

Thomas & Ann Stone
 "Descendants"
 Reunion 200 (1819-2019)
 Hobart-Tasmania 11th-13th October 2019
 "Countdown - 50 Days remaining"

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Newspapers: Weekly Times (Melbourne, Vic. : 1869 - 1954) Sat 13 Sep 1941 Page 11

MIXED FARMING OPERATIONS AT WOODSTOCK WEST

By F. S. CRAWFORD, M. Agr. Sc.

A prominent British agriculturist recently put the case for a return to mixed farming. He argued that the soil should be worked to its maximum, consistent with fertility conservation, and concluded that this was the only way to keep men on the land, the soil healthy and agriculture vigorous.

THERE are large areas in this country that would be considerably improved if they were farmed more and exploited less. There are others, however, where the extent to which mixed farming can be adopted is limited by soil and climatic factors, particularly lack of rainfall.

Areas in the west-central section of Victoria situated in the Loddon River valley are rather better placed in this respect than their neighbors. Although the annual average rainfall is only 18 inches, the soil is a strong loam and comparatively rich. That of the surrounding district is shallow and light, it is cropped less and grazed more than the Loddon flats.

Wool growing in the main activity in the Loddon valley and the surrounding district is done on the flats, farmers' interests are about equally divided between fat lambs and cereal cropping. However, the better soil is more conducive to a mixed type of farming. A few acres are to be found on more properties.

A typical farm in this district is that worked by Messrs Stone Bros., of Woodstock West. One of the first blocks to be taken up in the district, this 1500 acre property has been farmed by the Stone family for 45 years.

The original timber was mainly grey box and the soil consists of a medium clay loam, all flats. Four hundred acres is cropped with wheat and oats. 200 acres is fallowed, and the balance grazed by crossbred ewes, lambs, and a few milking cows. All cultivation work is done with a tractor.

The usual practice is to sow wheat on fallow which had been worked about four times. The area is cultivated before harvest, and scarified after the first autumn rains, and sown in mid-May, using a tractor and combine. Free Gallipoli, Ghurka and Bencubbin are the chief varieties, the latter being particularly satisfactory both for grain and hay.

Seed pickled with copper carbonate is sown at the rate of 75 lb. to the acre. Ninety pounds of super is the usual dressing. The average yield over a period of years has been eight bags an acre.

Oats are sown on wheat stubble. Algerian and Mulga, 1½ bushels to the acre, with 60 lb. of super, are the favored varieties. The manurial rate is reduced on new ground. About 40 tons of hay is cut each season, and the balance of the crop is stripped. One hundred bags of grain is retained for feed purposes, and the rest is sold.

The oat crop is fed off sparingly in the early stages. After taking off the oat crop the paddock is left in oat stubble and pasture for two years. Native trefoils come in quickly and provide good sheep feed.

Messrs. Stone Bros. and their neighbors have had their best results with this kind of farming. They have had up to 80 per cent. wheat, but probably that while the soil is a medium loam in a good season. It can be quite encouraging in a good year.

For this season about 400 crochets were sown by Messrs Stone and their neighbors in the district. They are in a past season in it is necessary to sow any extra amount of seed in the paddock. Messrs. Stone and their neighbors are the recipients of their native pasture

in the district, but claim that the increased price has forced them to abandon the practice altogether. They intend, however, to keep sowing a few more acres.

A small herd of crossbred cows on a 200 acre is fallowed, and the balance sown in wheat and oats. A few milking cows and a few milking ewes are also kept. The usual practice is to sow wheat on fallow which had been worked about four times. The area is cultivated before harvest, and scarified after the first autumn rains, and sown in mid-May, using a tractor and combine. Free Gallipoli, Ghurka and Bencubbin are the chief varieties, the latter being particularly satisfactory both for grain and hay.

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Messrs. R. J. and T. K. Stone, "Warfield," Woodstock West.

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Although the annual average rainfall is only 18 inches, the soil is a strong loam and comparatively rich. That of the surrounding district is shallow and light, it is cropped less and grazed more than the Loddon flats.

Wool growing is the main activity on the lighter soils and little cultivation is done. On the flats, farmers' interests are about equally divided between fat lambs and cereal cropping, the better soil being more conducive to a mixed type of farming. A few cows are to be found on most properties.

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Little Parasitic Trouble

CROSSBRED ewes, generally bought at Bendigo, the nearest market, are joined with Dorset Horn rams, which are becoming very popular in the district as fat lamb sires. Messrs Stone purchased their sires from Messrs O. Weppner and T. Douglas (the latter's methods were discussed recently in *The Weekly Times*) and say they have had their best results with this breed. They describe the lambs as hardy, quick-maturing types. They have had up to 20 per cent, twins, but explain that, while this may be a desirable feature in a good season, it can be equally embarrassing in a poor year.

For this season about 450 crossbred ewes were mated in December, and lambs began to drop in June and continued into July. The first lot are usually ready for market within 12 weeks. Only in a poor season is it necessary to carry any lambs over, and then hand feeding is practised. Chaff is fed in self feeders, and oat grain is spread on the ground.

Sheep in this area are comparatively free from parasitic infection, and drenching is regarded as unnecessary. All sheep are dipped, however, about four weeks after shearing in September. Pulpy kidney disease was troublesome until about four or five years ago, when inoculations were begun. A salt and treacle lick is always available to sheep in the paddock.

Messrs. Stone are quite satisfied with the response of their native pasture to superphosphate, but claim that (they have discontinued) the practice temporarily. They intend, however, to keep applying it to their cereal crops.

A small herd of eight grade cows is milked, the cream being separated and sent to Newstead factory, 25 miles away. A Milking Shorthorn bull is used as sire, and he was obtained from Mr T. Peterson, of Newstead. About 14 acres each of Mulga oats and Sudan grass is grown exclusively for the cows. The latter is sown in October and is ready for grazing within six weeks.

This year the cows were on it every day until the beginning of June. The seeding rate for Sudan grass was 8lb. an acre, with 80lb. of super. Crushed oats and chaff are fed in the bail. The owners state that the herd returns them £100 a year.

Three hundred White Leghorns have also proved to be a profitable "side-line." All eggs are cleaned by hand, few seconds being obtained. Wheat, bran and pollard form the bulk of the ration. Two and a half bags of wheat are fed each week. An old sheep is also boiled up and fed out. There is complete satisfaction with the operations of the Egg Board.

Messrs. R. J. and T. K. Stone, "Horfield," Woodstock West.

The Lineage of Raymond John Stone & Thomas Kenneth Stone is: Thomas (1796-1862) & Ann Stone (nee Withers) (1798-1856); Alfred (1834-1923) & Sophia Stone (nee Broadway) (1842-1899); Raymond Vivian (1882-1940) & Lucy Stone (nee Edwards) (1888-1968). Lucy's father was Thomas Edwards & her mother was Mary Faulks.



Alfred (1834-1923) married **Sophia Stone (nee Broadway) (1842-1899)**, the son of Thomas Stone (5) and Ann Withers, on 10 March 1860 in All Saints, Sandhurst, Victoria. (Alfred Stone (1) was born on (Saturday) 18 January 1834 in Hobart, Tasmania, died on (Thursday) 19 July 1923 in Woodstock West, Victoria and was buried on 20 July 1923 in Eddington, Victoria.)

Alfred & Sophia's children were [Alice Matilda Stone](#), [Sophia Ann Stone](#), [Mary May Stone](#), [Alfred Withers Stone](#), [Edward Albert Stone](#), [David Brainard Ryland Stone](#), [Joseph Henry Stone](#), [Amy Rose Stone](#), [William Percival Stone](#) & [Raymond Vivian Stone](#).



Raymond Vivian (1882-1940) married **Lucy Edwards** on 11 October 1911. **Raymond Vivian**, son of Alfred Stone (1) and Sophia Broadway, was born on (Friday) 15 September 1882, died on (Monday) 18 November 1940 and was buried in Eddington, Victoria.) Their children were: [David Wilbur Stone](#); [Raymond John Stone](#); [Thomas Kenneth Stone](#) & [Mabel Alice Stone](#).

David Wilbur Stone married **Margaret Ada Leversha** & their children were [Lesley David Stone](#) & [Brainard Stone](#).

[Raymond John Stone](#) married **Mary Agnes McGlashan** & their children were [Gordon Stone](#), [Merle Stone](#) & [Noel Stone](#).

[Thomas Kenneth Stone](#) married **Arlie Veronica Greer** and their children were [Vivian Thomas Stone](#), [Pamela Yvette Stone](#), [Susanne Stone](#) & [Leigh Stone](#).

Mabel Alice Stone married **George Leversha** and their children were [Patricia Leversha](#), [Barbara Leversha](#), [Sidney Leversha](#), [George Leversha](#), & [Wayne Leversha](#).

(Right) Brothers **Raymond John Stone** & **Thomas Kenneth Stone**



Messrs. R. J. and T. K. Stone, "Horfield," Woodstock West.