

EDEY'S FARM

In 1839, Catherine (Davis) Edey arrived in Melbourne on board the Westminster in the first year sailing ships brought overseas settlers to the recently proclaimed Port Phillip District. By 1846, Catherine & Isaac Edey had established a squatting run & became the first white settlers in todays suburb of Hampton Park & so join that band of pioneer pastoralists, who can be regarded as the true pioneers of the Port Phillip District & perhaps the most successful colonization the world has seen.

As a tribute to the Edey pastoral endeavour, this historical summary records their efforts & coincides with the opening of the Edey's Farm Residential Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The framework for this history of Edey's Farm has been drawn largely on:-

1. Call Back Yesterday - Eumemmerring Parish - book by Jean Uhl.
2. D.J.Mickle, Research Officer, Dandenong Historical Society.
3. The Good Country-Shire of Cranbourne - book by Niel Gunson P.50.
4. The History of Hampton Park - an unpublished transcript by the late Langwarrin historian Roy E.Scott, 1975.
5. I record a special note of appreciation to Mrs. Audrey Farmer of Denistone N.S.W., grand daughter of the late Robert Edey, youngest son of the late Isaac & Catherine Edey. Access to copies of her extensive Edey family research including certificates of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths & depasturing licence and will of Isaac Edey enabled this publication to proceed.
6. Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip - book by R.V.Billis & A.S.Kenyon. P44.
7. Isaac Edey the younger's home (constructed in 1878 & only recently demolished about 1982)- photograph by George Monk of South Oakleigh.

We are indebted to their valuable assistance in making this historical record possible.

EDEY'S FARM

A HISTORY OF HAMPTON PARK'S PIONEER EDEY FAMILY PROPERTY

1846 - 1989

PRODUCED BY A.V. JENNINGS

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A 150th. ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION • CATHERINE EDEY ARRIVED IN MELBOURNE 1839

Cover Photograph - Engraving of Melbourne 1839

PASTORAL BEGINNINGS

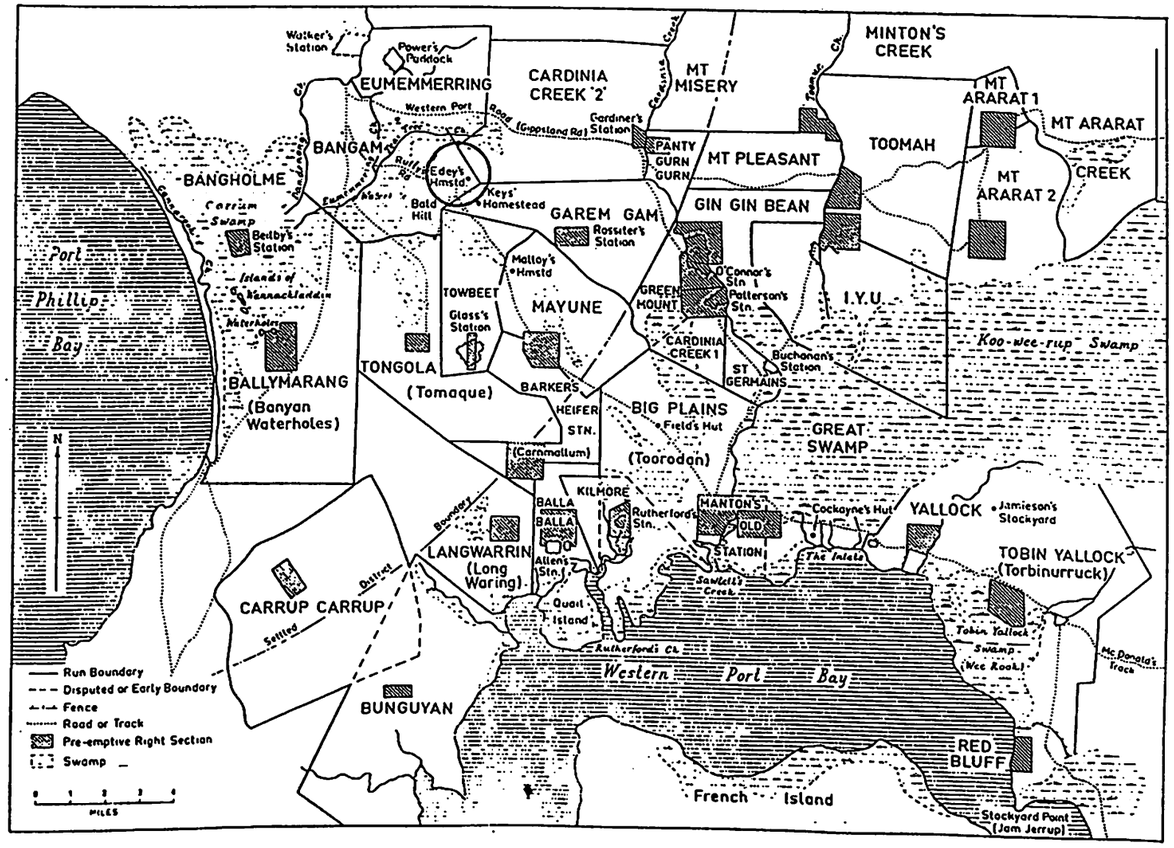
Hampton Park was once part of the great Dandenong Cattle Station selected in 1837 by Joseph Hawdon, who in 1838 sold it to Captain Lonsdale.[1] Dr.F.McCrae purchased it in 1839 & divided the station along the Dandenong Creek and all the east - side was known as Eumemmerring, which is said to be an aboriginal name meaning "a pleasant place".[2]

Eumemmerring extended from todays Heatherton Road, Endeavour Hills in the north to Glassocks Road, Lyndhurst in the south, with an eastern boundary, east of Hallam Road. In 1846, Thomas E. Power took up a large section of Eumemmerring in the north and worked the cattle station for many years and in the south Isaac and Catherine Edey took up a small dairy cattle run at todays Hampton Park. (See page 2 map of squatting runs of Western Port District).[3]

The late Roy E. Scott, local historian referred to Isaac Edey as "The Grand Old Man" of Hampton Park and regarded Hampton Park as "Edey Country" and the "First white man here".[4]

Isaac and Catherine Edey obtained a depasturing licence on 26/5/1846 and took up a cattle squatting run at Mollison's Hill, Eumemmerring, and called it "Mayruck".[5]

In the publication 'Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip',[6] the names of the pastoralists and the runs they occupied from 1834-51 are recorded. The true pioneers of Port Phillip & perhaps the most successful colonisation achievement the world has seen. These pastoral pioneers included women and Catherine Edey's name is mentioned.



Squatting runs, Western Port District · 1850-2[3]

POST EDEY HISTORY

George Taylor quickly sold 'todays Edey's Farm' to Mary Monaham in 1897 for £500 and the next owner was James Wyman in 1898 who paid £700.

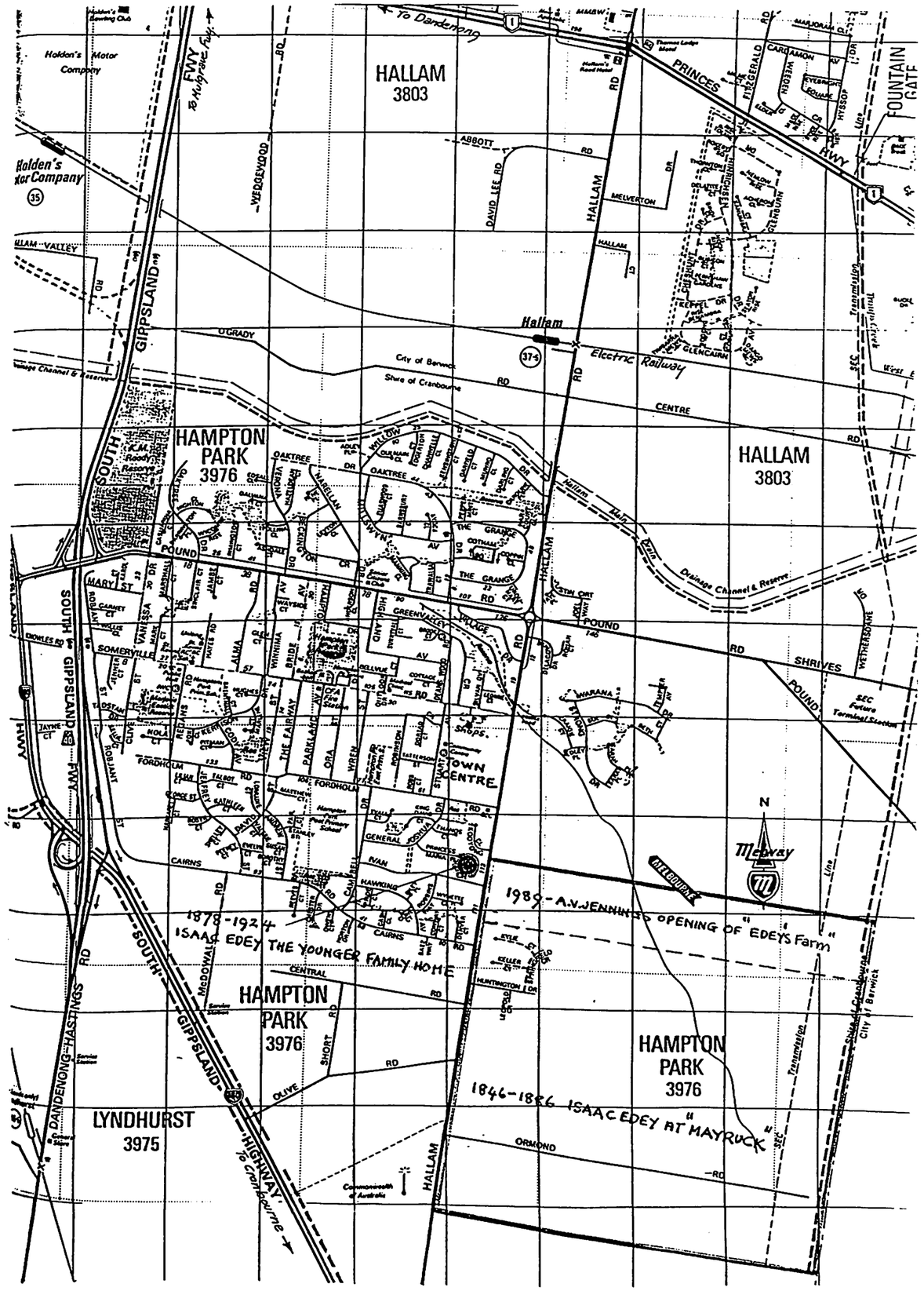
James Wyman, who had been a miner & won yellow gold in the West Australian gold boom put down firm roots. He built a home called "Hillview", the ruins of which can be seen on site today. James continued the dairy cattle use of the land with his cattle producing milk, cream and butter produced in Dandenong.

A typical scene before 1914 would see James driving his horse and milk cart along the rough Hallam Road track, through the redgums and bush to Hallam Station. Just south of the station, 'Break Neck Hill' had to be negotiated, a rough, steep and slippery hill. The milk trains left at 8.00a.m. & 7.00p.m. every day. Lanterns had to burn many long hours in winter to light the way. James grew a lot of feed for the cows which varied from year to year including maize, millet, barley & oats. The hard working horses were given oaten chaff.

James married Edith, who raised two children at Hillview, Bob & Ettie who attended school at Hallam. By 1920, Hampton Park was being subdivided into 5,10 and 20 acre farms. A common sight was to see George Scott, local farmer & plowman with his team of four Clydesdale horses breaking up new soil on these farms. These settlers were poor but honest and hardworking. Some were tradesmen but most worked on the redgum timbers, others worked on the clay deposits at Hallam pits. Some worked in Dandenong or for larger local farmers in splitting posts and firewood from red-gum trees, digging acres of potatoes or other crops & fencing & building sheds. James died on the property in February 1934, followed by his wife and in March 1954 the property was sold to William Ralph for £8463-13 shillings.

William Ralph was a master butcher and he stocked the land with 'vealers' cattle. In June 1971, William sold the property to Arnold & Thelma Cornell, who conducted a mixed farming business including market garden produce.

In October 1987 A.V. Jennings purchased this property for housing development. This future residential population is centred at the historical heart of white settlement in Hampton Park.



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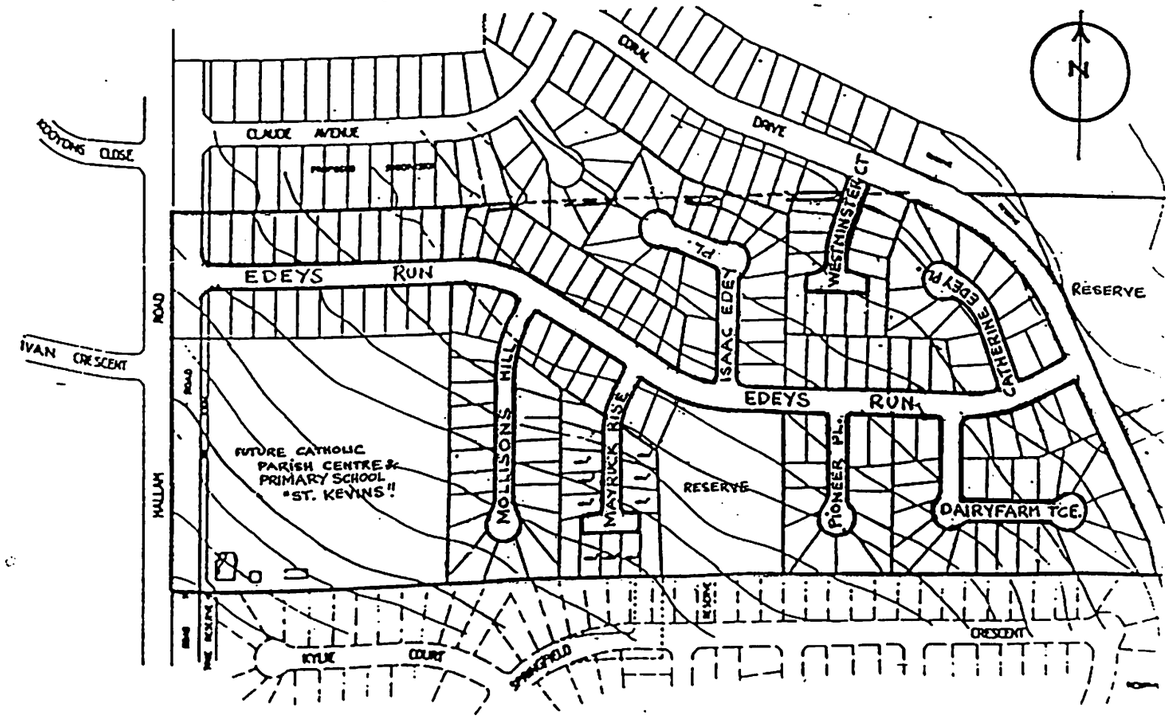
The first stage of A.V.Jennings 'EDEY'S FARM residential community estate opens in 1989 in a central location within Hampton Park.

Hampton Park is a rapidly developing residential suburb 35kms to the south east of the Melbourne G.P.O. and only 5kms from the large Dandenong District centre. Excellent access roads exist including the Mulgrave - South Gippsland Freeway and Princes Highway and Hallam Railway Station is only 2kms to the north.

Edey's Farm will provide scarce, economically priced residential allotments close to existing community facilities. Immediately west of Edey's Farm, within a comfortable walking distance are:- township shopping centre; state primary and post primary schools; kindergarten and community centres. Within Edey's Farm will soon be constructed a catholic parish school and centre.

As a tribute to the pioneer Edey family of Hampton Park and their Mayruck dairy cattle run property on which Edey's Farm now stands, the streets within the early stages of Edey's Farm will be named after significant names associated with this Edey history. See plan below.

Later stages to the east will use street names associated with the 20th century history outlined in this publication.



'Edey's Farm' Residential Estate – Street Names Associated with Edey History.

PASTORAL BEGINNINGS

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EDEY FAMILY 5.

Catherine arrived at Port Phillip on 13/12/1839 in the vessel 'Westminister' from County Cork, Ireland, where she was born about 1819 and named Catherine Davis. Her father was a paper moulder. Isaac was born in Essex, England about 1807 They met at Port Phillip and were married on 25/10/1841 at the original St. James Church of England in Melbourne. Between 1842-4, they were resident in Westernport where their first two children were born, Elizabeth and Catherine (Kate). Mary Ann, John, Isaac the Younger, Joseph and Robert were all born at Mayruck between 1847-1852.

Isaac progressively built an eight room wattle and daub home, with surrounding farm buildings, on the heavily timbered (redgums) upper slopes of Mollison's Hill, fronting a government track which became known as Edey's Road and later called Hallam Road. This home existed till 1920.[4]

On the 7/8/1855 Isaac Edey, at a sale of Crown Lands, purchased what he could afford of his squatters dairy cattle run. He purchased 572 acres at £1/acre and on 5/11/1855 received Crown Grant 37606. Today, Jennings "Edeys Farm" is totally within this Crown Grant and represents 18% of the total land along the total northern boundary. (See location plan on page 4.

By the 1860's there were two other surrounding mainstay pioneer families. Peter Davis, who in 1854 bought the full triangle of land, opposite Isaac Edey, bounded by Cranbourne, Pound and Hallam tracks. A total of 885 acres which was to become the Hampton Park township which developed after 1918. In 1863, David Duncan purchased 156 acres on the north side of the Pound track between Cranbourne & Hallam tracks. All their properties were fenced with red gum posts and nine foot rails.[4]

On 6/1/1875 Catherine died at 'Mayruck' & on the 7/2/1878 Isaac Edey the Younger married the former Mary Ann O'Leary. Her parents had been close friends and witnesses at the marriage of Isaac Edey & Catherine Davis. Mary Ann, with money & belongings from her separate estate, was able to purchase as a wedding present a 20 acre property opposite 'Mayruck', fronting the west side of Hallam Road (just north of where Ivan Crs. is today), on 13/3/1878. Here Isaac the Younger built a 2 room wattle & daub home which grew in size as the family arrived & stood to the early 1980's.



7.

There were 6 Edey children born here, Catherine May (1879), Emily Maud (1880), Lillian Jane (1883), William John (1885), Isaac Percy (1888) & Margaret Mary (1890).

In 1884, Isaac Edey gifted "todays Edey's Farm" to Isaac Edey the Younger & on 10/1/1886 Isaac Edey died. In February 1895 Isaac Edey the Younger sold this land to George Taylor for £340 & so ended about 50 years of continuous Edey pioneering activity on "Mayruck".

The third generation Isaac Percy Edey (1888-1960) lived on with his parents, brother & sisters on their 20 acre property. On 16/6/1924 the children sold the property. Only Emily married and she had no children, so when Isaac Percy Edey died in 1960, so also died this branch of the Edey name. Oldtimers today, who arrived after 1918 at Hampton Park remember this family as honest, hard working and poor except for the land they toiled.[4]