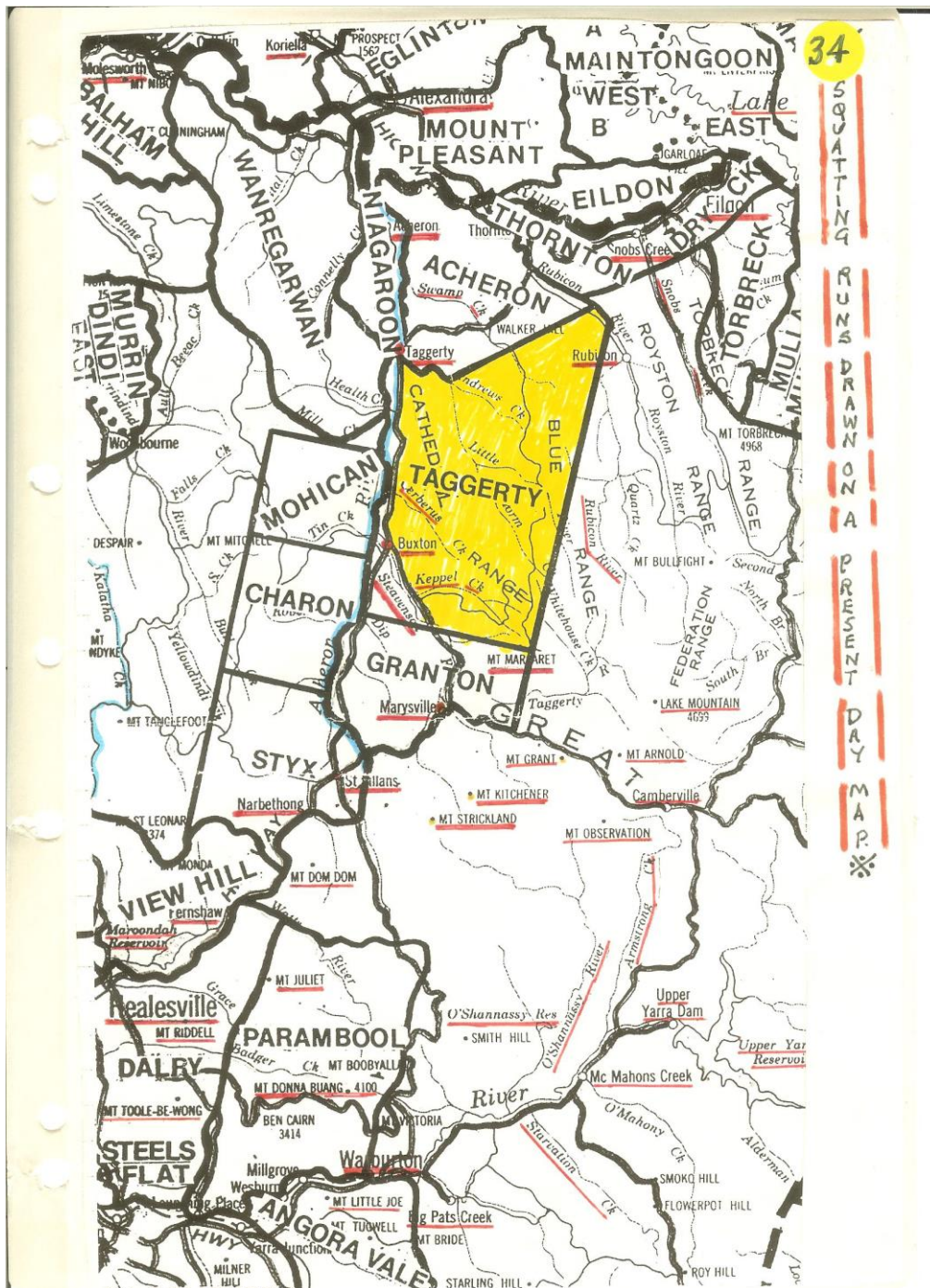


EARLY SQUATTING RUNS in REGION

Early land occupation on Victoria was by way of squatting. Early land legislation allowed persons to occupy land for a nominal license fee provided they made improvements on the land - clearing, fencing and buildings. The 1869 Land Act allowed squatters a pre-emptive right of 640 acres of their run and selectors a freehold of 320 acres, which they had occupation under licence for three years. Improvements had to be made and if the Land Board was satisfied with these, after three years the rental of two shillings an acre a year was put toward eventual ownership and the selector paid fourteen shillings per acre cash or two shillings for seven years, making a total price of one hundred pound per acre.¹

The first white men squatting in the district were Ousely Cockburn and Dr Dugald Fletcher who took up land on the Goulburn, Acheron and Rubicon rivers in 1839



Runs are described heading south from Alexandra to Narbethong starting on the east side of the main road. Modern place names are used to provide location. Refer to 1997 Map from the book 'Victorian Squatting Runs', Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh found by Rev George Edwards.

Thornton Station

Thornton Station was originally estimated as 192,000 acres on Niagaroon (Snob's Creek) and Goulburn River.

1840 J C Aitken.

1846 John Christie Aitken.

On 11 September 1860 it was subdivided into Thornton Station and Torbreck Station and five years later, on 25 January 1865 it was further subdivided into Thornton Station and Dry Creek Station.

On 3 August 1870 Thornton was occupied by Henry Robinson and Barbara Tossol.

16 November 1877 Declared forfeited

Torbreck Station

Torbreck Station, in the Eildon area operated during the second half of the nineteenth century as both a sheep run and as a staging camp. Cattle were introduced into the area later. The Latin and Nicholas families are believed to have used the station, as did a road builder named Noels. The only building erected on the site was a shearing shed, of which now nothing remains.²

Torbreck Station was part of Thornton Station til 1860.

5 December 1860 R Nicholas

1871 David Payne Starling

9 February 1872 Declared forfeited on.

Dry Creek

1865 J C Aitken

1870 Henry Robinson

1873 John Robert Barnewall

15 June 1877 Declared forfeited

Mount Pleasant

Immediately south of Alexandra on the east side of the main road.

1841 Thomas Marshall and John Morris Fischer

1849 Archibald Thom

1850 W H Pettet and W L Ker

1854 Donald McKenzie

1858 Charles Ibbotson and John Buckley

1861 Donald McKenzie

January 1865 Run subdivided into Mount Pleasant 'A' and 'B'.

Mount Pleasant 'A'

1865 Donald McKenzie

1871 Henry Godfrey

1872 William James and Henry Brown

1879 William Brown and George Anderson

25 June 1880 Declared forfeited

Mount Pleasant 'B'

1865 Donald McKenzie

1865 Henry Johnson of Eglinton Station on the northern boundary.

22 January 1875 Declared Forfeited.

Acheron Station

Acheron Station was eastside of the Alexandra road south of Mount Pleasant Station, west of Thornton Station and north of Taggerty Station. It was originally estimated 24,000 acres.

A Davidson first occupied this land in 1842.

In 1843 it was licensed to NSW OIC for 5 years.

Gazetted 4 October 1848.

24 July 1849 Thomas Herbert Power.

27 October 1849 John Christie Aitkin.

11 April 1866 James Hope

17 May 1872 Robert Martin of Heidelberg

3 March 1877 James Goodall Francis of Melbourne

22 October 1880 David Mackenzie Bronn and David Dobbie.

24 April 1882 William Murray and Hugh Murray Strachan

Taggerty Station

Taggerty Station was on the eastside of the Alexandra road and ran from Taggerty south past Buxton to a line with Mt Margaret and back up through the Blue Range.

In February 1846 Mrs Elizabeth Watson applied for 50,000 acres in the mountains north east of Melbourne and called it Taggerty.

Port Phillip Gazette and Settler's Journal Monday 13 Nov 1848,

From details of runs.

No. 183.

Elisabeth Watson

Name of run.-.Taggerty

Estimated acres: 50,000 acres

Estimated grazing capabilities.. .800 head of
cattle, 5,000 sheep.

Commencing half way between Major Davidson's station and the junction of Taggerty and the Acheron, and extending on that side of the Acheron 5miles, including the whole of the Taggerty at present known; this run is situated completely in the ranges.

The Argus 22 Jan 1850 reported the transfer of Taggerty Run from Elizabeth Watson & Cameron to Henry Johnson. Life was not easy in these early days with only minimal tracks to Melbourne and land to be cleared. Henry Johnson forfeited the run in October 1863³ and the run was auctioned on 15 January 1864, being bought by James Batchelor.

James built a slab hut and bought his wife and young family to live there in June 1864. In 1868 James was in trouble with his mortgage and a sale was advertised for 28th June.

Leader (Melbourne) 17 October 1868,

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT. ;
In the Insolvent Estate of James Batchelor.

TAGGERTY STATION.

R. GOLDSBROUGH & Co. have been instructed by Edward Courtney, Esq., official assignee (with the consent of the mortgagees), to offer for positive sale, at their wool warehouses, - on Tuesday, the 3rd November, at three o'clock, the Taggerty Station, Situate in the Gisborne district, about 80 miles from Melbourne, containing an area of 60,000 acres of well grassed country, together with 10,000 SHEEP, CATTLE and HORSES.

The IMPROVEMENTS are all first-rate, and comprise a six-roomed house, store, kitchen and servants' rooms, men's huts, large garden, stocked with superior fruit trees, stabling, shedding, outbuildings,

cultivation paddocks, wool shed fitted with press and all the necessary appliances.

The water supply is abundant, the run being traversed and intersected by the Acheron and Taggerty Creeks.

The run is COMPLETELY fenced in and subdivided into convenient paddocks, all in thorough working order.

As possession will be given to the buyer forthwith, a considerable sum will be immediately available to him from the present clip of wool.

The run is capable of carrying nearly double the number of stock, without any additional outlay for improvements.

Further particulars, as to the breed, age and sexes of the sheep, and the correct numbers of the cattle and horses, will appear in future advertisement.

Terms liberal at sale.

Melbourne, 16th October, 1878.

He must have been helped by his family as in 1870 the license is in the name of Richard Schlesinger, brother-in-law and in 1871 Mary Anne Batchelor, wife

Battling sheep and cattle duffers, adverse weather and wool prices James continued to farm the large run til Crown land sales came to the area in the mid-1870s. James chose to forego the large run and to put his efforts into c1,000 acres around the homestead and river frontage, concentrating on grazing and cheese making. See Batchelor Family Documents.

Granton Station

Granton Station was on the south boundary of Taggerty Station and included the Marysville area.

George McDonald, surveyor on the Yarra Track in 1864 drew up plans for the township of Granton and it is considered that this name was in recognition of the Minister for Lands and Public Works including Roads, James MacPherson Grant.

No information on Granton Station in the files.

On the westside of the main road from Alexandra heading south -

Wanregarwan Station (Wanregnan)

Wanregarwan Station was originally estimated as 25,600 acres. It ran from Alexandra west almost to Molesworth then south east to Mill Creek, then north to Connelly Creek, bordering Niagaroon Station.

1842 A Cunningham and James Buchanan

Gazetted 4 October 1848 to A Cunningham.

27 June 1853 Cunningham and sisters.

3 October 1853 to Hugh Glass.

25 July 1864 Hugh Glass subdivides the Station keeping Wanregnan and relinquishing Riversdale No2 Station.

Wanregnan Station

1864 Hugh Glass

4 August 1869 John Bradcock of Collins St West Melbourne.

4 April 1871 Samuel Henry Cohen.

9 February 1872 Run declared forfeited.

13 September 1872 Duncan McRae (by auction 9 August 1872).

Riversdale No 2 Station a subdivision of Wanregarwan

25 July 1864 Hugh Glass.

25 February 1868 Thomas Baillie.

8 April 1868 Robert Bruce Ronald and James McBain.

9 June 1871 Samuel Allardyce of Alexandra.

25 July 1871 James Graham and Robert William Kirby Martin.

28 June 1875 Samuel Allardyce of Alexandra.

Feb 1879 Edwin Willis Maygar of Alexandra.

21 January 1880 Henry Walker of Melbourne.

26 July 1883 Samuel Allardyce.

Niagaroon Station

Niagaroon Station was a long piece of land between Wanregarwan and Acheron Stations on the Niagaroon Creek.

1839 Ousely Cockburn and Dr Dugald Fletcher

1840 Ousely and William Cockburn

1842 H Cockburn

1845 J C Aitken

1847 Henry Matson.

Gazetted 4 October 1848 it was estimated as 16,000 acres.

17 October 1850 Henry Moore and Hugh Glass.

1856 Hugh Glass

20 December 1860 Hugh Glass.

On 21 December 1861 a surveyor was instructed to measure out the block of land on Niagaroon Station following on from the request by the Goulburn aboriginal tribes for land on a particular part of the Upper Goulburn, on the Acheron River. This land never seems to have been formalised and due to miscommunication at Board level the Mohican Station was 'purchased' and the aborigines on Niagaroon were moved there⁴. For more details see Rev George Edwards Notes from Massalo's book on Coranderrk.

In 1864 the run was subdivided into Niagaroon and Riversdale No.1.

Niagaroon

Smaller Niagaroon was occupied by Hugh Glass from 25 July 1864.

19 October 1867 James Hope.

9 February 1872 Forfeited.

28 May 1872 Licensed again to James Hamilton McColl and Duncan McColl of Alexandra.

19 February 1875 Margaret McColl of Alexandra.

2 February 1876 John James Hamilton McColl of Alexandra.

1 April 1878 John Franklin McMullen as Inspector of union Bank of Australia.

10 April 1879 Samuel Allardyce of Alexandra.

14 June 1880 Run declared forfeited.

28 June 1880 Forfeiture revoked.

28 September 1881 Run declared forfeited.

Riversdale No 1 Station

Riversdale Station No1 was subdivided off Niagaroon.

25 July 1864 Hugh Glass

8 April 1868 Thomas Baillie

7 May 1868 Robert Bruce Ronald and James MacBain

9 Feb 1872 Run declared forfeited and auctioned

7 March 1873 Thomas Murray of Alexandra.

22 May 1876 Colin Ross of Acheron.

28 Sep 1881 Run declared forfeited

Mohican Station also known as Jones Station

On the Acheron River opposite Taggerty Station.

30 April 1851 First occupied by the executors of John Cotton, Deceased. Executor: William Cotton.

10 June 1856 Stephen Jones

6 March 1857 John Brown and James Stewart, solicitors for Stephen Jones.

With the failure of the Aboriginal selection on Niagaroon on 16 May 1859 the Trustees 'recommended that Jones Station, also known as Mohican Station, about 4 miles (6.4km) lower down the river, and about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles (2.8 kms) north of Buxton, on the Taggerty Road, on the river side, be purchased and that the aborigines stationed on Niagaroon be moved there.'

At this stage, perhaps to expediate matters, Stephen Jones, the vendor, through his solicitor, Brown and Stewart, on 14 June 1860 claimed compensation for loss of sheep and damages to the station at the hands of the aborigines. This had the desired effect. On 23 June 1860 the station was handed over to the Aboriginal Board with Mr Hickson appointed Superintendent and Stephen Jones received considerable compensation for his animals and crops.

The Mohican Station was to be an Aboriginal Reserve until 1866, the Goulburn Aborigines going with Mr Green to Coranderrk Reserve at Healesville. For more details see Rev George Edward's Notes from Massalo's book on Coranderrk.

31 December 1866 by Auction to the London and Australian Agency.

17 June 1874 Robert Jonothan Jeffray.

31 May 1875 David Payne Starling of Glendale, Buxton.

15 December 1875 James Graham of Melbourne.

Declared forfeited 9 March 1877.

Charon Station

Charon Station was on the westside of the Alexandra road from Buxton south towards St Fillans in the Black Range. No information has been found in the files.

Sutledge Station also known as STYX Station

It takes in the area of Narbethong and St Fillans. It was originally estimated as 128,000 acres.

1847 Licensed for 8 months to NSW OIC to

Gazetted 23 February 1849 Ewen Cameron⁵.

5 June 1850 Alexander Cameron and Alexander Cameron??

3 May 1866 Thomas Must

25 August 1875 John Russell McPherson of Casterton.

27 November 1877 The Colonial Bank of Australasia.

10 January 1879 Robert Melville Gardiner and Abraham Gardiner of Nanwarry SA.

Bibliography:

The Red Gate, A History of Alexandra, Noble, Gerald W, 1969

¹ Cattlemen of the High Country, Holth Tor, page 10 sourced by Rev George Edwards.

² Victorian Heritage Register 2017

³ Johnson already had the Eglinton Run further north and he and his family farmed part of this land for more than a century – G W Noble.

⁴ Coranderrk, A History of the Aboriginal Station, Massolo, Aldo, 1875 Chapter 2 The Acheron Reserve.

⁵ Ewen brother of Ewen Hugh Cameron also had the Tribhean Store and Hotel, on the original Yarra Track outside Healesville in 1864.