

## Q

*What argument can be offered for perpetuating at the cost of suffering the names of the placemen of the hour any more than those of Hog Bay or Jolly Town, or Sheoak Log, or of Carrie or Amy, and the other emasculated appellatives which disfigure our country's map?*

(Register, 20 September 1887, page 7f)

**Qualco** - A post office, 16 km North-West of Ramco, opened on 1 January 1908 by N. Morgan, it closed on 23 August 1909; reopened on 31 October 1922 on section 13 NW it closed in March 1965; a photograph is in the *Chronicle*, 8 September 1928, page 40; the **Qualco School** opened in 1900 and closed in 1945.

The only available clue to its derivation is that **Qualco Hut** appears on early maps on section 13, Hundred of Waikerie, and believed to have been used by shepherds on Thurk Station. Rooms were added and, about 1897, it became the home of Captain James Patchey and his wife, Martha (*nee* Brand).

**Quarpena Waterhole** - On section 679, Hundred of Binnum. Aboriginal for 'wood duck egg place'.

**Queen Bend** - North-West of Renmark where the name appeared first on a survey map of A.B. Cator's pastoral lease no. 95 of 1851. (*See Renmark*)

**Queensbury** - An 1882 subdivision of part section 425, Hundred of Yatala, by Charles David Aston, agent of Port Adelaide; now included in Hendon.

The name comes from Yorkshire, England, where it 'is a late name which seems to have been given in 1863.'

**Queenscliffe** - Laid out on part section 3, Hundred of Menzies, by E.D. Chapman in 1883 and on 19 September 1940 it became 'Kingscote'. In support of its creation it was said that 'owing to the almost total failure of crops in the great bulk of the northern areas through the defective rainfall':

The attention of South Australia is being more and more directed to Kangaroo Island in which a rainfall of over 20 inches can be relied on every year in addition to heavy dews... It has been quite common for many years past to reap crops of 30 bushels of wheat and 50 to 60 bushels of barley to the acre...

In 1884, a correspondent said that there was one lodging house in Queenscliffe:

The proprietor of which has been granted a hotel licence, which, however, has not yet come into force, but does not speak in very high terms of the accommodation provided... [It] exists largely on paper, but it possesses a post and telegraph office, a butcher's shop, an empty store, the lodging house aforementioned, besides two or three private houses.

It is to have a police station and a church (curious that these should arrive simultaneously) and the residents assert that there is to be a jetty. I had to hear the rival claims of Brownlow and Queenscliffe to this last structure. The amount of jealousy which these two baby communities have managed to develop on the question is surprising...

The **Queenscliffe School** opened in 1885 and became 'Kingscote' in 1904. (*See Brownlow*)

A photograph of the Flinders' obelisk is in the *Chronicle*, 5 April 1902.

**Queens Own Town** - In the Hundred of Kondoparinga, surveyed in August 1867 and named by the Acting-Governor, Lt-Colonel Hamley, the Commander of the Queen's Own 50th Regiment, who arrived in South Australia on 9 August 1867 in the troop transport *Haversham*.

It has been 'Finniss' since 1940 - The town's railway station was known always as 'Finniss'.

In 1869, the opening services in connection with a new Wesleyan Chapel were 'celebrated last Sunday when sermons were preached morning and evening by our old and respected minister, Rev M. Wilson... The building is of plain brickwork and is intended for the double purpose of chapel and day school...' (*See Hamley Bridge*)

**Queenstown** - On 5 July 1848, the following notice appeared in the *Register*:

**Queenstown** - This very desirable and valuable property is now being surveyed and laid out in frontages to the new Port Road, in allotments suitable for residences or business purposes. Selections having been already made, immediate application is necessary to Henry Simpson & Co, Port Adelaide.

It was laid out into 209 allotments by Edward Stephens, manager of the South Australian Banking Company, extending along either side of what is now known as Long Street and beyond the extent of this street to the junction of the old and new Port roads. The original plan shows it as **Queen's Town** and, no doubt, honours Queen Victoria.

In 1857, a meeting of residents was held at Leslie's school room:

To take into consideration the expediency of petitioning Parliament, now assembled, to erect forthwith a Lock-up and also to appoint four policemen to protect the properties and persons of the inhabitants...

Disreputable characters were known to be located in the neighbourhood; several cases of petty theft and one or two cases of sticking-up on the road had occurred...

A further subdivision adjoining Queenstown on part section 441 was created on 14 February 1855 by Osmond Gilles and, in 1858, Richard Bowen Colley subdivided allotments 5, 6 and 9 to 12 inclusive of that subdivision.

**Little Queenstown** was laid out by Osmond Gilles on part section 341 in 1858.

The name **Queenstown** was applied, also, to a subdivision of sections 355-57, Hundred of Lacepede, in 1882 by James Cooke, but the plan is endorsed 'not to be used.' (*See Kingston, SE*)

**Queerbiddie Waterhole** - Near Innamincka is a corruption of the Aboriginal *kuyabidi* - 'fish hole'. In this instance *bidi* has a deeper significance referring to the hole or orifice of birth or emanation of the fish into local mythology. Hence, the true translation may be more accurately stated as 'the original birthplace of fish'.

**Quin Rock** - Near Cape Gantheaume on Kangaroo Island, named by Captain Bloomfield Douglas in 1857, after Hugh Quin (1817-1896), a former Harbor Master at Port Adelaide, who arrived in the *Cygnets* in 1836.

**Quirke, Hundred of** - In the County of Chandos, proclaimed on 30 January 1969. P. H. Quirke, Minister of Lands, born in 1899, came to Parliament as a Labor member in 1941, but resigned from the Party in 1948 following disqualification from Party membership for twelve months because of his attitude to a referendum on price control. He continued as an Independent and, in August 1962, joined the Liberal and Country League, following which he was rewarded with the portfolio of Minister of Lands in January 1963.

**Quondong** - A corruption of 'quandong', the native peach (*Santalum acuminatum*); the flesh of this fruit is sweet and palatable and was eaten in great quantities by the Aborigines who sometimes pressed its flesh into cakes. (*See Peachy Belt*) The 'Quondong Run' was established by Thomas Elder in 1869 (lease no. 1822), while **Quondong** Post Office North-East of Burra; opened in September 1884 and closed in April 1907.

The need for a mail service for this district '110 miles North-East of Burra' was discussed in 1884 when the government was 'urged that a weekly mail service, either by horse or coach, be established between the Burra and Quondong':

The pastoral leases to the East and North-East of the Burra had had no mail service at all, although the country was permanently settled... The lessees who would be served held between 3,000 and 4,000 square miles of country... and there were six shearing stations, the clip from which reached as high as 1,400 bales...

**Quondong Vale** - (*See Gallagher Dam*)



Mail arriving at Quondong Station - circa 1912



Quorn railway station

**Quorn** - The town, proclaimed on 16 May 1878, was named after Quorndon in Leicestershire, England, written in 1246 as *querendon* - 'hill where mill-stones were got'. The **Quorn** School opened in 1879.

The *Oxford Illustrated Dictionary* says of the English namesake that the name was applied to 'a celebrated pack of foxhounds hunting in Leicestershire, named after "Quorndon Hall" where the kennels now are.'

Rodney Cockburn says that the Governor's private secretary, Mr J.H. B. Warner, hailed from Leicestershire and 'succeeded to estates there during his residence in South Australia' while the Adelaide press opined that 'the local tradition is that the name was chosen by a private secretary to Governor Jervois, who saw in the northern country a similarity to the famous hunting country of the English midlands':

Perhaps he did. But my imagination can picture no likeness between the dry north of South Australia and the moist landscape through which the Scar meanders lazily, oblivious of the baying of the famous hounds. My own opinion is that Mr Warner, the gentleman in question, suggested the name to His Excellency because about that period he succeeded to the family estates in Quorndon.

For many years after being opened up Quorn was the 'jumping off' place for northern exploring expeditions. That is how Depot Creek close by got its name. The extension of the railway to Alice Springs has robbed it of that distinction these times, but when I was there several overland parties bound for The Granites goldfield were making it their headquarters.' It was in the days before the railway came that Quorn led the most romantic portion of existence - the days of the teamsters.

Good fellows all, hard workers, hard drinkers, hard livers, masters of a lurid vocabulary, they made the old town resound to the cracking of their long whips by day, and the strange melodies of their raucous voices by night. With no thought of the morrow, they lived life as it was supposed to be lived - Bohemians of the road, and masters of the trackless wilds.

One of the most tragic episodes of this country was the murder in 1852 of James Brown. He was one of four brothers - the others were Thomas, Robert and Samuel - who had a station in the vicinity of Mt Brown. James was a new chum as far as northern conditions were concerned. He had been sent up from his father's property at Willunga to assist his brothers, owing to the absence of labour due to the exodus of men to the newly discovered goldfields in Victoria.

He had only been a short time on the property, and was minding a flock some distance from the homestead, when one night his dog came home without him. That was an ominous sign. All hands were turned out to search. His body was found without difficulty. He had been attacked by natives who wanted the sheep, and had been beaten to death with waddies.

The body was buried in the bush on the site of the crime. You may still see the decaying fence around the grave, which marks the spot today. The murder created much indignation among the whites. Neighbours from stations miles around turned out to hunt down the murderers. The chase lasted several days over

rough country before the pursuers came up with the enemy. The blacks numbered 200 and their camp covered about two acres.

They had stolen 700 sheep. The camp was littered with the remains of slaughtered animals where the savages had held a feast. As soon as the blacks saw the whites they made for the rocks, where they hoped to escape pursuit in the rough country. But the whites were in no mood for fooling. They tracked the murderers with grim determination. Fortunately for the niggers, a police officer was in charge of operations and the party had to be satisfied with the apprehension and execution of the actual murderer. Such punishment in the circumstances was too lenient. But, of course, it was the law. (*See Brown, Mount*)



Wolesley Car on Pinkerton Flat at Quorn

One of the early settlers of the district was Henry John Richman (1825-1902), who took up the pastoral run, 'Itali Itali' near Mount Brown in 1851.

In 1879, it was resolved that the government be asked to place a sum upon the Estimates for the erection of a police station at Quorn: It was pointed out that the funds voted for a police station at Saltia might now be applied to one here instead, the opening of the railway through the Pichi Richi Pass having driven very much of the traffic off the road and caused a great decrease in the population and trade of that place...

The necessity of obtaining a piece of ground for a cemetery was next discussed. It was stated that during two months only four persons had died and they had been buried in the cemetery to the South-East of the township. Mr Harris, however, explained that the graves were situated on the park lands, much too close to the township... [See *Pichi Richi Pass, Richman Creek & a reference under Pinkerton Plains.*]

In an editorial of 12 May 1880 the *Advertiser* said:

Typhoid is not the only disorder that has risen at Quorn from the disgustingly unclean condition of the township and the outrageous violation there of the most ordinary sanitary rules... There were unpaved, filthy pigsties, accumulations of house refuse even in the streets, pigs and goats at large, heaps of manure fresh and in all stages of decomposition, and not a single load of refuse had been removed for two years. It was, in fact, the dirtiest township the inspector had seen for several years.



Quorn Railway Station Sheds – circa 1880



English comedian, Tommy Trinder, who acted in 'Bitter Springs' that was filmed near Quorn – Federal Opposition leader, Robert Menzies and South Australia's Premier, Thomas Playford, at right.

'Larrikinism' was reported in the *Register*, 5 January 1911:

The offenders seemed to defy the police, threw stones, rang the Railway Station bell, upset the footboards at the street crossings, threw bricks and stones on roofs... called out insulting remarks to the two policemen, removed doorsteps and gates (including the one from the Court House), old wheels, tanks, one reaping machine, sliprails, and so on, from yards into the street, upset troughs, signboards, and anything movable they could lay their hands on, and some used disgusting language and hooted...

These were not a pack of boys, but mostly young men and some were married men... Surely this matter will not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Photographs are in the *Observer*, 19 March 1921, page 26, *Chronicle*, 14 July 1932, page 32, of the school on 27 July 1933, page 37, 3 August 1933, page 37, 24 October 1935, page 32, of 'Blondin at Quorn' in the *Pictorial Australian* in October 1894, page 169, of R. Thompson's ironmonger's shop in February 1895, page 21, of a football team is in the *Observer*, 4 August 1906, page 30

A photograph of 'Miss Quorn', Miss Morna Brown, is in the *Chronicle*, 27 October 1928, page 41, of a band on 15 August 1935, page 34, of members of a rifle club on 9 July 1936, page 35, of a railway ambulance team in the *Observer*, 13 November 1920, page 24, of farm houses destroyed by lightning on 17 September 1921, page 28, of the 'Back to Quorn' committee in the *Chronicle*, 25 August 1928, page 56.