

What happened on Mt Mee in 1919

The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903 - 1926)

Tue 14 Jan 1919

MOUNT MEE.

Private George Dagg, who has returned to Mt. Mee, after two and a half years' service abroad, was given a welcome home in the local hall on Saturday night. During the evening, which was devoted to dancing, singing, and recitations, Mr. W. Hall, on behalf of those present, extended a hearty welcome home for Pte. Dagg. Several other residents, including Councillor Thomason, of Caboolture Shire Council, also spoke, and Private Dagg suitably responded. Private Dagg will pay a short visit to relatives at Rockhampton and Stanthorpe before settling down on Mt. Mee.



How you can assist MMDHSI

- Bake, donate or purchase goods for our cake and preserve stalls, white elephant stall or raffle at the monthly Mt Mee Markets.
- Attend our meetings held on the 1st Wednesday at 2pm., or Workshops 9am - 11am on 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mt Mee Hall.

For further information, contact Kevin Austin (54982282), Darcy Hewitt (5498 2275) , Rowena Crouch (5498 2262)

MT MEE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



C. Hewitt's bullock teams

Keeping the Mountain history alive

February 2019 Newsletter

Our Society was formed on 12 September 2013

This article, which will take a few newsletters to complete, was found in the archives of Caboolture Library. This will be copied as is in the article.

DAHMONGAH TO MOUNT MEE

The story of Mount Mee in Caboolture Shire comes naturally with the articles written by "A.J.P.", "History of Mt. Mee from 1880", presented "with Compliments of: "Florrie E. Thomas, Mt. Mee." Handwritten on the back of the printed booklet is: "Auntie Florrie, October 1953".

Here is the story of Mt. Mee by "A.J.P."
"Mt. Mee derived its name from the Aboriginal words "Mee, Mee", meaning "View" or "Lookout".

The first settlement took place in the years 1880-1, but prior to that period timber haulers plied their trade between the Mountain and Caboolture. The country was magnificent vine and fern scrub, equal to anything along the North Coast, and carried large quantities of hardwood timber which, if standing there today, would mean a small fortune to every homesteader. In those days there was no demand for hardwoods locally, but some of the tall straight trees were cut and hauled to Caboolture by bullock teams, the round trip taking up to three days.

The scrub also carried large quantities of cedar and beech. thousands of feet of the latter being sacrificed to provide pasture for settlers' stock. The following words of Henry Russell were true of this period in Mt. Mee history:-

"Down with them,
Down with the lords of the forest:
Down to the earth
with each high spreading tree;
Proud as they stand
They must yield to my hand,
To build up a home
For my children and me."

Sugar Mill.

A sugar mill was built in those early days, but the effort to A
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suitable sugar cane was a failure, and the venture petered out in a few years.

Relics of old times still exist in the remains of discarded bullock waggons, hobble chains and bullock bells, grim reminders of the days when settlers sent their potatoes, maize or fruit by bullock waggon to Caboolture, thence by rail to Brisbane. Frequently they got very little in return for their labour, and sometimes nothing at all. In such cases the teamsters also had to go on short allowance.

(Strange how history repeats itself. Through the intervening years the same situation has periodically happened. Quite recently, farmers had to plow in their crops for want of a market. When, oh! when will the matter of supply and demand be co-ordinated?; This year, next year, sometime, never perhaps.)

In those far away days anything of a luxurious nature was a scarce commodity, nevertheless there was plenty of fun. Nowadays the old horse is superseded by mechanical appliances, the old time sing-song and concert is replaced by ready-made music with the advent of the gramophone and wireless.

First Dances

The first dances were held in a bachelor's one-roomed home, the music being played on a little instrument by a school teacher from Upper Caboolture.

Some of the guests rode on horseback (ladies sidesaddle) from Caboolture to take part in the entertainment. Life was slower and wages lower in those days, but the spontaneous enjoyment most people got out of life compensated for that. In later years a concertina was played for the dances at 5/- (50c) per night, from dark to dawn.

As the years went by, dances and concerts were held in settlers' barns, and still keep going all night, as it was almost impossible to negotiate the roads in the dark.

At that period the music was mostly supplied by a violinist. There would be a few dances, alternately round and square then a song or stepdance. At these affairs people took their own refreshments, each one getting something of someone else's.

There were good cooks in those days, just as there now, but without the present day conveniences. It is a long way from 5/- (50c) per night for dance music in the present time. Time marches on.