

History Time Line

for

Finniss Flat (later Ashbourne)

Giles Flat

Bull Creek

McHarg's Creek

Ashbourne Post Office Locations Summary

Reference List

By Carolyn Tucker 2021

Revised January 2023

1840 William Maidment arrived in the 'Charles Kerr' to S.A.

1841 Greenhills Survey – See Page 202 'Meadows Heritage'

1841 Re 'Nowillilla'. Col. Patrick Vans Agnew of Barnbarrock, Scotland was the original grantee of land that 'Nowillilla' was later built on. In 1853 John Kirkham, Samuel Kirkham and Chas Keeling of 'The Finnis River' purchased all or part of 13 large Sections of land of the original grantee including Sections 2333 & 2331 Hundred of Kondoparinga. These were the site of 'Nowillilla' near Main Road Ashbourne, now called Bull Creek Road, on the right side going south from township, formerly Finnis Flat. The three gentlemen had arrived in S.A 1850. See 1853 'Nowillilla' below.

1848 Maylin & Elizabeth Rogers settled 700 yards WSW of the Finnis Bridge. Came to S.A 1839 on 'SS. Delhi'. Maylin died 27th August 1900 age 96.

1850 John & Sarah Kirkham and Samuel & Elsie Kirkham arrived in S.A on 'SS Delta'. First 'Cliff House' of Kirkham's, Finnis Flat made of wattle & daub. A stone house of 4 rooms built once roof materials arrived from England. 4 more rooms added as family grew. Separate kitchen added 1930's – popular in 1930's. Verandah added 1950's. Section 2098 Hd. Kondoparinga. Owned by Kirkham descendants since mid 1880's. 2001 to Cherry Macklin.

1850 Chas. Staley & Sarah Keeling (nee Kirkham) arrived in S.A on 'SS Delta'. Came with the Kirkham families, all from Derbyshire England.

1850 Kondoparinga Cottage built on 2,000 acres SW of Ashbourne. See C.1880 for Kondoparinga Homestead.

1850's (Early) Maidment and Haines families came to Finnis Flat district.

1853 - 1866 Maylin Rogers leased land on which 'Kapoola' was built later by **William J. Maidment** after he took over the property 1876. There are interesting out-buildings which likely predate the house – a blacksmith's forge and a building with an original baker's oven. These were damaged in 1983 bushfires. 'Meadows Heritage' Page 240.

By 1853 'Kurunda' House on Blake Rd. Bull's Creek. Originally Joseph Blake. Earliest Rate Assessment to survive 1906 – J. Blake occupies Section 3335 Hd. Kondoparinga, Farmer of Bull Creek. By 1906 Blake owned 6 large Sections. Photograph & Information 'Meadows Heritage' Page 209.

After 1853 'Nowillilla' house built by Samuel Kirkham. House on land bordering Sections 2333 & 2331 Hd. of Kondoparinga. It is believed by locals that four white washed cabins, a town hall, courthouse & jail and stables formed a complex between 1843 & 1853 prior to the construction of 'Nowillilla' and that the Main Road passed between the house and the stables. Cobb & Co. used stables on Goolwa journey. The two storey house built into side of a hill was constructed of sandstone rubble walling, now rendered over and with French doors opening on to a balcony. Photograph "Meadows Heritage' Page 239. The S.A Heritage Survey 1978-80 states "Very fine barns adjacent of basic rectangular proportions constructed of random rubble walling." (William Kirkham's 'Cliff House' was built 1850, before 'Nowillilla'.) Previous owners included Cartledge, McClure, Hancock. Barrie May & Family 1981 who have since sold property.

1858 Giles Flat Primitive Methodist Church Services began in Wattle & Daub building opposite Wattle Flat Road junction with Strathalbyn/Ashbourne Road 1858 until building burnt out. **See 1890 for information of New Church.**

Pre 1859 Finniss Flat Chapel, Church Services were held in old kitchen of Kirkham residence 'The Cliff'.

1859 Finniss Flat Chapel foundation stone laid by Mrs. John (Sarah) Kirkham on land given by John Kirkham. Cemetery adjacent Chapel. Two different Methodist groups formed congregations. Last Service 14th June 1891. Photograph S.A Heritage Survey 1978-1980 On-Line.

1859 George Dunn & his wife settled at McHarg's Creek. Property called 'Underwood'. Built 2 storey home 'Stanley House' 1860-61. Builder Charles Martlew - Source Martlew Family History. Bullocks transported limestone from Woodchester, sand from Ashbourne, sandstone from Sandergrrove, Willunga slate and cypress pine planking flooring. 1906 Dunns owned 29 large Section of land much of which occupied by L. E & H. Dunn. 1983 bushfires damaged outbuildings and wattle & daub clad building. 'Meadows Heritage' Page 212.

1859 Work on Bulls Creek Road underway. Involved 50 culverts and 8 bridges.

C.1860 Cattle Arch Culvert Bull Creek Road. Owned by Central Road Board. "Dimensions of culvert chosen to allow passage of livestock since road effectively isolated properties east of the road from watering points to the west". 'Meadows Heritage' Photograph & Information Page 208.

C.1860 John Kirkham built first stone home in Finniss Flat, now the original part of 'The Cliff' home.

1860 Bull's Creek Church built. Mrs. Middlebank laid Foundation Stone. Oldest Methodist Church remaining on its original site in Circuit. Land given by James Stone. Cost £210. Opened for worship 21st July 1861. Small Cemetery in surrounds. Information 'Meadow's Heritage.'

1861 McHarg's Creek Methodist Church built on Ashbourne Hill. Named Underwood Primitive Methodist Chapel because three large gum trees hung over it. One source says (?)Mr. Nicol built this church about the same time as he built George Dunn's 'Stanley House'. (But it was Charles Martlew of 'Stone Hut' Sandergrove who built 'Stanley House'.) Constructed of square freestone and line pointed with square punched freestone quoins. **See 1901 (below)**

1861 'Mayfield' Home built for Charles Keeling Family. Bluestone & brick and substantial outbuildings. Section 2335 Hd. Kondoparinga. Left side Main Road just south of Ashbourne. Mayfield Bridge named after the nearby property which was named after a town in native Derbyshire. **Used as Finniss Flat Post Office.** Mail was passed through what is now the bathroom window.1984 the original roof was replaced. *S.A Register 24th March 1866* "Only within a few months that the main track through Messrs. Kirkham and Keeling's properties in these parts has been defined. Public indebted to those gentlemen for permission to pass through their lands." 'Meadows Heritage' Page 238 Information J. Kirkham.

1862 'Walnut Downs' Stone Cottage McHarg's Creek Road. Auctioned 1998 after being owned by Reg. Sissons of Strathalbyn for a long time.

1865 Original Wesleyan Sabbath School opened Finniss Flat next to the Wesleyan Chapel. Built of wattle & daub. Local families brought out Teacher, Henry Ashton from England to conduct day School. He taught for 15 years. School demolished 1877.

1860's 'Elderberry' house built of stone and brick, one of the oldest in Bull's Creek. Near intersection of Spring Gully Rd. Bulls Creek and south of '**Fernside House**'. There were Elderberry trees by a wood pile burnt in Ash Wednesday fire. Bathroom & laundry added 1920's. Ruins on hillside were of a cool room.

'Fernside House' ? year built. Near intersection Bald Hills Rd & Spring Gully Rd. left side Meadows to Bull Creek Main Road. James Stone the elder to James Stone the younger.

1865 Bull's Creek School (now House), Goolwa Rd. Bull's Creek. By 22nd December 1865 a Day School established. 1878 School transferred to Council of Education. 1881 Teacher Jane Shepherd. 1957 School reverted to private ownership by which time in dilapidated condition. 1983 destroyed in bushfires. Photograph & Information 'Meadows Heritage' Page 225.

1865 - 1866 Mr. Keeling subdivided and sold some of his land into Township blocks Finniss Flat.

1866 Lot 40 of subdivision sold to District Council of Kondoparinga. Transferred to Minister controlling Education **1882. School built in same year.**

1866 First Bridge over Finniss River, Goolwa Road opened 22nd March 1866. Built by Mr. Robert Redman. Timber bridge badly damaged in 1881 fire. S.A Register 24th March 1866 featured a description of the bridge on its opening. See Page 246 'Meadows Heritage' by Paul B. Stark 1983.

1866 Mayfield Bridge over Bull's Creek south of Ashbourne. Built by Robert Redman. Arch, sandstone, concrete foundation, 12' span, cost £2,700. Named after the Keeling property nearby. Photograph Page 241 'Meadows Heritage' and S.A Register Newspaper article 24th March 1866 describing Bridge on its opening.

1866 The first building of the Bull's Creek Post Office and Store built.

1866 -1868 The Greenman Inn Licensed as a Hotel, Finniss Flat. Lot 39 of the newly laid out Town was purchased by William Gosling 1865/66 who likely built the Inn soon afterwards. Built to accommodate travellers and men working on the road to Goolwa. **J. Thomson leased it from Gosling and ran a licensed Hotel 1866 to 1868. Leased from 1869 by Robert Haines** who later bought the land & building but did not retain the license. **He ran a Post Office & Store for many years.** 1910 Harry Meyer purchased the property for private home and it remained possession of various Meyer family into 2000's. Bluestone building, 60 cm. walls in places. Ceilings originally lath & plaster. Windows still original. Has large well-built cellar. 'Meadows Heritage' Page 238.

1866 -1867 Bridge over Balderson's Creek, Goolwa Rd., north of Ashbourne. A pretty, freestone structure, part of original Goolwa line. Book 'Meadows Heritage' Photograph Page 248.

1867 The now Uniting Church site corner Main Goolwa & Strathalbyn Roads first purchased by W. J. Maidment from Mr. Keeling. Sold to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Church 1891 at which time building erected.

1868 Finniss Flat name changed to Ashbourne. The Postal Service advised there was another Finniss Flat in S.A. Messrs. Keeling and Kirkham chose the name Ashbourne, the place of their home in Derbyshire, England.

1869 Robert Haines leased then bought The Greenman. He did not keep the License. Ran a Store and Post Office, Ashbourne.

C.1870 'Fernleigh' House McHarg Creek Rd. McHarg Creek. Earliest part of house dates C.1870. Built and occupied by J. Oakley. Photograph 'Meadows Heritage' Page 227.

C. 1870 'Doulton Villa' Right side McHarg's Creek Rd. Jane Dunn, daughter of George & Thamsin Dunn who first owned 'Stanley House'.

C.1870 Clatworthy Family Farm Complex Goolwa Rd. Bull's Creek. In 1866 Solomon Clatworthy noted as Farmer of Bull's Creek. Largely intact farm buildings scattered along Bull's Creek. By 1906 family were T., A., R., & J. Clatworthy with large holding of 20 land Sections. 'Meadows Heritage' Page 224.

1871 'Rose Cottage'. Kirkham Road. Became the **Post Office** some time later (after Robert Haines finished P.O at 'Greenman'). Remained a P.O until 1975. It was built by Messrs. Maidment & Keeling for Mrs. Frances Payne who was left a widow with several children. Frances purchased the land on which house situated in 1871. The house may predate purchase. House retains its original detached kitchen. Mr. & Mrs. W. Wickstead were the last operators of P.O there 1975. An old shed on property used as stable for change of horses for Cobb & Co's mail coach service to Adelaide. **See the next P.O at 'Sunny Brae' 1976.**

1871 Land where Glen Lossie built was purchased by Edwin & Robert Haines. Section 2337 Hd. Kondoparinga. House built ?year. 1883 to J. T & Reuben Kirkham. 1926 to Reuben's niece Freda & Vin. Payne until 1968 when Warwick Meyer purchased property. Then to his son Mark Meyer. Bluestone building with cool room built into hillside. Warwick Meyer built new home on property. In 1986 stone from house (Glen Lossie) was used for Mark Meyer's house 100m. north across Kirkham Road. Part of original front door used for front entrance.

1872 John Kirkham died 30th November. Buried by Finniss Flat Church. Age 54

1873 Sarah Kirkham died 1st April. Wife of John, buried Finniss Flat Cemetery.

After 1876 'Kapoola' Home built. (1890 found as another possible date?)

Section 2332 Hd. of Kondoparinga. Close to right side Main Road south of Ashbourne & south of the Finniss Bridge. William Maidment bought property 1876. Bluestone home with return verandah. Photograph & Information 'Meadows Heritage' Page 240. See also 1853-1866 Maylin Rogers (above). W. Maidment sold 'Kapoola' to **Mr. C. Pitt 1922 who named the house 'Old Kapoola'.**

1875 Chas. Staley Keeling died 25th August, buried Finniss Flat Cemetery Age 58. His wife Sarah Keeling died 10th June 1908 Age 87.

1877 The original School demolished. Mr. Ashton finished teaching. After 1877 new School of similar structure built opposite the present day Methodist Church facing the Main Road Ashbourne.

1870's or 1890 Guildholme built. Rumour 1870's, other sources say Tom Kirkham responsible for its construction 1890. Section 2335 left side Main Road south of Ashbourne before Mayfield Bridge and just S.W of the home 'Mayfield'. Inherited by Tom's son Ken. Sold to Harry Meyer 1924 who lived there until his death 1972. Then owned by Meyer descendants.

From late 1860's to early 1880's an Exodus of population included :-

From Ashbourne - Lucas J&M; McHugh J&E; Reynolds W&S; Westley J&C

From Giles Flat - Baulderstone W&M; Coad J.D &C; Hughes W&E; McCourt T&E; Prendergast P&A; Wade J&S; Widdison T&E; Wines J&C.

From McHarg's Creek - Adams F&M; Bodger E&E; Connor/Connar J&R; Cox W&E; Davis W&E; Hilditch J&L; Schuller H&E.

From Bull's Creek - Adams T&L; Bodger E&M; Bodger H&H; Chesser J&E; Collier J&S; Creber J&M; Dawson W&J; Edmundson J&M; England M&J; Heeps J&T; Johnson H&J; Justin H&M; Leonard P&M; Macklin T&M; Purtle M&E; Robinson T&M; Saunders T&E.

(For full names, year and destination and other information can be found in the Exodus Project in the History Room, Strathalbyn Library.)

C.1880 Kondoparinga Homestead Lot 78 Rymill Rd. Right off Main Goolwa Rd. south of Ashbourne. A 28 room home formerly of Rymill Family. Frank Rymill to Stuart Rymill and was Richard Rymill's by 1979.

1880 New School of wattle & daub built Main Bull Creek/Goolwa Rd. It was destroyed by fire 1881.

1881 Fire destroyed the timber Finnis Bridge. Whole bridge destroyed with exception of abutments and wing walls.

1881 Bacon Factory burnt down. Located behind where Meyer Brothers' Apple shed stood in the 1900's. (?) Kirkham Road

1882 New Stone School built where present day School stands on the left descent into Ashbourne from Strathalbyn and behind the Green Man Inn. Cost was £403/1/0. Schoolroom stood alone with a shelter shed until 1952 addition.

1883 New Bridge for Main Road over Finnis River completed.

1884 'Waratah' home built (first part) McHarg's Creek then C.1900 extended by Mr. Dunn. Freestone & brick Villa of quality construction. Two tall palm trees at front. Outbuildings incl. bluestone stable and barn destroyed 1983 Ash Wednesday fires. Stable since rebuilt. Granny Flat at rear of house. 'Meadow's Heritage' Page 213 Photograph & information. Local knowledge has Dunn as first owner. Research by Book's Author of earliest Rates Assessment finds owner/occupier as J. Oakley.

1885 Bull's Creek Hall foundation stone laid by Mrs. H. Clatworthy on 26th Jan. Built of sandstone rubble with fireplace in south wall. Photograph in 'Meadow's Heritage' Page 223.

1885 Samuel Kirkham died 7th October at Ashbourne. Farmer & District Auditor. Age 62.

1885 Mr. Haines Bacon Factory was in production. Location and which Mr. Haines not known. Visited by W.J. Tucker for Sandergrove, saw beautiful bacon.

1885 Giles Flat Chapel Service Sunday 25th Oct. & Tea Meeting next day attended by "Sandergrovites". W.J Tucker Journal

1887 Finnis Flat Sunday School Anniversary 27th November attended by Sandergrove Tucker family. W.J Tucker Journal

1890 Giles Flat Primitive Methodist Chapel laying of Foundation Stone & Tea Meeting 20th March 1890. Situated facing Henry Martin Road, a short distance past where that road branches from the Main Strathalbyn/Ashbourne Rd., (about 2 kilometres east of Ashbourne.) “April 23rd W. J Tucker to Strathalbyn for a load of bricks for Mr. Sisson’s Chapel.”

1890 Giles Flat Primitive Methodist Chapel Opening Services 19th October 1890.

Late 1800’s Ashbourne Creamery. Left side Main Road to Bulls Creek, opposite present day Ashbourne Hall by Oval. Until about 1901 dairy farmers brought their milk on horse drawn wagons to be separated at the Creamery. Mr. Cox bought the building, added to it to make a home. Demolished 1978. Ref. Ashbourne School Students Local History Project C.1975. Also local knowledge has it as the Kondoparinga Butter factory.

1800’s Bulls Creek Creamery. History & location unknown. ‘Meadows Heritage’ Page 236 mentions “Remains of Creamery, Goolwa Road” are a “site of interest.”

1891 The last Service at the Finnis Flat Chapel Sunday 14th June. Preacher Rev. E. Barber.

1891 Finnis Flat Wesleyan Chapel demolished. Material was moved to the new Chapel site on Main Bull’s Creek/Goolwa Road, corner of Strathalbyn to Ashbourne Road, and used in the new building. Worshippers had trouble getting to former Chapel - flooding in winter and boggy sand in summer.

1891 New Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built in Ashbourne facing west. Trustees - Nicholson, Barber, Maidment, Kirkham, C. Keeling, T. Keeling, Bradford, Howlett and Haines.

C.1894 Bull’s Creek House, former Post Office & Store. Information ‘Meadow’s Heritage.’ Only one of two buildings representing heart of Bull Creek which at one time had 70 houses. Retains paned shop window and picket fence.

1897 Bull’s Creek Store & Post Office - second build.

1901 McHarg’s Creek Church (b. 1861) was moved by the Dunn’s & Josiah Oakley, using oxen carts to its present site about ¼ mile north of previous site and a porch added. Cost £52/2/6. Stained glass windows been removed and in custody of Meadows Uniting Church. It is no longer in use as a Church. Photograph & information Page 213 ‘Meadows Heritage’.

1910 Greenman Inn P.O & Store became private home of Mr. Harry Meyer. In 2012, was still in Meyer Family possession.

(1913 According to Internet history information about Ashbourne, an Institute opened in Ashbourne. No information has yet been found.)

1920 The first time mail delivered by car. Previously horse drawn coaches were used.

1920's Bridge near front of 'Cliff House' was built by Gordon & Oscar Kirkham.

1922 'Old Kapoola'. William Maidment sold 'Kapoola' to Mr. C. Pitt who changed the name to 'Old Kapoola'. Right side Main Rd. south of Ashbourne and south of Finnis Bridge.

1925 'Everleigh' home built for Mr. Doug. & Mrs. Clarice Whittam. Left side of Goolwa Road south of Ashbourne. Clarice was daughter of W. Maidment of 'Kapoola' where Clarice & Doug lived until their house was built. She was a teacher at Ashbourne Primary School. Clarice died in her home in the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfire and the home was badly damaged. Her husband predeceased her. 2012 'Everleigh' restored by owner Alf. Lorenzin.

C.1930 Giles Flat Church ceased being used as a church. Later purchased by Mr. Vic Cox.

1935 Original picket fence at first Chapel was removed by curator of the Ashbourne Cemetery, Gordon John Kirkham. Cemetery still in use post/ wire fence added.

1951 Bull's Creek name changed to Bull Creek.

1952 Timber fabricated room added to Ashbourne School.

1960 Bull Creek Church old porch removed. Replaced by a brick porch.

1960 New Ashbourne Memorial Hall built next to Oval. Made of better brick.

1960's A New Bridge over the Finnis River at Ashbourne caused construction of a short section of Main road.

1961 Bull Creek Methodist Church Centenary - oldest Church in district still on original site.

1972 Mr. Harry Meyer died.

1973 Bull Creek Post Office closed 30th Nov. Building renovated 1984 -1987.

1976 Ashbourne Post Office business taken over by Mr. C. & Mrs. A. Young and conducted in their house **‘Sunny Brae’** formerly the home of Mr. H. R Meyer in 1920 next to the Uniting Church, Main Road Ashbourne. The house made of bluestone has no foundations. 1946 bathroom & laundry added to back. In 1958 verandah added around house. **Further information in ‘160 Years of Post Offices in Ashbourne’ Summary at the end of Time Line.**

1978 The Old Creamery, Bull Creek Road opposite the Ashbourne Hall/Oval used until C.1901 was demolished. Had been bought by Mr. Cox, added on to for a house. Local knowledge - it was the Kondoparinga Butter Factory.

1983 Iron demac room added to Ashbourne School.

1987 Ashbourne’s Stone School building renovated by Education Dept. Cost \$80,000.

1987 ‘The Woolshed’ A Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre established by the S.A Health Department on the former property ‘Croxtan Park’. Henry Martin Road, Right off Main Strathalbyn/Ashbourne Road.

Mid 1980’s ‘Avindale’ Maidment Road, Right off Ashbourne/Goolwa Rd. just before the Finmiss Bridge. Trevor & Rene Johns’ Apple & Pear Orchard. To Dale & Nikki Johns. Sold 2018. Previous owner was Don Evans who had a dairy on the property.

See Summary of Post Office History

&

Reference List

Next Pages

Summary

160 Years Post Offices in Ashbourne

Prior to 1861 - P.O service may have existed - no information

1) Post 1861 **'Mayfield Home'** of Chas & Sarah Keeling.

2) Sometime later than 1869 Robert Haines had Post Office & Store at **'Greenman'** for many years.

1868 Finmiss Flat name changed to Ashbourne due to another Finmiss Flat in S.A

3) Sometime after Robert Haines finished P.O at **'Greenman'** next **Post Office** at **'Rose Cottage' Kirkham Road Ashbourne**. Home of Mrs. Frances Payne. **P.O** until 1975. **Mr. & Mrs. Wickstead** the last operators.

4) 1975 Post Office at **'Sunny Brae'** home of **Mr. C. & Mrs. A. Young** next to the Uniting Church Main Road Ashbourne.

5) **Late 1980's** Mrs. Alison Young moved from Ashbourne and the Johnston's who owned **'Sunny Brae'** either re-let or sold the property. Morrie Heading and Hugh Dickinson built the **new postal facility at the S.E corner of the rear of the Ashbourne Memorial Hall** adjacent the Oval, Main Road. The same men installed the P.O Boxes. The service was run by a lady called Glenda Burness for one hour per day. She was followed by Lyn Villiers then Pam Bruer. Information from C. Dickinson, wife of Hugh. Further information from Lynne Hanson. The postal facility is not a Post Office but a Community Postal Agency consisting of post boxes which locals access with a key to collect their mail.

2021 Community Postal Agency at 1293 Bull Creek Road, Ashbourne is still in use at the rear of the Hall. Open Weekdays 8 to 9 am.

References

Ashbourne School Community Photograph & Information Album of early buildings in Ashbourne, McHarg's Creek, Bulls Creek, Giles Flat. Presented to Alexandrina Council Library History Room and catalogued 20th August 2012.

S.A Heritage Survey 1978-80. On-Line

Book 'Meadows Heritage' by Paul B. Stark B. Arch. 1983. Starting Page 202.

Local History Project by Ashbourne School Students. Undated but after 1972 - mid to late 1970's. Groups of three students researched a subject of local history.

1885 Journal of Walter John Tucker 'Lake View' Sandergrove.

Life of Stone Mason, Charles Martlew & Family of 'Stone Hut' Sandergrove.
Notes by Carolyn Tucker and records of Martlew descendants.

'Roads to Goolwa 1839 to the present day.' On-Line. Anthony Presgrave

Local knowledge kindly shared by Lynne Hansen for January 2023 Revised Time Line and Map.