



PENFOLDS WINES PTY. LTD.

Vignerons, Wine & Spirit Merchants

MAGILL, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE

31-9184

TELEGRAPHIC & CABLE ADDRESS

"PENFOLDS" ADELAIDE

AJB/DT

18th November, 1966

Mr. R.F. Hamilton,
Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards Pty.Ltd.,
Box 350C G.P.O.,
ADELAIDE. S.A.

Dear Bob,

My apologies for taking so long to answer your letter to Max regarding the history of the Eden Valley Cellars. However all of this has taken a little time and, even now, the information we can let you have is very sketchy.

As far as can be ascertained (and this should be checked if possible) the original flour mill was owned and built by B. Walker and Sons who at present have a flour mill at Mannum.

A Mr. Buckenfield (initials not known but could perhaps be checked by contacting Mr. Clive Buckenfield, a grandson, at Dependable Motors, Enfield) bought the mill as a going concern from Walker & Sons - date of purchase not known. This mill was later burnt down (again dates are not known) and Mr. Leslie Penfold Hyland bought the ruins.

The building of the present Winery, which then included a still house, was commenced in 1920 and completed in 1922. The decision to build a Winery at Eden Valley was a result of the post war expansion of the vine growing areas in the Eden Valley and Springton Areas.

Mr. Jim Warner, who later became Cellar Foreman here at Magill and eventually retired after completing sixty four years with the Company, was in charge of operations at Eden Valley from 1922 to 1932.

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In 1932 the Cellars were closed down and did not re-open until July 1941 when Mr. T.W. (Ted) Oster was appointed Manager. Mr. Oster who is still employed by the Company here at Magill has an interesting photograph of the original flour mill which he will lend should you be interested.

As road transport facilities increased all grapes purchased in the area went direct to the Nuriootpa Cellars and Eden Valley became a store house for Brandy and Flor Sherry.

It is interesting to note that the first commercial production of Flor Sherry in Australia was at the Eden Valley Cellars in 1941.

In October of 1961 the Cellars gain became non-operation, other than for the storage and maturation of Brandy, and this was the position at the time your Company purchased the land and buildings.

Sorry Bob but this is all we have on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
PENFOLDS WINES PTY.LTD.


A.J. Bateup
Assistant State Manager