

The first Visit of the early pioneers to Mount Burninyong

Copied from Mr. George Russell's ^{Manuscript Diary} ~~Memoranda~~

During the early spring of 1837 a Government surveyor, a Mr. D'Arcy was sent to the Geelong district to trace on a map the principal rivers and creeks. He followed up the Moorabool river to some little distance above what was afterwards called Moorisons & having received information from the natives about a fine waterfall at the upper part of the river which he called Lal Lal he made up a party to visit it and to explore a little of the country round it. The party consisted of Dr. Thompson of Geelong Mr. David Fisher, Capt. Button (now Lieutenant Colonel Button of the Victorian Volunteers) Mr. Thomas Learmonth Mr. W. Anderson & myself. By arrangement we all met one evening at Mr. Anderson's hut near Russell's bridge where we stopped for the night and started in the morning for Mr. D'Arcy's camp. We got on to his dray tracks & after passing where Meredith is now, arrived at the camp during the afternoon & spent the night there. Mr. D'Arcy having had an extra tent pitched for us, after an early breakfast we started for the falls Mr. D'Arcy giving his men orders to strike the tents to put them & every thing else on the dray & to proceed to Mount Burninyong which was in sight of the camp & to wait at the foot of the Mount until we joined them. When the party left the camp they took no provisions with them expecting to join the men with the dray early in the afternoon. After leaving the camp we kept pretty close to the Moorabool river following it up and passing through some rather thickly wooded & rangy country, reaching the falls about mid. day but there was no water-fall as owing to the dryness of the season the water had not commenced