

## THE EARLY DAYS

With the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, westward settlement quickly followed. In 1816 Governor Macquarie selected the site for the township of Bathurst, and the following year commissioned the Surveyor General, John Oxley, to explore the land beyond Bathurst. It was on this epic journey on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1817 that John Oxley came upon the "beautiful valley" which he named Wellington, in honour of the Duke of Wellington, who had defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

The coastal plains had reached saturation point, and with a road to Bathurst, many settlers pushed out to Bathurst and beyond. They also pushed further beyond the official limits of the 19 settlement counties, which only came as far west as the Wellington Valley, and illegally occupied or "squatted" on the vast tracts of empty Crown Land.

However in 1847 the famous "Order in Council" gave Squatters a legal fixity of tenure for up to 14 years, by the payment of a Licence Fee of £10.0.0. Per "Run".

In the early 1840's, the famous character Ben Boyd, accumulated huge pastoral "runs" all over the colony. It is known that in 1848 Ben Boyd & Co., were the lessees of "Ganoo" 60,000 acres, and "Timnee" 60,000 acres (Timbie) on the Buckinbah Creek. The land on the north side of what is now the Bournewood Road was all part of the famous "Ganoo Run" and the land on the south side was all part of the "Loombah Run". Loombah and Ganoo Parishes, to this day are on the same boundaries.

The list of licensed Runs, in 1848, shows James Callagan the lessee of Loombah, comprising 10,000 acres on the eastern side of the Loombah Creek. Between 1865 and 1870 Mr Gaden was the next lesser. 1870 George Bruce took over Loombah. George was a skilful sheep-breeder, and is recorded that in 1879 he received the highest price, of 16 ½ pence per pound for his clip of Greasy Wool sold in London, obtained for any clip in the country at that time.

The land on the south side of the Buckinbah Creek was the famous Buckinbah Run of 19,000 acres first taken up by Eleanor Terry and this was joined on the south by the Murrunderry (later Yullundry) Run of 20,000 acres first taken up by Davidson and later purchased by Robert Glasson.

Whilst the big Burrawong Run extended from Cumnock right down to the apex formed by the junction of the Hanover and Buckinbah, or Burrawong Creek as it was called above this point.

This then sets the scene in the early 1870's when "settlement" of the Yullundry, Loombah, Buckinbah and Ganoo Runs took place by our pioneer farming "Settlers".

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1861 "An Act for regulating the occupation of Crown Lands" was passed. The new system was the result of the mass immigration to the colony of persons of small means who had experienced difficulty in establishing themselves under the old regulations. The whole of the Crown Lands, including that held on pastoral lease, was now open for free selection. The colony was divided into "First and Second Class Settled Districts" and "Unsettled Districts".

As a result of this legislation, in 1862 pioneer "Selectors", Joseph Morris and James Wykes selected approximately 80 acres each at the "Shades" (just north of Molong), and then to the Bournewood area by 1876. In 1850's John Job and George and Uriah Pickford followed, as assisted immigrants, all from England. Following the phasing out of the "Convict System" caused a chronic shortage of labour in the colony.

Another pioneering family of John Ryan, came out from Tipperary, Ireland appears to have had more substantial means as they came out as "Free Settlers" in the 1850's.