

PASTORAL PIONEERS

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Campbell Brothers

Many Campbells took part in the pastoral evolution in Victoria. The brothers Neil, Alexander and Archibald were among the pioneer Campbells. Neil reached Van Diemen's Land in 1832. He established Allanvale, near Launceston. In 1838 he sold out and crossed over to Port Phillip. He lived at Campbellfield till 1862. He acquired property also at Will-will-rook, and died at Geelong in 1882.

Alexander was a sailor. He was one of the crew of the barque *Triton*, which reached Hobart in 1822. After about 14 years of seafaring he worked his way to Portland [Victoria], where he was placed in charge of the Henty whaling establishment. His headquarters were Dutton's hut, at Portland, but he spent much of his time at Port Fairy. Alexander Campbell had pastoral interests in the 'forties, but he was not one of the fortunate "squatters". In 1851 he accepted an appointment as assistant harbour-master at the port of Melbourne.

The younger brother, Archibald, arrived at Melbourne in 1840. After spending a few months at Mt. Greenock with Donald Cameron, he decided to do a little exploration work. In his own words: - "I came up to the Murray to look for unoccupied country suitable for pastoral purposes, and went out exploring on the other side of the river. I saw much available country. The lowest stations then were Mr. Collyer's on this side, and Mr. Clark's on the other side, of the river. Mr Green had taken up a run below Mr Clark's, and had to vacate on account of the hostility of the blacks, but he returned later". Collyer held Torrumbarry and Mt. Hope Creek at the time. Clark's run embraced Perricoota, and the run taken up by Green was Barham. Green also held Killawarra and Fifteen Mile Creek, on the Sydney road near Wangaratta. He had the contact for the Sydney-Melbourne mail.

It was not till February, 1845, that Archibald Campbell stocked up. He first "sat down" on the Yalluk, or Deep Creek, one of the overflows from the Murray to the Gunbower. All the Yalluk country was subject to submergence, so he moved down to Gunnawarra, where he made his home station. He had with him a Monaro blackfellow named Jack, who was a useful stockman. The local blacks enticed Jack into the bush and speared him to death.

Archibald Campbell was one of the pioneers of Northern Victoria. A companion of his was Robert McDougall, a stockman acting for George Curlewis. McDougall went on and occupied Reedy Lake, Lake Boga, and Quambatook. About the same time James Cowper took up the Loddon or Pine Hill runs. Then came Alec McCallum to Mt. Hope and Mt. Pyramid, and the Rowan brothers to Gunbower. Thus was completed the first settlement of a great stretch of northern country unoccupied a few months before, when Campbell set out to look for a run. Eight years later the *Lady Augusta* steamer, commanded by Captain Francis Cadell, arrived at Gunnawarra, with the Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Young, and Lady Young.

- *National Library of Australia news-article 141765100. Contributed by Andrew Campbell.*