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History

ANDERSON'S CREEK, 1856 to 1865

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1. INTRODUCTION

The notes which follow are based on an examination of some old Police records held in the Archives Department of the State Library of Victoria. The records are reports and instructions referring to the Police District of Bourke, and made in the years 1856 to 1865. They are in the form of loose handwritten foolscap sheets arranged under individual years. They are not indexed. The examination was made by the writer of these notes in September and December 1964, by courtesy of Messrs. Street and Paterson of the Archives Department.

2. THE NATURE OF THE RECORDS

The records are mostly reports made by police to their senior officers; in many cases reports by constables at police stations to the District Superintendent. A considerable amount of the material relates to police discipline, such as charges against constables, investigations of the charges, and decisions made.

To give some idea of the scope of these records, a list of some of the subjects covered is given below.

Recommendations for establishment of new police stations, for erection and maintenance of police station buildings and fences. Tenders for construction of these buildings and fences.
Tenders for fuel supply, for supply of rations for prisoners, for removal of manure, for farriery.
Accounts for travelling expenses, accommodation, shoeing police horses, grazing police horses, rent, and conveyance of prisoners, paupers, sick persons, and corpses.
Rewards paid to police constables from the Police Reward Fund.
Police discipline, as mentioned above.
Promotions, punishments, transfers of police.
Reports on inquests, court cases, etc.
Reports on inspections made, including goldfields visited.
Reports of crime and arrest.
Returns of names of persons who are licensed to slaughter cattle.
Return of aboriginals tried and convicted.
Reports of Ticket of Leave Holders who fail to report.
Instructions to police by the Chief Commissioner and the District Superintendent.
Request by the public for police protection.

From the aspect of local history it is obvious that much of the information is of little use. However the reports by constables and officers, of inspections made of goldfield areas, and the reports made regarding the need for new police stations are of considerable interest, as they give factual information as to the size of places, in terms of population, hotels, stores, etc. Also sometimes local identities are mentioned by name.

3. THE PERIOD OF THE RECORDS

The records commence in the year 1853, but there is only one paper for that year. It is a report on the buildings erected at Richmond Barracks between the 1st. February and the 28th. November. In 1855 there is only one paper. There are no papers for the second half of 1858, for 1861, and for the first half of 1865. I have examined all the papers up to the end of 1865.

4. THE POLICE DISTRICT OF BOURKE

On the 7th. September, 1856 Inspector R.S. Cooke reported to the Chief Commissioner of Police that he had inspected the police stations in the Bourke District under his charge and these are named as follows:
Aitkins Gap, Bacchus Marsh, Brighton, Brunswick, Booroondara, Caledonia, Dandenong, Deep Creek, Frankston, Flemington, Footscray, Hawthorne, Heidelberg, Kalkallo, Keilor, Kew, Northcote, Point Nepean, Prahran, Richmond, Sunbury, St. Kilda, Williamstown, Werribee, Yan Yean; 25 altogether.

Mr. Cooke states: "One new station has been formed in the district, during the past month, viz. Western Port, consisting of one mounted constable, for the purpose of protecting the settlers there from crews of wind bound and other vessels, and also to furnish immediate information to the proper authorities, via Queenscliff, of any ship attempting to land Chinese immigrants (as the bay is well adapted for that purpose) with a view to defraud the Government of head money."

Mr. Cooke was followed by Inspector K. McCulloch, and at the end of 1858 or the beginning of 1859 by Superintendent W.A.P. Dana. The Chief Commissioner in 1857 was Captain McMahon; in 1859 it was Frederick C. Standish, who continued to hold the position at least until 1864.

In May 1860 a new police district, with headquarters at Williamstown, was established. Police stations in Bourke District at Williamstown, Sandridge, Wyndham (Werribee), Footscray, and Block Ship were then transferred to the new district.

In June 1860 the police stations listed as being in Bourke District are: Aitkin's Gap, Anderson's Creek, Booroondaka, Brighton, Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Camberwell, Campbellfield, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Eltham, Essendon, Flemington, Frankston, Hawthorne, Heidelberg, Kangaroo, Keilor, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, Oakleigh, Pentridge, Preston, Point Nepean, Richmond Barracks, Sandy Point, Schnapper Point, Sunbury, Yan Yean; 30 in all.

At the beginning of 1862 the management of Bourke District was amalgamated with that of the Richmond Depot and Mr. Dana handed over to Mr. P. LaF. Bookey, Superintendent.

On the 14th. March, 1862 Mr. Bookey lists 26 police stations as being in the District of Bourke and gives some statistical information about each. The following extracts will be of interest.

Anderson's Creek. One mounted constable and one foot constable. Serving a population of 900, in a circuit of about 9 miles.
Mining and agricultural area.

Dandenong. One senior constable and one foot constable, both mounted. Serving a population of 1500, in a circuit of about 10 miles.
Agricultural and pastoral area.

Eltham. One senior foot constable and one mounted constable. Serving a population of 800, in a circuit of about 8 miles.
Agricultural area.

Hawthorne. One sergeant and six foot constables. Serving a population of 3850, in a circuit of about 5 miles.
Town Area.

Heidelberg. One senior mounted constable, one mounted constable, and one foot constable. Serving a population of 6500, in a circuit of about 6 miles.
Town and agricultural area.

In October 1863 a police station was opened at Warburton, and in April 1864 one was opened at Nunawading.

5. BULLEEN

On the 21st. February, 1856 there is the report of an inquest held by Doctor Youl, District Coroner, at Doncaster Arms at Bulleen.

6. ANDERSON'S CREEK POLICE STATION

The first mention of Anderson's Creek is in a memo written on the 1st. May, 1856 at Richmond Barracks, regarding the need for a police station there. It refers to a letter from Mr. Brockenbury dated the 18th. April "as to the necessity of having a Police Station at the Anderson's Creek Diggings." It would appear that Mr. Brockenbury was the Gold Warden stationed at Heidelberg. The memo states that "as there are so few persons working there at present, I do not consider a Police Station absolutely required."

On the 4th. August, 1856, Inspector R.S. Cooke reports that two new station stations were formed during the month; Anderson's Creek and Oakleigh; but in regard to Anderson's Creek a house and lock-up are still required.

On the 1st. October, 1856, a report states "The Constable house for this station (Anderson's Creek) has been conveyed to its destination and will be erected in a few days." On the 16th. October, 1856, it is stated that the house is being erected on a section containing 8 to 10 acres. On the 24th. October, "The land is surveyed and the town allotments will be sold immediately."

On the 20th. October, 1857, Inspector McGulloch agrees with Mr. Brockenbury in regard to Anderson's Creek that " a mounted man is required not only for despatch duty but for the execution of warrants and summonses and for patrolling the lonely creeks in that part of the country." The Chief Commissioner on the 22nd. states that a portable stable is ready for Anderson's Creek Station and "I have forwarded a requisition to the Depot for a Mounted Constable to be stationed at Anderson's Creek and one of the foot constables then to be transferred to the depot".

Early in 1859 the name of the constable in charge at Anderson's Creek is mentioned as Senior Constable J. Feathers Dunlap, and he is to be there for some years. On the 23rd. February, 1859, he reports on the need for fencing. He recommends fencing about 10 acres as a Police Paddock, involving 111 rods of fencing. (One rod equals $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards.) Mr. C. Warburton Carr, the Gold Warden, adjoins the property on the East side and already has a fence there, and the North side is bounded by the River Yarra. Superintendent Dana concurs and says that the fence can be erected for 5/- per rod. Mr. Dunlap attached to his report a copy of the Surveyor General's plan, "The Township of Warrandyte, County of Evelyn", dated October 30th., 1856, no. 476, and this is still in the records. It shows township allotments, physical features, gold mining sites. On it Mr. Dunlap has shown the positions of the Police barracks and lock-up and two acres occupied by G.W. Carr, Warden. A photo-copy of this plan is attached to these notes.

In July 1859 Mr. Dunlap reports that the Government Surveyor "marked off Two Acres as a reserve for this Station which is erected on part of it". "The other reserve of 13 acres 2 roods is situated half a mile from the Police Station in the Melbourne Side of Anderson's Creek".

In December 1859 a return of portable buildings shows Anderson's Creek with one room of zinc for quarters, a six stall zinc stable, and a lock-up of wood with a zinc roof.

In December 1860 Superintendent W.A.P. Dana requests that copies of the Police Gazette be sent by post to Anderson's Creek Police Station. One concludes that at this stage Anderson's Creek had some sort of postal service.

In March 1862 Anderson's Creek is mentioned in Mr. Bookley's list of police stations. See Clause 4^A ^{of these notes} Of the other police stations mentioned those nearest to Anderson's Creek are Hawthorne, Oakleigh, Dandenong, Eltham, Heidelberg and Queenstown.

In December 1862 tenders for the purchase of horse manure from police stations were received and considered. For Anderson's Creek Police Station there was only one tender, that of Robert Cameron of Anderson's Creek, dated 14th. December, 1862, for 10/- for the year. This tender was accepted. In March 1864 a tender by George P. Morton for 4/- per load was recommended.

In June 1863 Superintendent P. Le P. Bookley states that he intends sending a portable house from Althins Gap to Anderson's Creek so as to give increased accommodation there. In April 1864 a tender of Dan Dwyer for £7/10/- to erect a portable house of one room, 15 ft. x 12 ft., was recommended.

In July 1863, owing to the mounted constable at Anderson's Creek being so often required to visit Warburton, a second mounted constable was approved until such time as a police station is erected at Warburton. As no accommodation was available for the third man at Anderson's Creek Police Station, he was made an allowance of 2/- per night.

In May 1864 Senior Constable J. Feathers Dunlap recommends that the tenders to be called for fencing at Anderson's Creek Police Station should provide for three rails and not two rails, in order to keep out calves and goats. "Often a mob of upwards of a hundred goats does be on the land referred to." However the tenders do not mention whether the fence is to be two or three

rail. The details given are: Fencing 100 Rods at 4/6 per Rod £22-10-0, Gate £6-10-0. Total £29-0-0.. In September of the same year Senior Constable Dunlap reports that "a tree beside the Station was struck by lightning and four panels of the fence completely smashed to pieces". In October Daniel Dryer tenders to erect two rods of fencing at 4/6 per rod.

In September 1864 Inspecting Superintendent P.K. Smith made a report to the Chief Commissioner on the police stations in the Bourke District. He visited all of them, and of Anderson's Creek he says: "The importance which at one time distinguished this Gold Field, seems to have departed. There is no population and no mining that I could observe. It becomes a question therefore of the necessity for a Police Station, at any rate I am of opinion that one Md. Married Conse. is all that is required. I found Forage Correct and Govt. property correct. Only one warrant issued in the current year, 18 Shms. and there are only 9 charges for a similar period, and they are of an unimportant Character". It is of interest too to quote what he says about Lilydale: "This Township is situated ~~in~~ about 25 miles from Melbourne, 10 from Anderson's Creek and 26 from Warburton. There are about 200 people resident in and about it. There are Three Public Houses in the Township. I am of opinion that one Mounted Constable should be stationed here." It would appear that at this date there was no police station at Lilydale.

In February, 1864 Senior Constable Dunlap mentions in a report that there is no means of crossing the River Yarra at Anderson's Creek since the bridge was carried away by the late flood.

The year 1865 saw the closing of the police station at Anderson's Creek. In October Thomas Newman made an offer to remove police buildings at Anderson's Creek to Healesville, where a new police station was being established, for the sum of £15. This offer was accepted and the work done, and on 28th. November, papers recommending payment appear. However Constable Isaac Salisbury, a carpenter, reported: "the Stable and also that of the Portable House which was erected about 15 months ago is that Rotten it is not worth paying the Carriage for as it is quite unfit for further use" (13th. November, 1865.), and the sale of this condemned timber to Joseph Paling for £1 is approved by the Chief Commissioner.

7. THE WORK OF THE POLICE AT ANDERSON'S CREEK

The police station was established at Anderson's Creek in 1856 to maintain order on the gold field there. Its retention until 1864 indicates that it served a need during that period. For at least part of this time the Gold Warden and Police Magistrate, G. Warburton Carr, was living at Anderson's Creek and a police court was established there. In addition to maintaining order at Anderson's Creek, the police were responsible for a large surrounding district, as is evident from the distances to neighbouring police stations. They were responsible also for areas of new gold discoveries as far away as New Gum (Healesville) and Warburton. On account of the absence of roads many places were accessible only by horse-back. A mounted constable was essential at a police station such as Anderson's Creek.

Some of the work carried out by the police at Anderson's Creek is given in the paragraphs which follow.

In February, 1859, Senior Constable Dunlap reports the trial of five men at Anderson's Creek Police Court before G.W. Carr, Police Magistrate. They were charged with breaking into the house of Patrick Doolan at Watery Gully. Two were discharged, two were each fined £10 or 2 months imprisonment and one was fined £5. The fines were paid.

In February, 1860 Mr. Dunlap reports on the trial of William White at Anderson's Creek Police Court for shooting Bobby, the aboriginal at Brushey Creek. Presumably Bobby was only injured. White was acquitted of shooting at with intent, but was fined £5 for discharging fire arms in a public place. "The money was handed to W. Thomas Esq. J.P. as compensation for the Blacks".

In March 1860 Mounted Constable John Meadam, who was stationed at Anderson's Creek, reports that Isaac Joslin was convicted for selling spirituous liquors without a licence. Mr. Carr is mentioned as chairman of the bench and Mr. Moreton as Clerk of Petty Sessions.

In February and March, 1860 Mounted Constable Purcell, who was also stationed at Anderson's Creek, reports on the arrest and trial of Francisco Pelliscone, alias William Hatfield, ticket-of-leave holder. He robbed three miners at Britannia Goldfield by raising the end of the tent in which they were sleeping. He then left to go to Melbourne, passed the Brushy Creek Hotel, and was arrested on the bush track between there and "the Doncaster". When arrested by Purcell he had on him £57-5-4, a small packet of gold, a six barrel revolver, loaded. He was tried for "robbery from a dwelling" at Melbourne General Sessions on 1st. March, 1860, and sentenced to 2 years hard labour on the roads. Judge Wrixon presided. For his work in this case, Constable Purcell received a reward of £5 from the Police Reward Fund.

In September, 1862 Senior Constable Dunlap reports that a cow stolen from George Briggs of Hoddles Creek has been found in the bush at Britannia Goldfield.

In January, 1863 he reports on the seizure of spirits at Hoddles Creek. The owner of the spirits was proceeded against at Anderson's Creek Police Court before Mr. Carr, Police Magistrate. As a result, the whole of the seized stock was forfeited. It was sold at Anderson's Creek and the proceeds, £24-13-3, paid into the Treasury to the credit of General Revenue. The seizure was carried out by Mounted Constables Davey and Shearer and Constable Doyle. They took a Government horse and dray to Hoddles Creek to bring the liquor back, but there was so much seized that they had to hire a team of six bullocks to transport it. The list of stock seized is given as: 46 bottles of Porter in case, 65 bottles of Ale, 4 cases of Gin, 1 keg of Brandy, 1 keg of Brandy, partly full, 1 keg of Rum, 1 keg of Rum, partly full, 1 keg of Whiskey, partly full, 1 keg of Sherry, partly full, 1 Funnell and 1 half pint measure and 2 brass cocks. For his work in this case Mounted Constable Davey received £5 reward from the Police Reward Fund.

In February, 1864 Senior Constable Dunlap reports that three men were convicted at Anderson's Creek Police Court and fined £5 each for selling spirituous liquor to aboriginals.

In September, 1864 he reports that a constable was sent to accompany and protect Warden Carr when he went to Lillydale to settle a mining dispute.

8. GOLDFIELDS IN THE WARBURTON DISTRICT

In December, 1859 appears the first report by Anderson's Creek constables of inspections made of the gold fields in the Warburton district. These gold fields were just being opened up and there were no police stationed there. The establishment at Anderson's Creek at this time consisted of the Senior Constable, Dunlap, and a mounted constable. The inspection of the gold fields was made by the mounted constable and he made a written report on returning from his inspection. The first report is by constable McGutchan. Later ones are by constables John McAdam, William H. Purcell, Short, Dunlap, and William Davey. In September 1863 a senior constable and a mounted constable were sent to Warburton to establish a station there, and from then on Anderson's Creek constables were relieved of the responsibility of going to Warburton. However, they were still responsible for Lillydale, which in September, 1864 is reported to have a population of 200 residents in and about it, and to have three public houses.

During the four years that visits were made to the goldfields in the Warburton district, each trip must have been an adventure. In the earlier period gold was being found at Hoddles Creek and McCrae's Creek. The diggings near Warburton are not mentioned until January 1860. The trip took three days. The first night the mounted constable stayed at Briarty's cattle station, the only place where he could get stabling for his horse. This was 24 miles from Anderson's Creek. The second day he visited the gold fields and returned to the cattle station for the night. The third day he returned to Anderson's Creek. Later there was a hotel at the Hoddles Creek fields, where he stayed. This was 26 miles from Anderson's Creek.

The track must have been rough. Even in 1863 an inspector visiting the area describes the ten miles on Anderson's Creek side of Britannia Inn (at Hoddles Creek) as "very bad and dangerous, particularly at a bridge named Briarty's, which is partly washed away, we had great difficulty in getting our horses over", and further on "road very bad with several dangerous creeks to cross" When the building of a police station at Warburton was being planned in the same year it was stated that it would be "impossible to get up anything

unless on pack horses", and "building materials would be impossible to get up". A contract was let for the construction of a slab hut, kitchen, store, stable, and closet for £150. The slabs, of course, would have been split on or near the site.

9. ANDERSON'S CREEK AT THE BEGINNING OF 1866

In conclusion, extracts are now given of a report made by Constable Purcell, dated 11th. January 1866, when there was a proposal to re-open the police station at Anderson's Creek. He reported that the population had increased in the last three months by about 25 persons.

"Present population is 224 persons exclusive of an agricultural population in Warrandyte, three miles distant and numbering 50 persons.

The only new diggings discovered since the police station was removed is some patches along the River bank about three quarters of a mile in extent on which about 25 miners are at work - the total number of persons at work on the diggings are about 80 Europeans and 6 Chinese.

The number of offences reported within the last three months are as follows - one case of Larceny over 40/- stealing Bacon from an out house and two cases of petty Larceny under 40/- stealing Bacon and an axe.

The number of huts are 60 and 2 tents. Exclusive of the following Government Buildings unoccupied one dwelling house and stable formerly occupied by the Warden one cottage intended for office for Clerk of Bench and one Court House".

On the basis of Constable Purcell's report, Inspector F. Hare reports to the Chief Commissioner that he cannot see any necessity to re-form the police station. A "beer licence" has been applied for and the inhabitants fear the result. "The Lillydale Station is at present being erected, and I will instruct the Mounted Constable stationed there, to patrol the diggings as frequently as possible, and I will give similar instructions to the Mtd. Constables stationed at Nunawading and Heidelberg, all these stations being about the same distance from Anderson's Creek".



W.W.L. Radden

January, 1965.

No. 476

The Township of
WARRANDYTE
COUNTY OF EVELYN.

