

## Mark Hamilton

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**From:** Mark Hamilton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 March 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** Peter Brinkworth (pioneersa@chariot.net.au)  
**Subject:** Corrigenda to my article on "South Australia's 'First Family' of Wine"  
**Attachments:** Book - Recollection pages 57-59.pdf; KIPA Position Statement 002.pdf; Duke of York Wikipedia.pdf

**SaveToDatabase:** 0  
**SentItem:** -1

Dear Peter

I refer to the *corrigenda* in the Autumn 2017 edition of *The Pioneer*.

The assertion by Ms Anthea Taylor, Secretary of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association, that the *Duke of York* was actually a barque and not a brigantine is something of a moot point. The *Duke of York* was a three masted barque that was built in Bideford in 1817 as a two mast brig. I **attach**, for your information, a copy of the Wikipedia page for the *Duke of York* (1817) ship.

Ms Taylor also asserts that it is the KIPA position that it is more likely that William Holmes Hamilton arrived on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* at Holdfast Bay on 13 October 1837 than he arrived on the *Duke of York* at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island in 1836.

Firstly, the assertion by Ms Taylor that this is the position of KIPA is, in fact, inaccurate. I **attach** a copy of Position Statement 002 of KIPA, which, under the heading "Conclusion", reports that the sub-committee of that organisation charged with investigating what is described as "the evidence", could not achieve a consensus as to how and when William Holmes Hamilton first arrived in South Australia. Consequently, the position of KIPA is only that any contemporary accounts which report William Holmes Hamilton (Snr) to have arrived on the *Duke of York* need to be treated with caution.

In ordinary parlance, there is no reasonable doubt that William Holmes Hamilton arrived at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island, on the *Duke of York* in 1836. All available primary and secondary documentary evidence is consistent with that statement as a hypothesis. All other evidence can be interpreted in a manner consistent with the hypothesis.

The primary evidence is:

- 1 William Holmes Hamilton was on the ship manifest. This manifests an intention by him, firstly, to travel on the *Duke of York* to South Australia, and secondly, evidences him having made arrangements to do so.
- 2 Secondly, as I understand it, many on the *Duke of York* settled on Kangaroo Island, including establishing Kingscote.
- 3 Consistent with this, William Holmes Hamilton settled on Kangaroo Island, living there all his adult life. By the time of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 7 February 1910, William Holmes Hamilton was living on *Dover Farm* at Emu Bay, Kangaroo Island, then worked by his son William.
- 4 The contemporary and continuing understanding in the family is that William Holmes Hamilton did arrive at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island, on the *Duke of York* in 1836. He travelled back to Dover, England, reporting on the prospects of the colony, before arriving in the colony with his family at Holdfast Bay on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* on 13 October 1837. This history has been passed on down the generations. Importantly, William lived long enough to know my grandfather's generation (Frank Eric

Hamilton). For example, my great grandfather, Frank Hamilton Snr travelled to Kangaroo Island on 7 February 1890 to celebrate William's birthday with him. I **attach**, for your information, a copy of pages 57 to 59 of a book "Recollection" of Sydney Holmes Hamilton, who I knew well, and who died on 22 July 1987. Syd was my great-uncle.

- 5 The direct accounts of William Holmes Hamilton himself of arriving on the *Duke of York*, which were reported in newspapers in his old age. These are referred to in the attached Position Statement of KIPA.

The impression I get from the deliberations of the sub-committee of KIPA is not so much that the sub-committee disputed any of these facts, where they were known to it, but more that it was moved by a lack of a completely intact documentary trail. I would respectfully suggest that, in terms of historical research and hypothesis, this is about as compelling a set of evidence as you will normally get. In terms of the absence of certain pieces of documentary evidence, that can be explained by absence of record keeping or poor record keeping. More likely, it can be explained by the failure to locate records amongst relevant archives. For example, mis-filing, clerical error, oversight, illegibility etc.

From a research point of view, one appropriate (triangulation) test would be to put forward the direct alternate hypothesis – that William Holmes Hamilton did not arrive at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island, on the *Duke of York* in 1836. Having set that hypothesis, one would then try to identify all evidence which tended to prove or disprove that hypothesis. From this perspective, there is no direct evidentiary evidence that tends to prove the hypothesis.

Having said all of this, there is no requirement for KIPA to accept or determine the issue one way or the other. It has no jurisdiction to determine history. It appears that the sub-committee implicitly agreed with this.

I believe that the evidence is, in fact, compelling. The Hamilton family certainly accept it as an accurate historical fact. KIPA do not contend for any different historical version.

I am not requesting you to print or do anything unless you wish to. I just wish to put these matters on your record.

Regards

**Mark Hamilton**

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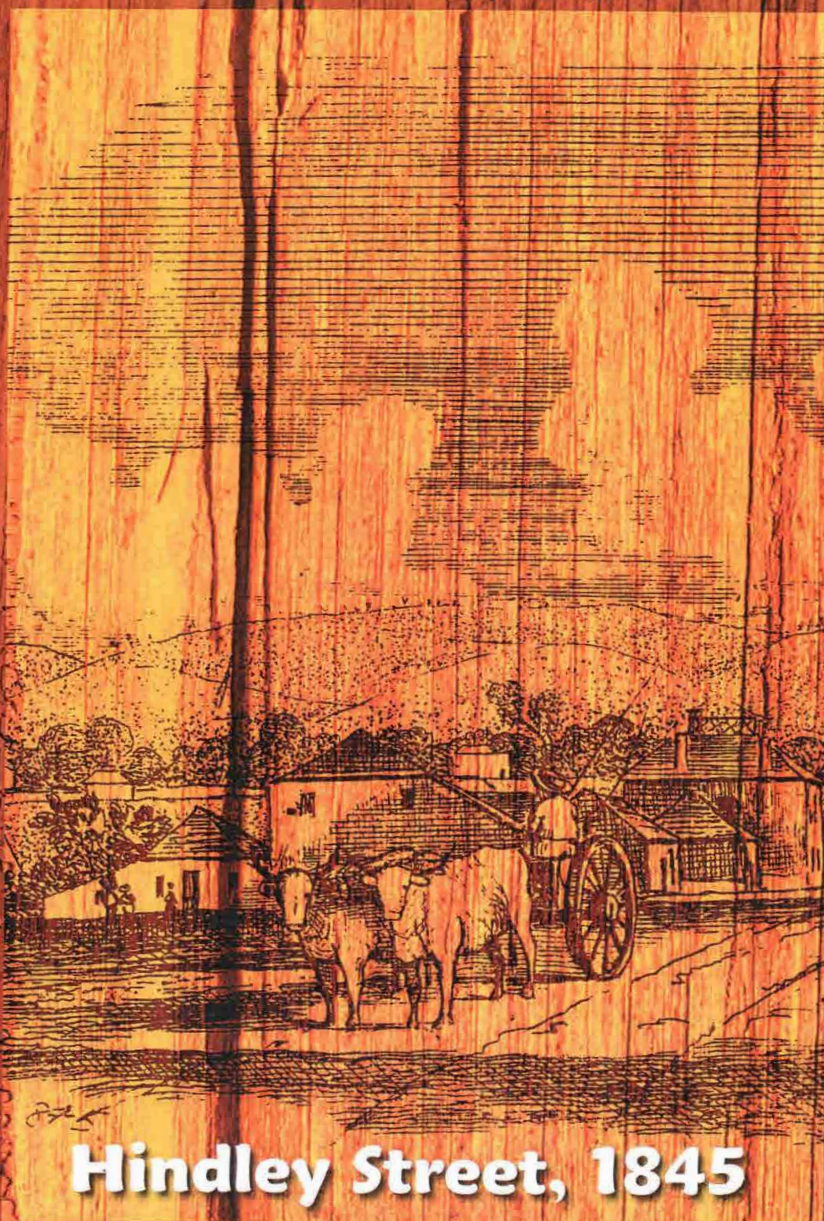
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# The Pioneer

The Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc  
Founded 1935 Journal



**Hindley Street, 1845**

No 241

Autumn 2017



## Some Symmetry Explained

*cont from page 3*

the colony, be properly recognised. He remains in history as the father of the secret ballot, the first to repeatedly call for universal suffrage in Britain including the vote for both men and women (circa 1834), and perhaps the greatest ever writer on Greek history. He also had a hand in the formation of London University and became Chancellor of this prestigious academic institution.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield conceived of the underlying theory of systematic colonisation. Every town acre block of land in the utopian city was to be sold according to his central principle of a just price. Moreover, monies raised were to be used to sustain an Emigration Fund in support of the Colony. Sometimes touted as the father of the British Commonwealth, his colonization principles have been enshrined and canonised as a watershed in British Colonial Policy ever since. However, Wakefield was far from perfect. He spent three years in Newgate for a heinous crime – the abduction and illegal marriage to a 15-year-old heiress.

Nevertheless, I would argue that the four people named on the day whose paths could not be crossed were King William IV, George Grote MP, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and, in North Adelaide, the Duke of Wellington.

*To be continued in the next Journal*

## Corrigenda ...

With regard to Mark Hamilton's article on "South Australia's 'First Family' of Wine", we have received a communication from Anthea Taylor, Secretary of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association (KIPA), pointing out that the Duke of York was actually a barque and not a brigantine. Furthermore, the KIPA believes that William Holmes Hamilton more likely arrived on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* in 1837 rather than on the *Duke of York* (see [sites.google.com/site/kipaview/ps/ps002](https://sites.google.com/site/kipaview/ps/ps002)). We thank Anthea for that clarification.

## ... and a Question

Kingsley Ireland has raised the following question:

BBC News recently reported a family in Yorkshire which claimed to be the only British family spanning six generations.

Do you have any examples in your tree where six generations of a family were alive at the same time?



## William Drayton, Property Tycoon

*cont from page 5*

William's troubles were not yet over, as he appeared in the Supreme Court twice in 1857. The first case was a successful action against a John Richards for the recovery of a debt. The Court's Sheriff then sold Richards' goods and chattels and took possession of his land. William in turn then bought the former Richards property [lot 215] with its two-roomed house!

The second case resulted in a judgement against William for damages in favour of Patrick McCarron who had previously purchased William's Railway Tavern. And so, William won one and lost one, but overall he was financially in front!

After the sale of the Railway Tavern, it appears William was living opposite it in the former Richards house. William Drayton subsequently sold all his remaining properties and moved to Bendigo, Victoria in 1859.

Around 1861, the Tavern and the other former Drayton properties between East and Drayton Streets, Bowden along with other land were acquired by the South Australian Gas Company. Their Consulting Engineer, G R Scoltcock, had chosen the Brompton site of four acres because of its proximity to both the railway and Adelaide. By 1862 all the Drayton buildings had been demolished to make way for the Gasworks buildings. [On the plan showing William's former land, note the circular shape at the top which indicates the location of the gasometer in the Gasworks. Picture page 5.]

William Drayton, sawyer, was later variously referred to as "Mr" and "yeoman". In his last years at Bendigo, William worked as a gardener, dying in 1871 aged 80 years. He is buried at Bendigo in an unmarked grave.

Success with property development eluded William but he is fondly remembered by his descendants with the several Drayton Street signs being his memorial.

*Deane Kemp (William Drayton is the great-great-grandfather of Deane's wife Carolyn)*



# Duke of York (1817 ship)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Duke of York* was a barque launched in 1817 and wrecked in 1837.

## History

The ship was a three masted barque that was built in Bidford in 1817 as a two masted brig. *Lloyd's Register* for 1818 lists a *Duke of York*, 180 tons (bm), one year old, built at Bidford, master "Price" (later J. Price), owner Capt. & Co, and trade Falmouth - Jamaica.

Under the command of Captain Robert Clark Morgan, and owned by the South Australia Company, *Duke of York* left London on 24 February 1836 as part of the "First Fleet of South Australia", and arrived at Kangaroo Island on 27 July 1836 after 154 days.<sup>[3]</sup> The ship dropped anchor at Nepean Bay.<sup>[4]</sup>

The settlers carried on board established Kingscote, the first free settlement in Australia.<sup>[5]</sup> This was the first pioneer ship to reach South Australia with European settlers as the start of the European settlement of South Australia.<sup>[1]</sup>

*William was ultimately to settle in Kingscote*

*Duke of York* was wrecked on its first whaling voyage in September 1837 north of Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia.<sup>[6]</sup>

Coordinates: 27°02′11.84″S 153°21′13.64″E

## History



United Kingdom

Name:	<i>Duke of York</i>
Owner:	South Australia Company
Operator:	South Australia Company
Builder:	Bidford Shipyard
Launched:	1817
Fate:	Wrecked in September 1837

## General characteristics <sup>[1]</sup>

Class and type:	Barque
Tons burthen:	180,[2] or 190 (bm)
Length:	81 ft (25 m)
Beam:	23 ft (7.0 m)
Propulsion:	Sails
Sail plan:	Three masted barque
Crew:	27

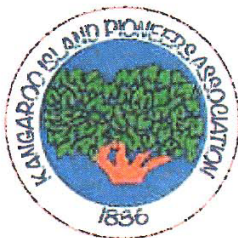




# Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association

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Association - find us on Facebook:  
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## 81

days until  
**Annual General Meeting -  
mark in your diary. Sunday  
afternoon, 5 March 2017 2 -  
4-30 at the Tea Tree Gully  
Heritage Museum. Cost per  
person is \$10, tour &  
afternoon tea included.**

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### Help, please

Are you planning to visit  
Kangaroo Island? Or do you live  
on the Island? Well, we would  
appreciate your volunteering to  
help (in a small way) with the  
many projects that we have "on  
the go". For example, we might  
ask that you take a photograph of  
a sign, and report on its  
condition. The first step is to

[Position Statements](#) >

## Position Statement 002

**When did William Holmes Hamilton (1820-1916) arrive in South Australia?**

**Position Statement adopted by the K.I.P.A. executive committee 8 February 2016.**

### Introduction

Contemporary accounts [1][2][3] purport that William Holmes Hamilton (senior) (W.H.H.) arrived Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island on the *Duke of York* in 1836. A sub-committee was set up to investigate the available evidence and to report back to the executive committee [4]. Their deliberations resulted in the executive committee adopting this position statement.

### Primary Evidence

There is almost no extant primary evidence. However, there is primary evidence that W.H.H. applied for emigration in Dover on 13 June 1837 some six weeks before the *Kathleen Stewart Forbes* sailed from Gravesend [5]. We also know that W.H.H. and his family were residing in Adelaide in 1841 [6].

The *absence* of primary evidence, where one would reasonably expect it, cannot be ignored. For example, if he was aboard the *Duke of York*, there was no application for emigration, nor any mention of him in Captain Morgan's journal [7] (although it was acknowledged that Morgan's journal was not comprehensive). There is no direct evidence that he arrived on the *Kathleen Stewart Forbes* either.

### Secondary Evidence

Secondary evidence centred on several conflicting newspaper articles dating from 1910 onwards.

Those on the sub-committee who supported the notion that W.H.H. was aboard the *Duke of York*, cite several references particularly his obituary (*Chronicle* 1917)[8], and a newspaper article purportedly from an interview with W.H.H. on his 93rd birthday (*The Register*, 1913) [9]. Those who challenged the notion that he was aboard the *Duke of York* point out that there are several errors of fact in the article written by a journalist of an Adelaide newspaper 76 years after the event, and should be regarded as only secondary evidence at best.

Those opposed cite a similar newspaper article written three years earlier by a local journalist from a "chat" with WHH in 1910, (*Kangaroo Island Courier*, 1910)[10] in which he is said to have stated that he first landed in Kangaroo Island in October 1837 on the *Cathleen* [sic] *Stewart Forbes*. They claimed that this article is slightly more authoritative, although needs to be similarly treated as secondary evidence at best.

### Discussion

It was acknowledged that if W.H.H. did arrive in 1837, it did not preclude his first arriving in 1836. There is no evidence, however, to support two journeys: if he did this he would have had



12/15/2016

## Position Statement 002 - Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association

contact our Secretary, who has a growing list of things to do. Thank you.

### Donations, Requests

We have a valuable research library of books, papers, photos and historical items relating to Kangaroo Island. Are you wanting to declutter and donate? Please contact our Secretary to make arrangements.

### Trove under threat

Trove, the wonderful historical resource provided by the National Library of Australia is under threat due to funding cuts. Please sign this [online petition](#) to send your support to oppose the cuts.



to quit the *Duke of York* in Hobart, and travel back to Dover to his family, before making a second trip to South Australia.

### Conclusion

The sub-committee of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association charged with investigating the evidence [4], could not find a consensus as to how and when W.H.H. first arrived in South Australia.

Accordingly, any contemporary accounts which purport William Holmes Hamilton (snr) to have arrived on the *Duke of York* need to be treated with caution.

### References

- [1] *The Islander*, 6 Feb 2014, "Unmarked but not unloved" <http://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/2070565/unmarked-but-not-unloved/>
- [2] *The Islander*, 16 April 2015, "150 unmarked graves named". page 3.
- [3] Wilkie, Douglas <http://hamiltonfamilyhistory.blogspot.com.au/2007/11/5-bound-for-south-australia.html>
- [4] View the collaborative website of the sub-committee showing their deliberations, and all sources <https://sites.google.com/site/whhamiltonsubcommittee/home/>. (You will be asked to register.)
- [5] The South Australian Company's Register of Emigrant Labourers Applying for a Free Passage to South Australia, State Records of South Australia, GRG 56/68/45, Application No.1124
- [6] Census of South Australia 1841, State Library of South Australia, Family History Collection
- [7] Journal of the Duke of York, R. C. Morgan. (Mitchell Library, State Library of N.S.W.)
- [8] OBITUARY. (1917, January 13). Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), p. 16. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87440966>
- [9] CONCERNING PEOPLE. (1913, March 5). The Register(Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), p. 12. Retrieved October 4, 2015, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59254773>
- [10] A Veteran Islander. (1910, February 5). The Kangaroo Island Courier (Kingscote, SA : 1907 - 1951), p. 4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article191632627>

### Comments

You do not have permission to add comments.



*Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association*  
INCORPORATED ESTABLISHED 1903



Patrons: Vickie Chapman M.P., Ian Gilfillan, Bruce Williams, Jayne Bates, Ivy Wootton, Ken McWhinnie, Dianne McWhinnie

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Other recollections of my boyhood were my father's stories of Aboriginal life around the Sturt River, and the five-gallon keg of port which was the centre-piece of William Hamilton's 90th birthday festivities.

In our childhood Frank told us of an old native, one of the last of the Adelaide tribe who lived in a camp bordering the Sturt River and came to Ewell for blankets and rations. On this little waterway which ran down from Coromandel Valley through Section 148, Eric and I spent most of our spare time. We had built a small boat about eight feet long, capable of carrying Eric and me and also our father who shared with us our affection for the river.

This old Aborigine taught Frank the difficult and tedious art of lighting a fire by the friction method. A piece of dry straight stick about nine inches long and half an inch thick served as a rotor. For stator a piece of dead and dry gum branch was used, a hollow having been nicked out with a sharp stone. The operator would squat down with his helper squatting opposite, a stock of dry leaves and sticks in readiness. The operator positioned the rotor in the hollow of the stator holding the rotor between the palms of the hands, giving it an alternating and energetic spin.

When the smoke issued forth, the operator fed very dry light material on to the point of friction, and the helper would blow gently on the wood as it began to glow. Once the flame appeared, it was carefully fed with the dry, fibrous material and sticks until a good fire was generated.



Sydney and Eric Hamilton displaying the original Land Order granted to Richard Hamilton in 1837. Photograph taken in May 1944.

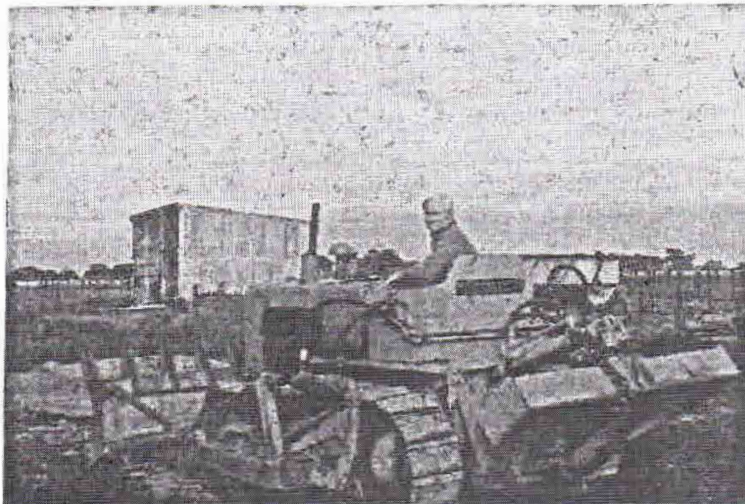


The same native taught Frank the art of catching water birds, using a snorkel made of coarse reeds. These flourished in the swamps between Glenelg and Port Adelaide, growing dense and rank up to a height of eight feet. The snorkel, which was held in the mouth, enabled a person to breathe while lying prone and motionless in the water. When a bird came swimming along in search of frogs, the native would reach up, grab the bird's legs and pull it under without attracting notice or giving alarm to other water birds swimming nearby.

The handling of a five-gallon keg of special port also required a certain kind of manipulation. William Hamilton's birthday was due on 7 February 1910, 90 years since his birth in Dover. He lived on *Dover Farm* at Emu Bay, Kangaroo Island, worked by his son William. To pay his respects to his last surviving uncle, Frank boarded the *SS Karatta* for Kingscote accompanied by his birthday keg. At that time there were no telephones on K.I. and few on the mainland, but the very reliable "mulga" wire was a fast conveyor of news, especially when it was known that Frank would be bringing a vintage cargo.

The scrub duly yielded its scattered inhabitants, but when the menfolk noted the increasing number of guests they decided to draft off the wives, otherwise the ration per head would amount to nothing but a celebration to sobriety.

It was conveniently believed that William's wife Mary (or was it William junior's wife?) did not drink wine in the presence of strangers, so William declared that an exact proportion of the wine he reserved for her later enjoyment. However, in view of the numbers it was calculated that the little that would remain for Mary would not be worth keeping, so they finished the keg.



*Sydney Hamilton enjoyed working out-of-doors. This photograph was taken at his Coonawarra Vineyards in June 1975.*

The wine all gone, it was then homeward bound in horse and trap, clip clopping along the rough bush tracks, the men still warm with good wine and the excitement of airing their news and views stored up over the past lonely year. But that was not the end of it: "the welkin rang" with the wives' complaints. "The cup that cheers but not inebriates" was no substitute for the delights of Bacchus.

The revellers then discovered how right Shakespeare was that "women love to match with men and not to live so like a saint. For here is no heaven" (although the evening was heaven enough for the men!). Never again did the Hamiltons have the opportunity for another gathering to share their pent-up tales and port wine in the soft glow of the kerosene lamps.

For Frank the pleasure of the occasion had also been mixed with business, for he wished to finalise the transfer of Richard's *Curtis Farm* — Section 148 — the beginning of the Hamilton story in South Australia.

The story of a family is inevitably linked with the changes which take place on any land holding. In the lifetime of Richard, Henry and Frank, *Curtis Farm* underwent successive changes; in addition a "quadruple reshuffle" in 1912 of other family land.

Uncle Jack bought the remainder of Uncle George's block including a block owned by Mrs Keynes. Uncle Walter bought Charles' block, then from it sold a large building block to Archie Hamilton on the south end of Charles' block and joining Keynes Lane. Uncle Jack then bought the south-eastern block of Mrs Keynes' deceased estate.

When the smoke and dust of battle had died away they returned to their homes and settled down to tot up their bank accounts! After all these years, and the failure of one after another of small landholders before their eyes, they still failed to learn that one cannot make a living on a small block except by intense culture which demands a pure water supply. What might have applied in the Old World did not apply in the New!

In reflecting on human affairs I believe this is true of every enterprise, planned and installed with all optimism, that anyone who sets out on a path, little dreams of the long journey into the mist-shrouded land of difficulty wherein the bright light of success is always close at hand, but beyond reach.