

23rd Nov
1989

BOURKE. - JOHN CONWAY

BOURKE
RIDER

ENQUIRING LETTER FROM CATH DOWLING OF COBURG
(GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF JOHN CONWAY)

JOHN SPENT TIME IN THIS AREA 1847

JOHN WORKED FOR WEDGES.

ENQUIRY RE WATER HOLES IN
EUMMEERANG CREEK.

25 Main St
Coburg 3058
23/11/89

Dear Mr. Dickson

Recently, I was talking to Helen Dingley, and she suggested I contact you with my query.

My great grandfather John Conway Bourke spent some time up to 1847, on properties in Bendalong. In the Victorian Historical Magazine Nov 1963 mention is made of Johnny Bourkes waterholes "Johnny Bourke was a boundary rider employed by the Wedg's and it is said that he always camped on the waterholes at mid day when he was on the Bangholme line - Bourke waterholes - a series of holes in the Cummerung Creek". Also in "Place names of Victoria" by Leo Blake he mentions Johnny Bourkes waterholes". Is there any way of finding out if these waterholes still exist?

John Conway Bourke took the first mail overland in 1838. Joseph Hawdon had the contract and Bourke worked for him

In 1840 Bomke was sent by Howden with cattle and goods from Heidelberg to Sandenong and remained in the latter district for the next six or seven years, working as stockman and foreman for different proprietors. On 16th June 1847 he was given a testimonial from Messrs. Bells and Buchanan, who stated that "Mr John Bomke has been in our employ as overseer for the last fifteen months, and is only now discharged from our having sold the large cattle station of which he had the management to Messrs Hedge Bros" (from the Victorian Historical Magazine June 1927 - an article by A. W. Hieig). In J. B. Bomke's diary, written at the Western Port Hotel in 1858 he said that in 1842 he lived with Mr Dodd of Gardunia (or Gordinia) Creek and in 1843 he left Mr Dodd and came to manage Mr Alfred Langhorne's cattle station. In May, 1847 Bomke left the bush, and married.

For the last three years I have been trying, like so many others to fill in the missing pieces in my great grandfather's life, and have been able to go through

deary and papers at the RHSV, but there's still much to find out.

If you are able to help with the query about the watchholes I'd be most grateful. Also is it possible to find out if Bounke Drive of Melway Street Directory page 133 H 2 is called after him. Handson Drive is close by, so it seems possible. I'm enclosing a copy of a map in his papers, it may not be accurate, but you could be interested. I know its a busy time of the year, and will quite understand if you are unable to follow up these requests. Will enclose some stamps in case you ~~do~~ need them.

Yours sincerely,
Cator Downings.

MRS. C. DOWNING
25 MAIN ST
COBURG 3058.

25 Main St
Belling 3058
2/5/90.

Dear Mr Dickson

Thank you for your letter and information re Johnny Bourke waterholes, and also for the copy of Gippo Land Gate. My apologies for being so late with this letter, but I had hoped to have another look through John Conway Bourke's papers in the Royal Historical Society in case there was anything of interest for your society. If I find any information I'll forward it on.

Enclosing a cheque for \$10.00. Would it be possible to be a subscriber to the magazine.

Thank you once again

Yours sincerely

John Bowling.

... .. Joseph Hawdon had
the contract and Bourke worked for him