

DISPUTED TERRITORY

The area known as the "Disputed Territory" was a two-mile strip of land claimed by both Victoria and South Australia. This was caused by the fact that two Government surveyors, one starting from the north and one from the south, failed to meet half-way. After a long debate, the Privy Council made a decision in favour of Victoria. This land was leasehold only at the time, thus very little inconvenience was caused by this decision. It is interesting to note that the railway station and line in this area was operated by South Australian staff until the Melbourne to Adelaide line went through in 1887, when it was taken over by Victorian staff. Before 1900, the northern portion of this "Disputed Territory" was rented, either by Lockhart or Cove Stations, and the southern part by Ingpen's (now Allen's) for 6d an acre. In 1906 applications were called for leasing 28 1,000 acre blocks for a 7 year term, and were later sold for £2 an acre.

Wolseley was surveyed as Tatiara Town 18th April 1883. Wolseley was named after Sir Garnet Wolseley (afterwards Viscount) a famous general who was the victor at Tel-el-Kebir in the Sudan in 1882 (and later was sent too late by the Gladstone Government to the relief of General Gordon in 1885). A rather vituperative letter-writer, signing himself "Wolseley" in the Naracoorte Herald on 17th July, 1888, remarks that - "Ours (Wolseley) is a true name and one which the township has not yet disgraced. Like our god-father, we have never turned our back on any foe...."

CENSUS	POPULATION OF WOLSELEY
4 TH APRIL, 1921	361
30 TH JUNE, 1947	563
30 TH JUNE, 1961	374

FIRST BABIES BORN IN WOLSELEY.

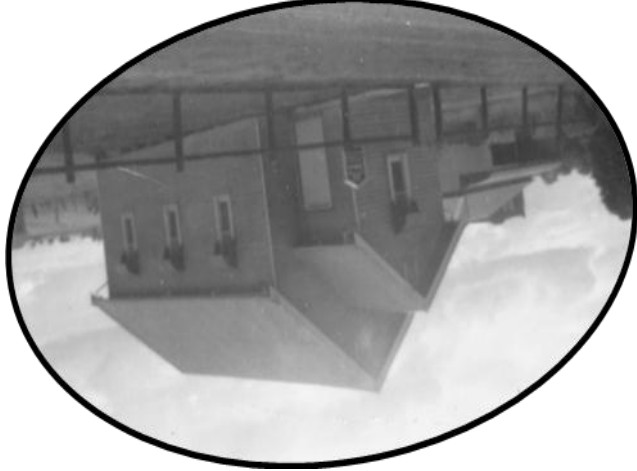
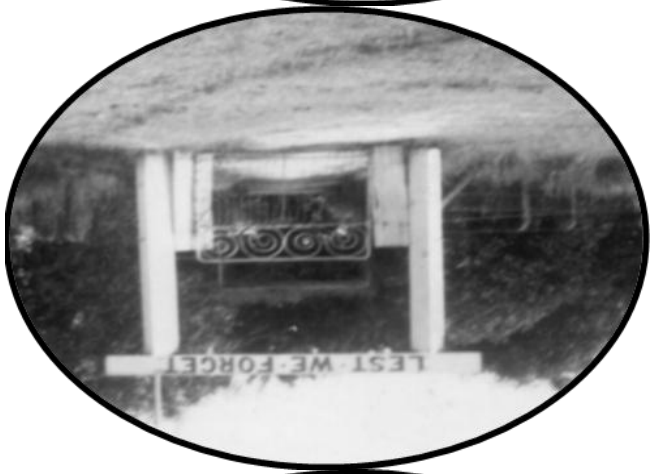
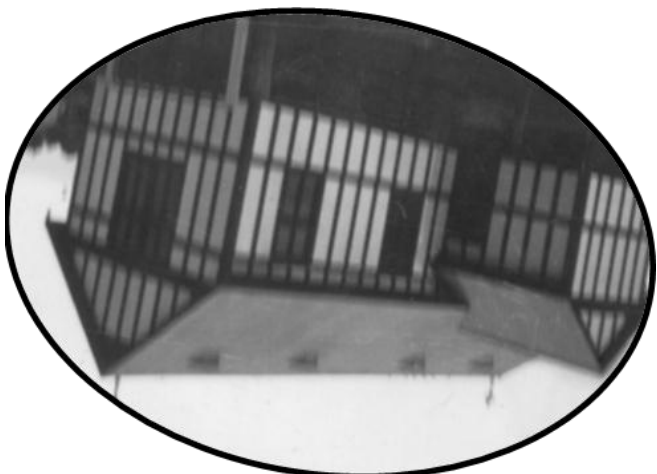
The first non-indigenous babies born in Wolseley were:
William Wolseley Gould born February 3rd 1884
and Grace Easter born April 29th 1886.



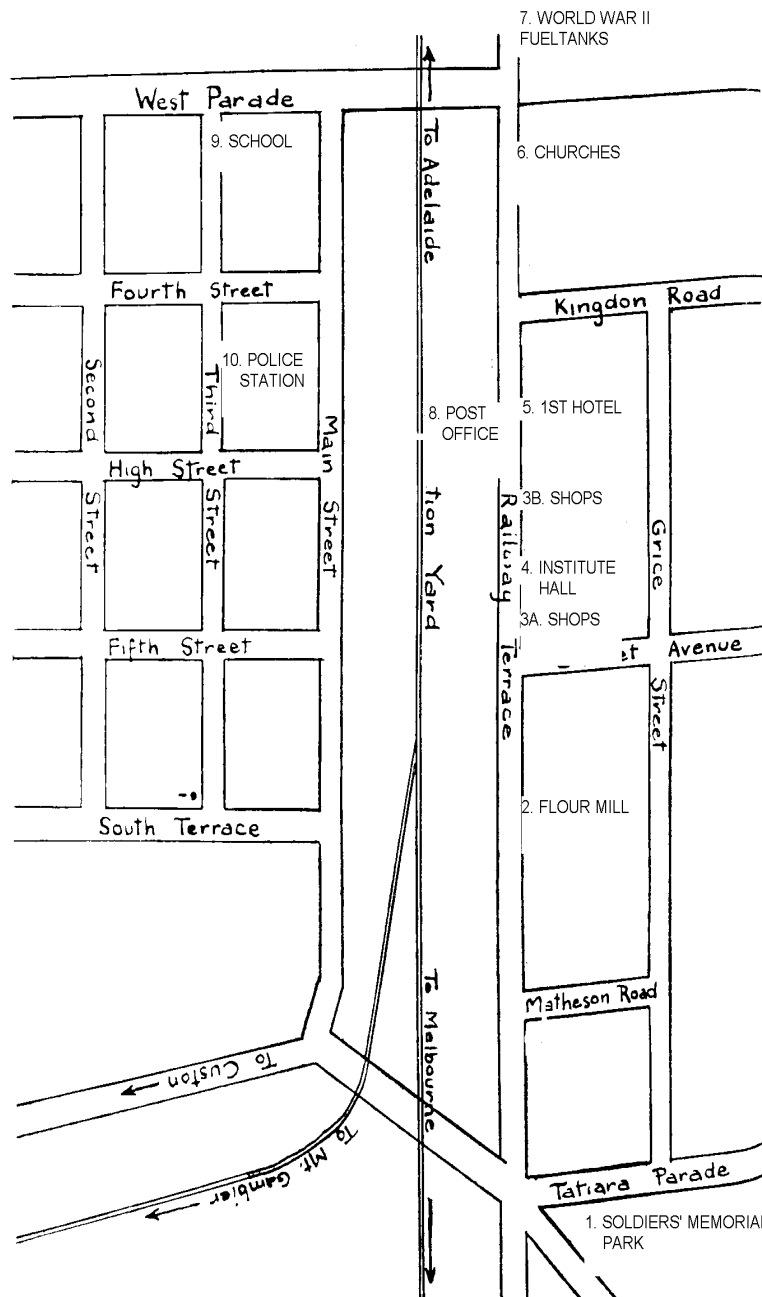
WOLSELEY HISTORICAL WALK
COMPILED BY LIZ BALLINGER,
WITH THANKS TO TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ALAN JONES, "TATIARA, THE FIRST 140 YEARS 1845-1985",
MRS DOSS BAKER, "THE STORY OF WOLSELEY"
ROBYN MCCALLUM FOR THE COLLAGE AND
MRS TOPSY NOBLE AND JOHN BALLINGER WHO SUPPLIED
THE PHOTOGRAPHS
26TH JANUARY, 2011



WOLSELEY HISTORICAL WALK



TOWN OF WOLSELEY



The first President of the Institute Committee was J Knight and the Secretary A. Wilson. The building cost £106. 1890 an additional £104 was spent on the building. 1896 the building was altered and enlarged £120. 1896 -1916 the Literary and Debating Society met at the Institute. 1927 Places of Public Entertainment Act doomed the Wolseley Institute Building which was then 40 years old. It was built entirely of wood and in several other ways did not conform to the new standards demanded of a place where crowds gathered. The Institute Committee decided to demolish and rebuild than to attempt to modify the existing building to the requirement of the Act.

With the almost prohibitive cost of the new building in stone, the committee chose to build in duabestos fibre plaster. The contract let to AJC Assheton. Whereas the old building stood back from the street, the front of the new building aligned with the edge of the footpath. The entrance doors opened into a passage 6'6" wide. On the left was the reading room, library and ladies dressing room, on the right a supper room 44' x 16'6". The main hall is 60' x 40' with stage 22' deep. The bio box (projection room) for pictures was 9' square and was constructed in ferro-concrete with a steel door to make it completely fire proof. Electric lighting was installed throughout the building.

1928 June 1, the new Institute was opened followed by tea in the supper room and a ball in the main hall. 1933, the "Border Chronicle" quotes "Wolseley has long been the dance mecca of the Tatiara, and since the opening of its fine new hall some five years ago, the ample floor space has become increasingly popular as a rendezvous for lovers of the terpsichorean art. Carl Trischlag's Orchestra from Murray Bridge added to this popularity".

1958 a memorial porch was built over the entrance to the Institute. Rev E N Broomhead dedicated this in April 1958 as the town's memorial to 5 Wolseley men who had given their lives in World War II. An honour roll in the Institute lists 75 servicemen and women who enlisted from Wolseley.

5. 1st Hotel - Allotments 18 & 22

16 February, 1883, plans were deposited for a hotel to be known as the Wolseley Hotel with the Licensing Court at Naracoorte. Abraham Kingdon, built and managed the hotel on allotments 18 & 22 of Wolseley township. The hotel's outer walls were of galvanised iron, lined with matchboard, with ceilings 12' high; the dining room 30' x 13'; a private parlour with piano; plus 6 guest bedrooms. A separate building consisted of a kitchen, store room, washhouse and servants bedrooms. Large tanks collected rainwater from the roof, thus avoiding use of the well water. About a chain to the rear a 10 stalled stable and chaff house was erected and a stock saleyard. The hotel was used for meetings including public meetings to agitate for improved facilities in the town and some early church services.

1884 old hotel sold to J Assheton.

1922 a new hotel was erected on the corner of Kingdon Street and Railway Terrace. The site had been used as a tennis court. Built by A J C Assheton, the new hotel was a large Mt Gambier stone structure. It was the first stone building in town. Due to the nature of the soil in and around Wolseley (so-called Bay of Biscay soil) underpinning was needed to prevent cracking when the soil moved. Hence timber-frame was chosen for most of the town's buildings.

After the new hotel was opened, the old hotel (next door on allotment 18) was sold to Mr Jack Snibson. He lived in part of the building and conducted a billiard saloon in a building almost

1. Soldiers' Memorial Park

1919 Soldiers' Memorial Park was officially opened by Cr AA Fisher. Chairman was W Butler, and distinguished guest the Hon John Livingstone, MHR attended. The land was given by Mr David Makin. In 1928, a memorial was procured at a cost of £300 and erected by AJ Assheton. Statue unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Tom Bridges. This was the first Vice-Regal visit made to Wolseley. The monument, in white marble of a soldier 15' high standing in reversed arms position, is mounted on a block of polished granite. The memorial was erected by the residents of Wolseley and district, in honour of the brave men who took part in World War 1. The obelisk is inscribed with the names of 41 Wolseley returned servicemen who were on active service.

2. Flour Mill

1884 February 15, Dunn and Company's flour mill was built. The mill was of stone-grinder type - not the more modern steel rollers. The mill closed in 1894.

1898 John Thompson & Co of Naracoorte bought and modernized the building and works, and a 24 hour service was offered. Negotiations began with the Railways for a siding from the railway yard to the mill. A railway line (of both broad and narrow gauge) across the main street, connected to the railway yards, enabled the loaded trucks, towed by a horse, to be shunted ready to send to their destination.

Later John Darling & Co purchased the mill. November, 1920, it was dismantled and the four rollers, mill boiler and machinery were dispatched by trucks to Adelaide. The mill had provided a valuable service to the district. Many farmers had their wheat ground and exchanged wheat for flour, others sold wheat, ground to flour for sale in Adelaide.

3. A. Shops - 1884 Wolseley proclaimed a township.

1880 W Gould & Powell had a blacksmith business on allotment 28, cnr of Grice & Garnet St

In 1900 George Virgin took over ownership of the business and later Boyd Evans moved the blacksmith's business to allotment 10. JJ Bartlett then purchased this blacksmith's business, followed by Victor Hunt 1907 - 1910; H Gneil 1910 - 1926; Wilton L Gregory 1926 -1927.

1882 J Lambert built the general store for Berry Smith on allotment 12.

1897 the general store was sold to W. Ballinger Snr who came from Clare.

1925 W Ballinger retired to Adelaide and his son WC Ballinger took over the business.

1947 WC Ballinger's sons David and Ross Ballinger took control of the business.

1957 HA Matthews & Son became the proprietors.

1963 the Ballinger brothers bought the business.

1965 David Ballinger bought out his brother Ross and traded as DW Ballinger & Co.

1984 Trevor & Michelle Colbert purchased the business and traded as Colbert's General Store.

1884 J Lambert & W Cribb built a grocery, drapery and ironmongery shop on allotment 11. At the back of the shop, they sold building and iron materials. In 1885 Lambert & Cribb dissolved their partnership. He closed the store in 1887. In 1925 EJ Jarrett conducted a small grocery shop opposite Ballinger's Store (in Lambert's shop). 1927 EJ Jarrett moved the business to Main Street, selling to Rethus Bros who later sold to R & DW Ballinger for a storeroom.

1883 -1887 The Town and Country Bank, was a 2 roomed weatherboard building west of the Institute. AH Price was the first manager, to be succeeded in November by Mr Lawson. In 1900 William Ballinger erected a small building between his store and the Institute for use by the Commercial Bank as an agency and open on Friday afternoons. 1960 The Commercial Bank closed the agency. This building was relocated as part of Ballinger's store.

3B. Shops

1890 Henry Smith built a residence known as the Coffee Palace, on allotments 16A and 15, 1917 Harmer owned it; followed by Mrs C Mudie. 1928 W M Merrett conducted a small shop, billiard room and boarding house. 1946 WM Willis bought the Coffee Palace and rented refurbished rooms to migrants working on the transshipping, and also ran a barber shop.

1959 the premises were sold for removal. 1928-29 Merretts added another building used by the barber and later used as a fruit and vegetable and confectionary shop run by Willis, Carbone & Board. Walrave, Baker & Noble ran it as a mixed business and later by AG & RW Noble.

1910 Stanley W Fryar traded as a general merchant on allotments 17A & 17. 1932 it traded as the Fryar Brothers, closed during the war whilst the brothers Aubrey & Eric served in World War II Armed Services. 1945 May reopened. 1952 AJ & AV Jolly bought the business. Later, Jollies sold to the Ballingers.

1910 M Tremain conducted a hairdressing business on allotment 15A followed by: WJ Butler's green grocery business; N Oehmn's boot repair business; WR Hunt's greengrocery business; HV Riches leatherwork and boot repair business.

1928 Mrs EL Cooney operated a bakery, tea rooms in the old hotel, on allotment 18. 1937 fire gutted the building. Cooney's moved to the Baker's Shop followed by bakers C Webber, J Baker, F Barnett, DeRooy & Van Handel. 1957 the bake house was condemned and closed.

Butchers were R Makin, M Lahiff, T Stanton, R Rust, Gillies, Flower, E Grosser, B Norton, R Clark, Hayes & R Kelly

Saddlers were E Law, FH Knox, Innes and Evans.

1938 Mr Jack Dowdy established a fibrous plaster works in Grice Street.

1920's Registered Carriers F Hendy, M Snibson, 1930's C Gordon, SJ Baker, W Potter, C Golding; 1940's SJ Baker & Son, Merritt Bros; 1950's IS Baker, J Carbone. 1952 AJ & NE Merrett established an interstate transport depot, trading as Wolseley Transport Depot.

4. Institute Hall - Allotment 13

1886 the Wolseley Institute Building was built on allotment 13 with library and reading room. John Rankine donated the land.

attached to the rear of the western end of the building.

1928 Mrs Eileen L Cooney rented the eastern section of the old hotel building and opened Wolseley's first bakery and baker's goods outlet. A bake house and oven was built as a separate structure behind the old hotel building. Mr Cooney baked in that and they sold their bakers lines from the old bar near the eastern end of the hotel. They also delivered bread house-to-house by horse and cart. 1937 on Easter Monday, March 29, the old hotel building was destroyed by fire.

6. Churches

1884 Methodists built the Wesleyan School-Room on allotment 99.

1884 St Patrick's Church of England opened (south side of the railway line).

1901 a new Methodist Church was built in Garnet Avenue in the main (northern) part of the town.

1928 St George's Church of England opened on allotment 4.

1934 a new Church of Christ built as the Wolseley Chapel on allotment 256.

1959 The Catholic congregation purchased the Railways Institute Social Club building in Railway Terrace. St Andrew's Catholic Church 1959 - 1982.

All the Churches have been sold and removed except for the Church of Christ Church which was purchased by the Methodist Church in 1967 and used for Sunday School.

7. WWII Fuel Tanks

RAAF constructed No 12 Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot early in World War II, along Railway Terrace North, Wolseley. RAAF established 31 of these fuel storage depots at various inland sites considered secure from attack by sea-borne aircraft. Two others were in South Australia at Port Pirie and Crystal Brook. Initially 2 standard 120,000 gallon storage tanks and 1 40,000 gallon ethyl mixing tank and a barracks etc., were erected at Wolseley. These tanks were camouflaged to look like farm buildings. The depot commenced operation in mid - 1942 with personnel establishment of a sergeant, a cook and 3 guards. Later 3 additional tanks were erected but these were only dull-painted and not camouflaged. By May 1944, the Air Board decided to close the inland fuel depots and all fuel stocks were transferred to coastal installations. On June 14th, 1944, the Wolseley depot was disbanded and the property sold after the war ended.

8. Post Office

August 1st 1913, a full-time post office, staffed by Postmaster-General's Department employees, opened in a newly erected weatherboard building on the northern boundary of the railway yard (opposite the Coffee Palace). T Evans was the first postmaster. This brought to an end a thirty-year period in which the stationmaster had been postmaster as well.

September 1913 - March 1914 there was a public telephone, located at the post office and connected to Bordertown. 1917, a 10 line switchboard was installed and a local exchange opened. 1930, there were 47 subscribers connected. September 20, 1962, an automatic telephone exchange replaced the manual exchange. January 7th 1963, the Post Office closed nearly 7 months short of 50 years. The former Post Office building was used as the RSL clubrooms for some years. Unofficial post offices have been in operation since.

9. School - Allotments 127, 128, 167 & 168

1884 the Education Department leased the Wesleyan School-Room for the public school through the week and it was used as a church on Sundays. 17 students enrolled.

1892 a combined School and residence was built on allotments 127, 128, 167 and 168 reserved for school purposes before any town lots were offered for sale in 1884.

September 30th 1892, students were enrolled. Children started school when they were 8 or 9 as there was no room for them. Parents paid 6d per week for each pupil attending school. Six weeks after the building was occupied tenders were called for extensions to the classroom 30' x 15' for 60 students. Platt & Marshall from Naracoorte were the contractors.

1898, 86 students crammed into this space.

1896 a kitchen was added to the residence cost £412/12/-.

1899 a 15' square classroom was added separated from the original room cost £214; work carried out by Farrant of St Peters.

1908 construction of a weatherboard classroom block with 2 rooms 24' x 22' on the southern frontage.

1935 November the school was made an examination centre for the Qualifying Certificate.

1936 A successful back-to-school. School welfare commenced.

1960's 55 children attended school in grade 1 to grade 7. The town oval across the road was used for school sporting activities.

In 1961, the Education Department provided a bus enabling Wolseley school students to attend High School in Bordertown. Prior to this a privately run bus by the Bakers 1950 - 1958 bringing students to the Bordertown Higher Primary School (30) as well as bringing Custon children to the Wolseley Primary School - the bus carried 48 children.

1973 School residence built in Third Street.

1974 the old residence in the school yard was demolished, increasing the school's playground.

In 1982 the school was reclassified as "Wolseley Rural School". The School was closed in 1993.

10. Police

1884 July - 1885 December 6. Mounted Constable Mieschel was transferred from Lucindale to become Wolseley's first police officer. June 9th, 1886 the police station was reopened and was first located in James Street, the northern-most street in Wolseley, allotment 109 or 110. A timber and iron police station and residence was constructed on this site. The cell was a small galvanised iron building with a post in the centre. To this a prisoner was handcuffed. It was used only for prisoners arrested locally until they could be brought to trial or taken to Mt Gambier where there was a gaol. Prisoners were held in this lock up for up to 2 days waiting for trains to take them to Mt Gambier. No prisoner served a sentence at Wolseley. In 1895, a new police officer arrived and rented the timber residence west of the flour mill. On February 5th, it was "willfully set on fire by persons unknown" and totally destroyed. The police station was then relocated to allotment 255 in Railway Terrace North.

1908 a weatherboard station erected on allotments 133 and 136 in Third Street, Tatiara (south of the Railway). Beside the combined office-residence, there was a lock up on the site.

1960 the police station closed and sold as a private residence.

