



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Since the last newsletter, Townsville has lost its first female Mayor, who served the City for 12 years. It took 148 years for Townsville to elect Jenny Hill, AM and she certainly served the City well during that time. In the past women were not considered for roles in Local Government, but in 1924 Isabella Fitzpatrick was the first female in Queensland to be elected to Local Government when she became a Councilor for the Thuringowa Shire Council.

In 1967 Joan Innes-Reid, AM was elected to Townsville City Council as the first female Alderman and in 1973 Joan was Deputy Mayor. Today more women are elected or promoted to positions which in the past were dominated by men.

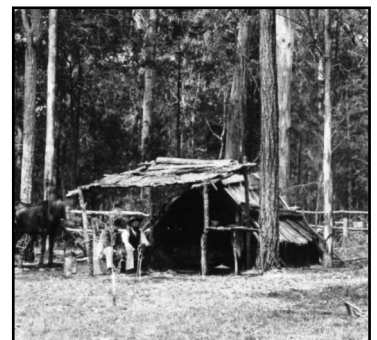
In April the Museum received a donation from McGrath Real Estate. Brad and Kaye Mathieson are great supporters and the McGrath organization has a *"give back to the community"* program where Vendors are asked to nominate an organization or charity they would like to donate \$250 to from the commission they pay to sell their property. Over the past 10 years, \$100,000 has been paid out to various organisations in Townsville under this program. The donations the Museum has received have been used to upgrade displays.

In June 2023, the Museum provided an area for the Townsville branch of Queensland Country Women Association (QCWA) to celebrate 100 years of service to the community. Their "famous" scones, cook books, history books and needle craft was displayed. The display will finish at the end of May and a new display titled "Recognition of Service" will be done.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the Museum.
Until next time.

Regards,
Trish Cronin
President

Monthly committee meetings are held at the Museum on the third Monday of the month at ten o'clock. All committee members are notified a week prior to the meeting.



Bush Hut atop Hervey Range ca. 1900. Made from roughly hewn timber and featuring a post & rail fence.

Queensland State Library

Inside this issue:

West of Townsville	2
Bohle Hotel	3
Alice Hotel	4
Range Hotel	5
Eureka Hotel	6
Dotswood Hotel	7
Dalrymple Township	8
Gulliver's Travels	9

TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

ENTRY Adults \$5 Child \$2

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(12 months from 1st July to 30th June)

Single \$ 15.00

Families \$ 30.00

Corporate \$ 32.50

WEST OF TOWNSVILLE

In keeping with the previous newsletter's theme of **pubs** and continuing from where it ended at **Hervey Range**, we'll start this edition with one of Townsville's earliest roadways — **the road from Townsville to Dalrymple** (now Hervey Range Road). This roadway was of critical importance to the development of early Townsville as this was the main highway to Dalrymple and other interior stations as well as the later discovered goldfield of Cape River, see Figure 1.

Along this roadway at approximately fifteen kilometre intervals were gazetted campsites which allowed travellers and their livestock to rest after a day's travel. With a guaranteed movement of traffic along this main road, hotels (bush inns) were often established nearby the camping grounds. These hotels were licensed establishments where travellers could get a drink as they made the journey either to Townsville or the goldfields and interior stations (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:19).

These sites were necessary due to the vast amounts of animal traffic (bullocks, mules, and horses) which travelled along Hervey Range Road, (including as a stock route) from 1864 to 1970. Five hotel sites west of Townsville are particularly important, the following summary reviews what is known, or surmised based on analysis of historical records and documents.



Figure 1: An 1878 map of Townsville with roads, camping grounds & hotels. Bohle, Range and Eureka hotels indicated by blue rectangles, although the Alice Hotel is absent from this map its location is indicated by a blue triangle below Camp II. The yellow arrow indicates the road to Dotswood station and Dalrymple. (Jack, Robert L. 1878, *Geological sketch map of the district between Charters Towers Goldfield & the coast*: <http://nla.gov.au/>

BOHLE HOTEL

The **Bohle Hotel** was one of the earlier hotels first established in 1865 on the upper Bohle River crossing along the original roadway to Townsville which had been constructed by J.M Black in 1864. This hotel was the first stop from Townsville on the northern road to Dalrymple to service the early travellers. The first license for the Bohle hotel was issued to Herbet Keller in November 1865. The hotel consisted of two sitting rooms, six bedrooms and operated between 1866 and 1878, with the license changing hands only twice. Recurring flood events at the Bohle River washed away the road and crossing (see Figure 2), so it is believed the physical hotel was moved several times to service newly built roads along the direction of traffic.



Figure 2: The Bohle River shortly after a flood event in the 1890s. The Bohle River flooding would prove to be a regular occurrence during Townsville's early settlement, and continues to this day. (Townsville City Library: 0011454)

Interestingly, the Bohle Hotel is largely absent in the Cleveland Bay Express Hotel Directory for much of its time of operation. This is possibly because traffic often used the newly built Hervey Range Road (to the south) from 1866 onward or it could be the establishment was not legally licensed and was run as a speakeasy (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:117). This hotel is no longer standing, although bottle scatters have been located by JCU researchers & TCC heritage officers during the 2000s.

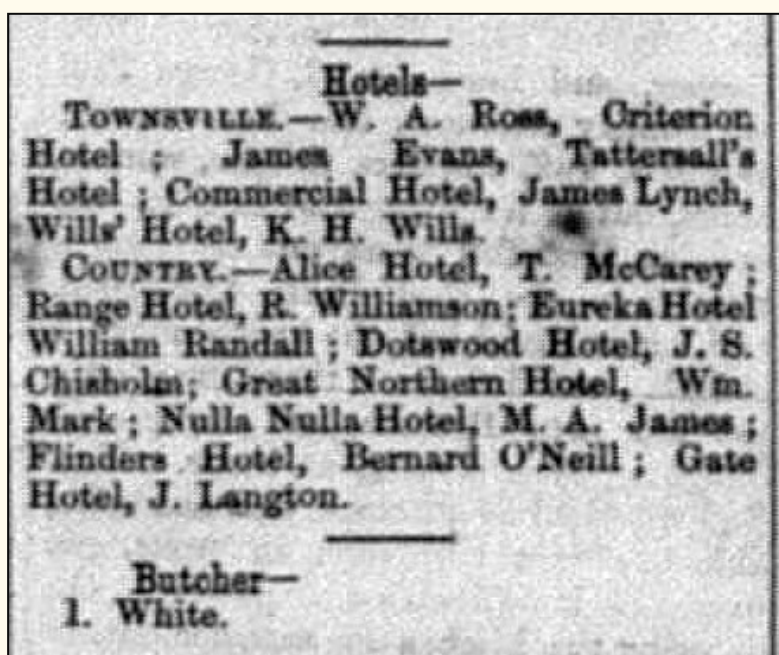


Figure 3: Townsville hotels & publicans both Town and Country. The Bohle Hotel is absent despite being in operation during this time. (Cleveland Bay Express and Cape River Mining News May 29, 1869)

ALICE HOTEL

The **Alice Hotel** was built in 1867 by Thomas McCarey by the eastern bank of the Alice River on selection 220, some 13km West of Townsville on Hervey Range Road. The hardwood timber building featured two sitting rooms, four bedrooms and had an adjacent paddock for the agistment of livestock, advertised as 'good grazing', see Figure 4. In addition to this, Thomas McCarey also established Townsville's first dairy, offering 'milk and butter supplied every morning.'



Figure 4: Good grazing paddocks advertised at the Alice Hotel, (Cleveland Bay Express and Cape River Mining News May 15, 1869)

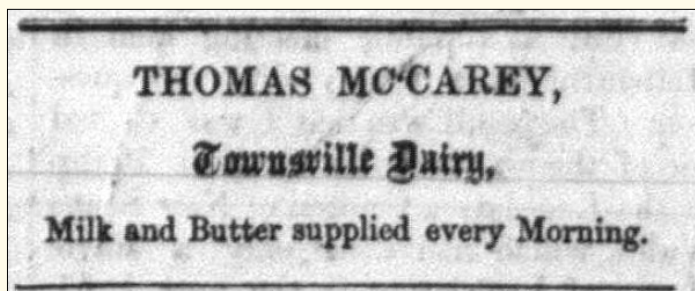


Figure 5: Thomas McCarey (owner of the Alice Hotel), advertising Townsville's first dairy. (Cleveland Bay Express and Cape River Mining News September 29, 1866)

The Alice Hotel took over the role as the first stop on the road to Dalrymple as traffic now favoured the newly built Hervey Range Road and not the original northern road which was prone to flooding (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:119). The hotel also provided change horses for stagecoaches, as well as fresh horses for travellers who desired more expedient travel without rest. The hotel was sketched in 1868 by Lucy Gray who visited the establishment on her journey to Hughenden, see Figure 6. This hotel is no longer standing, but bottle scatters to denote it's location were discovered in 2019.

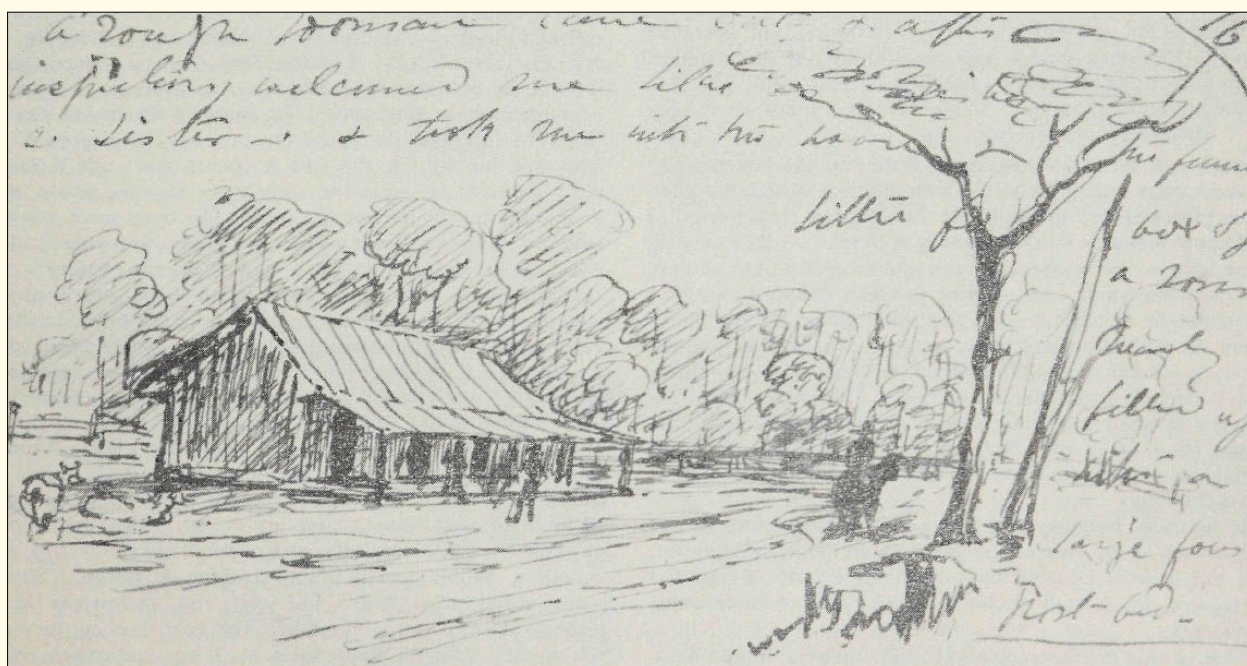


Figure 6: A sketch of the 'Alice Hotel' by Lucy Gray during her visit in 1868. Note the traveller on horseback along the roadway as well as the post and rail fence (secure fencing) in the background with what appears to be a cow in the left foreground. (Lucy Gray, 1868)

RANGE HOTEL

The **Range Hotel**, (originally the Royal Oak Hotel) was built by James Mead in 1866 at the foot of Hervey Range, further west of Townsville along Hervey Range Road. The hotel featured two sitting rooms and six bedrooms. A small hamlet which included a blacksmith would later also come to operate alongside the hotel and serviced the carrier teams on their way to and from the interior goldfields until its closure in 1884 (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:119). A sketch of the

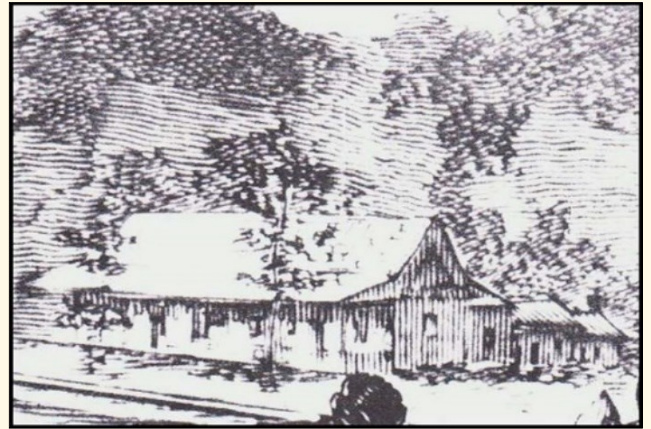


Figure 7 An illustration of the Range Hotel along Hervey Range Road. (Sydney News 1882)

Range Hotel was featured in the Sydney Newspaper in 1882, see Figure 7.

The hotels along Hervey Range Road are of great significance to the social history of Townsville and the greater region of north Queensland. Townsville was connected to the pastoral and mining wealth of the interior through Hervey Range Road. These hotels provided food, accommodation, beverages, and a place to rest the horses of travellers from both directions. While we do not have photographs or sketches of the interior of the hotels along Hervey Range Road, we can look to the drawing of a Queensland 'bush tavern' as an accurate representation, see Figure 8.

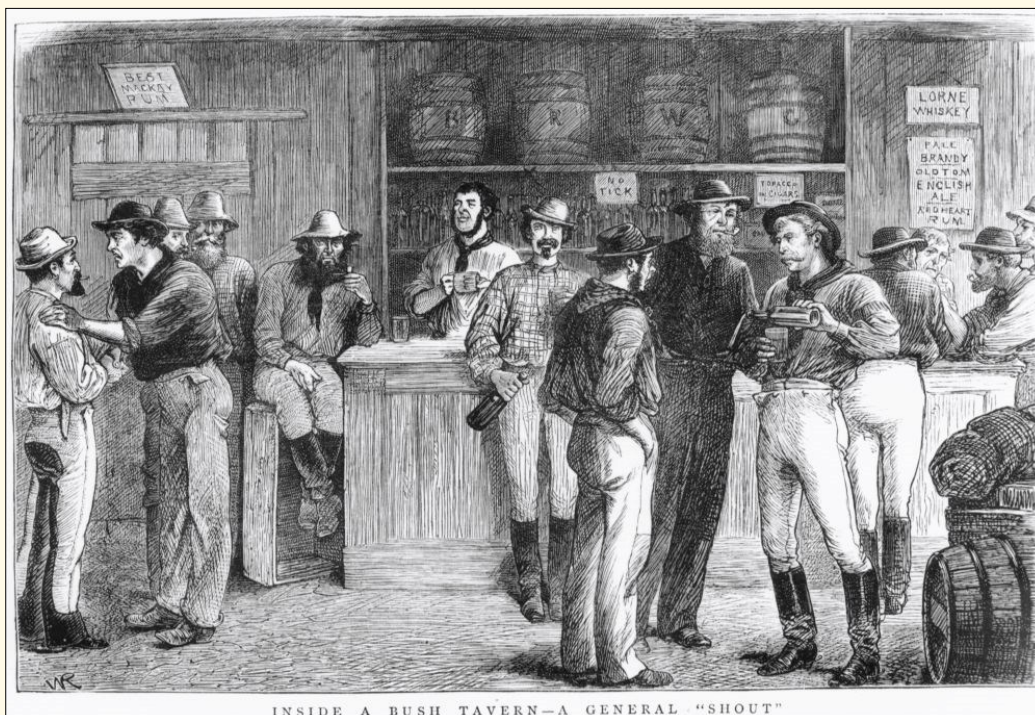


Figure 8: The operations and atmosphere of a bush tavern (hotel) as by Hulton, 1878. (Hulton Archive: 1053507364)

EURKEA HOTEL

The **Eureka Hotel**, which was situated at the top of Hervey Range, was built, and operated by Charles Saville Rowe in 1865. This prime location meant all traffic that traversed to and from Townsville along either Hervey Range Road or the earlier northern road *had* to pass by the Eureka hotel. The hotel was constructed from ironbark timber sourced locally and featured a corrugated iron ceiling over three sitting rooms. When the Range Hotel ceased operation in 1884, the Eureka



Figure 9: The Eureka Hotel circa 1930, known during this time as the 'Hervey Range Hotel' the oldest wooden structure in North Queensland (Queensland State Library: 42096).

then took the name and operated as '*The Range Hotel*', which at times caused confusion among travellers (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:120). Despite the reduction in traffic along Hervey Range Road a small community lived at the top of the range in and around the location of the hotel. The hotel at one point in time featured two structures but was later reduced to just the one building. This hotel is the only one of the five hotels on the Hervey Range Roadway between Townsville and Dalrymple which remains today and was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on the 21st of October 1992. It is the oldest existing wooden building to remain in north Queensland.



Figure 10: A colourised illustration of a carrier team resting by the Eureka Hotel (pictured in the background) atop Hervey Range. (State Library of Queensland: 293223)

DOTSWOOD HOTEL

The **Dotswood Hotel** was the next bush inn on the road to Dalrymple, some seventeen miles west of Townsville just outside Dotswood Station; not the township of Dotswood which was further south on a separate roadway. It was constructed in 1867 by John Chisholm of rough-hewn logs, a bark roof, and roughly divided partitions. The hotel was situated on the northern outskirts of Dotswood Station on the boundary between country and town drink prices, and so was reputed to charge more (country prices) for alcohol (Gibson-Wilde and Gibson-Wilde, 1988:117).

In 1875 the hotel's name was changed to '*The Plumtree Hotel*' by then owner Henry Gibson. The hotel would change ownership two more times, firstly to Henry Earp in 1881 and Alexander McCrea in 1884. The hotel ceased operation in 1885, presumably due to the reduction in traffic along the road. This hotel is no longer standing, the site upon which it was built is now used by the Australian Army for military exercises.

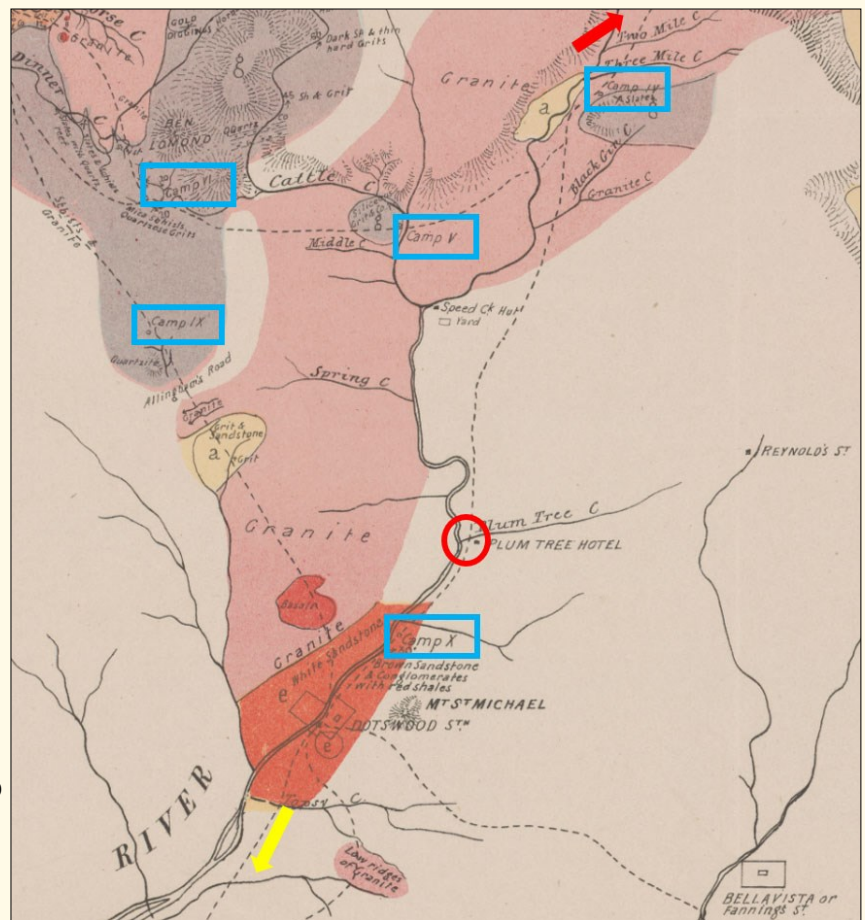
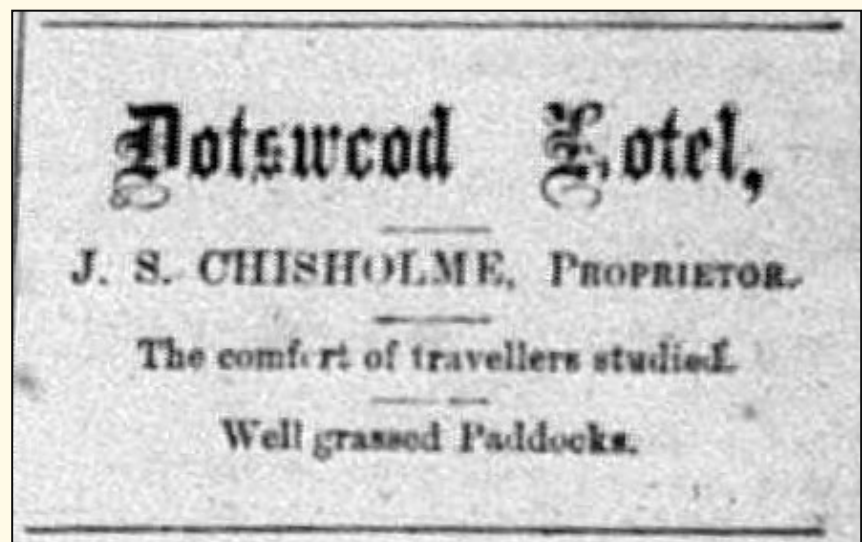


Figure 11: Camps IV, V, VI, IX, and X on the road to Dotswood Station indicated by blue rectangles. The Dotswood Hotel (also known as the Plum Tree Hotel) indicated by a red circle. Yellow arrow indicates passage to Dalrymple, Green arrow indicates passage to Townsville. (Jack, Robert L. 1878, *Geological sketch map of the district between Charters Towers Goldfield & the coast*: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-232289083>)



DALRYMPLE TOWNSHIP

At the township of Dalrymple two hotels operated, **The Great Northern** (operated by W.M Mark) and **The Gate** (operated by J. Langton). In addition there was a blacksmith and saddlers' shop (operated by James H Wells. Nearby the township was a Queensland Native Mounted Police camp to protect colonial interests during the Frontier Wars (Willmet 1876, 1883). None of these structures or camps remain after the Dalrymple township was destroyed by floods in 1870.

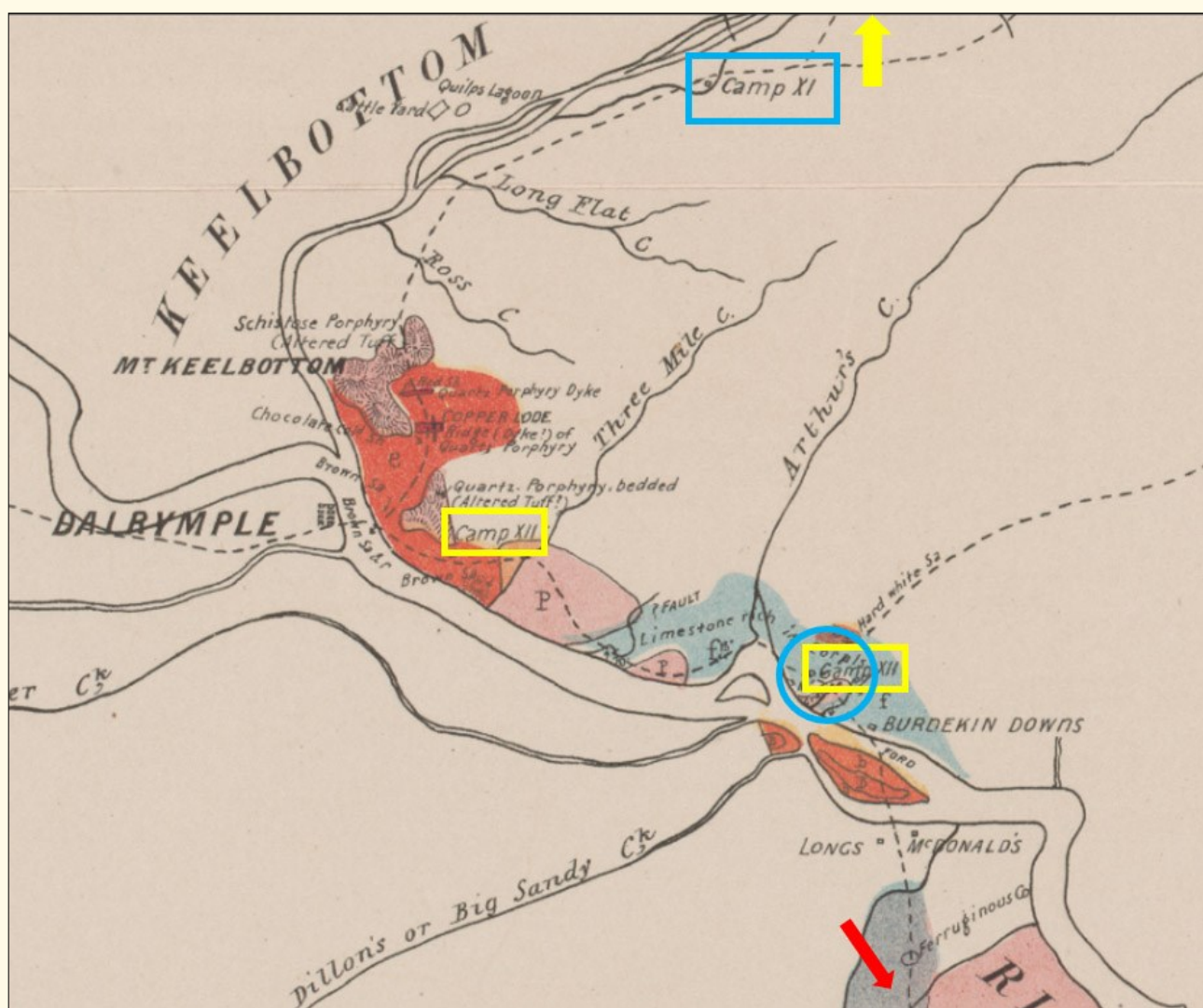
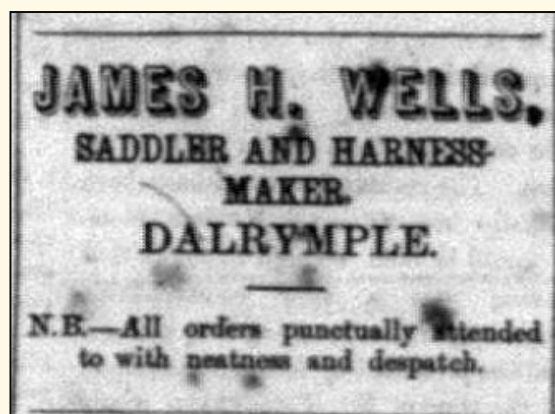


Figure 14: Camp XI the road to Dalrymple indicated by a blue rectangle. Camp XII appears labelled in two locations, identified by yellow rectangles. This is perhaps due to confusion with the Native Mounted Police Camp at Dalrymple, indicated by the blue circle. Yellow arrow indicates passage to Dotswood Station, Red arrow indicates passage to Charters Towers. (Jack, Robert L. 1878, *Geological sketch map of the district between Charters Towers Goldfield & the coast*: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-232289083>)

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS - A LINESMEN IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

In keeping with the theme of traveling around Townsville during the nineteenth century the following story idea comes from Townsville Museum member John McDonald about Thomas Allen Gulliver, a linesmen in North Queensland. Interestingly the source for this story, the North Queensland Register (June, 19, 1978) claims the suburb of Gulliver was named so after linesmen Thomas Allen Gulliver. However John Matthews, author of Highways and Byways of Townsville has undertaken research which indicates the suburb of Gulliver was named after Ben Gulliver (Benjamin John Gulliver), who is Thomas Allen's brother.

In 1873, Thomas Allen Gulliver, took the position of a telegraph line repairer in Queensland after the completion of the telegraph line from Cardwell to the mouth of Norman River in 1872. This telegraph line was intended to connect Australia with Europe via an underwater cable from Java to reach the mouth of Norman River. However, this did not proceed, and the connection to an underwater cable was made at Darwin via the overland telegraph line from Adelaide via Port Augusta. The route of the Gulf of Carpentaria line, in a westerly direction, was Cardwell, Taylors Creek, Cashmere, Mineral Springs, Junction Creek, Eva Creek, Ada Creek, Etheridge, Gilbert River, Wooleys Lagoon, Carron Creek, Francis's Lagoon, Rocky Creek, Normanton and Sandy Point.

Thomas was appointed on 27 May 1873 as an 'unclassified officer' and had postings at Nebo and St. Lawrence. During his time at Nebo, Thomas responded to a cyclone event which saw the telegraph line damaged from heavy winds and flooding. In those times linesmen were stationed 100 miles apart and were to ride out to locate and repair faults. In his travels to locate the fault, Thomas had to cross a river in flood, which resulted in one his packhorses (which was under heavy load) being swept away by the torrent and drowned. Undeterred Thomas stripped off his clothes and kit and wrapped them in a bundle to swim the river. Thomas managed to cross the river, but lost all his possessions except for his pipe and matches from the strong current. Naked and only his pipe and matches, Thomas survived for several weeks in the bush before he found one of his stray packhorses and was able to ride back to civilisation—where he had been presumed dead. On 1 April 1874 Thomas was promoted to a 'classified officer' and was posted to Creen Creek and Kimberley (now Karumba). In 1875 Thomas took on the role of telegraph station master at Normanton, then at Thornborough from 1877 through to early 1882.

Thomas also pursued interests in horticulture and experimental agriculture. He developed a 40 acre property at Roseneath to the west of Townsville, experimenting with tropical crops and breeding a number of award-winning mango cultivars. He was a regular contributor of natural history articles to the Queenslander and the Brisbane Courier until he died in Townsville on the 13th of June, 1931, aged 83.



Figure 15: Linesmen Thomas Allen Gulliver. 3.3.1848—13.6.1931: (Townsville Daily Bulletin. 15.6.1931)



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