not yet twenty-one and therefore unable to hold land in his own right. Particulars of the Grants are as under:-

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Allotment:</u>	<u>Section:</u>	<u>Parish:</u>	<u>Area:</u>			<u>Cost:</u>		
				a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
25. 3.1854	29	5	Lockwood	21.	3.	24	88.	14.	-
25. 3.1854	27	5	"	9.			24.	15.	-
28. 7.1854	38	5	"	9.			26.	5.	-
				<hr/>			<hr/>		
				39.	3.	24	139.	14.	-

A home was erected on the property, with a small hill as a back drop, and the creek flats stretching out in front.

The brothers must have had some sort of transport, probably riding hacks, for we know they had contact with their relations, Uncle and Aunt RYLAND, at Forest Creek, but now they would need a cart, a plough and one or more draught horses. Milk was always in short supply, so one or more dairy cows may have been purchased.

They followed in their father's footsteps and planted an orchard, and established a market garden and a plant nursery. Assistance was obtained from the "Horfield" property in Van Dieman's Land, as we see from a letter from their brother THOMAS dated 4/ 5/1856. In part, it reads:-

"You mentioned in your last letter that you were coming over for some fruit trees and seeds, of which you can get as many as you want."

The ruins of the house and a few old fruit trees could still be seen when the property was visited in 1982.

A little community sprang up around and along their particular creek and the nearby Bullock Creek. The BROADWAYS, an English family settled nearby, and ALFRED became very friendly with them, so much so that eventually he asked a daughter, SOPHIA, to marry him - but more of that later.

As the farms and market gardens were established in this District of Lockwood, these small landholders came in conflict with the owners of squatting stations surrounding their farms. The farmers' stock would graze on the unfenced land around the District, and the squatters would have the animals impounded.

In 1856-7 a Crown Lands Bill was being considered by the Government which would have permitted the squatters to fence in their runs, which would have deprived the small farmers of all means of depasturing their stock which, at the risk of being impounded, they had hitherto done. They felt so angry about it that in mid 1857, 152 of them signed a Petition. In part it reads:-

"To The Honorable The House of Assembly
In Parliament Assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Farmers, Market Gardeners, and others residing in and around the District of Lockwood
Humbly Sheweth -

That your Petitioners have for a long period suffered great loss and inconvenience in consequence of their stock having been impounded by the owners of squatting stations surrounding their farms."

A Schedule showed the Petitioners' holding of stock:-

Horses	257
Bullocks	207
Cows	512

We know that Farmers Commons were established by the Government in various places in Victoria.

The STONE BROTHERS venture proved very successful for they were able to find a ready market in Sandhurst for all the fruit and vegetables they could produce. ALFRED acted as salesman and did all the carting.

See the Appendix in another Volume for details of the Grants, location of the property etc.

EDWARD and ALFRED realised they would always be small-time farmers at Lockwood, for their land could not support two families. Land was being surveyed in the valley east of the Loddon River at what was later to be known as Laanecoorie, and the brothers felt this would provide the opportunity they were looking for.

Laanecoorie District

The first white settlers in the area were the SIMSON BROS. In the 1840's there were two sheep runs, each including parts of the district land. One was called "Charlotte Plains" and the other "Jane Vale". They were given these names in honour of the wife of one of them - she was the former JANE CHARLOTTE COGHILL.

Laanecoorie was at this time the headquarters of a big tribe of blacks, who lived along the banks of the Loddon River. There was a great stretch of water about a mile long which the blacks called "Ladnagoorie" --meaning Long Water Hole. They resented the intrusion of the white men and killed many of the shepherds, and of course suffered reprisals.

Les Blake in his book "Place Names of Victoria" (Rigby 1977) has a different meaning for the name. He refers to "LANGI - CORRIE" station held by DONALD C. SIMSON. "Languy" - resting place, and "Corrie" - Kangaroo ; or Resting Place of the Kangaroo. The first explanation is favoured.

EDWARD STONE Marries .

EDWARD now felt he could marry his Van Diemen's Land fiancée, so went back for her. He married CHRISTIANNA FOSTER on 11th April 1857. She was a sister of MARGARET FOSTER who had married JOSEPH STONE on 30th August 1855. MARGARET and CHRISTIANNA were daughters of JAMES AND MARGARET FOSTER. JAMES FOSTER was born on 27th December 1799, and arrived in Tasmania from Scotland in 1821 in charge of a consignment of cattle. He married MARGARET HONEYMAN, also from Scotland, in 1826. They are buried in a little cemetery on the FOSTER property of "Minosa Bank", Tasmania.

EDWARD brought his bride to the Lockwood home - ALFRED continuing to reside there also. One can imagine the difference a woman would make in the home. One had been batching for eight years and the other for something over five.

The Laanecoorie Land
Sale of Crown Land Advertised.

In the Victorian Government Gazette of 7th July 1857 there appeared a notice that they had been waiting for. It was to completely change the fortunes of the STONES in Victoria.

By Proclamation of 4th July 1857 a Land Sale was to be held as under;-

To be offered for sale by Public Auction at 11 O'clock on Wednesday 12th August 1857 at the Shamrock Hotel Sandhurst (as Bendigo was then called) Country Lots at Laanecoorie at the Upset Price affixed to each Lot on a 10% deposit .

The land was described as

South of the parish of Tarnagulla, on the east bank of the Loddon River, at and near the junction of Sandy Creek, which intersects several of the Lots. Distant about twenty miles south-west from Bullock Creek, the line of road from Castlemaine to Newbridge, Dunolly, Mount Korong and Swan Hill passing through the centre of the Survey.

By Proclamation of 6th July 1857 a further sale was to be held on 13th August 1857, all other particulars being the same.

The Bendigo Advertiser of Wednesday 5th August 1857 carried an advertisement relative to the sale and this was repeated on 10th and 11th August. There were 86 lots in this Survey, varying from 15 acres to 307 ac., with lithographic plans etc. being available from the Survey Office Sandhurst.

We can imagine the two brothers obtaining a plan and then riding on horse back or driving by horse and cart over the land looking for well-watered blocks best suited to their needs.

The Bendigo Advertiser of 13th and 14th August 1857 tell how successful EDWARD AND ALFRED were.

Sale of 12 August 1857

Lot 40 - Allot. 1 Sec. 9 - 76 ac 1 r. 24 per.
Purchaser E. and A. STONE Price per Acre £ 1.

Sale 13 August 1857

Lot 9 - Allot. 4 Sec. 10 - 76 ac 1 r. 24 per.
Purchaser E. AND A. STONE Price per Acre. £ 1.

"The Delta" Homestead was established on Lot 40, and this block has been in the STONE family ever since . The present owners (1983) are JOHN and MARY STONE, grand children of EDWARD.

On 30th April 1862 (repeated 6th and 20th May) a further Laanecoorie land sale was advertised , this time at the District Survey Office Sandhurst, at 11 a.m. on 20th May 1862.

The brothers were able to purchase a further block (adjoining the other two) - being Lot 22 - Allot. 3 Section 10 - 76 ac 1 r. 24 per. for £ 76; 8/- being the upset price of £ 1 per acre. This purchase gave them a compact property of 229 acres and 32 perches for a total purchase price of £ 229 -4/- .

Copies of the three Land Purchase documents are in the collection of ALEX. H. STONE - they are dated respectively 10/12/1857, 7/11/1857 and 14/6/1862.

EDWARD and ALFRED STONE held the land "as tenants in common".

The newspaper advertisement of 5th August 1857 gives a description of the land being offered for sale. It had been part of a grazing lease so would have been virtually unchanged since aboriginal times. The description is most interesting and reads:-

"The surface of the land is generally of a level character, moderately timbered with box and gum, with which are intersperced several open grassy plains. The soil on the east of the survey, adjoining the Sandy Creek (now Bradford Creek), is of a light sandy nature; that on the western side, adjoining the Loddon, consists of rich alluvial flats, surrounded by a higher table-land, which is also of a very good quality, and well suited for agriculture."

A small dwelling - probably a slab hut - was erected on Lot 40, and EDWARD and CHRISTIANNA moved there. Mr. D. R. MacLELLAN in his "History of Laanecoorie" (1918) records:-

* "Mr. EDWARD STONE who arrived in 1857 had the honour of growing the first crop - - - he followed chiefly the occupation of a gardener, and his Orchard, vineyard and vegetable garden were the first in these parts".

At this time there was no Post Office at Laanecoorie, so Newbridge was their official address. A Post Office had been opened at the latter place on 1st February 1856 - Post Master a JOHN ELLIOT. It was given a Postal Number of 88. The Post Office at Laanecoorie (No. 689) was not opened until 9th Nov. 1869.

A letter dated 8th October 1859 from THOMAS STONE to his son ALFRED (addressed to Lockwood) gives some indication of what was going on in Victoria.

"I received yours of the 5th of September and also one from EDWARD of the 16th informing us of CHRISTY'S safe delivery and welfare of both mother and daughter for which God make us thankful"

It is apparent that EDWARD and CHRISTY were in residence at Laanecoorie. He was also glad to hear so good an account of the farm at the Loddon, and refers to ALFRED having "returned to Lockwood with the prospect of plenty of garden produce to open the Spring campaign of marketing". He also refers to EDWARD

* Manuscript sighted at the La Trobe Library Melbourne.

having been grafting lots of peaches (this would be at Laanecoorie).

A small commentary on "The Delta" homestead comes in a letter written by D. B. RYLAND to LUCY (one of EDWARD'S daughters) on 24th May 1871 ,

" Your Mother has now and then not been as well as she should be and your Father at times complains - I lay this as well as your skinnyness, your bad eyes and 99/100 eths of all the sickness that has befallen the members of your family to the miserable want of ventilation in Ned's house".

By courtesy of the present owners JOHN and MARY STONE , the writers in 1982 went on a tour of inspection of "The Delta" property. The site of the old house is clearly defined.

ALFRED continued to live at Lockwood, but alternated between the two properties as necessary. He must have told his father that he had been seeing a let of the young lass SOPHIA, for in a letter to ALFRED dated 20th October 1859 he asks about Garden and Nursery and as well "if you have almost made up your mind to follow the laudable example of your Brothers and take unto yourself a wife ?"

ALFRED STONE and SOPHIA BROADWAY were married at All Saints Church Sandhurst on the 10th March 1860 by the Rev'd W.R.CROXTON the Incumbent. The Certificate of Marriage - No. 475 in the Register records that ALFRED STONE was aged 26 and a Bachelor, while SOPHIA BROADWAY was a Spinster of 18 years of age, the daughter of JAMES BROADWAY and SOPHIA BROADWAY , whose maiden name was DONE. The witnesses were D.B.RYLAND and JOHN BROADWAY. D.B.RYLAND (UNCLE RYLAND) had come from Forest Creek for the wedding. He was a school teacher there. JOHN BROADWAY , the other witness, was a elder brother of the bride.

JAMES BROADWAY the father of the bride was a farmer of Lockwood, and had arrived in Australia around 1849. SOPHIA (the bride) was born at Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England, and came to Australia with the family. As she was under the age of 21 years her father had to give his written consent to the marriage , and this is recorded on the back of the duplicate of the Certificate of Marriage.

ALFRED took his bride to the home on the Lockwood property.

Extracts from letters from THOMAS to his son ALFRED show his great love for his family, and his deep religious convictions. We quote from letter of 30th March 1860.

" It was with much pleasure I read your letter acquainting me of your marriage. It is a great satisfaction to me, and I trust God's blessing may attend your future life. I am happy to find it is your intention to regularly attend a place of worship, you may depend upon it, the more you serve God, the greater will be your happiness both here and hereafter. LUCY joins me in sending our best regards to your beloved wife, and I hope that when you write again you will send me her ^{maiden} name, and the date of your marriage, that I may enter it with the rest of the family. I see you had MR. RYLAND and your Aunt at the wedding ..."

In the letter of 25th June 1860, THOMAS writes;-

" I am happy to hear of your comfort and prosperity, and desire my kindest regard to my new daughter in law your dear SOPHIA, and sincerely hope that God's blessing may attend you through life".

ALFRED must have sent an invitation for his sister LUCY to come to Victoria to visit them, for later in the above letter he writes;-

" LUCY is arranging things for her absence, and anticipates with pleasure, the fulfilling your kind invitation, it will be a great treat for her, and afford her an opportunity of becoming acquainted with your dear SOPHIA, together with her AUNT and UNCLE RYLAND, and once more to see her Brothers and Sister ".

- Note - 1. THOMAS STONE'S daughter ANNE ROSE was in Victoria, after she and her husband had been in New Zealand. Their circumstances were not good.
2. LUCY STONE eventually married RICHARD FIELD and for a time lived at Laanecoorie.

THOMAS in his letter of 18th June 1861 writes;-

" I am happy to hear that you are all in good health, and quite comfortable and prosperous. I am also happy to hear that you regularly attend the worship of God, and never neglect doing so, giving him praise and thanksgiving for all his mercies, as all your happiness is in his Almighty hands."

He also makes reference to the arrival of ALFRED and SOPHIA'S first child ALICE MATILDA who was born 26th December 1860. By this time EDWARD and CHRISTY'S family had grown, for he refers to "their little ones". THOMAS concludes with his Blessing , "May God bless and prosper You". This is the last letter from him that has been preserved, and we wonder whether ^{he knew} he was close to death. He died on 27th November 1862, aged 67 years. May he rest in Peace . He is buried with his wife ANN and his son WILLIAM in the grounds of the Congregational Church, Bagdad.

JOSEPH STONE.

(Written by his Great Grand Daughter - NANCY A . STONE.)

As we have seen, JOSEPH was now released from his obligation to stay on at "Horfield", and wished to start out on his own. He asked for the return of the money borrowed by EDWARD and ALFRED, but they were in no position to do so. It is recorded that they said or wrote, "We cannot give you cash, come over and share with us." JOSEPH decided to accept the offer, and gathering together all his possessions, sailed for Victoria on 17th March 1863.

He had married a neighbor's daughter MARGARET FOSTER on 30th August 1855. It may be that they were sweethearts before he went to California in 1849, because he brought home with him a little nugget of Californian gold and had it made into an engagement ring, set with an amethyst and two oval moonstones. That ring passed from their eldest daughter MARGARET (my Grand-Mother) to her eldest daughter, ELLA ALFORD (my Mother), who in turn gave it to her eldest daughter MARGARET PICKLES. By that time the gold , being soft, had broken , and although Mother gave it to MARGARET when she was twenty one, she could not wear it until it was repaired for her wedding day about ten months later.

Unfortunately the repair was still not strong enough, and one of the guests (I think Grandma ALFORD'S brother - my Great Uncle RICHARD STONE) gripped her hand so tightly that again the ring was broken. MARGARET had it repaired again , and it is the property of her daughter ALISON (Mrs. NORMAN MILLAR of Mount Waverley) who wore it at her wedding. It is by tradition handed to the eldest daughter on her 21st birthday.

At the time of the move from "Horfield" , JOSEPH and MARGARET had three children, JAMES, JOSEPH and MARGARET , aged between $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. My Grand Mother , MARGARET, would have been a pretty little child of two and a half, with natural ringlets.

One has a feeling of awe at the courage and strength shown by this young couple in making the trip. First the packing of clothes , furnishings, bedding and doubtless much of their food, and getting it on board the boat, while caring for their little family at the same time. The trip over Bass

Strait, followed by unpacking their goods, and then buying a suitable dray and two bullocks, to pack them all in once more, in a raw and bustling Melbourne. Were the bullocks easy to manage? Did the dray have a cover over their heads? It must have been a slow and weary trip on rutted roads. We understand they first travelled North to Kilmore to avoid the very bad road through the Black Forest, then went across to Castlemaine, turning into the track that had been surveyed as a road between that town and Laanecoorie.

Today we speed along the Hume or Calder Highways, on beautiful sealed roads, with no worry or concern as to where we will be spending the night.

How many days it took them we do not know. For the sake of the little children, camp would have to be made early, and a meal prepared. The bullocks too would need to be fed and hobbled for the night. In fact one of them died on the trip and another had to be bought.

We are told that a pail of butter which MARGARET had brought from Tasmania, melted during the trip, and spilled onto her parlour carpet.

The EDWARD STONES knew they were somewhere on the road, and we can imagine that short journeys would be made along their end of the road to see if they were coming. But at last it was all over, and they had safely arrived at "The Delta", that haven of hospitality and kindness; JOSEPH being once more with the brother EDWARD whom he had led in their perilous trip to the Sacramento goldfields, and MARGARET re-united with her sister CHRISTIANNA.

Doubtless JOSEPH and MARGARET were unaware of any special heroism displayed in this undertaking, but the rigors of that trip in the bullock dray are perhaps best evidenced by the words spoken by JOSEPH when he lay dying, and his mind was wandering away from his immediate surroundings and back over his adventurous life. He was heard to murmur "Where do we camp tonight, Mother, where do we camp".

ALFRED and SOPHIE move.

ALFRED and SOPHIE moved from Lockwood to "The Delta" property at Laanecoorie, so there were three families living there. EDWARD and CHRISTY in the main dwelling, and JOSEPH and ALFRED and their families living in two other dwellings, which were probably little more than slab huts at this stage. Later these last two houses were occupied, one by ANNE ROSE, and the other by LUCY AND RICHARD FIELD. ANNE and LUCY were of course sisters of the STONE BROTHERS. For a period both the Lockwood and Laanecoorie properties were being worked.

Church Services at Laanecoorie.

From an unidentified newspaper cutting of 13th December 1935 we read :-
 " The first church was missioned from Tarnagulla, and was a weatherboard structure built in the corner of GRYLLES' paddock and called LODDON. In the Goldsborough Mission minute book there is an entry dated December 1859, which says ' that evening services at the Loddon be altered to 3 o'clock instead of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', so the services had been in full swing for 76 years. There is a minute also in 1860 to the effect that the chapel be removed to the township on the other side of the river ." This would have been the Wesleyan Church.

Tea Meetings and public discourses were a feature of the three branches that became in 1902 the Methodist Church of Australia.

EDWARD and ALFRED were members of the Church of England, but threw in their lot with the local churches. As an item of interest, St. Paul's Church of England was not built until 1908, but for some years previously services were held in the local Mechanics Institute.

We do know that ALFRED and SOPHIE attended All Saints Church Sandhurst, for the Baptism Register there records the baptism of four of their children.

SOPHIA ANNE STONE	Baptised 19 June 1863	born 2 January 1863
MARY MAY STONE	" 21 July 1865	" 9 May 1865
ALFRED WITHERS STONE	" 8 November 1867	" 22 July 1867
EDWARD ALBERT STONE	" 18 March 1870	" 20 December 1869.

The first child, ALICE MATILDA , does not get a mention .

The STONE BROTHERS were devout people, and it can be assumed that quite early in their sojourn in the Laanecoorie District they attended worship at one or other of the churches that were the forerunners of the Methodist Church. In this regard the "Tarnagulla Courier" of 25th September 1869 reports:-

"Foundation of Primative Methodist Church at Laanecoorie - The foundation stone was laid on September 17th ----- . At 5 p.m. a large number enjoyed an excellent tea provided by Mesdames STONE, SMALL, ANDERSON and CLEMENTS".

The Laanecoorie School.

A school was opened at Laanecoorie by the Church of England on 1st January 1862, however it closed on 31st March 1864 when State Aid ceased.

At a Public Meeting held on 11th April 1863, it was determined to erect a school on the Laanecoorie Village Reserve under the State system. This information was conveyed by letter from THOMAS LANGDON to the Board of Education, dated 14th April 1863.

DAVID B. RYLAND and his wife ELIZABETH (or ELIZA)(UNCLE AND AUNT RYLAND t/o the STONES) had been teaching at the Forest Creek (Chewton) National School for a number of years, but with the functions of the National Board of Education being taken over by the new Board of Education, and with the proposed rationalisation of the schools in the Chewton district, the RYLANDS were informed that their services would not be required after 31st August 1862. However their school did not close until 30th June 1863, RYLAND teaching without pay for the last six months. He would have doubtless passed on this information to the three STONES who had families of young children, and also let them know he was looking for another appointment.

At this stage the Laanecoorie people appear to have ^{made} no mention as to staffing the proposed school, but the STONES must have approached UNCLE RYLAND with the idea of having him appointed Head Teacher.

A further letter from THOS. LANGDON to the Board of Education, and dated 9th April 1864, tells the result of their planning;-

" The school was opened on 15th February by MR. RYLAND, late of the Chewton National School , whose appointment was previously signified to the Board -
- - - - the Scholars numbering at present upwards of Thirty (30)"

We note from "A Souvenir of Laanecoorie School" dated August 1905, that the local School Committee appointed by the Board of Education on 27th Sept 1864 were;-

Rev SAMUEL BRACEWELL	Primitive Methodist
EDWARD STONE	Church of England
SALATHIEL HILL	Presbyterian
ABRAHAM FOSTER	Wesleyan

Money itself was not so common in the early days of the district , and goods and services were often paid for in kind - in fact a system of barter. We are fortunate that Mrs MARGARET M, STONE has in her collection a Ledger of D.B.RYLAND covering a period from 1867 to his death on 28th July 1871. In the Appendix (another volume) we show entries relative to E. and A. STONE. From the Ledger it is apparent that EDWARD and ALFRED conducted their business on a joint basis.

EDWARD, JOSEPH and ALFRED with their families continued to live and work on "The Delta" property during 1863, 1864 and part of 1865, in a little community reminiscent of that at "Horfield" Tasmania. There were the usual farming operations and those associated with the growing of market garden produce. A vineyard was in production, grapes being grown for the table and for wine making. They had a wine press and made wine for their own use and for sale to friends. In the Ledger of D.B.RYLAND, referred to above, it is noticed that wine was supplied by the gallon to their UNCLE RYLAND. Grapes were also supplied by the dray load to a winery at Dunolly.

A Letter From Tasmania

A letter written by John Thomas HOPE, son of JAMES HOPE and EMMA HOPE
(nee' STONE).

Elboden House,
Hobart Town.
August 31st, (18)66.

Dear Uncle,

I am sorry I could not write you before, but you must know what it is to be unsettled.

I was no use whatever in Victoria for I could not obtain work at my trade nor at anything else but as a waiter and I took that.

I wrote home and told them what I was doing so they advised me to return to H.T. so I did and I am doing well now, as well as ever I did.

I have plenty of work and constant with an advance of wages every few months for I am very much out of practice. When I landed in H.T. it was very wet for 3 or 4 days so I did not venture out, but the first day I went out I obtained this engagement.

H.T. is very much the same, there does not appear to be any change in it.

The Old Gentleman is pretty scotty with me about me calling him the "Old Gentleman" in a letter which I wrote to the doctor.

The Dr. came to town a few weeks ago to see me he seems to be improving both in appearance and everything else.

Papa called all you fellows a lot of fools and me the worst of fools because he said I ought to have more sense than to send for money in that sort of a way.

Laanecoorie is the only place I think I should like to settle down in Victoria.

I can not write you but a scrap. I acknowledge the receipt of your letter while I was in Melbourne for I have only been over here about 4 weeks.

I enclose a letter in this for Aunty for we have heard that she is very unwell but I hope she is well now.

How are all the crops looking about Laanecoorie. I hope (that) they are much better than they were last year.

Remember me to all the Fields, Grylls, Cousins especially.

Give my love to all Uncles & Aunts and accept the same yourself. We are all well.

I remain,

Your Affect. Nephew

JOHN THOMAS HOPE.

Notes on the above letter.

1. "Old Gentleman". His father.
2. "The Doctor". His brother JAMES SOMERVILLE HOPE who had been educated in Scotland. He studied at Edinburgh Medical University and became a doctor. He returned to Tasmania and in 1864 was appointed Health Officer of the Green Ponds Municipality. His eldest sister AGNES (born 1st July, 1837) kept house for him at Green Ponds. He was killed when he was thrown from his horse.
3. In a letter ^{from EMMA HOPE} to her brother ALFRED STONE dated 30th July, 1873, we see that J. T. HOPE, writer of the above letter, had settled down. We quote:-
"JOHN is living next the W. (Wesleyan) Chapel at New Town in a nice cottage working at his trade - he has three children . . ."

Newspapers

Tarnagulla and Dunolly newspapers are a fruitful source of district news, and from time to time specific reference is made to some of the STONES. Two are quoted hereunder.

"Dunolly, Tarnagulla & St. Arnaud Express. 28/1/1864. Reaper.

A. and E. STONE of Laanecoorie who have recently purchased one of GIBBS Machines (reaper) seeing the shocking state of the crop (at the junction of Deep Creek with the Loddon) undertook to take it down, having completed their own harvest, and that of a neighbouring farmer. They succeeded in doing so in two days and three quarters, cutting in this time thirty-six acres odd."

Note: "Gibbs Machine". Manufactured by Mr. John GIBBS, Ballarat.

"Tarnagulla Courier. 4/11/1865. A Cricket Match.

A cricket match was played at Laanecoorie between South Bendigo and Laanecoorie on October, 28th, 1865, Laanecoorie players - RIORDAN, EASTON, CAREY, COUSINS, GAY, A. STONE, LYON, FIELD, GRILLS, E. STONE, LANGDON."

THE AGRICULTURAL AREA OF LOADER DOWNS
WOODSTOCK WEST

The Government had surveyed and were preparing to throw open for selection further land to the east and south of Laanecoorie. It was termed the "Agricultural Area of Loader Downs." In the Victorian Government Gazette No. 91 of Tuesday 25th July, 1865, it was advised that the land would be open for selection on and after Wednesday 23rd August, 1865, at the Land Office, Dunolly. Newspapers also carried the information.

The whole of the Selections throughout the Colony were fixed for the one day, 23rd August, in order, as it was said, "to counteract as much as possible the operations of the squatters and their mediums."

Plans were available at the Dunolly Land Office, and we can imagine the STONE BROTHERS riding over the land to decide the best areas to select.

It was agreed that EDWARD would remain on the Laanecoorie property and that JOSEPH and ALFRED would try for new land.

For some reason the Loader Downs Selection was postponed to Friday 25th August, 1865.

The Land Office at Dunolly was to remain open for one hour only on the 25th August and an Act stated that when two or more persons made application for the same block, "the priority of the order of applications shall be determined by lot."

The Dunolly and Bet Bet Express of the 28th August describes the Land Selection. There was a large number of mediums and dummies in the town who arrived in coaches, wagons and other vehicles, it being estimated that about half the applicants were in this class.

The paper states that there were 263 applicants, and it seems that a total of 14,944 acres in 76 blocks was selected out of a total of 22,605 acres available. A schedule gave the names and addresses of the successful selectors, with the area obtained.

ALFRED STONE heads the list with 640 acres selected in the Parish of Woodstock. JOSEPH STONE would certainly have been an applicant for a block, so it can only be assumed that in a ballot he was not successful.

The Lease Book was perused at the Latrobe Library. It shows that under date 25th August, 1865, ALFRED STONE leased 640 acres (Section 10 - Parish of Woodstock) and that he paid £32 Rent. He had the right to purchase.

According to the ALFRED STONE tradition, ALFRED STONE now owned a valuable asset in a prime agricultural area, and as there was still some money owing to JOSEPH from the original loan, he offered JOSEPH a share of the selected land in settlement. Such a partition was provided for under the Act.

The two brothers obviously wished to live close together, and so they agreed on the following partition:-

384 acres to be retained by ALFRED.

256 acres to go to JOSEPH, being sufficient to settle the liability. The relative entries in the Lease Book were adjusted.

ALFRED STONE named his property "Woodlands", and JOSEPH'S was named "Alva".

Margaret M. STONE in her book, "Early Pioneers of Tasmania - A History of Thomas and Ann Stone", gives details which are worth repeating in detail.

"Before the clearing and fencing was undertaken at Woodstock West, a small slab hut and a yard was built for a "camp" for Richard Stubbs who was employed as shepherd by the STONE brothers. Old Dick only had one eye, (as my uncle James Stone recalled him) but he liked reading and did this by the light of a slush lamp. Richard Stubbs was the son of an English Gentleman and during an argument with another man employed by the Stones he said, "I rode to the hounds when I was a boy!!" Upholding his status! Old Jack's retort, just as crushing, was, "I weren't but a village 'prentice, but I'm as good as you now".

The conditions of the selection were that the properties were to be resided on and the land improved. The first "Alva" house was of slabs. A brick house was built on the "Woodlands" property, the bricks being made near the "Alva" homestead. The hole became one of the farm dams.

The "Alva" homestead was built near a road, but the "Woodlands" one was in the centre of the block, and in due course the main access to the house was by a fenced lane leading to the road on the west.

From time to time the Crown Land Bailiff had to inspect the holdings, make valuations, and report if the conditions of the Leases were being observed.

In terms of the Leases, at the time of making application a half year's rent in advance was required. The lease was for three years initially at a rent of two shillings per acre per annum for each and every acre. The lessee would reside on the land and effect improvements. After the three years, the lessee was given a lease for seven years at the same rent. When the sum of £1 per acre had been paid a Crown Grant would issue.

JOSEPH and his family were the first of the brothers to move to Woodstock West. EDWARD and ALFRED continued to work together for a period. The ALFRED STONES continued to reside in their home on the "Delta" property. Children from the two families attended the Laanecoorie School, the ALFRED'S moving to Woodstock West when their brick house was built.

In 1868 the Crown Land Bailiff inspected and reported on the properties as under:-

- "Woodlands" - Nature of Improvements - Dwelling house, fencing, clearing, ploughing and cultivating. Value £400.
Resident on property since January, 1866.
- "Alva" - Nature of Improvements - Dwelling house, fencing, clearing and cultivating. Value £304.
Resident on property since January, 1866.

Note - The first brick home on "Alva" was built while the family lived in one of slabs.

The District suffered a drought in 1871/72, for the "Laanecoorie and Llanelly Courier" of 27th April, 1872, reports:-

"The drought has broken and farmers are preparing land for next season's crops, double furrow ploughs being all the rage".

D. B. RYLAND

We quote hereunder the text of a letter written by D. B. RYLAND to his Great niece LUCY STONE, daughter of EDWARD STONE. She was then about 12 years old and was with the HOPE FAMILY in Hobart. LUCY later married JOHN WAUGH of Laanecoorie. It includes district information.

Laanecoorie
Victoria.
May 24th, 1871.

My Dear Lucy,

I really feel quite ashamed of my self for allowing your kind letter remain so long unanswered and having no excuse whatever to offer (save laziness) I am compelled to throw myself solely on your mercy for forgiveness, at the same time endeavouring to make what amends I can by giving you an extravagantly large dose now.

In the first place let me thank you for writing to me. I have been very pleased to hear from time to time that you are getting on well and that you like your school. Let me entreat of you for your own sake to use your utmost endeavours to make the best of the very great advantages afforded you by your visit to your Aunt and the opportunity thus given you of acquiring information and a refined taste which you could not by any possibility gain here - independently of the inestimable personal advantage you receive from mental cultivation. Bear in mind that the use you make of the present will give you immensely increased powers for usefulness during the remainder of your life. Your assiduity now will enable you to prove a blessing to your sisters and your whole family. You have (I am glad to hear) now good health and strength so work with a will and do not be afraid of working hard at your studies resting fully assured that present labour will bring you a rich reward in the future. Poor use though I have made of the education I received I would not exchange the pleasure I still receive therefrom for all the gold in Australia, and should God be pleased to spare you to see a good old age you will hold a similar opinion. I trust that Mrs. Hope is still in good health as also the rest of the family.

Your Aunt has not been strong or well for a long time, though there is nothing I think alarming about her, but time begins to tell on her - as for myself I am as far as I can judge as well in health as ever I was in my life. Your Mother has now and then not been as well as she should be and your Father at times complains - I lay this as well as your skinny-ness, your bad eyes and 99/100 eths of all the sickness that has befallen all the members of your family to the miserable want of ventilation in Ned's house - your Uncle Joe is having a new five roomed brick house built, and if there be any heed taken of my reiterated advice it will be lofty and well ventilated and give him a chance of seeing some of his children grown up. I will now from my scribbling journal dot down a few items so as to render you somewhat "au Fait" in respect to what has passed since you left in chronological order - may your patience hold out till you get through with it (Note: It would seem that a page of the letter with items from this Journal copy is unfortunately missing ...)

May 9th. Was driven by your father to Eddington in his new buggy

and close to the township picked up Miss Nankervids who had been on a visit to the Clunes and was thus saved a long walk home. On Sunday 14th heard Mr. Baker preach twice, he dined with us but was very taciturn and reserved, so unlike Mr. Royce who is an excellent conversationalist and full of anecdote. 27th. Rode Polly in to Maldon and returned yesterday - this brings matters up to the present time so I will add a brief epitome of things in general and wind up a longer yarn than was ever yet spun for your special edification.

The district is being more extensively cultivated, ground being cleared and fenced in all directions. I have sixteen acres nearly ready and hope to get a days plowing match thereon in about ten days or a fortnight.

The Bridge (between Grylls and Holyoaks) across the Loddon is now commenced. That is to say the contract is accepted and signed and timber being cut, a new blacksmiths and wheelwrights shop and residence is put up, also a shanty near the site of the bridge, and a shoemakers; his daughter having a sewing machine has opened between the Primitive (Methodist) Chapel and the waterholes. Mr. Langdon has erected a brick house on the end of his land nearest Holyoaks, is now living in it and has been appointed by the Bridge contractor (Addison Nichol of Lockwood) as his overseer.

The Fields are also about to build an extensive brick house in which Tom and his wife (when married) and his mother and Mary are to live - Charlotte still at Williamstown. She was up at Easter with Captain White's boy for a short visit. They are all well - Aunty Lucy's little boy is a fine little fellow.

The Chapels are still well and regularly attended, all debt on our one was cleared off prior to Mr. Royce's leaving. Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Mr. Johnson Senr. brother in law Allan Lyon and Mrs. King have been added to the Church. Minnis has married and is in a school at Geelong. Mrs. Curnow has a daughter - her first girl, and Mrs. Poole a second son. Mr. Forty has had to sell out and has a temporary situation in Sandhurst, his wife and her sister Mrs. Herbert Thompson are staying with their father Mr. Gath. Sam Waugh is married. The Church Tea meeting at Eddington takes place tomorrow evening; the Fields, your father and me going. Mrs. Riegel has also had another daughter. Edward Kimpton has left the district for Melbourne.

I must now stop for I am tired and must make up the mail as tis getting on for midnight.

Accept kind love from your Aunt and yours Aff'y,

D. B. RYLAND.

Notes:

Date: 24th May, 1871, was a Queens Birthday and that year was a Wednesday. It could have been a school holiday, and therefore may have accounted for D. B. RYLAND having time to write this long letter.

Ned: Lucy's father.

Your Aunt: Would be Mrs. Ryland - referred to by the family as "Aunt Ryland".

"Your Uncle Joe is having a new 5-roomed brick house built". This was the first brick house built on "Alva". The first house was the slab one.

"The Bridge". Laanecoorie Bridge Contract 1871.

Mr. Forty. Sold out "Gourdie", and the Hepburns came there.

Edward Kimpton. Founder of Kimptons Flour Mills.

DAVID BRAINARD RYLAND, who had had a great influence on the STONE families died suddenly on 28th July, 1871, at his home at the Laanecoorie School. He was the local school teacher, chemist, postmaster, newspaper agent etc. His funeral on a cold and wet day was attended by some 500 people. His body lies in the Eddington Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

PURCHASE OF TOWN ALLOTMENTS

In 1873 EDWARD, JOSEPH and ALFRED each purchased from the Crown adjoining 20 acre Laanecoorie township Allotments, and in 1874 EDWARD purchased another 20 acres. The blocks were to the north of and separated by a Government road from the "Delta" homestead block.

One can only speculate as to whether the three brothers planned to eventually "retire" to homes they might build on the blocks, growing fruit and vegetables to their heart's content, leaving their sons to carry on the farms - and the families!

It was not until 1876 that ALFRED sold his undivided half share of "The Delta" property of 229 acres, with buildings and fences thereon to EDWARD for £574. In that year they also sold the Lockwood property to WILLIAM ROBERTS for £305. The brothers were now completely on their own.

A Letter From Margaret (Peg) Stone

A letter written by Margaret (Peg) STONE (daughter of EDWARD and CHRISTIE) to her cousin Margaret (Maggie) JOHNSON at Bagdad, Tasmania, and dated 7th June, 1888, opens a little window for us on life at "The Delta" almost 100 years ago. Because of its interest it is quoted in full.

Laanecoorie
June 7th, 1888.

My Dear Maggie,

I have at last made a start at writing to you. I have been going to do it for months past. You must not think I have forgotten you for I think of you often. The yarns we used to have at the parlor fire. I would like to go over again now I am well, it would be simply splendid, the walks I used to have with dear little Georgie and the little visits to Grannie. Be sure and give my love to her and tell her I often think of her. Is her cat still alive and as fat as ever? We all enjoyed your letters very much. Mother thought they were splendid. I hope Tom is better than he was. Does he go to school still? I expect Joe and Jim are getting quite good scholars by this time. I bought a story book for Edna in Hobart with such splendid stories in it; if I were only there now I could tell them heaps of them. Have you improved any in the getting up in the morning business, Maggie? I am happy to tell you that I have a little. Dear me! didn't we enjoy that bed in the morning! it was such a trial to get out of it. I get up about 6 a.m. now. We have an old man who always lights the fire and lays the table for the mens breakfast, so that gives us women folk a little more time in bed than we would have. I generally dress Mackie first thing, then skim the milk, wash the milk dishes, put the calves milk on to warm and then have my breakfast and get away to milk a little after 7., so thats a little improvement is not it?

Jessie has been down staying with Lucy for the last week. She has another little daughter (Evelyn) on 22nd May so Jess is doing the work for her till she gets strong. Her other little girl (Gracie) is only 17 months old, so it will be almost like two babies in the house. Jess has been hard at work lately getting her sewing and fancy work done up ready for her wedding. I have been helping her a little. I crewelled a black velvet cushion for her- and have started a night dress bag for her - white pique trimmed with embroidery and crewelled with embroidery cotton - there is a lot of work in it but I think it will look nice when it is finished. She is making a dozen each of everything in the under clothing line. I must not forget to tell Mother has bought a side saddle - so when you come over, as I hope you will some day, you will be able to go for a ride. Lois rides very nicely - she is engaged to a young man names Mr. William Irvine now, he is a very nice sort of chap and is pretty well off. She and Bob Borland quarrelled just about the time I came home I think Will is far the nicer young man of the two - Mab is as fat and almost as pretty as ever she is rather too fat to be quite pretty. Our men are very busy putting the crop in, when they have finished the paddock they are at now they will have 140 acres in. If it rains soon they will put some more in, if not they will stop at that. They have about 60 or 70 tons of

hay to sell which they are going to try to sell on the ground to save the trouble of carting away. Our fruit is almost gone - we have plenty of apples stowed away but damsons and quinces are just about finished. We have not got a single egg for over three weeks now so cakes are things we see very little of. Tell Aunty I do all the baking here but I can't make bread to come up to hers - I do my level best. I hope both she and Uncle are better than they were. Uncle Joe (Stone "Alva") has been very unwell again - the cold weather does not seem to agree with him - he was first rate all the summer - neither Auntie Margaret nor Bella are up to the mark. Mother is much better than she was, she is taking Warners Safe Cure and it is doing her a lot of good, perhaps it would do Aunty good if she tried it. Tell Janie Lois is expecting a letter from her and I will write her a good long letter when Lois answers it. I ought to have answered her nice letter long ago. Does she look as pretty and fresh as ever? I used to rather envy her nice complexion, and now my dear Maggie with love to all , not forgetting your Aunt in Green Ponds (I will never forget her kindness to me) I remain , your ever loving cousin.

Margaret Stone

I am glad you liked the book I sent and that you got a prize at the exams .

Note - This Margaret Stone later married James Hepburn the brother of Margaret Hepburn who married Alfred W. Stone , and who was the Mother of Alex. Hepburn Stone one of the compilers of this story.

Death of EDWARD STONE

EDWARD died in 1905, but CHRISTIE lived on at "The Delta" until her death in 1916. They are buried in the Eddington Cemetery.

The Head Stone reads;-

To the Sacred Memory
of
our Grandparents
EDWARD STONE
Died 15th July 1905
Aged 76 Years
CHRISTINE STONE
Died 22nd Dec. 1916
Aged 79 Years.

- - - - -

Many people had cause to Bless EDWARD and CHRISTIANNA STONE (known as NED and CHRISTY) for their loving, selfless care and hospitality so readily extended to all in need.

- - - - -

The EDWARD STONE children were:-

LUCY MARY
MARGARET JANE
THOMAS
EMMA JESSIE
FLORENCE RYLAND
MAUD
MABEL HOPE
FRANCES EDNA
Mc KENZIE

McKENZIE STONE to whom "The Delta" property passed married FLORA DOUGLAS
on They had three children

MARY

KEN

JOHN

McKENZIE and FLORA built a new brick homestead at "The Delta" in
It is still standing (1983). They too are buried in the Eddington
Cemetery - their Head Stone reading:-

In Loving Memory of
McKENZIE STONE
Died 5th Sept. 1960.
FLORA STONE
Died 6th May 1970.

Devoted Parents of Mary, Ken and John.

- - -

JOHN and MARY STONE

continued to

reside on the

original homestead block. The other land of the original purchase has been
sold, and in its place rich river flats have been purchased.

*Mary STONE died on [unclear] and John subsequently
left the farm and then bought a house at Manlyborough
and is living there.*

JOSEPH STONEAnd The "ALVA" Property.An Historical Sketch and Eulogy by Nancy A. Stone, Great Grand-daughter.

Joseph STONE occupied the property from January, 1866. The family's first home was built of slabs.

The Crown Bailiff's report of 3rd October, 1868, gives some information about the farm.-

Date of Inspection. 2/9/1868.

Nature of Improvements and Extent in Acres. Dwelling house, fencing, clearing and cultivating 256 acres.

Approximate Value of Improvements. £304.

If Resident and Since What Date. January, 1866.

Remarks. Bona fide selector.

In 1871 a new brick home was built. A letter written by David B. Ryland to his great-niece Lucy STONE and dated 24/5/1871, mentions the building of this new home; it reads:- "Your Uncle Joe is having a new 5-roomed brick house built, and if there by any heed taken of my reiterated advice, it will be lofty and well ventilated and give him a chance of seeing some of his children grow up."

The bricks were made close to the site of the homestead, which consisted of five rooms, together with a kitchen, store room and two bedrooms of weatherboard, There was a brick oven outside for breadmaking.

Joseph STONE, second son of Thomas and Anne, has emerged in my mind as a very strong character with a charm of personality resulting from three facets of that character which emerged from tales told of him by my mother.

First, a love of reading, especially from the Bible and the Classics which coupled with a retentive memory, enabled him to make an apt quotation from the Scriptures, from Shakespeare or from some poem such as Homer's Iliad, to suit

daily happenings. (This ability to make an apt quotation to turn some quite ordinary occurrence into an occasion for hilarity was inherited to marked degree by Mother's brother, Ralph Alford, and also by two of his five daughters). Joseph was bright, and good company.

The second characteristic that distinguished him as a neighbour and friend was a skill in caring for the sick, both humans and animals. This would have been greatly valued in the little isolated community, and earned him the kindly title of "Doctor". My grandfather, Thomas Alford, told me, "He could mix a mustard plaster with the best of them, and would sit up all night with a sick child." It was said that it was on the Californian goldfields that this ability was first developed.

Then, in the third place, he was a bright Christian who once said whimsically that he was "a lamplighter for the King".

I like to think of the courage and strength of mind that was forged as he set off, at 23 years of age, with his younger brother Edward, (called Ned), only 19 years old, for the Californian goldfields, and of how both returned from that rough, difficult experience with money in their pockets to equip themselves with horses and gear and ride from Sydney to Mt. Alexander (Castlemaine) and on to Bendigo in 1851.

An enlarged photo of him hung in our sitting room at "Ellesgarth" my old home, showing him in middle life with a stern face, crinkly grey hair, a black and white checked shirt and a narrow black tie. He appeared to be a man of considerable energy and intelligence.

Joseph, like Edward and Alfred, was a keen gardener and orchardist, and established an orchard and vineyard at "Alva". There were grapes for the table and for making wine in their own wine-press. A mulberry tree from the original orchard survives today. To his grandchildren, his house and garden appeared as a kind of Garden of Eden. My mother told of running there after school to pick an apple, get a pocket full of almonds and climb a tree to eat

them all together, hitting the apple on the bough of the tree in order to bring out the juice.

Joseph and Margaret STONE were hospitable, with the hospitality of those who have experienced real hardship. A decanter of home-made wine stood on the sideboard to refresh visitors. Margaret kept a bread-and-butter custard made with raisins down the underground dairy, ready to give to the miners who tramped along the road that ran past their door on their way from Bendigo to the Dunolly gold diggings.

Joseph had been set to work on the land at "Horfield", Tasmania, when he was only ten years old, and when he died in his early sixties his younger brothers lamented over the hard life he had had to lead when so young. His wife outlived him by many years

My mother remembered her grandmother as a happy-natured woman with a "silvery laugh". She always wore in the house, lilac print dresses (which she pronounced as "laylock prints). Her hair, which was probably very strong and dark, like Mother's, was always smoothed down with olive oil and kept in place with a muslin cap. She was very fond of lavender water, and insisted on baking her bread and cakes out of doors in the brick "Ovven", with the "o" pronounced as in "hot". Mother has told me, but I unfortunately forget the details, of how she would build up a big fire in the oven and, when it was reduced to a mass of glowing red coals, her grandmother would rake out the coals, brush out the ash, and put in her tins of bread and cakes to bake.

This church was "missioned" from Maldon.

Mr. David DAVIES gave the land on which the church was to be built, but it is understood that the land was never actually transferred to the church trustees.

Besides the DAVIES, other families involved in the new venture included Mr. & Mrs. Joseph STONE and Mr. & Mrs. ALFORD Senr.. Thomas ALFORD, in his history of the church, states that it had a great addition with the arrival early in the 1870's of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew HEPBURN and family, "who at once took an active part in all church matters and were very liberal supporters.

Then came Mr. & Mrs. Alf STONE and family, who were ever to the fore as attendants and staunch supporters."

Other leading families included the CURNOWS and the POOLES.

Joseph STONE was the first Steward. His duties were to take up the collection, attend to the table for the Communion Service, and light the seven lamps when an evening service was being held.

On the death of Mr. Joseph STONE, his son-in-law, Thomas ALFORD, was appointed to the position, and held in until 1895 when the ALFORDS left the district.

The story is told that, while Communion Steward, Thomas one Sunday morning discovered that there was no communion wine, so he decided to walk to Wallaby Inn, some seven miles on the road towards Bendigo, and back. He obtained the wine alright but as he was walking home a rabbit ran across his path. Without thinking, he let fly with the only thing that was in his hand - the bottle of wine.

There was no Communion Service that Sunday.

NOTE RE FOUNDATION STONE OF CHURCH. On Tuesday, 29th June, 1869, the Foundation

Stone of the building was laid by Mrs. DAVIES.

The first service in the church was conducted by a woman, a Miss THORNE, Grand-daughter of the "originator" of the Bible Christian Church.

Thomas ALFORD, in an addendum to his history, referred to above, has this to say about the district people:-

"Everybody was always eager to do a good turn for each other.

Mr. Joseph STONE was looked upon as Medical Adviser, and would hop out any hour, night or day, and trudge to attend to any case of sickness, especially to children.

Although his treatment was sometimes a bit severe, I think it was generally a success. He could give you a good hot blanket, and if that did not do the job, there was always a good supply of Keen's Mustard (Double Strength) on hand.

All the mothers seemed to be well up in nursing matters and did not need to send for Doctors for any little ache or pain. In fact, Doctors were hard to get then.

Mr. CURNOW (Snr.) and Mr. ALFORD were looked upon as Stock Doctors, but did not always make a cure.

I think Mr. POOLE was looked upon as a Bush Lawyer. He was a good talker and a real gentleman."

WOODSTOCK WEST SCHOOL

NOTE. The information in this section is taken, for the most part, from Education Department files perused at the Latrobe Library.

A private school was opened on 5th February, 1873, at Mr. BEASLEY's farm with an average attendance of fifteen.

State School No. 1236 was opened in the Bible Christian chapel (leased) on 9th June, 1873, under Alexander HEANEY. An average of 22 pupils were taught in that year.

Conditions were initially very primitive, for although the church was commodious, there was no heating in winter, and as well, there no toilets or drinking water.

On 28th May, 1873, Mr. Thomas LANGDON, Laanecoorie School Correspondent, wrote to T. BOLAM, State School Inspector, advising that Mr. Joseph STONE offered to give half an acre on the S.W. corner of his block, and opposite the Bible Christian church, to the Education Department for School purposes, provided that should the Department at any time discontinue such school, the land should revert to him.

The condition was unacceptable and the Department indicated that they were prepared to purchase $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres in addition to the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre promised.

On 28th June, 1873, Joseph STONE offered to sell the 2 acres for £10.

On 1st September, 1873, the School Inspector advised the Department that district residents agreed to subscribe sufficient money to purchase the two acres from Joseph STONE and hand it to the Department.

On 6th July, 1874, Joseph STONE, Andrew HEPBURN and eight other district residents wrote to "Mr. LANGDON and Gentlemen forming Board of Advice."

"We the undersigned parents interested in the Woodstock West State School No. 1236, are desirous of having a female teacher, for there are a number of young girls rising up who require the assistance of a Governess. We think a Married Couple would be most suitable."

By November, 1874, the new school had not been built and letters were addressed to The Hon. J. J. Casey, Minister of Education, and their Member, Thompson MOORE, Member for Mandurang, by a number of district residents. The letter to Thompson MOORE is quoted in full, for it shows how the district had been settled in a very short time. Date of letter was Sept., 7th, 1874.

"Sir,

We the undersigned parents of the children attending the Woodstock West State School 1236, do most Respectfully request that you will use your influence to get us a School and Teachers residence erected as soon as possible on the ground purchased by the parents and made over to the Government for State School purposes.

The present building is not suitable for a school, it being full of seats which are not suitable for children and being used for Divine Worship several times a week, further there is no fire place in it. Also the Trustees of the Chapel are desire-ous to complete the cha-pel and have the school removed from it.

The Teacher has to ride twenty miles every day, there being no available building in the neighborhood for him and his family.

We have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient Servants

	<u>Number of Children</u>
Frederick Beasley	6
Nicholas Grylls	5
James Grimmett	8
William Ellison	5
Edward Stone	6
Alfred Stone	7
Thomas Field	2
William Rich'd Field	3
Oliver Poole	9
O-den McNaulty	5
John Young	2
John Charles	6
James Curnow	7
Andrew Hepburn	7
Samuel F. Gath	2
Robt. Nicholson	4
Catherine J. Knox (?)	2
Joseph Stone	4
John Shearer	9
David Davies	6
	<hr/>
	TOTAL 105
	CHILDREN
	<hr/> <hr/>

Memo attached to letter to Thompson MOORE of 7/9/1874.

"I earnestly trust no further delay will exist in carrying out the erection of school House and Residence for Teacher in this place. I think this Memorial ought to show the Honble. the Minister the necessity for immediate action and I hope he will at once comply with request and oblige very much etc.

Thompson MOORE

September 10/74

The letter was forwarded to the Minister on the above date.

Eventually the school was built and was first used on 2nd August, 1875.

POST OFFICE.

On 9th May, 1877, an unofficial Post Office (No. 990) was established with a posting box, at the school. Mail and papers (if they came in bulk) were handed out to pupils by the teacher at the close of school.

Much later the Post Office was transferred to first a cottage next to the school and then to "Alva".

RYANS.

In 1887 JAMES STONE (eldest son of JOSEPH STONE) purchased the Western portion of JAMES RYAN'S property containing 275 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It was named "Mayfield".

JAMES STONE later moved to Northern Victoria.

THOMAS ALFORD and his family resided on this property for a while.

ROBERT CAY MICHAEL purchased the 275 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in 1908 and later one of his sons STANLEY resided on and worked it. It was sold to RAYMOND VIVIAN STONE in 1938, and at present (1983) is owned by W.J.D. and Mrs. KAY TURNER.

The Eastern portion of RYAN'S property was purchased by ALFRED STONE - it is specially referred to later.

Joseph STONE'S Family

Joseph and Margaret Stone's children were:-

James	Born 2/9/1856
Joseph	" 6/12/1857
Margaret	" 30/9/1860
Isabella	
Joanne	
Richard William	" 26/4/1869
Charles Alexander	
George Henry	

Two of the children, Joseph and Joanne, died at an early age.

For the purposes of this story, we are only interested in two of the children, Margaret and Richard William.

MARGARET. Margaret STONE, one of the children born in Tasmania, married Thomas ALFORD on 2nd May, 1880, at the Bible Christian Church, Woodstock West. She walked down the road, dressed in her finery, with her father. (The dress, held in my historical collection, is a very treasured item. NAS)

Made of taupe silk taffeta, her gown had a slight train. The hem-line was edged with two rows of kilting, each three inches deep, below a narrow band of gold satin. Above the satin was a lovely band of ruching, five inches deep. The little fitted bodice, (Grandma was quite a small woman), was piped in gold satin, and the collar and buttons were covered in the same satin. Softly gathered epaulettes extended from the shoulders over the leg-of-mitten sleeves which end again in gold satin piping above taffeta kilting.

From what my mother has told me, I believe that originally the dress had a bustle and an apron front, both of which would have been still fashionable at that time; these were removed when the fashion changed.

With her dress she wore a bonnet of matching silk and trimmed with orange blossom. With her dark curly hair and hazel eyes, she must have been a very pretty little bride indeed.

The dress is now not in good order. It was fully lined throughout and she could not be washed, nor could she afford to wrap it in tissue paper and put it away, so it was worn until it became out of date and started to split.

The granary on "Alva" had just been built and the wedding breakfast was held there. The old building is still in use.

Thomas and Margaret shifted to Warragul but later, with their young family, returned to Woodstock West. Thomas built a cottage with his own hands for his family on the Stone property next door to the State School.

Ella May ALFORD was born on the 22nd October, 1884. She and three other ALFORD children appear on the school roll on 1894. Ella married Joseph G. PICKLES, and I, Nancy Alison STONE, am the youngest of their three children, being born on 3rd November, 1920.

Many years later, Ella PICKLES recalled that when she was at school at Woodstock West a family of Native Cats lived under the School.

RICHARD WILLIAM. R. W. STONE married his cousin Mary Jane JOHNSON (born in Tasmania 29th September, 1869) in Melbourne on February, 1894, and went to live at their "Laverock", Newbridge, property.

Five children were born there, viz.,

Vera Gwendoline
Mildred Jean (died of diphtheria at age of 8)
Margaret Maud
Stanley Arthur
Edith Alexandra.

Joseph STONE died on 20th February, 1890, at the age of 63 years.

An obituary written by the Rev. R. Warren, pastor of the Bible Christian Church, is quoted in full hereunder.

Joseph STONE

Mr. Joseph STONE of Woodstock West, fell asleep in Jesus, February 20th, 1890. He was born in Hobart, Tasmania, A.D. 1826, and came to reside in Victoria in 1863. Shortly afterwards, he selected land at Woodstock and settled down with his family.

The Reverend E. E. Gudridge, whose missionary zeal has born much precious fruit in the Maldon district, appeared on the scene, bearing the message of mercy; and services were commenced at Mr. Poole's residence. From the first Mr. STONE identified himself with our cause, and remained firm as a rock, and true as steel, down to the end of his pilgrimage. A neat and substantial brick church was soon built, which is now free of debt. Mr. STONE became a

Trustee and for many years he acted as Treasurer. He knelt as first penitent in the new church, and experienced forgiveness of sin, and was made very happy in the Savior's love. It was now his joy to testify to the saving power of God in Christ. He was not a public man, but by his kind, consistent and unassuming life, he exerted a wonderful influence for good.

He was a man of few words, but to the purpose. For fourteen years he filled the office of Society Steward most efficiently.

On visiting Sandhurst during his illness, he attended a Salvation Army meeting; one of the officers asked him if he was saved. He answered quaintly, "I have been a lamplighter for the King of Kings for the last 16 years."

By their fruits ye shall know them.

Our friend was slightly below medium height, but his soul was large and generous; he was retiring in manner, and remarkably shrewd; quaint in utterance, very humorous and he could laugh well.

When a young man he travelled pretty extensively in America. He had his eyes wide open, and he has often entertained us with a pleasant Yankee story. He possessed a retentive memory. When a boy he learnt Homer's Iliad, and what is more he never forgot it. He could quote line after line and verse after verse, bearing upon matter of every-day life, with a correctness and ease which often astonished us.

He was one of the kindest men I ever knew, and his kindly acts were performed with an ease and naturalness which made it most pleasant to receive.

He had a most prolific fruit garden, and many a weary traveller on the hot and dusty road, and many a child returning from school, have shared in the luscious fruit bestowed by his kindly hand, and blessed the donor for his gift. His liberal soul devised liberal things.

If there was trouble in any homestead for miles around, Joseph STONE would hasten thither to perform the generous deed and speak the consoling word. Like his Master, he went about doing good. His religion developed itself more in acts than in words.

An esteemed friend says in writing of him, he was of a cheerful disposition and a great favourite in the district, where he was ever ready to do anything in his power, night or day, to alleviate suffering in man or beast; and "Dr. Stone" as he was sometimes called, has left a gap in our little community which will not easily be filled.

To say that he was perfect would be to say that he was more than human, but at his Master's feet he loved to sit, saying, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy Cross I cling."

As a worshipper in God's house he was regular, quiet, reverent, in prayer he was calm, childlike, and confident. He contributed to our Church funds liberally, systematically, and when the burden of affliction became so heavy that he could not attend the services of the Sanctuary he sent his offerings into the Lord's Treasury.

Sometime before Mr. STONE's death, affliction seized him which was largely the result of an accident some years previously. A more calm ending to human life I have never witnessed. There was no fear of death, not a

doubt, but a wonderfully implicit trust in God.

On the day of his death the youngest son entered the room to enquire for the sinking father; the answer was soon given followed by the words, "Kiss the Son, George, lest He be angry". Soon after he said to his devoted wife, "Where are we going to camp tonight, Mother?" Old scenes of travelling and camping were passing before his mind.

In a few minutes after when the homestead was silent because of the presence of death, the sun was setting in his evening splendour, the day was fast closing - so, too, the day and the journey of Joseph STONE's life closed and the faithful father and husband was not, for God had taken him. At eventide there was light. We sorrow not as those without hope.

Soon after came the funeral day. Many friends and neighbors gathered in and around the home of the deceased. God's Word was read, a brief exhortation given, a prayer offered, then a long procession followed the remains of the departed to the Eddington cemetery, where we reverently committed his body to the grave. All were saddened because of the loss of a man so good and true. Heaven is richer, earth is poorer; The Lord's Will be done.

On Lord's Day, March the 2nd, 1890, a service ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ memorium was conducted in the Woodstock West Church by the writer. There was a large congregation, and the service was solemn and powerful. May much good result.

We deeply sympathise with Mrs. Stone and family in their bereavement.

May God be gracious to them all and finally, when life's great purposes are served, may they meet their loved one in the mansions of light.

R. WARREN

Margaret STONE, Joseph's widow, lived on at "Alva" and died 22nd August, 1904, aged 71 years and 4 months. They are buried together at the Eddington cemetery. The tombstone reads:-

In Loving Memory of
Our Dear Father

JOSEPH STONE

Who Died Feb 20th, 1890
Aged 63 Years

Bless the Lord, Oh my Soul, and
forget not all His benefits.

"He being dead, yet Speaketh"

Also his Wife

M A R G A R E T

Who died 1904, aged 71 years.

Note.- Other names also appear on the headstone.

Joseph STONE appointed two family friends as Executors of his Will, James HEPBURN of Newport, Government Employee (Railways), and James CURNOW of Woodstock on Loddon, Farmer.

The "Alva" property was Willed to two of his sons, Richard William STONE and Charles Alexander STONE, and for a time was worked by Charles, Richard being on his "Laverock" property.

In 1901 and 1902 there were moves by a number of the residents of the district for a portion of the School block to be granted to them for the erection of a Public Hall.

This was vigorously opposed by the then Head Teacher of the school, Miss C. C. Gourley and sixteen other residents. In fact the proposal split the district into two opposing camps.

A letter written by Charles STONE is of interest and is quoted below.

Woodstock West,
Nov., 3rd, 01 (1901)

The Secretary of the
Education Department.

Dear Sir,

I have been informed that a committee that has been formed for the erection of a hall, have applied to your department for permission to build a hall on portion of the School ground at Woodstock West.

As the ground was sold to the Education Department by my late honored father (Joseph STONE) solely for and in the interest of the education of the young idea, I feel certain that any other use of the land will be a direct breach of faith and will curtail its present usefulness, besides obscuring the view of the School if granted.

Trusting that your Dept. will not permit of any interference with the land of the Woodstock West State School No. 1236,

I am,

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES STONE

B.S. The committee of the Hall have been offered and can obtain plenty

of land in the immediate vicinity and at trifling cost.

C.S.

The proposal eventually came to nothing.

RICHARD WILLIAM STONE RETURNS TO WOODSTOCK WEST.

Richard bought out his brother in 1912, and he brought his family back to the old family property.

For a period they resided in the little cottage next door to the school, and in due course the third homestead, a fine brick one, was built.

It was from this home that the second "Alva" bride left to be married at the (now) Methodist Church on the corner. We are of course referring to Margaret Maud STONE, daughter of Richard William and Mary Jane STONE, who on 17th September, 1927, married Kenneth Reginald STONE, son of Alfred Withers STONE.

Note.- As an item of interest, Alex H. STONE was his brother's best man.

This wedding was the second link between the families of Joseph and Alfred STONE. The first link was when Christina Margaret ALFORD (daughter of Margaret STONE (b.1860) and grand-daughter of Joseph STONE, married Alfred E. CURNOW, son of Mary May CURNOW, nee' STONE and grand-son of Alfred STONE. It is interesting to note that in each case, the bride was from the Joseph STONE side of the family.

A third link between the two families was in 1976, when the two present researchers married. NANCY ALISON PICKLES (daughter of ELLA MAY PICKLES nee ALFORD - who was a grand daughter of JOSEPH STONE) married ALEXANDER HEPBURN STONE (son of ALFRED WITHERS STONE and a grand son of ALFRED STONE) at St. Paul's Church Bendigo on 28th December 1976.

R. W. STONE died on 16th January, 1951, and his wife, Mary Jane STONE, died on 8th October 1959. She had been born the third daughter of Joseph Johnson, Bagdad, Tasmania, in 1869. Her marriage took place at Newport, Melbourne, on the 14th February, 1894, by the Rev. W. H. Hosken.

The body of Richard was cremated, and for a time the ashes were held at the Crematorium. They were buried with the body of Mary Jane in the Newbridge Cemetery. However, there is a Memorial to Richard at the base of the headstone of his father Joseph in the Eddington Cemetery. It reads:-

In Memory
Of
Richard William
STONE
Died 16th Jan., 1951
Aged 81 Years

Stanley Arthur STONE, only son of the above, married Muriel Ethlyn LEVERSHA and since 1963, their elder son Reginald Joseph STONE and his wife Susan, (Née CURRIE) have lived at "Alva". They have (1982) three sons, David, Peter and Stephen, and one daughter, Helen.

This means that there have been five generations of STONES on this original STONE selection.

Addendum - Re School Property.

The school was finally closed in 1967, and the building moved elsewhere. The land is still fenced and it is hoped that should it ever be sold by the Education Department, it will revert to a member of the Stone Family.

ALFRED STONE"WOODLANDS" - WOODSTOCK WEST

When Alfred and Joseph STONE settled between themselves on the division of the 640 acre block, Section 10, Parish of Woodstock, it was necessary to have the amended selection recorded in the Lease Book of the Lands Department.

The division was - Joseph STONE 256 ac.
 Alfred STONE 384 ac.

Details are:-

Amending Land Act 1865
St. Arnaud, Stawell, Bendigo, Castlemaine
Register of Agricultural Lands
Leased under Act 25, Victoria No. 145
Date of Entry 25th August, 1865
No. of Certificate 70/3129
Date of Lease 25th August, 1865
Parish Woodstock
Number of Section 10 (1)
Area 384 acres
No. of Report 65/aa 385
Amount of Rent paid \$19/ 4/ - (1865)
Name of Lessee STONE Alfred

Remarks - see Jos^h. STONE

Selected at DunollyThe main requirements of the Lease were:-

- (1) In terms of the lease at the time of making application a half years' rent in advance was required.
- (2) The lease was for a term of three years initially at a rent of two shillings per acre per annum for each and every acre by half yearly instalments.
- (3) The lessee would reside on the land.
- (4) He would carry out improvements.
- (5) The land then subject to inspection, and improvements valued.
- (6) The lessee was then entitled to a lease for Seven years at the above rental.
- (7) When the sum of £1 per acre for each and every acre had been paid as rent the lessee was entitled to a Grant from the Crown of such allotment in fee simple.

As we have seen elsewhere, Joseph and Alfred erected a slab hut and yard

known as the Camp, for Richard STOKES, who was employed by them as a shepherd.

Alfred decided to site his homestead roughly in the centre of the 40 acre block - that is it was much nearer the boundary with Joseph than to any of the three roads bordering it.

A brick home was erected from bricks made near "Alva". The main entrance to it was by a fenced lane-way from the west, that is, to the road leading to school, church and Laanecoorie.

For a time, Edward and Alfred STONE continued to work in partnership, with Alfred and his family still living in their home on the "Delta" property .

The ledger of Schoolmaster D. B. Ryland, held by Mrs. Margaret M. STONE, shows that the children of the two families were attending the school until at least 30th June, 1871. We quote the entry for that day:-

June 30 (1871)	Peggy 13/-, Alice 13/-, Tom 12/-	£1.18
	Sophy 13/-, Mary May 13/-, Jessie 13/-	£1.19

Note - Peggy, Tom and Jessie were children of Edward, while the remainder were children of Alfred

The fact that the Alfred STONES did not move to Woodstock West as soon as Joseph and his family is substantiated for we read in Thomas ALFORD's history of the Woodstock West Methodist Church - "Then came Mr. & Mrs. Alf STONE and family who were ever to the fore as attendants and staunch supporters." This, according to him, was after 1870/71.

The last baptism of Alfred STONE'S family at All Saints Church of England, Sandhurst, (not Bendigo) was on 18th March, 1870, when Alfred and Sophia had Edward Albert (Bert) baptised; their address was given as Laanecoorie.

It was not until 1876 that Alfred sold his undivided half share of "The Delta" property to Edward for £574. The transaction is recorded in a Conveyance Alfred STONE to Edward STONE , dated 29th March, 1876, entered in the Office of the Registrar General , Melbourne, No. 909, Book 256.

From then on, the two brothers were on their own.

The land was not heavily timbered, but the trees were big. A "bush

paddock" was left, but the remainder had to be felled, grubbed and burned, and the holes filled in, and fences erected. Dams had to be dug in gullies for water.

A garden was planted on the western side of the house, an an orchard to the south, and across the open farm yard on the north, a vineyard was established. The house and gardens were fenced, and a dam sunk in the farm-yard. Ultimately, stables, farm machinery shed and the like, as well as a man's hut, were strategically placed round the farm-yard. Of course, there was an inevitable wood-heap.

The stables and sheds followed the usual pattern of the time. Large, tall trees with Y forks were cut to size and used to support poles which acted as the ridges. In front and further back somewhat shorter forked poles were used to support other poles as before. Smaller bush poles were used as rafters, and then the whole roof was covered with about a two-foot thick layer of straw and thatch.

Slabs were adzed and then stood upright to form the walls, and perhaps partitions. Doors were of heavy sawn timber. These sheds were known as straw sheds and were cool and snug, much to be preferred for horses and wooden-framed implements than the later galvanised iron ones.

In 1868 the Crown Land Bailiff inspected and reported on "Woodland" as under:-

Parish Woodstock
 Section Part of 10
 Name of Lessee Alfred STONE
 Date of Lease 25th August, 1865
 Date of Inspection 2nd September, 1868
 Nature of Improvements and extent in acres - Dwelling house, fencing, clearing, ploughing and cultivating.
 Approximate value of improvements £400
 If resident and since when - January, 1866.
 Remarks - Bona fide selector.

Under date 26th day of August, 1868, the Registrar of Titles issued him with a lease of the area, entered in the Register Book, Vol. 142, Folio 28274.

In 1874 Alfred signed Schedule H - An Application for a Grant directed to The Honorable The President of the Board of Land and Works, in the following terms.

Sir,

Being the lessee of Allotment 1 of Section 10 in the parish of Woodstock and having complied with the conditions of my lease respecting improvements, as per Certificate of the Board of Land and Works and the other covenants and conditions of my lease, I hereby apply for a Grant for the said Allotment, in accordance with the terms and conditions and under the provisions of Section 33 of The Land Act 1869.

List of previous payments as rent at back.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Alfred STONE.

There are various notations on the document showing that £384 had been paid for the 384 acres (£1 per acre), that the fees for the grant had been paid at Dunolly on 7th September, 1874, searched and no encumbrances found, and that the name was placed on the plan.

In due course a Crown Grant was issued.

On 28th July, 1871, D. B. Ryland died suddenly at his home at Laanecoorie. He was 51 years of age.

Known as Uncle RYLAND by the STONE FAMILY, HE exercised a great influence on its members. He had married Elizabeth WITHERS, a younger sister of Anne STONE (who came to Australia in 1819).

The funeral to the Eddington Cemetery was attended by some 500 people, despite the day being cold and wet.

Alfred and Sophia (called Sophy), although members of the Church of England, attended the Bible Christian Chapel as it was so close to their home, and the children attended the Sunday School. Thomas ALFORD, in his history of the church, records the fact, as stated above.

There were three services at the church each Sunday. Sunday School at 10 a.m., then church at 3 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

A Letter from Tasmania.

EMMA HOPE (nee STONE) had visited her brothers in Victoria. and on returning home wrote the letter quoted hereunder:-

Elboden Place

July 30th 1873

My Dear Brother Alf,

I rec'd the enclosed piece of poetry titled the Gospel Ship it is very good and reminded me of the good those men have done and are doing and I pray God in his mercy will preserve and increase the Glorious news of the Gospel of his Grace that many more may be added to the Worshipers at Laanecoorie.

I have not forgot all your kindness to me and the happy time I spent with you all but I could not expect it to last but thank God he showed me that the greater number was on the road to the better country I could tell by my own experience what a happy sattiesfying thing it is to have Jesus formed within the hope of Glory and trust you enjoy the same dear Alf let me know how you are all progressing in religion.

Joseph, Margaret, Lucy, Richard, Sophy and all the others especially your self I am interested first because you are all my Brothers and Sisters and second because I was present at the revivals that took place when most of you cast in your lot with the people of God, poor Mr. Ninns I was sorry when I heard he had fallen but he will rise more purified more humble more dependant on his heavenly Father's guidance for the future it was a trial to which all Christians may be subjected to we must be tried and purified and made meet and fit for the Kingdom -- how is your Sunday School getting on. The school our children go to here is going to be pulled down and enlarged they have collected £ 100 pound towards erecting a new one. I sometimes go to the Wesleyan Church here but it has not the warmth amongst the people. John is living next the W. chapel at New Town in a nice cottage working at his trade he as three children he & his are attendents but I do not think members but in a fair way of becomming so --

How are all your family getting on is my little friend Bertie getting strong and I hear you have news one David Brainheard may he be like his how is your vineyard & garden getting on have any of the grafts grown and can I send you any thing in that way -- We have had letters in the newspapers on the wines of Scripture in connection with teetotalism I will send some over but with all their argufying they make nothing but that the wines were intoxicating - Tom's second daughter has been with me the last 7 months she is a nice quiet girl she is going to school and is going to remain until Christmas her mother has not been well this 4 years she wants change but will not leave home I believe they cannot more than make ends meet but now the Boys are getting old I am in hopes they will do better - I have never had the scratch of a pen from Edward since he was over and only one letter from Lucy Mary - perhaps you could send me a paper May God Bless and prosper you all is the earnest prayer and dearest wish both of soul and Body and that you may grow in grace your
affec

Emma Hope

Postscript to letter from EMMA HOPE dated 30th July 1873.

Will you write and let me know how they all are Mrs Field would
have sent me some news but thought I heard from them give my
kind love to all the Fields, all Brothers Sisters Aunt Ryland and
all enquiring friends

With much love to yourself I remain your
Affectionate Sister

Emma Hope

I will write to Anne soon.

The Alfred STONE'S family were:-

Alice Matilda	Born	26/12/1860	
Sophia Ann	"	2/ 1/1863	
Mary May	"	9/ 5/1865	
Alfred Withers	"	22/ 7/1867	
Edward Albert	"	20/12/1869	
David Brainard Ryland	"	25/ 2/1872	
Joseph Henry	"	30/ 6/1874	
Amy Rose	"	4/ 9/1876	Died from diphtheria 17/ 6/1879
William Percy	"	28/12/1878	
Raymond Vivian	"	15/ 9/1882	

see also page 53

After leaving Laanecoorie, the school-age children attended the Woodstock West State School No. 1236. The children would bring home the mail and papers when they came from school.

The "Bendigo Advertiser", "The Age" and "The Argus" were popular papers, while newspapers with district news were also published in Tarnagulla and Dunolly. In the farming households the papers were usually read after the evening meal - tea, as it was called - by the light of kerosene lamps. For bedrooms, small bedroom lamps or candles in candlesticks were used.

Alfred W. STONE used to recall that they had a Kangaroo Rat that they had caught in the bush. In the evening it would be let out of its house and it would go thumping up and down the "Woodlands" passage.

Grapes from the vineyard were supplied to a Dunolly winery. They were carted there by dray. Also the STONES made wine for their own use. James FLETT in his book, "Dunolly", refers to vineyards in the district and the making of wine. In the 1870's there was also a Society of Vignerons.

Farm work was hard and there were a number of breaks for food. The meals were generally -
 Breakfast
 Morning Lunch - taken to the men in the paddocks
 Dinner
 Afternoon Lunch - taken out to the men
 Tea.

Men would usually work on in the afternoon while daylight remained, if conditions were favourable. It was usual to take a demi-john of wine with the morning and afternoon lunches.

In later years a billy or bottle of tea was substituted for the wine.

"Woodlands", like most of the farms thereabouts had a large brick underground tank for holding rain water that ran off the house roof. This was used for cooking, drinking, baths, washing etc. There was also an above-ground galvanised iron tank.

Water was a very precious commodity and it had to be used wisely. Baths were usually taken on Saturday night. There was no bathroom, but a large galvanised iron bath or tub was brought into the kitchen. As well as a large cast-iron "fountain" and kettles on the stove, a kerosene tin bucket full of water was often heated to provide sufficient bath water.

Generally the youngest member of the family would be bathed first - then the next, and so on, extra hot water being added as necessary.

Any person going to a mid-week entertainment often had an extra bath. This story could well be inserted here.

It is about old Uncle Tom STONE, who spent his last years at "Woodlands". Sarah STONE had told the old man to go and get his bath. For some reason Alf CURNOW came into the kitchen to find him sitting on a chair beside the tub, mumbling, "I'm only going to wash my feet."

The water was pumped from the underground tank by a hand pump. The galvanised iron tank was on legs, at least bucket-height, so that water could be obtained at the turn of a tap.

Alfred was a great favorite with his grandchildren, and the children from "Alva". Peppermint lollies were always kept in one special pocket, to hand out on suitable occasions.

All district young men seem to have had a shot-gun - a double barrelled one for preference. BREN, ALFRED W., AND JOSEPH H. STONE were all considered good shots.

The story is told that one evening round the tea table at "Woodlands" the talk was of the prowess with the shot gun of the various men there. Next morning ALFRED Sen'r, then an old man, took his gun and went into the orchard and brought back two rosellas he had shot, just to prove he still "had his eye in". Rosellas played havoc with the fruit as it ripened.

PURCHASE OF RYANS PROPERTY.

When the Agricultural Area of Loader Downs was thrown open for selection on 25th August, 1865, one of the selectors was a JAMES RYAN of Newbridge who obtained 435½ acres (see Dunolly & Bet Bet Express of 28th August, 1865).

This land was "L" shaped and immediately north of the "Woodlands" block. The western portion had a frontage of half a mile to the "Woodlands" road, and extended north to the slanting road (Allotments 3A, 3B, 5A and 5B containing 275½ acres), while the eastern portion also had a half mile frontage to the "Woodlands" road but only extended half a mile north and contained 160 acres (Allotments 6A and 6B).

JOSEPH and ALFRED realised that neither of them had sufficient land to meet the needs of their growing families of boys, and in or about 1874 opportunity occurred for them to acquire the RYAN holding.

275 AC. 2R. 9 PER. JAMES STONE, son of JOSEPH STONE, purchased this land. He resided on it until he went to Northern Victoria. It would be to the house on this property that THOMAS ALFORD and his family went when they returned from Warragul, and it was there that RUBY ALFORD was born, and possibly her brother THOMAS as well. JAMES STONE'S first wife was ELIZA ALFORD, sister of THOMAS ALFORD. The property was named "Mayfield".

In 1908 ROBERT CAY MICHAEL of Woodstock West purchased the farm, and his son STANLEY resided on and worked it for a number of years. In 1938 it was purchased by RAYMOND VIVIAN STONE. In 1949 it passed to his son THOMAS KENNETH STONE, who when he died in 1971 left it to his widow ARLIE VERONICA STONE. She in turn sold it to W. J. D. AND Mrs. KAY TURNER in 1974.

160 ACRES. This portion of RYANS property was purchased by ALFRED STONE (C/T. 1938/427 of 8/8/1887). Henceforth it was known in the family as "RYANS".

PURCHASE OF THE MEANY PROPERTY

This land was also part of the Agricultural Area of Loader Downs, and contained 320 acres (Allots. 2A, 2B, 4A and 4B). It had been purchased from the Crown by TIMOTHY MEANY and MARTIN MEANY. TIMOTHY subsequently sold his share to MARTIN. In 1888 ALFRED STONE purchased this land. It was directly south of the eastern part of "Alva". The HEPBURNS owned the western portion of the block.

THE CHILDREN OF ALFRED AND SOPHIA STONE

Alice Matilda Stone. The oldest child, never married and continued to reside at "Woodlands". She would go to the help of various members of the family as necessary, and when her father was in his declining years, she made him her special care. With her mother SOPHY, she fostered the infant ALFRED CURNOW whose mother, MARY MAY CURNOW, (ALICE'S sister) died at his birth. As his grandmother died when he was only four, he was mothered by ALICE through his boyhood. She was born on 26th December 1860, and died on 19th January 1930.

Sophia Ann Stone. (Born 2nd January 1863). She married WILLIAM WHITE CURNOW on 28th April 1886. He was the son of a local farmer. They lived on the property adjoining "The Windmill". In 1891 they moved to Kurraca, near Wedderburn. They had three children. She died on 6th August 1918.

Note - "The Windmill", Woodstock West, property was owned by JAMES, the eldest of the CURNOW children.

Mary May Stone (Born 9th May 1865) She married JOHN ALBERT CURNOW on 13th March 1889. He was a brother of WILLIAM WHITE CURNOW - see above. In June 1889 JOHN A. CURNOW selected land at Fenton's Creek, and moved from Woodstock West.

MARY MAY died 14th March 1895 after the birth of their fourth child, ALFRED E. CURNOW. He was brought to "Woodlands" as outlined above, and remained there until manhood. He was treated as a son by the childless DAVID BRAINARD RYLAND STONE (Bren) and his wife SARAH, and eventually he was established on a property at Calivil by them.

Alfred Withers Stone (Born 22nd July 1867) He married a local girl, HANNAH MARIA SHARP, on 8th October 1889, and they went to live at "RYANS".

HANNAH MARIA died on 21st July 1901, and on 27th October 1904 he married MARGARET HEPBURN. As he was the father of one of the compilers of this history, we subsequently refer to him in greater detail.

Edward Albert Stone (Bert) married MARY MAUD NICHOLAS from West Shelbourne on 9th November 1892, and they resided on the property ALFRED STONE purchased from MEANY. This was later the "Stonelea" property. It was of 320 acres and across the road (South) from the Eastern end of the "Alva" land. The other 320 acres of the 640 acre block was owned by the HEPBURNS.

He was born on 20th December 1870, and died on 12th October 1937.

David Brainard Ryland Stone, (Bren) He was born on 25th February 1872.

He married SARAH EDWARDS on 22nd September 1903, and they continued to live at "Woodlands". He died on 8th August 1928.

Joseph Henry Stone (Born 30th June 1874)

William Percival Stone (Born 28th December 1878)

They left Victoria for Western Australia in 1896, going to the Kalgoorlie Gold Fields. They worked around the fields for about two years, after which JOSEPH returned to Woodstock West to marry EDITH ELIZABETH GRYLIS in July 1898. He took his bride back to Western Australia. The brothers became farmers in that State. See also page 60.

Amy Rose Stone. She died as a child from diphtheria.

Born 4th September 1876. Died 17th June 1879.

Raymond Vivian Stone (Viv) Born 15th September 1882. On 11th October 1911 he married LUCY EDWARDS (sister of SARAH above). They built a house on the RYANS block north of "Woodlands", and named it "Horfield" after the property at Green Ponds, Tasmania. He died on 18th November 1940.

FARMING OPERATIONS - ALFRED STONE AND HIS SONS

The various properties, "Woodlands", "Ryans", and "Meaney's", were worked jointly by Alfred Senior and his sons.

It was Alfred W. STONE's job to cart hay to Bendigo to the Hay Market that was situated where the State Public Offices now (1982) stand, to be sold.

A large marketing buggy went from "Woodlands" each week on Fridays, taking produce such as butter and eggs to Bendigo for sale. Sophia and her daughter-in-laws would make out orders for groceries etc. which were purchased in Bendigo on their behalf.

Stories are told of Sophia vetting the young wives' orders, considering some items extravagant!

It is said that Edward Albert STONE (Bert) became very fond of wine, so much so that his father took him to task about it. As we have seen wine was a common beverage in the family, and when Bert retorted, "Dad, if you will sign the pledge so will I", Alfred answered, "Done".

This was the beginning of a great temperance movement in the district that spread to almost all the families attending the Bible Christian Chapel. A Branch of the Independent Order of Rechabites was formed (known as a "Tent",) and meetings were held regularly in the church. The Tent was a very financial one and continued its independent existence well into the present century.

Cricket was a favourite district sport, and from time to time there were ploughing matches. Farmers would vie with each other as to who could plough the straightest furrow. They were very popular events, drawing big crowds.

We quote from an article from "Dunolly & Burnt Creek Express" of 27th June, 1863, which mentions such a match - as you see, a relative gets a mention.

"Newbridge District Agricultural Society. Second Annual Ploughing Match. A splendid piece of level ground on Mr. BEAZLEY'S farm, Woodstock, about five miles from Newbridge, was selected, and the following entries were made....
... Mr. ROSE, Laanecoorie, Burrowner's plough. Honorably mentioned.....
Mr. HOWE of the Junction Hotel, provided an excellent dinner in a marquee on the ground, which was in every respect, well appointed."

Note.- F. BEAZLEY owned a property half a mile west of "Woodlands", and the other one diagonally opposite the Woodstock West State School. One of these would likely

be the land referred to.

The Centenary Booklet of the Woodstock West Methodist Church records:-

"Alfred STONE Senr. was his (ALFORD'S) successor, and with his white hair and beard was a familiar sight wending his way to the church, sitting in the front left hand seat, taking up the offering, sometimes with a corner of a red bandana peeping from his coat pocket. He also had peppermints in his top pocket for the children."

Alfred's wife Sophie died on 18th December, 1899. As was common at this time, he had a memorial card printed which read:-

IN LOVING MEMORIE
OF
My Dear Wife
SOPHIA STONE
Died Dec., 18th, 1899. Aged 57 yrs. 11 mths.
Call not back the dear departed,
Anchored safe where storms are o'er.
On the border land we left her,
Soon to meet and part no more.
Far beyond this world of changes,
Far beyond this world of care,
We shall find our missing loved one
In our Father's mansion fair.
DEEPLY MOURNED

She is buried in the family grave at the Eddington Cemetery.

THE GREAT RE-ORGANISATION

A number of events occurred, not necessarily in the order in which they are here set down, that had a profound influence on the family.

After an illness extending over several years, Hannah Maria, wife of Alfred Withers STONE, died on 21st July, 1901.

As Alfred STONE and his sons worked as a team, it fell to the lot of the housewife nearest to where they were working to provide the hot midday dinner and the two lunches for the workmen. This is said to have somewhat irked Mary Maud, wife of Edward Albert (Bert), and it was felt they would prefer to be on their own.

As a result, Bert sold his interest in Meaney's and the partnership, and moved to Southern Victoria. He and his family later moved to Queensland where new land was being opened up. The prickly pear infestation forced Bert and some of his

family to move again, this time to Western Australia.

Alfred Withers STONE acquired the "Meaney" property and with his three sons, shifted there. The property was transferred to his name on 28th April 1906.

The Meaney house was moved further back from the road, and another four-roomed house moved to it, making an I-shaped home.

On the 27th October, 1904, he married again, this time Margaret HEPBURN, one of four sisters whose family owned the western half of the 640 acre block.

Back in Tasmania, also, events occurred which affected the family at "Woodlands". The SWANS wished to settle one of their own sons on the "Horfield", Green Ponds, property, and terminated the lease of Thomas STONE (4) and his family. One result was that Alfred offered his brother a home at "Woodlands", and he lived there until his death.

In 1912, Thomas, (88 years), and Alfred, (78 years), made the journey back to Tasmania to see again their old haunts. The journey undertaken by these two old, white-bearded gentlemen excited quite a deal of comment.

Thomas STONE (4) died on 8th June, 1914, and is buried in the Eddington Cemetery, Allotment 100, Section 2.

When Alex H. STONE, one of the present writers, first knew the "Woodlands" home when a small boy, it was a big household. There was his Grandfather Alfred, Grand Uncle Tom, Aunt Alice, Uncle Bren and his wife, Aunty Sarah, and Alf Curnow.

There was a kitchen separated from the main house by a verandah. Here morning and afternoon lunches were served to all and sundry who happened in. A cloth would be spread on the kitchen table and everyone would sit around it. In the pear season, sliced pears on bread and butter was favoured. In the grape season there would be great bunches of grapes.

There was an "apple house" close to the kitchen, where apples were stored on straw on large racks fixed round the walls.

My father, Alfred Withers STONE, did not plant a vineyard on his "Stonelea"

property, as he had the right to obtain all the grapes he wanted from the home vineyard. Many a case of grapes we obtained in the season, walking along the rows and selecting bunches that took our fancy.

Alfred and Thomas looked after the orchard, vineyard and flower garden. These were quite extensive and took a lot of time and work.

The two old men would, as necessary, take their long-handled hoes and cut saphron ("spike") thistles, which were noxious weeds.

Uncle Bren liked a bitch as his sheep dog, and she was always named "Vene". Both Uncle and dog greatly enjoyed hunting mice in the barn. Second-hand bags would be stacked in neat piles, and mice liked to hide amongst them. As a bag was lifted the dog would pounce, killing the mouse with a "nip", and be ready for the next. As the last bag was lifted, mice would scurry everywhere, man whacking with a piece of board, and dog diving in to catch as many as possible.

It was great sport for man, dog and onlookers!

Bren was a very good shot with the gun. His double-barrelled hammer gun is still held by one of his nephews. A much earlier muzzle-loader is also one of the family treasures.

As an old man Alfred STONE'S love of his flower garden continued. We would often find him there, and even as I write I can almost smell the borders of thyme, mignonette and the other sweet-smelling plants that he loved to grow.

Water for the house was brought by pipe across the farm-yard from a tank to a tap beside the house verandah. Alex H. STONE remembers his grandfather rinsing his hands under the running water and saying that, if you washed your hands in this way, all the germs would be carried away.

He died at "Woodlands" on 19th July, 1923, and he, too, was buried in the family grave at the Eddington Cemetery.

The writer, Alex H. STONE, then a young man working in the Union Bank at Bendigo, borrowed a low-powered motor cycle, and although not holding a licence,

rode it out to Woodstock West to attend the funeral.

Although the STONES identified themselves with one or other of the churches that afterwards became the Methodist Church, the family graves are all in the Church of England section of the cemetery.

The Headstone to ALFRED and SOPHY reads:-

In
Loving Memory
of
ALFRED and SOPHIA STONE
of "Woodlands"
and their daughters
ALICE and AMY
also their daughter-in-law
HANNAH

Till He Come

A Note re Eddington Cemetery.

The "Dunolly, Tarnagulla & St. Arnaud Express" of 14th September, 1863, reads, "The place chosen for the cemetery is certainly very picturesque, being situated on the eastern bank of the Loddon, at least 30 feet above the level of the river, this leaving the ground in the greatest flood, high and dry".

The "Woodlands" property then passed to BREN STONE. He had no children and on his death he left it to DAVID WILBUR STONE, eldest son of RAYMOND VIVIAN STONE. DAVID W. STONE married MARGARET ADA LEVERSHA of Shelbourne West.

Their son LESLIE DAVID STONE, who married LORRAINE BRENNAN, now lives (1983) with their two children, DEAN ANTHONY and LEAH, at "Woodlands".

In ordinary course, the property will pass to DEAN, the fifth generation of STONES on the property.

ADDENDUM.JOSEPH HENRY STONE
WILLIAM PERCY STONE

Because these two brothers and later their families have always kept in very close contact with the Victorian relatives, we show hereunder information taken from a book, "The Golden Grain and the Silver Fleece" - A History of the Quairading Shire" by F. EATON.

"J. H. and W. P. STONE came from Victoria during 1896, to the Kalgoorlie gold fields. They worked around "the fields" for about two years before Joe returned to Victoria to marry Edith Elizabeth Grylls. On their return they lived at the small settlement of Beachborough. As the family began to increase they decided that it would be better to live in the country, where more land was available to produce food.

The two brothers made application at Beverley Land Office and were taken by the Land Guide, Charles Hines, to an area South of Caroling. As they were taking up land before survey they used a compass to square their location lines. They chose land with heavy timber growing on it, this indicating to them that it was heavy soil with growing potential. It had also been suggested to them that a railway line might be constructed along Heals Road, and this made the area even more suitable.

On the 23rd August, 1904, each brother lodged an official application for one homestead block and another block of one thousand acres. They were granted these four blocks on the 30th December, 1904, and financed their ventures through the Conditional Purchase System, each paying twenty five pounds yearly. J.H. was allocated Avon Location Numbers 6981 and 6984, with his brother adjoining him.

To finance development of their farms they bought a vineyard at Caversham. One brother worked the vineyard while the other developed the farm. It also allowed them to rotate their place of living.

The families moved to the farm during 1907. Joe had built a house of three bedrooms and large kitchen and called it "Laanecoorie", and it was to here that the family of May, Wally, Edie, Stan, Bernie, and Bert moved. Joe was born later .

Percy Stone wrote in his diary - "1st January, 1908, attended a picnic in Lakes west of J.H.Stones hut. A big crowd. Had a good time. April 1st. 1908, finished cultivating fallow. Took eight days to cultivate one hundred acres."

On October 8th, 1908, Joe Stone bought 95 sheep from Elder Shenton and Company in Beverley, paying nine shillings and eleven pence each.

The Government Gazette, published on 10th March, 1907, carried a notice which stated that W.P.Stone of "Woodstock" South Caroling (number 16273) had been granted a 'horse and cattle brand'. This brand was 'W2s'.

Percy Stone brought his wife Anne to "Woodstock" about 1908. They later had a family consisting of Ruby, Alfred, Amy, Edna and twins, Lorna and Dora.

It was during 1910, that Percy Stone recorded in his diary that he had paid £ 48.0.0 for a waggon, £ 1.5.9 for a wheelbarrow, 5 bales cornsacks £ 33.9.0 Rail charge £ 1.15.9. Each sack 5/-. One Roan Gelding £ 30.0.0, wages one man 5½ weeks at £ 1.10.0 - £ 8.5.0, 1911 rates Greenhills Road Board £ 3.9.0.

His diary quotes again -

- 1. 9.11 ½ rear rent Lands Department £ 14.5.9.
- 10. 2.12 10 tons super G. Padbury £ 4.7.6. per ton £ 43.15.0
- 1913 T.Richards 69 sheep at 12/6 each.

- - - - -

The families living in the area were happy to welcome the Revd Hogan, a Presbyterian Minister into their area. A church service was held under a very shady tree at the slab hut of J.H.Stone. That tree had many memories for these settlers as it became the usual place for church services for many years. At one service a new baby was Christened. The Baptismal Font was a large meat tin, which was placed on the ground and filled with water until needed. When the Minister stooped to pick up the tin it was empty, a dog had been seen enjoying a drink from it a few minutes before.

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This notice appeared in the Eastern District Chronicle on 6th June 1913. South Caroling District News :-

Empire Day celebrations were held on 23rd May at the local state school, where the teacher, Miss Wolstenholme, successfully conducted marching drill and later a difficult spelling bee, followed by outdoor sports. Results:- Spelling Bee Standard V1 Edith Stone, Standard 1V Stanley Stone, Obstacle Race :- Frank Richards, Boys race under ten, Len Minchin, Three legged race, G.Minchin and W.Stone. Thread the needle race, Syd Bond and Edith Richards, Boys over ten W. Stone. Tailing the pig, Syd Bond.

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J. H. Stone was a man of great influence in the neighbourhood, and it fell to him on many occasions to represent the people at conferences. He was very apt at leading a delegation for the community, the subject matter rarely presenting him with any problems. It was no wonder then that he was chosen as a delegate by the South Caroling Farmers and Settlers Association to attend a conference in Queen's Hall, William Street, Perth commencing on 14th July 1914. At this conference all kinds of matters, which could mean a better deal for the man on the land were discussed.

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The drought during 1914 was a serious setback to all settlers. Although 1911 had been a dry year, it did not have such a devastating effect, as in the intervening years Stock numbers had increased. There was little or no return on crops sown, many were lucky to get enough grain for the following year's seed. Thomas Richards was fortunate to get 350 bags of wheat. These he shared for seed wheat with John Jones and J.H.Stone.

"EFFLORESCO".

(We Flourish.)

THE END.