



THE PIONEER

RURAL & RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY

“Hillview” The Early Days



In 1824 (December) in London the Australian Agricultural Company was set up and was to receive a grant of one million acres of land in NSW. The first colony was established at Carrington (Port Stephens) in January 1826. This Port Stephens estate was almost five hundred thousand acres and extended as far north as the Manning River. Originally intended to breed sheep for wool, wheat barley, maize tobacco and silk were tried with limited success. The countryside proved unsuitable and further estates were taken up in Tamworth area which proved much more suitable for wool growing.

Aurthur Thompson was born at Mildrith, England. He grew up on a farm in Eley, Cambridgeshire England surrounded by orchards. Aurthur came to Australia in mid 1890's to 'have a look around' / He liked what he saw and passage back to England to pack up his meagre goods and chattels and say his goodbyes. He was never to return to his homeland.

On his first voyage to Australia one of the ships crew was injured when he fell down from the rigging. He suffered from severe head injuries and was left on one of the Islands to take his chances with the friendly natives.

Aurthur returned to Australia and secured a job at Limeburners Creek where he was to take care of the horses at the coach stop. To Aurthurs surprise, there was a sailor at work in the stables. Aurthur and the injured man were to become good friends.

Aurthur met a young woman from Stroud- Edith Frances Nicholls. Edith was the 10th of 13 children born to Sarah and Thomas Nicholls Jr of Briton Court. Sarah was the daughter of William Street. Edith seventh oldest sister was Florence Elizabeth Nicholls born 16/5/1860. Florence

married Charles Ribbons on May 23rd 1883 at St Johns Church Stroud. They farmed a lease of land from AAco located at the end of what is now known as Ribbons Road and is now owned by A & A Pace family, the property is now called " Ribbons Vale".

Charles Ribbons purchased this property from AA co on 3rd February 1893. Florence and Edith were very close as sisters. It was this 'closeness' that brought about the purchase of "Hillview" by Aurthur & Edith on 4th November 1899. Now the two girls could maintain their friendship as the two farms shared a common boundary.

Aurthur Thompson now drew upon his hard earned skills from the orchards of Eley to his Alderley farm at Booral. The property soon boasted 5 acres of fruit trees including oranges, mandarins, lemons, apples, apricots, nectarines, peach, persimmon, grapes, pomegranate etc He also grew vegetable for the local market. It is said he grew onions up to 4lbs (1.8kg) in weight.

A dairy was soon built, which still stands today, he would milk 33 Jersey's and the milk was then separated for cream. The waste from the separation was fed to the pigs, another source of income. A significant apiary was established with the bees busy making honey and pollinating the fruit and vegetables.

The original homestead was burnt down in a bushfire. It was located further down Ribbons Road near where the old 'honey shed' still stands.

The property was the site of an AA co sheep station and boasted two shepherds huts and a sheep shed.



By David Lyall – 2017