

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Price Maurice, owner of the Pekina run, acquired Section 383 (86 sq. miles) and Section 448 (128 sq. miles) in 1855. These two sections covered the Oladdie hills and the area from Walloway to Belton. At this time, William Robert Swan was managing the Pekina run, and Oladdie became an outstation.

The fever for more wheat country was becoming uncontrollable and in 1875 the Government held a Royal Commission into the possibility of opening lands beyond Goyder's line. John Ragless, then owner of Yalpara, gave evidence as to the futility of opening up lands north of Goyder's line for agriculture.

However, the Government resumed the land, proclaiming the Hundred of Oladdie on 23rd March, 1876.

The township of Johnburgh was proclaimed on 10th July, 1879 taking its name from the Christian name of Major John Jervis, second son of Governor Jervis.

Settlement took place rapidly with an excellent 1878-79 season. The subsequent drought of 1880-81 had a crippling effect on the growth of Johnburgh.

Past owners of Oladdie Station: P. Maurice, D. Bowman, G. Sherlock, A. Sunman, Bosworth, G. Anesbury, L. Anesbury. The Anesbury name was connected with Oladdie Station for 45 years, the present owner being G. H. Luckraft.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tapscott's family on their Oladdie dairy farm, about 1908.

EARLY AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

The Hundred of Oladdie consists, in brief, of a rugged range of hills on the western half, flanked on the east by a gently rising flat plain extending to the north. The south east quarter is swampy, caused by the accumulation of water drained from the north and hills. This water is in turn carried away by the salt creek system which flows through a gap in the ranges to the east.

Johnburgh township lies some 25 miles north of Goyder's line and has an average annual rainfall over the past 93 years of 272 mm or 10.88". Of the past 93 years, 55 have been below average, thus making yearly cropping basically unsuitable. Unfortunately, such records were not available for our Pioneers and they were forced to work on a year to year basis.

It became evident that the rainfall was insufficient for intensive agriculture and farmers began to diversify toward dairying. The dairy industry grew rapidly from the mid 1890's and by the early 1900's was a major concern. Dairying offered a combination of grazing and cropping with good returns from the cream. Most of the crop was used for fodder, and if a good season prevailed, excess was either stored or the grain sold.

The small farms, most only one square mile, were thus able to maintain full use of the land.

Several successions of lean years, the longest being from the mid 1920's to the mid 1930's brought the end to most cropping and much of the dairying industry. During this period there was a constant drift away from the district, and properties increased in size, thus allowing farmers to turn to grazing as their main source of income.



Strip ploughing near Johnburgh in a drought.



A horse drawn plough.

OLADDIE, JUNE 20.

Seeding operations here are finished, and after the nice rains we have had during the past week the crops will doubtless come on well. The wheat that was sown early is coming up rather patchy, but on the whole there is no cause for complaint. Last week for several days we had very rough stormy weather. The wind was terrific, but I have not heard of any damage being done in this locality. The farmers are busy fencing, building, and well-sinking, and this district will soon assume the aspect of an important farming locality.—As the place is getting settled our wants are beginning to show themselves. We want postal communication, our nearest Post-Office being Ocororo, and a Justice of the Peace is much needed. I do not know of one within 30 or 40 miles. During the past fortnight many scholars have arrived, and others are daily expected.—Kangaroos are very numerous.

OLADDIE, AUGUST 31.

A public meeting was held at Mr. Pope's to-day, at which about thirty farmers were present, to consider several matters of importance to the district. Mr. B. Nolan, who was voted to the chair, moved—"That a memorial be prepared to the Postmaster-General, to consider our postal arrangements with the view of having a Post-Office in this neighbourhood." Seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried. As the settlers here to go a distance of from 12 to 20 miles for their mails, they consider that they are entitled to consideration in this respect. Mr. James McInerney has signified his willingness to act as postmaster, his place being considered about as nearly central. It was then moved by Mr. B. Walker, seconded by Mr. Clapp, and carried—"That a memorial be drawn up and presented to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, asking that several sections in the northern portion of the Hundred be reserved as a timber reserve for the use of the settlers in this locality." It was moved by Mr. Frank Kidd, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Thomas—"That Section 104, which is granted as a township reserve, be surveyed and brought into the market at as early a date as possible." Carried. As there is no township under then Ocororo, it seems only reasonable, as the large blocks are mostly all sold and settled upon, that we should have a township in the Hundred. The Chairman moved, and Mr. Thomas seconded—"That the Government be asked to reserve and declare part of Section No. 104 for secondary purposes." Carried. The next question for discussion was the want of a Justice of the Peace, and it was moved by Mr. Clapp and seconded by Mr. Walker—"That Mr. Thomas Thomas be recommended as a fit and proper person for appointment to the Commission of the Peace." The nearest Justice resides at Yungah, a distance of 40 miles. The last matter was the appointment of a Committee, consisting of Messrs. W. and T. Fulwood, T. Thomas, J. Phillip, and E. Holder, to look out a line of road through the hills to Ocoro.

WARRA WELL, (OLADDIE), MARCH 31.

A meeting was held on March 20 at the store of Messrs. Bishop Brothers, to take into consideration the wants of the inhabitants of Upper Oladdie and Yalgara. Mr. George Rosenfeldt occupied the chair. Mr. Joseph Bishop proposed—"That a memorial be sent to the Government, requesting that the Warra Well and its appliances be put into thorough repair; also, that Messrs. Kew and Beaumont, the members for the district, be entrusted with the presentation of the memorial." The proposition was seconded by Mr. Arthur Clapp, and carried unanimously. There are fully 90 families depending on the Warra Well, which unfortunately is now sinking rapidly. There was 125 feet of water in it a few weeks ago; now there are but 22. Should that fall before the drought, which has been very severe and long-continued, breaks up, it is impossible to imagine what the farmers will do. It was proposed by Mr. James, and seconded by Mr. Thomas—"That a petition be presented to the Commissioner of Crown Lands asking permission to cut timber from any sections that has passed the hammer in the Hundreds of Yalgara and Oladdie, seeing that there is a large proportion of it so heavily timbered as to be entirely unsuitable for agricultural purposes." This motion was also carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. J. Bishop, and seconded by Mr. Thomas, that a memorial should be sent to His Excellency requesting him to grant to the township now being surveyed the name of Playford. The meeting then considered the most desirable spot on which to erect a place of worship. Mr. B. Reynolds kindly offered to present a piece of land opposite the township. This offer was gladly accepted. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.—The want of a Post-Office at Warra Well is very greatly felt, and naturally the people are indignant at not having had one before now. They have to go six miles out of the township for their letters, and though a memorial with eighty-four signatures has been presented to the Postmaster-General, and private individuals have written, it has been all to no purpose. It is to be hoped that such gross injustice will not be inflicted on the people much longer.

JOHNBURGHI, JULY 25.

We have been so fortunate as to have our township gazetted for sale at last, "Johnburgh" is the name in which it rejoices. The sale is to take place on the 7th of August.—We were lately regretting the dry weather and sharp frosts, and the farmers were beginning to think things were looking very queer; but on Wednesday, the 23rd, rain began to fall at 10 a.m. and continued without intermission till 9 p.m.—In the morning on first looking out we saw the ranges west, north-east, and east of Johnburgh capped with snow, rather an unusual sight in the Oladdie Hundred. The snow remained till nearly evening.—The Warra Well, close to Johnburgh township, is to be put in thorough repair at last. This has been long needed, as a great number of families are dependent on it.



An old-time horse drawn harvester at work during a good season.



Extremes of weather were among the hardships faced by farmers in the district. Above is a view of flood waters about 1953.

SCHOOL

In late 1891, Flora McArthur, previously a teacher at the Minburra Plains School, was transferred to the new Johnburgh School. The school was constructed of weatherboard and situated on the southern side of the present church. By 1897, a new school, built of locally quarried stone and bricks from Zanker's kiln, was completed.

The highest recorded attendance at the school was 85 children in 1899. Several times the school was closed through lack of pupils, the longest period being from 1948 to 1959.

The School Committee, inaugurated in 1916, provided most of the outdoor equipment and improvements, while the Welfare Club, active from 1959, added to the library and sports equipment.

The suffocating duststorms experienced probably posed the greatest hardship to both teachers and pupils and the consequential thunderstorms sometimes made it impossible for children to reach school. However, good attendances were maintained, even at a stage when the school had an enrolment of six.

A fine sporting record was achieved in competition with Mookra, Carleton, Hammond, Bruce and other neighbouring schools.

Since the final closure of the school in 1967, children from the Johnburgh area have been conveyed to Orreroo Area School by bus, and the school is now owned by Mr. H. E. Gibb.

TEACHERS

2.1.1891	Flora McArthur
18.1.1897	Walter Buchanan
18.1.1904	Margaret Manning
21.1.1907	Kate Cousin
14.1.1908	W. Phillips
5.12.1910	Ellen McIntyre
15.4.1912	Mary M. Ryan
1.1.1914	Arthur B. Blake
30.8.1915	Mary P. Power
1.2.1916	L. A. Fullston
8.7.1918	Rose M. Nobel
1923	E. Suding
1924	Greta Maynard
28.4.1924	Ernst B. Heyne
16.5.1925	William J. Purkiss
3.4.1929	W. H. Clark

School Closed 5.6.1931 - 26.2.1932

26.2.1932	C. J. R. Hall
17.5.1932	Harvey C. A. Haese
8.2.1938	Cecil R. Pulford

School Closed 28.10.1944 - 13.11.1944

13.11.1944	Verna R. Kitto
5.2.1946	R. J. Barratt

School Closed 19.10.1948 - 10.2.1950

10.2.1959	B. Schupelius
7.2.1961	L. M. Hennig
5.2.1963	R. G. Dowley
4.2.1964	Ian K. Rayner
7.2.1967	W. McCallum

School Closed 15.12.1967.



The students of Johnburgh School in 1959 with their teacher, Mr. B. Schupelius. Back row: Moss Gibb, Dianne Luckraft, Reg Gibb, Virginia Luckraft. Front row: Betty Gibb, Ian Tapscott, Ashley Retallfck, Beverly Hombach, Shirley Hombach.

POST OFFICE-STORE

The Hundred of Oladdie was served by two Post Offices—Oladdie Post Office-Store opened in February 1879, and Johnburgh Post Office-Store opened in July 1879. They had been operating as General Stores from December 1878.

Mail was received twice weekly from Orroroo, when a run was established to Johnburgh via Yalpara. The return mail took cream from the local farmers to the Orroroo Butter Factory. This service was later changed to a direct Orroroo - Oladdie - Johnburgh run. After the establishment of the Bendleby Post Office, Mr. Fred Smith conveyed mail from Johnburgh to Bendleby on horseback. The Orroroo - Bendleby run has existed since then.

JOHNBURGH POST OFFICE-STORE

Opened July 1879	— J. Bishop
July 1880	— P. Yates
February 1881	— J. Carter
June 1881	— E. C. James
January 1890	— J. C. James
April 1891	— W. James
May 1899	— B. Jones

Later owners were Hugh and Bob Gibb. At that time the store was situated on the corner of the Carrieton - Johnburgh road, adjacent to the Hall. In 1924 Bob Gibb built a new store in front of the church manse.

In June 1924 Johnburgh was connected to the Carrieton Telephone Exchange. Mr. C. G. Gibb became the owner in 1948 and ran the store and post office until it closed on 31st December, 1966.

OLADDIE POST OFFICE-STORE

Opened February 1879	— J. M. Asher
April 1880	— R. Halliday
December 1880	— T. Ivey
June 1881	— James McGregor

When Mr. F. R. Tapscott became the owner, he continued postal services until 27th July, 1918.

JOHNBURGH POST OFFICE-STORE



EXTRACTS FROM "THE CHRONICLE"
1878-79

POST-OFFICE STORE, OLADDIE

(Next to Mr. McGregor's).

J. M. ASHER begs to announce to the Inhabitants in and around Oladdie that he has opened a General Store, with a well-assorted Stock of Drapery, Groceries, Ironmongery, Crockery, &c., to be sold at the lowest remunerative prices, and hopes by keeping a constant supply on hand and strictly adhering to his business to merit a share of their patronage. s189-10

POST-OFFICE STORE, OLADDIE.

J. M. ASHER;

In returning thanks to the residents in and around Oladdie for the liberal patronage hitherto bestowed on him, begs to advise them that he has

JUST RECEIVED

A Large and Varied Stock of
DRAPEERY, GROCERY, IRONMONGERY,
CROCKERY, &c.,

Which for Quality and Prices will bear favorable comparison with any Store in the Area. A trial is solicited.

Flour, Bran, Pollard, Starch, &c., always on hand.

Dog Registrar for the Hundred of Oladdie and Yalpara. s189-270

TO THE FARMERS OF OLADDIE,
the adjoining Hundreds and Residents of the North generally.

JOSEPH BISHOP has much pleasure in announcing that he has OPENED A GENERAL STORE at WORMA WELL, OLADDIE, with a useful well-assorted Stock, and is prepared to supply goods at the LOWEST POSSIBLE REMUNERATIVE RATES.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

J. B. also takes this opportunity of thanking his customers that while thanking them for past favors, his Waterloo Business will in future be conducted by Mr. R. J. J. Ockendon, at whose hands they will as usual receive every attention.

Please Note the Address—

WATERLOO AND WORMA WELL,
OLADDIE.

Bishop Brothers, JOHNSBURGH STORE AND POST-OFFICE, HUNDRED OF OLADDIE,

Having received
FRESH SUPPLIES
For their Well-assorted Stock, are prepared to maintain their already
ESTABLISHED REPUTATION

FOR
FAIR PRICES AND GOOD VALUE FOR
MONEY.

New settlers may obtain all requisites,
Registrars of Births and Deaths.
Issuers of Licenses. s228

LIBRARY AND HALL

The Library, constructed of weatherboard, was situated where the present hall stands. Literary debates were held in the library and were popular entertainment for the local residents.

In 1916, the library was moved to the rear of the block, to make way for the first institute. The new Institute, of corrugated iron and timber, provided the district with a meeting place, and a place of entertainment for many years.

It became necessary to build a new Institute and on 25th February, 1959, a ball was held to commemorate the opening of the present Johnburgh Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The Hall was officially opened by Mr. L. D. Miell and was a spectacular occasion with door takings amounting to 69 pounds 12 shillings. The Hall has since been extended, connected to E.T.S.A., and fitted with a ceiling.

CHURCH

By 1883 a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel had been constructed of galvanised iron and timber, situated south of the Hotel. The first recorded Methodist Minister for Oladdie was Rev. J. H. Goss in 1882.

By 1920, the church was becoming costly to maintain, and Mr. C. H. Hombsch donated land for the site of a new church. Mr. S. Simmons was contracted to build the new church of stone from the quarry at Elbow Hill on Oladdie Station. In July 1924, the foundation stone was laid, and the church was opened on 14th September, 1924.

The old church building was auctioned for the amount of 35 pounds. Mr. F. W. Hombsch was an active supporter of the church, being a trustee for 40 years.

The church manse, situated opposite the present church, was used as the Post Office residence, when R. Gibb moved the Post Office - Store to that site.

At that time, Johnburgh was included in the Carrieton, Belton, Bendleby, Yanyarrie and Eurella circuit. At a later date, this was discontinued and Johnburgh became part of the Orraroo circuit.

In its early days, the church was supported by a choir.

Johnburgh Catholics attended the Catholic Church at Bendleby.

PREVIOUS MINISTERS

1882	Rev. J. H. Goss	1914	G. F. Johnson
1883	J. P. Chapman	1917	H. J. Martin
1884	C. W. Genge	1918	I. A. Lock
1885	R. Dunstan	1923	C. L. Meins
1886	W. A. Millikan	1925	F. H. Dodd
1887	A. P. Burgess	1930	Golding
1888	W. A. Gann	1932	Clark
1890	K. Trewren	1934	Brook
1893	W. Hodge	1935	Wibley
1896	H. C. George +	1938	K. Wiseman
1898	A. H. Melbourne	1940	Cornish
1900	S. J. Martin	1942	Tucker
1902	A. Trengove	1950	R. S. Rayner
1903	F. Davis	1952	Hownslow
1906	C. Tresise	1954	P. J. Phillips
1906	J. Shaw	1960	G. A. Moyle
1907	J. C. Richmond	1962	Secombe
1908	F. E. Trotter	1964	G. C. Diprose
1909	R. L. Tilbrook	1969	M. Hopkins
1910	A. V. Mills	1973	B. R. Jones
1911	J. Williams		





The congregation of Johnburgh at the laying down of the foundation stone of their church in 1924.



Sam Anesbury alongside the crushing plant engine at the Barytes mine in the Oladdie Creek.

MINING

The most notable mining activity conducted in the Hundred of Oladdie was the Barytes mining. Barytes deposits were found along the north banks of the Oladdie Creek, downstream from the old Oladdie Homestead.

By the late 1920's, a syndicate of G. Anesbury, McKenzie and Tobin had a crushing and milling plant in operation. A drive, tunnelling into the hill, proved the most successful way of extracting the Barytes. The refining machinery was powered by an impressive 50 h.p. crude oil burner Blackstone motor. This motor was unique in the sense that it was possible to stand a penny on its edge whilst the motor was in operation. The Barytes was transported to Carrieton where it was placed on rail. Mining operations were phased out and the motor was sold and sent to power machinery in Merble Bar, W.A.

The mine lay dormant until the Jeddah Exploration Co. began open cut mining operations in 1970. They had established a refining plant at Orroroo and up to 25 men, backed by large machinery, were employed at the mine. As the Barytes was insufficiently refined, it could not be marketed, causing the closure of the mine.

Kaolin

Kaolin, a fine white china clay was mined in the Oladdie Hills on the property of Mr. W. F. Hombsch by G. Anesbury, Bickfords, chemists of Adelaide, used the clay for a medicinal base.



Kaolin mining in the Oladdie Hills. From left G. Anesbury, Sandy Menheunet, Colin Anesbury and Sam Anesbury.

SPORTS

PICNIC RACES

Picnic Races were a popular event, catering for all age groups. Horses were brought from surrounding areas. The course was located behind the present church on the property of Hombach Bros. The last race meeting was held in 1941 in aid of War services funds.

RIFLE CLUB

The Johnburgh Rifle Club was a branch of the Yanyarrie No. 1 Club, which was the first club formed in S.A. The range was situated in Section 158, Hundred of Yalpara. During its operation, the club used the old Martini Henry rifles of 0,45 calibre.

FOOTBALL

A football team was formed near the turn of the Century and competitive football was played against Eurelia and Carrieton for a short time.

BASKETBALL

A basketball club was formed in Johnburgh in 1948. It entered into competition with Carrieton, Belton, Hammond and Eurelia, playing at that stage on dirt courts. Later Johnburgh joined the Orroroo Association where it was successful in winning several premierships. The club was disbanded in 1967.

TENNIS

Tennis has been the most popular sport played in Johnburgh. It began as a social gathering and later, as interest increased, a club was formed which entered into competition with neighbouring areas. The original dirt courts were situated behind the present hall. In the late 1930's the present asphalt courts were built. The club dispersed in 1971 and donated its funds to the Hall.

TABLE TENNIS

Johnburgh played under the name of Bendleby Table Tennis Club from 1958 and held the premiership for several years.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The C.W.A. ran from 1959 to 1967 and during this time they supported many worthwhile causes, adding to the equipment in the Supper Room of the Hall. When they disbanded their funds were donated to the Hall.



*The Johnburgh football team
just after the turn of the century.*

JOHNBURGH PICNIC REVUE

IN THE PADDOCK KINDLY LOANED FOR THE OCCASION BY MESSRS. HOMESCH BROS.

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1941, Weather Permitting.

PROCEEDS TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN F.F. COMFORTS FUND & RED CROSS.

President, J. Reed. Judges, R. H. Knolly and J. Reed. Starter, E. Merrin. Clerk of Course, S. Luskroff. Clerk of Scales, Robt. Gibb. Stewards, W. Gilman, J. Smith, A. H. Gough, R. H. Gibb, C. H. Gibb, B. A. Humberach, A. Gearty, C. Ansdunry, H. G. Humberach. Committee, J. Reed, S. Luskroff, R. H. Knolly, H. G. A. Merrin, R. H. Gibb, C. H. Gibb, J. Smith, E. Merrin, G. Carter, W. Gilman, A. H. Gough, J. Chalmers, R. Luskroff, J. Merr, C. Ansdunry, H. G. Humberach, W. F. Humberach, Robt. Gibb, J. Gibb, L. Ansdunry, G. Reed, C. J. Ansdunry, G. Luskroff, J. Luskroff, A. Gearty, B. A. Humberach, R. Pullford.

First Race Starts 1 p.m.

PROGRAMME

First Race Starts 1 p.m.

- 1. Sheffield Handicap.**
100 yards. 1st, 10/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/6.
- 2. 1st Class Hocks.**
4 furlongs. 1st, 4/1; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/6.
- 3. Young Ladies' Race Handicap.**
50 yards. 1st, 5/4; 2nd, 2/4. Entrance 6d.
- 4. 2nd Class Hocks.**
3 furlongs. 1st, 15/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/4.
- 5. Boys' Race Handicap.**
(under 15 years), 75 yds. 1st, 5/4; 2nd, 2/4. Entrance 6d.
- 6. 3rd Class Hocks.**
3 furlongs. 1st, 15/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/4.
- 7. Girls Race Handicap.**
(under 15 years), 50 yds. 1st, 5/4; 2nd, 2/4. Entrance, 6d.
- 8. Trotting Handicap.**
1 mile (all horses must be ridden). 1st, 15/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/4.
10/- TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR CHILDREN'S RACES.
- 9. Bowling of Stump.**
13 bowls 6d. 1. 1st, 5/4.
- 10. Pony Race.**
3 furlongs (14.2 hands and under). 1st, 15/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/4.
- 11. Boys' Handicap.**
(under 10 yrs.), 50 yds. 1st, 2/4; 2nd, 1/4. Entrance 3d.
- 12. Tilting (Men).**
1st, 10/4; 2nd, 2/4. Entrance 1/4.
- 13. Girls' Race Handicap.**
(under 10 yrs.), 50 yds. 1st, 2/4; 2nd, 1/4. Entrance 3d.
- 14. Tilting (Ladies).**
1st, 5/4; 2nd, 2/4. Entrance 6d.
- 15. Consolation Horse Race.**
(For all horses which have been classified, but have not received any prize money for the day). 1st, 15/4; 2nd, 5/4. Entrance 1/4.

RULES—Admission all Side Shows 10/-. Horse Events—All horses debarréd that have won or received over £1 (or trophy to that value) or are owned by persons whose property does not come within a radius of 13 miles of racecourse. All horses to be approved and classified by stewards. Minimum weight 11 stone. All events post entry. All protests to be in writing, accompanied by 2/4, to be in hands of Secretary within 10 minutes after race; fee to be forfeited if protest deemed frivolous. Entries received only on conditions that decision of stewards shall be final. In all events three to start or no race. S.A.J.C. Rules adhered to where practicable. No dogs allowed on ground.

Admission to Grounds: Adults 1/4, Children 6d.

SAVELOTS AND ROLLS OBTAINABLE ON GROUND.

PUBLICAN'S BOOTH.

COOL DRINKS, FRUIT, SWEETS

TEA WILL BE SERVED IN THE JOHNBURGH HALL FROM 4.30 P.M.

GRAND BALL AND SUPPER in the EVENING

EXCELLENT MUSIC AND GOOD FLOCF.

ADMISSION 2/- AND 1/4.

Printed at the "Orion Enterprise" Office.

B. A. Humberach and R. Pullford, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

HOTEL

Opened in 1892 by W. H. Tremain. Before the first hall was built, Quadrilles were danced in the hotel.

It was a booming business in its early days until trade slackened and it was finally closed during the First World War. The hotel was one of the best built buildings in Johnburgh, and its size was an indication of the expected growth of the area.

Owners:

H. Reynolds
C. F. W. Zanker
B. Crabb
Thomson
W. Gillard

BLACKSMITH

Mr. Fred Smith, a machinist, had established the first blacksmith shop in Johnburgh by 1899. The shop, constructed of corrugated iron and timber, was situated opposite the present church.

His business was mainly connected with the repair, overhaul and remodelling of agricultural machinery. The hard virgin soil took its toll on both horses and machinery and Mr. Smith played a key part in the agricultural development of Johnburgh district, becoming a prominent citizen through his work.

As the land was diversified more toward grazing, his business gradually phased out.

SADDLER

Mr. H. E. Becker operated as a saddler in Johnburgh for a short time after 1898. Local farmers were unable to afford his services due to unfavourable seasonal conditions, forcing him to leave the district.

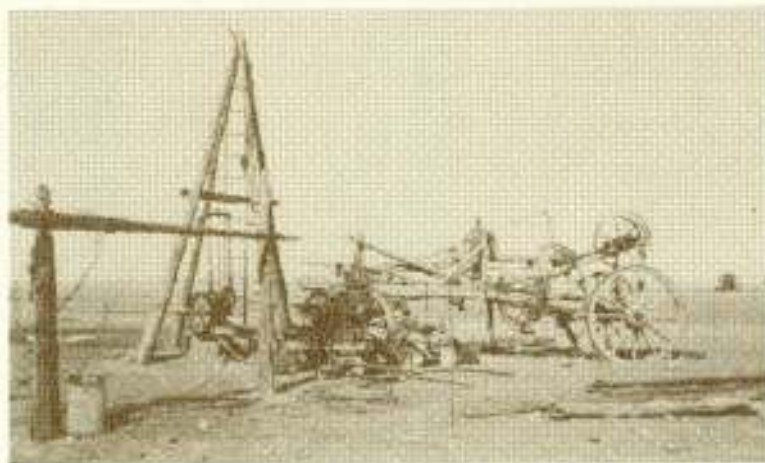
INNOVATIONS

The lack of natural water holes in the Johnburgh area posed a problem for its early inhabitants. From this emerged many innovations and attempts to overcome the problem. As the township had no access to natural waters, a Worna Whim Well provided its first reliable supply. Water was drawn from the well by horse and bucket.

It was found that surface dams were unreliable due to climatic conditions and the need for many wells was evident. Well sinking was a costly, laborious, dangerous and often unsuccessful task. Because of this, men like Ron and Cliff Gibb, built their own boring plants. These men had the pioneering resourcefulness which made it possible to construct their plant from immediately available timber and scrap iron.

They also built a lightweight tractor, using an "Overland" car as a base. The rear wheels were removed and replaced with reaper pinnions, which, in turn, drove the geared wheels from a reaper.

Innovations such as these helped men overcome some of the many hardships encountered in the early days.



Boring plant made by Cliff and Ron Gibb.



Tractor made from Overland car, made by Cliff and Ron Gibb.

ANNUAL RAINFALL

(mm's)

1883	254	1914	162	1945	240
1884	274	1915	200	1946	396
1885	197	1916	307	1947	383
1886	265	1817	461	1948	163
1887	285	1918	233	1949	274
1888	153	1919	282	1950	465
1889	412	1920	502	1951	233
1890	355	1921	618	1952	320
1891	228	1922	334	1953	239
1892	278	1923	358	1954	230
1893	250	1924	250	1955	395
1894	292	1925	193	1956	406
1895	232	1926	240	1957	163
1896	136	1927	168	1958	368
1897	133	1928	206	1959	182
1898	187	1929	214	1960	273
1899	247	1930	260	1961	184
1900	219	1931	246	1962	236
1901	230	1932	245	1963	198
1902	111	1933	246	1964	246
1903	351	1934	247	1965	142
1904	272	1935	178	1966	259
1905	207	1936	239	1967	79
1906	362	1937	362	1968	398
1907	289	1938	239	1969	286
1908	332	1939	333	1970	265
1909	316	1940	77	1971	339
1910	417	1941	212	1972	199
1911	248	1942	204	1973	525
1912	290	1943	162	1974	741
1913	206	1944	133	1975	428

Average rainfall for 93 years: 272 mm or 10.88".

NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE JOHN BURGH DISTRICT

ACKLAND
ANESBURY
ARNOLD
ASHER

BATTERSBY
BISHOP
BOSWORTH
BOOTHBY
BOWMAN
BRAY
BRERETON
BROOK
BROWN
BURNS
BUTTERFIELD

CARTER
CHALMERS
CLAPP
COLEMAN
COLIGAN
CRABB

DALY
DAVILL
DEER
DEMPSEY
DIPROSE
DOWD
DUFF
DUNN

FENNESSEY
FOGDEN
FULWOOD
FORRESTER

GANGELL
GEORGE
GIBB
GILLARD
GILLET

GOORTY
GOLDFINCH
GROCKE
GROVES

HALLIDAY
HARDAKER
HILL
HINCHY
HOLDER
HOFFMAN
HOMBSCH

VEY

JAMES
JOHNSON
JONES

KINDLEY
KING

LAWSON
LUCKRAFT
LYNCH

McADAM
McBEATH
McGREGOR
McKENZIE
McRITCHIE
MOSELEY
MASTERS
MAY
MEAD

NAPPER
NEWERTH
NUTT

OBST

PARIS
PARSONS
PARTRIDGE
PERKINS
PHILLIS
POLDEN
POTTER

QUINN

RAYNER
READ
REED
RENFIELD
RETALICK
REYNOLDS
ROBERTS
ROEHRICH
ROWE

SAMPSON
SCHMIDT
SCOTT
SILVEY
SIVIOUR
SMEDLEY
SMITH
SOLLY
SPARKS
STOKES

TAPSCOTT
TEAGUE
THOMAS

WALKER
WILLIAMS
WILLIAMSON
WHITE
WILSON

YATES

ZANKER