HEIDELBERG
HISTORICAL
MAPS (Set of 6)

"Open plains, honeysuckle, lightwood and oak" 1837

HUT

SMITH
THE PUBLICAN
SHEEP STATION

"Interminable woodlands"

"stringybark ranges and barren scrub" 1837

NILLUMBIK
BARREN COUNTRY
1837

? PERMANENT ABORIGINAL CAMP by a long deep pool which always had water and fish...

On the Plenty banks "tea scrubs; a Michaelmas daisy growing on a shrub) another shrub with flowers and leaves like buckwheat which they oddly enough call the native currant" W. HOWITT (early 1850's)

The Plenty "like all the Australian rivers, deep between its banks, and is incumbered with an extraordinary number of fallen trees" W. HOWITT (early 1850's)

HUT

MR. WILLIS'
SHEEP STATION
1837

WATTLE & DAUB HUT
10 INHABITANTS
CENSUS 1841

ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE NEAR BRIDGE

Shire of Eltham

AREA STILL RICH IN SCARRED TREES

PLENTY

ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE

ABORIGINAL CAMPING GROUND

"middling cattle pasture" 1837

"I HAVE OFTEN REMARKED, WHEN WANDERING THROUGH THESE FORESTS, THAT THE BLACKS INVARIABLY FIX UPON THE PRETTIEST SITUATIONS FOR THEIR CAMPING PLACES" WHEELWRIGHT (1861)

ABORIGINAL MIA MIA

"The first process in the erection of (the aborigines') temporary shelters from the weather is to strip the bark from the trees around in slabs of about 5, 6 or 7 feet by two, or thereabouts. These slabs are supported by a cross rail elevated to a height of about 4 feet from the ground by means of props at each end. Branches thickly leaved are then collected and formed into a semi-circle larger or smaller according to the size of the family that is to inhabit it. A fire is lighted in the centre around which the family seat themselves or lie, usually with their backs towards the fire ...." COTTON (1843)

"Thinly wooded country"

"A PRETTY FAIR SPECIMEN OF A BUSH HUT"

"of wattle and dab.... a frame of wicker-work overspread with mud ... a roof covered with rolls of bark which the wooden stretchers that press them down can scarcely keep from resuming their original circular shape. Two or three windows, or port-holes, admit the light, while a huge, misshapen chimney of turf flanks one end of the dwelling in front. ... It had a mud floor and a ceiling of canvas" MURRAY (1841)

But the Woods' huts were of slabs.....

W. HOWITT ON RIVERS AND BASALT COUNTRY

"The rivers here have all the same character. They lie deep between their banks... The moment that you catch sight of them, running deep in their hollow ravines, you perceive abundant traces of violence about them. Huge dead trunks of trees are lying in wild confusion... Heaps of round, porous and ferruginous-coloured boulders lay about, and lines of dead twigs and leaves at some distance from the stream, told a tale of headlong torrents in the wet season. ... The huge stones just mentioned... in some parts of the country cover hundreds of acres... They are basaltic, their surface honey-combed, and rust-coloured. They look as if they had been roasted in subterranean fires" (early 1850's)

GELLIBRAND:
"The country and pasturage are here very fine, and present a desirable spot for an homestead" 1836

But we cannot be sure where he meant!

APPROXIMATE TRACK JT. GELLIBRAND

MR. SMITH'S
SHEEP STATION
1837

KEITH'S SHEEP
STATION & HUT
1837

On the basalt plains predominantly River Red gums with a grass understorey

THOMAS WALKER'S ASSESSMENT

"On the immediate banks (of the Yarra) the land is generally of very fine quality, undulating ridges. The right (north) bank seems of a richer soil than the left (south) ... It is rather thickly overwooded, and with a good deal of underwood, which gives a scrubby appearance..." 1838

Compare with GOVERNOR BOURKE'S

"About five miles from Melbourne the land improves in appearance and quality being heavily wooded and no scrub, with occasional fine flats near the river bank for about 8 miles further... (The Yarra) is perhaps the finest river I have seen in New South Wales....Upon both sides but especially upon the left bank at about 6 miles from Melbourne there are fine timber trees of stringybark, box, and mountain ash. The land about Mollison's and Wood's station is very favourable for sheep and has fine dry back runs well sheltered. The Yarra abounds in fine fish and the water is of very good quality." 1837

BASALT
SILURIAN MUDSTONE

"good cattle pasture"

BASALT
SILURIAN MUDSTONE

BASALT
SILURIAN MUDSTONE

BALTWATER CREEK

"OPEN FOREST LAND" 1839

"Gum, wattle, Bastard Box, Lightwood and Honeysuckle" 1858

'good flats for cultivation' 1837

ROBSON'S
HOUSE 1837
MOLLISONS STATION

ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE

"good soil" 1837

the flats and bends of the Yarra were composed of a deep, black fertile loam"

"flat" 1837

"good soil" 1837

"good flats for cultivation"

YARRA

DARKE'S SURVEY 1839-40

RUFFEY'S STATION
1837, 1839-40's
J. WOOD'S 1841
CHISHOLM 10/5/43
(SHEEP)

STONE AXE LOCATION

ABORIGINAL SITE
BULLEEN - TEMPLESTOWE FLATS

Important aboriginal site for gatherings of groups of WURUNDJERI and for intertribal meetings when eels were feasted upon and the Gaggip danced. There may be associations with myth - Bunjil may have once lived here and the Karatgurk who had the secret of fire... The course of the Yarra and the floodplain were themselves the subject of myth... "Bolin" may have been the centre of aboriginal life in this area but the whole of the flood plain, with its abundant food, must have been much frequented by the aborigines.

"good grassy hills"

J. H. KERR'S IMPRESSION OF THE YARRA VALLEY

"The country presented an ever-varying succession of lightly-timbered hill and dale, well-grassed downs alternated with groups of tall, handsome trees, and the land was fertilised by the winding Yarra-Yarra, by which, at flood-tides, large tracts were submerged. The human habitations were few and far between; many miles intervened between the homesteads of the sheep-stations; but dotted here and there were a few huts, tenanted chiefly by sawyers, whose strokes woke the echoes, and reverberated far through the vast solitudes. Here we woke of a morning to the strange songs of a thousand wild birds..." (early 1840's)

Darke's Survey 1839-40 of Yarra River

Darke's Survey 1839-40
Speculative outline of Yarra's course

Hoddle's Survey 1844 of Yarra (where it differs from or adds to Darke's survey)

Surveys of Darebin and Plenty- where they differ from modern course

Compare later maps for other indications of billabongs.

■ Dwelling, but not necessarily that shape or alignment, or to scale

HERRI, DAREBIN AND PLENTY

"There is much good land on their banks, although in general pretty heavily wooded and thickly covered with rocks which are all evidently of volcanic origin... The soil is a rich black mould..." J.H. LANG 1847

Note: These remarks would not apply to the lower reaches of the Darebin & Plenty

"Everywhere but on the best soil the trees straggle away from each other, or form themselves into picturesque clumps... Rarely do they stand so close as to prevent a free passage between their trunks... an English park , with its lawn and scattered trees, gives a better idea of the prevailing scenery than anything else.... a kind of impenetrable jungle is sometimes met with... called a scrub..." MURRAY (1841)

APPROXIMATE LINE OF TRACK LINKING SQUATTING STATIONS

ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE

"trees of unusual size and straightness" occurred on the flats of the Yarra

BOLDREWOOD (late 1830's

DARKE 10/5/43

"BOLIN" 1841

LAKE BULLEEN

"moderately timbered with gum oak and honeysuckle" (Banksia) (Casuarina)

good soil

DONALDSONS CREEK

DAREBIN

"OPEN FOREST LAND" 1837

ABORIGINAL CAMPING GROUND

APPROXIMATE LINE OF BULLOCK TRACK PRE FIRST SURVEY

W. HOWITT travelling to the Plenty:

From Merri Creek onward "the uniform timber of these forests" "thinly scattered" "the Eucalyptus, the shiacks (she oaks) and Banksias with wattles wherever the ground is moister ... and where there have been fires... All under the trees lie immense quantities of fallen timber" (early 1850's)

BOLDREWOOD recalled-- in what was to be called Bulleen, opposite the Aboriginal stepped tree- "a heavily timbered river flat, with deep reed-fringed lagoons," in Bulleen. "Owing to the proveteese and sinuous shape of the lagoons...coupled with the dense nature of the thickets, it was not an easy matter for a stranger to find his way through the mazes, the deepest of the lagoons, had in the centre a clear lakelet... upon the lonely waters of which disported the black duck, the wood duck..., the greater and lesser diver; while among the reeds waded or flew the heron..., the sultana hen, a red-billed variety of the coot, the bittern, the land rail, and in season an occasional snipe" (late 1830's)

MR. SMITH'S
STATION
1837

ABORIGINAL STEPPED TREE

? HUT 1839-40

SAWYERS on east bank early 1840's & possibly earlier

"flat"

The grass of Ivanhoe was "shaded by the dark green oak (casuarina) and the silvery tinged acacia, waving their slender forms..." 1839

THE YARRA
"never failing crystal water"
1839

KOONUNG KOONUNG CREEK

SWAMP

DARKE 1839-40

WOODS STATION
1837/1839 or 40
KERR & DOBIE 1841-2
GROVER 10/5/43

"fine pasture"

This station had, 2 slab huts,

"with the huge open chimney common to bush huts" -KERR

"fine pasture land good grassland" 1837

CAMPBELLS somewhere on lower Darebin 1839-40

APPROXIMATE EAST BOUNDARY OF PORT PHILLIP ASSOCIATION LAND

W. HOWITT at ALPHINGTON

"grand old woods" with giant trees some 6 or 8 yards in circumference and kangaroo grass. Rich animal and bird life, including "young wild cats pretty black creatures spotted with white." His "meadow" (flat) on the Yarra "was overgrown with the largest red gum trees, burthened with dead prostrate trunks, full of stumps, and covered with tea tree scrub" c. 1842

"flat" 1837

"good soil" 1837

"alluvial flat and lagoons" 1844

scrubby 1844

cultivation 1844

"flat" 1844

"swampy" 1844

ABORIGINAL CAMPING GROUND

SAWYER'S HUT 1837

BROKEN LINE REPRESENTS DARKE'S SPECULATIVE OUTLINE OF RIVER COURSE

alluvial flats & lagoons 1844

APPROXIMATE LINE OF EARLY TRACK TO UPPER YARRA

SOUTH

"extensive woodlands & lovely hill and dale" 1839

LANGHORNE'S HUT
1844

GLASS STATION 1839 or 40
BALFOUR & WALKER 1844

cultivation 1844

1 0 1 2 3 Kilometres

TOPOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FROM SKETCH MAP OF 1850's

bank

RECENT ALLUVIALS

?elevated area

STONE AXE LOCATION

A track probably linked Mr. Wood's house with the other stations and may have continued east. See Map B.

MR. WOOD'S HOUSE 1837

COTTAGE 1850'S

1853

1841

?depression

?depression

"flat" 1837

RECENT ALLUVIALS

STONE AXE LOCATION

"middling cattle pasture" 1837

"good grassy hills"

"good soil"

"flat" 1837

"good soil" 1837

"flat" 1837

"flat" 1837

"good soil" 1837

"flat" 1837

"good soil" 1837

"flat" 1837

"good soil