

DALIAK

Part of Government Farm?

From 1832, it is possible that part of *Daliak* was the 1,000-acre Government stock farm which Revett Henry Bland and Arthur Trimmer leased for one peppercorn per annum for two years provided that Bland and Trimmer housed soldiers sent to York.¹ This land commenced 500 metres west of the ford.²

Bland

The original 6 parcels of land with 2,166 acres which comprise *Daliak* (Avon Locations Y12, Y16, Y20, Y21, Y22 and Y23) were granted to Revett Henry Bland in 1841.³ Bland's main farm and his home were at Balladong Farm, and he was very busy as Resident Magistrate so it is not likely that he did much at *Daliak*.

Carter Brothers

In 1847, Bland sold these parcels to young Thomas Carter and Henry Carter on instalment terms with the first payment being 325 pounds.⁴ Their last payment was made in 1853.⁵

The Carter brothers had been leasing Gwambygine from the Wittenooms.⁶ Prior to that, Thomas had established a Wayside inn at "Merrow Farm" being the Half Way House, half way to York (though in 1834 this was placed in charge of Charles Smith). Thomas was secretary of the York Agricultural Society in 1841, replacing Peter Barrow. His brother, Henry Carter arrived in June 1840. Thereafter, they traded as T & H Carter.

The Carter brothers were experienced farmers and were shocked at how few settlers had farm experience.⁷ On *Daliak*, the brothers grew wheat, farmed cattle and were also breeding horses.⁸

Just as they started farming *Daliak*, their apprentice, Henry Sherwin, was returning a borrowed dray to Gwambygine, when "the wheel striking a stump, the cart was turned completely overthe horse was [found] lying on his back, and the boy under the cart with his head literally smashed to pieces."⁹ They had lost their best worker, their horse and had to replace the dray. "Troubles rarely come singly" as their biographer Anne Carter observed. Soon afterwards, a fire destroyed 300 bushels of wheat, two stacks of hay and a new mill at their property (presumably *Daliak*).¹⁰

In 1850, the Carter brothers advertised *Daliak* as being for sale.¹¹ It was described as follows:

¹ Bland papers at Battye Library.

² John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948.

³ Grant 283 was for Y21.

⁴ Landgate Deeds and Ordinances, IV/126 at page 143.

⁵ Landgate Deeds and Ordinances, V/156 at page 211.

⁶ Rica Erickson: Old Toodyay and Newcastle, Toodyay Shire Council, p.17.

⁷ Anne Carter: Thomas and Henry Carter, Pioneers of York and Fremantle, Early Days, Volume 11, Part 5, 1999.

⁸ In 1848, the Carters advertised 78 head of cattle for sale (23 September 1848): Inquirer 27 September 1848, p.2. They were also farming horses at Williams with a view to selling them to the President of Madras: Inquirer 24 October 1848, p.3.

⁹ Inquirer 3 March 1847.

¹⁰ Anne Carter: Thomas and Henry Carter, Pioneers of York and Fremantle, Early Days, Volume 11, Part 5, 1999.

¹¹ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 6 September 1850, p.2.

“The Estate known as “DALIAK,” 1 ¼ mile from the Township of York, comprising 2,000 acres of first-rate Agricultural and Pastoral Land, 96 of which are enclosed and under cultivation, and a small Vineyard, in full bearing. A substantial and well finished 7-room dwelling, with detached kitchen and servant’s sleeping room; two good Cottages for married labourers; a very superior 4-Horse Flour Mill, fitted with French burr stones and flour-dresser, complete; a substantial stone mill-house, capable of storing several thousand bushels of wheat; stabling for 10 horses, chaff-room, and cart-lodges; and a large assortment of agricultural implements.

ALSO,-

1,500 Sheep, and about 35 head of Horse Stock, including an entire horse of superior action and symmetry, by *Yussuf*; 8 powerful Draft Horses, valuable Brood Mares, Colts, and Fillies, by *Yussuf*, *Egremont*, etc, etc.

For further particulars enquire of the Proprietors, on the premises,

T & H CARTER

2 September, 1850.”

At *Daliak* today, the “substantial stone mill-house, capable of storing several thousand bushels of wheat” appears to still exist as part of the large shed below the stables.

The stables are well constructed in stone with a very straight wall. The building has the hallmarks of being constructed by engineer John Henry Monger Snr with its stone foundation and ledge (similar to that at Faversham and the original store, and to the blacksmith’s shop in Christie Retreat) and also with slits / windows with bars similar to those in the basement at Faversham House. It is quite possible that John Henry Monger Snr constructed the stables as he was an engineer and one of the first builders in stone in York. He built his original hotel and store, Faversham stages 1 and 2, and the blacksmith’s shop in Christie Retreat. He coordinated the building work for Holy Trinity Church and was the overseer and building contractor of the Wesleyan Chapel¹².

While at *Daliak*, Thomas began activities which were more like those of a merchant than a farmer. In November, 1850, T & H Carter (of *Daliak*) and then in December 1850, simply Mr T Carter (of *Daliak*) were advertising for sale sugar, tea, rice and rope, on terms being bills at 3 months, redeemable by Colonial Produce.^{13 14}

They also started a milling business. The DALIAK MILL was advertised in April and May, 1851: “Gristing at this Mill will be done as usual (Grinding and Dressing) at 1s per bushel, from this date. 18 April, 1851.”¹⁵

Thomas Carter was also a horse breeder “on a large scale”.¹⁶ He supplied carts and teams used to ferry men to the Geraldine copper mine which had been set up north of Geraldton in the 1840s. The Carters must have been shareholders in the mine as they also became directors.¹⁷

¹² Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 1 April 1853, p.2.

¹³ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 15 November 1850, p.2.

¹⁴ Inquirer 11 December 1850, p.2 and again 18 December 1850, p.1.

¹⁵ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 25 April 1851, p.2; 16 May 1851, p.2.

¹⁶ Anne Carter: Thomas and Henry Carter, Pioneers of York and Fremantle, Early Days, Volume 11, Part 5, 1999.

¹⁷ Anne Carter: Thomas and Henry Carter, Pioneers of York and Fremantle, Early Days, Volume 11, Part 5, 1999.

In September 1851, they advertised that the thoroughbred 'NOTORIOUS' "WILL STAND" at *Daliak* "during the Season".¹⁸ Thomas Carter was also very involved with the York Races in 1851.¹⁹

In 1852, at a committee meeting of The York Society, to everyone's shock, Thomas Carter announced that he was going to cease farming and go and join his brother in Fremantle and become a merchant.²⁰ Thomas Carter's brother in law, W Bartram also joined their merchant partnership.²¹

Daliak appears to have been leased by the Carter brothers for the next 30 years.

For a short time in 1852, Robert Viveash was looking after *Daliak*, before he was appointed doctor for York.²²

On 3 March 1853, Henry Carter returned to England.²³

Merchant like activities continued at *Daliak* on the part of Thomas. In August 1853, Thomas Carter advertised wool bags, twine and "a few of Wilkinson's patent Sheep Shears" as being on sale at *Daliak*, near York. Also Corn Sacks.²⁴

Henry returned "with wife" on 28 January 1854.²⁵

By 1856, J Nairn²⁶ may have been renting *Daliak* as he advertised a stray horse²⁷ and he also published an advertisement warning that animals who trespassed would be dealt with "as the law directs".²⁸

By 1869, Edmund Cahill was in charge of *Daliak*, probably holding a lease over part or all or part of the property.²⁹ Cahill was a catholic and very prominent in the building of St Patrick's church. All the stone for the church appears to have come from *Daliak*³⁰ being carted up Ulster Road.³¹ It is reported that in 1875, Cahill carted 9 loads and provided 41 days of labour.

In 1879 a journalist suggested that *Daliak* would make a fine representative for York".³² He must have been referring to John Henry Monger Jnr, but at the time it was not owned by him, so perhaps it was already contracted and he was living there, the conveyance taking some time because it had to be signed in England. The eventual conveyance from Thomas Carter and Henry Carter's widow was dated 20 May 1881.

¹⁸ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 12 September 1851, p.2; Inquirer 5 November 1851, p.4.

¹⁹ Inquirer, 5 November 1851, p.4.

²⁰ Anne Carter: Thomas and Henry Carter, Pioneers of York and Fremantle, Early Days, Volume 11, Part 5, 1999.

²¹ Rica Erikson, Dictionary of Western Australians.

²² Inquirer 2 August 1854, p.2. He also advertised a reward for anyone who recovered a lost bay entire colt, to be returned to him at *Daliak*, near York: Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 27 August 1852, p.3.

²³ Rica Erikson, Dictionary of Western Australians.

²⁴ Inquirer 10 August 1853, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 12 August 1853, p.2.

²⁵ Rica Erikson, Dictionary of Western Australians.

²⁶ Probably James Nairn: Rica Erikson, Dictionary of Western Australians.

²⁷ Inquirer and Commercial News 23 July 1856, p.1.

²⁸ Inquirer and Commercial News 26 August 1857, p.2.

²⁹ Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 8 January 1869, p.3.

³⁰ WA Catholic Record, 6 May 1875, p.3.

³¹ AM (Tony) Clack, Glorious Apostle, A History of the Catholic Church in York, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 2009, p.28-41.

³² West Australian 5 December 1879, p.3.

Cahill was still in residence as in 1881, he announced that “Flower of the Hill” (a thoroughbred) will stand at *Daliak*.^{33 34 35}

Once the old title conveyance was executed, John Henry Monger Jnr, “merchant of York” applied to have *Daliak* brought under the transfer of Land Act. The title is described: Avon Locations Y12, Y16, Portion of Avon Location Y20, Avon Locations Y21, Y22, Y23, York Suburban Lot S48.³⁶ This application is (for an historian) an exciting document as it contains all of the previous deeds relating to the property from the Crown Grant to Bland to the Carter brothers.

1881 is the date at the entrance to the property. From 1881, John Henry Monger appears to be personally looking after the property though he continued to live at Faversham House,³⁷ On 10 November 1881, J H Monger announced that “Young Stanley” will serve a number of mares at *Daliak* Farm.³⁸

Monger announces all pigs and dogs found at *Daliak* will be destroyed.³⁹ And “Young Stanley” thoroughbred horse to be standing ready.^{40 41 42}

On 27 January 1884, a fire destroyed some runs at *Daliak* and 2 miles of fences.⁴³ Messrs Cahill Brothers also had quantities of fencing burnt (indicating that the Cahill family were still farming at *Daliak*, or on part of *Daliak*).⁴⁴ Monger announced that there was no thoroughfare through *Daliak* in June 1884.⁴⁵

The *Daliak* estate was fully described in the *West Australian* in January 1885.⁴⁶

The buildings are described as follows:

“The homestead is pleasantly placed in a valley, surrounded on three sides by fields. The buildings consist of an overseers cottage, large barn, with lean-to sheds, shearing shed, and stable. All of which are good solid stone buildings, roofed with corrugated iron, thus minimising the danger of fire.”

Go out and kill a fat sheep!

John Henry Monger Jnr did much to improve the different classes of stock in the State. He was, for example one of the first to import Clydesdale horses, importing the horse “Stanley”. He also spent thousands of pounds importing sheep from the Eastern States, of different breeds. One evening, one of the men employed by Monger was sent out to kill a fat sheep for the shop. Not knowing one from the other, he caught a 200 guinea sheep for a fat one.⁴⁷

³³ Eastern Districts Chronicle 12 August 1881, p.2.

³⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle 16 September 1881, p.2.

³⁵ Eastern Districts Chronicle 18 November 1881, p.3.

³⁶ West Australian 20 September 1881, p.3.

³⁷ Eastern Districts Chronicle 1 February 1884, p.2.

³⁸ Eastern Districts Chronicle 17 November 1882, p.3.

³⁹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 30 March 1883, p.1.

⁴⁰ West Australian 31 July 1883, p.2.

⁴¹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 18 August 1884, p.4.

⁴² Eastern Districts Chronicle 4 December 1886, p.1.

⁴³ Eastern Districts Chronicle 1 February 1884, p.2.

⁴⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle 8 February 1884, p.3.

⁴⁵ West Australian, 28 June 1884, p.1.

⁴⁶ West Australian 31 January 1885, p.5.

⁴⁷ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 13 July 1917. p.3 (reciting a story of William Marwick).

Chinese workers

From the early 1880s, many reports of Daliak relate to the Chinese workers on the property.

In 1882 there was a court case. A “Chinaman” working at Daliak complained that another employee James King were dipping sheep at Daliak, the Chinaman making some mistakes. King picked up a stick and hit the Chinaman on the head with it knocking him down. King was fined 5 pounds including costs.⁴⁸

We Mong Ki, Chinaman employed at Daliak was robbed by another Chinaman named Kim Wat.⁴⁹

On 8 September 1885, a Chinaman named Ah Yong attempted to commit suicide at Daliak by poisoning himself with opium. “Dr Thomson used the stomach pump with good results, s the Celestial is now progressing favourably. He also attempted to cut his throat while at Hospital.”⁵⁰

In 1891, a fight broke out between a number of Chinese prospectors who were employed by Mr JH Monger Jnr. One of them, Li Ki Hong, wanted revenge against the others. Late that night, he went to where the others were sleeping and attacked them with a tomahawk while they were asleep. Three men died, one decapitated and the others mutilated.⁵¹

Freak Weather

Occasional freak weather phenomena have been recorded at Daliak:

In 1878, Cahill reported that hailstones at Daliak were as large as hen’s eggs.⁵² There was another hail report in 1879. Hail fell in such quantities as to fill an empty tin (about ½ gallon) in a few minutes.⁵³

More hailstones at Daliak formed “an immense slab” in 1883.⁵⁴

On 5 December 1891, lightning destroyed a clock at Daliak.⁵⁵

Picnics

From 1890, the Monger family arranged picnics for the town:

Between 200 and 300 York residents attended a picnic at Daliak in September 1890.⁵⁶

Another big picnic recorded in September 1892.⁵⁷

The Daliak route

The “Daliak route” was one way to return to “the Metropolis”.⁵⁸

⁴⁸ Eastern Districts Chronicle 1 December 1882, p.3.

⁴⁹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 22 December 1884, p.3.

⁵⁰ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 12 September 1885, p.2.

⁵¹ The West Australian, 4 March 1891, p.3.

⁵² Eastern Districts Chronicle 23 February 1878, p.2.

⁵³ Eastern Districts Chronicle 24 May 1879, p.2.

⁵⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle 19 October 1883, p.3.

⁵⁵ WA Record 10 December 1892, p.8.

⁵⁶ Eastern Districts Chronicle 20 September 1890, p.5.

⁵⁷ Eastern Districts Chronicle 1 October 1892, p.5; Daily News 30 September 1892, p.3; West Australian 3 October 1892, p.6; Inquirer and Commercial News, 1 October 1892, p.6.

⁵⁸ Eastern Districts Chronicle 9 August 1879, p.3.

Rob Garton Smith
President
The York Society (Inc)
January 2022

NOT INCLUDED

[In 1876, Cahill wrote to the York Roads Board about the state of the road to Daliak⁵⁹, and issued a straying stock warning.⁶⁰

In February 1887, Charles Hall was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for stealing two ducks from Daliak.⁶¹

Rams from Daliak used to improve FH Monger's farm Wannkarring on the Hotham River.⁶²

A child of W Linto of Daliak dies from attack of cold and fever.⁶³

Monger clears another 300 acres at Daliak.⁶⁴

In December 1891, Martin Griffin was missing, last seen in the Daliak vicinity.⁶⁵

Daliak is again described in 1892 in My visit to Northam and York.⁶⁶

[Daliak advertised for sale.⁶⁷ J and W Parker are reported to have purchased some of Daliak for 3 pounds an acre.⁶⁸]

Today, Daliak comprises 8,000 acres.⁶⁹

⁵⁹ Inquirer and Commercial News 29 March 1876, p.3.

⁶⁰ Western Australian Times 17 October 1876, p.3.

⁶¹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 19 February 1887, p.2.

⁶² Daily News 4 July 1887, p.3.

⁶³ WA Record 6 March 1890, p.8.

⁶⁴ West Australian 28 May 1891, p.3.

⁶⁵ WA Record 10 December 1892, p.8, Inquirer and Commercial news 12 December 1891, p.5; Western Mail 19 December 1891, p.7.

⁶⁶ Western Mail 5 November 1892, p.32.

⁶⁷ West Australian 19 April 1897, p.7.

⁶⁸ WA Record 28 August 1897, p.10.

⁶⁹ Quoting Rod Monger on 7 May 2022.