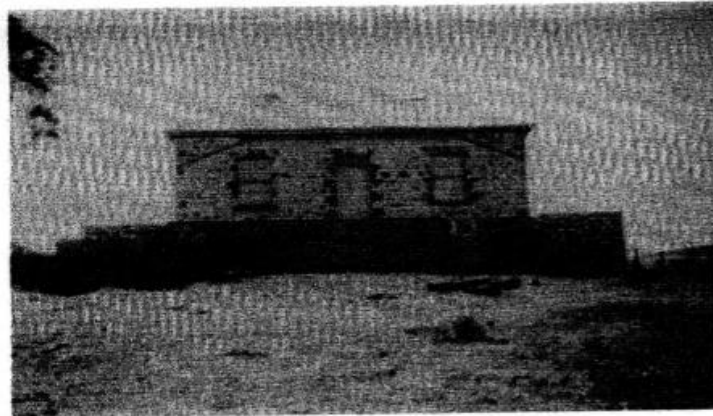


EVERLEY AND ITS INN, SECTION 1789

*Edwin Maidment's
"Everley"*



Edwin MAIDMENT 1820 – 1884 was the eldest son of Charles MAIDMENT 1795 – 1865 and brother of William George. Of his sisters Elizabeth married George HOGBEN and George's sister Sara HOGBEN 1825 – 1869 MARRIED Edwin MAIDMENT at the Crafers Inn in 1841. They had no children. The HOGBENS were brewers and supplied the Tin Pot and Wellington Inn with their liquor. MaryAnn HOGBEN 1820 – 1919 married William HOWLETT in 1841 and he died in 1883 when he was listed as a publican of Crafers. In about 1853 William and Mary Ann joined Edwin and Sara and built a house on section 1789 fencing off 15 acres including part of Everley Creek from the Tin Pot area. Here he grew fruit and vegetables and ran the Council pound from 1867 – 1882. The HOWLETTS had ten children.

When Tin Pot Inn finally closed in 1867 the building was occupied for many years by Julia ROGERS a niece of Edwin MAIDMENT. Relics of the Inn were kept by Edwin's third wife 1828 – 1900 who had been a Mrs APPELKAMP and given to her daughter Josephine by her first marriage. There was a dice shaker to gamble for drinks and the musical box to console the losers.

Josephine married Henry HARVEY and lived at Everley. In 1856 Edwin had bought section 1356 on the other side of the main road and in 1906 the HARVEYS sunk a mine in search of gold on this hillside near the Wheal Ellen mine now abandoned. It was a private concern using farm equipment and labour and was put down to 60 feet. A find of quartz with ironstone raised their hopes but in the end the cost exceeded the returns. The ore was extracted by a hand windlass and bucket after the dynamite blasts and the selected ore taken by horse and cart in hessian bags to Mt Torrens for treatment

The three sections were sold to Paul FRAHN in the 1940's and to DA SYMONS IN 1964 when the name was changed to Bryn Villa, it now belongs to the adjoining land owners the RICHARDSONs of Dalveen.

Later with the development of Milang as a port travellers took the coach spending a night at Strathalbyn and driving on a smooth road to the lake where they boarded first a schooner later a paddle wheeler to Meningie where they joined another coach for Melbourne.

Strathalbyn's hotels and businesses were in their heyday and as well as catering for travellers to Milang they also saw the horse tramline connect them to Goolwa and Victor Harbour. Had the agitation for a road bridge at Wellington been successful some of this prosperity may have come to Woodchester, but the Old Tin Pot Inn closed in 1867.

The bridge at Edwards Crossing took a while to become popular, but the town of Murray Bridge soon showed that traffic breeds prosperity and apart from travellers from the south making the trip through Callington. Woodchester ceased to grow and Chauncey's Line sank into obscurity.

There is no record of the original Inn Keepers but from 1852 the MAIDMENT family owned the land which they called Everley.

1852 was the year of the famous Gold Escort. As the state was drained of manpower and funds, Alexander TOLMER; Commissioner of Police, suggested an escort to bring home from Mt Alexander diggings, gold dust found by the men. The government agreed and the Bullion Act enabled the bank to purchase the gold for bank notes and to assay and smelt it. The first trip on February 10 1852, travelled from Adelaide to Mt. Barker, past the Lord Nelson and Morning Star Inns on the road to Wistow and so to the Tin Pot Inn Near Woodchester, all recorded in Tolmer's report.

Altogether, eighteen trips bought back two million pounds worth of gold and some was used to strike Adelaide pound, the first gold coinage in Australia. Some trips went by way of Chauncey's Line but the road through Woodchester area following the River Bremer, across the plains to Langhorne Creek on the way to Wellington and its small ferry over the River Murray was shorter. Some diggers and some escort trips went from the Wistow corner at the Morning Star Inn to Strathalbyn, as this was the last place to buy stores before facing the long trek across the wilderness to the Tatiara district.

Memories of the diggers, some pushing a wheelbarrow, some on horseback, persisted in the district and are recorded in many family histories. Some were successful but many barely covered their expenses.

During the Jubilee 150 celebrations in 1986, the Escort was re-enacted by members of the South Australian Police Force, helped by the Trail Horse Riding Club and supported by the National Trust. As riders came from Langhorne creek and rode over Cemetery Hill, the route was lined with hundreds of children from surrounding schools and many adult spectators. When they reached the sight of Tin Pot In , the locals served morning tea and welcomed the people who were re-living the great gold escort trips.

William LEIGH may have leased his large Special Section to an early settler but as the first people moved into the Red Creek district on the newly surveyed surrounding sections he decided to make use of his asset and purchased the neighbouring section on the south, 1791, in 1853. The two were surveyed into blocks by Corporal William DAWSON of the Royal Sappers and miners and the plan deposited with the G.R.O. in 1856. A street was made along the division between the sections where township blocks were of 3 – 6 acres. There were seven lots of 10 – 18 acres, seven of 40 – 100 and one church reserve of 3 acres which was never used for that purpose.

The area was called Woodchester but never gazetted as such, but the name slowly displaced "Tin Pot". In February 1856, it was announced that at Lowe's Hotel Mt. Barker E. J. PEAKE will offer the celebrated Tin Pot Special Survey comprising 602 acres of the richest alluvial land in South Australia together with section 1791. This matchless property will be subdivided into small farms and the tow of Woodchester will be laid out on Rodwell Creek with the gift of a sight for a church and school from the proprietor. (The church would have been an established church of England, but as we will see, the settlers were always of a Methodist Persuasion and the local farmers gave land for their own sort of Church).

Fifteen months later an auction of an extension to the village was advertised at Everley Inn (The Tin Pot Inn adjacent to Tin Pot Special Survey. Already, it stated, a town of Woodchester is a fact. A good store, comfortable dwelling's, and a blacksmiths shop are among the beginning of the place. It is the centre of an important mining district.

- 1857, Among the purchasers were the Roman Catholic Church
- Edward STIRLING
- Rev O'BRIEN and P O'BRIEN of Mt Barker,
- Adam RICHARDSON Druggist of Mt. Barker,
- George CROTCHETT tailor of Mt. Barker and
- Charles TILLBROOKS.

- 1858, Berry SMITH Storekeeper of Strathalbyn,
- William RICHARDSON of Dalveen and
- John ANDREWS of Strathalbyn.

- 1859, Otway ANDREWS and T BERWICK,
- 1857, Isaac CROSS farmer of Red Creek
- 1865, James MOULDEN of Woodchester
- William BROOK conveyed half and acre of section 1353 adjoining the town to the primitive Methodist Connexion for a chapel and school.

While Woodchester town was in the making the Tin Pot Inn continued to flourish and its trade was increased when the Wheal Ellen Mine opened in 1858 and a road from the mine came almost to the Inn door. The mine had a wine shanty but some miners patronised the Inn.

Official records show Innkeepers:

- –MAIDMENT 1850 - 1854 – 1856 he had previously run the Crafers Inn.
- Richard HAWKINS 1857 formally ran Crafers Inn.
- G WELLS 1858 and 1859 – 1863 Possibly ran the Jolly Farmer in Strathalbyn
- Mr J Rogers 1864 – 1866 was the brother in law of Edwin Charles MAIDMENT who bought the 78 acres of section 1789 in 1852. The adjoining section 1239 of 129 acres on the hill overlooking the Tin Pot was bought in 1856 and a new house built.

Taken from Book "Old Woodchester (Tin Pot) & Anaunga District Council Area" by Eric A Cross