

The Life of William Arthur Dawes

William Arthur Dawes was born on 22 September 1863 in Pekina, South Australia, his father, James, was 32 and his mother, Anne, was 32.

His sister Elizabeth was born on 20 April 1866 in Pekina, South Australia, when William Arthur was 2 years old.

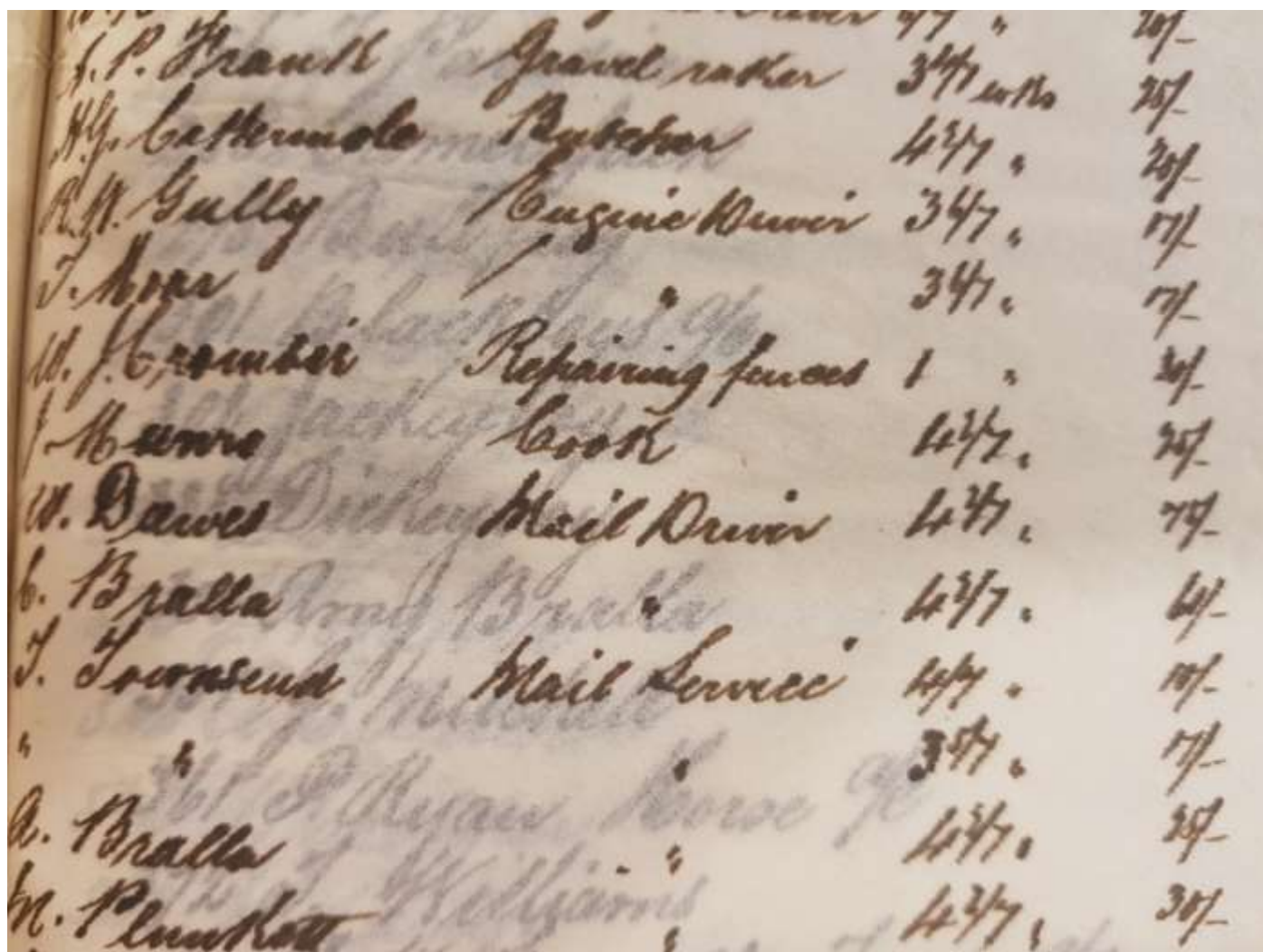
Researching account books and ledgers for the Beltana Pastoral Company at the State Library of South Australia (BRG 133 Series) , discovered the following entries :

Blanchewater represent the first attempts to open up and settle the Far North of South Australia. From 1858 onwards the Blanchewater Homestead was the centre of a profitable and expanding pastoral empire associated with the notable South Australians John Baker (1858) and Thomas Elder (1872).

Blanchewater : In 1861 the station was used by McKinlay as a starting point for the Burke and Wills relief expedition.

The heyday of Blanchewater and its horses was during the 1880s when as many as a thousand foals were born each year. They were used by Cobb & Co coaches and as buggy horses in Adelaide. The majority however were used for stock mustering and as remounts for the Indian Army. Its fame attracted not only business but also people who wanted to work on the station. One of them, James Tiernay, came all the way from Canada. He worked at Blanchewater until his death on 6 August 1887. In 1891 it was decided to change back to sheep and more than four thousand horses were sold.

Blanchewater Station Nov 1889 as mail driver



J. P. Brant	Gravel roader	34/7	20/-
H. Lethermole	Ryebach	43/7	25/-
R. H. Gully	Casine River	34/7	20/-
J. H. H. H.		34/7	17/-
W. J. H. H.	Repairing fences	1	24/-
J. H. H.	Cook	43/7	25/-
W. Dawes	Mail Driver	43/7	24/-
G. Bralla	Bralla	43/7	24/-
J. Loonsen	Mail Service	43/7	24/-
"		34/7	17/-
A. Bralla		43/7	24/-
M. Plunkett		43/7	24/-

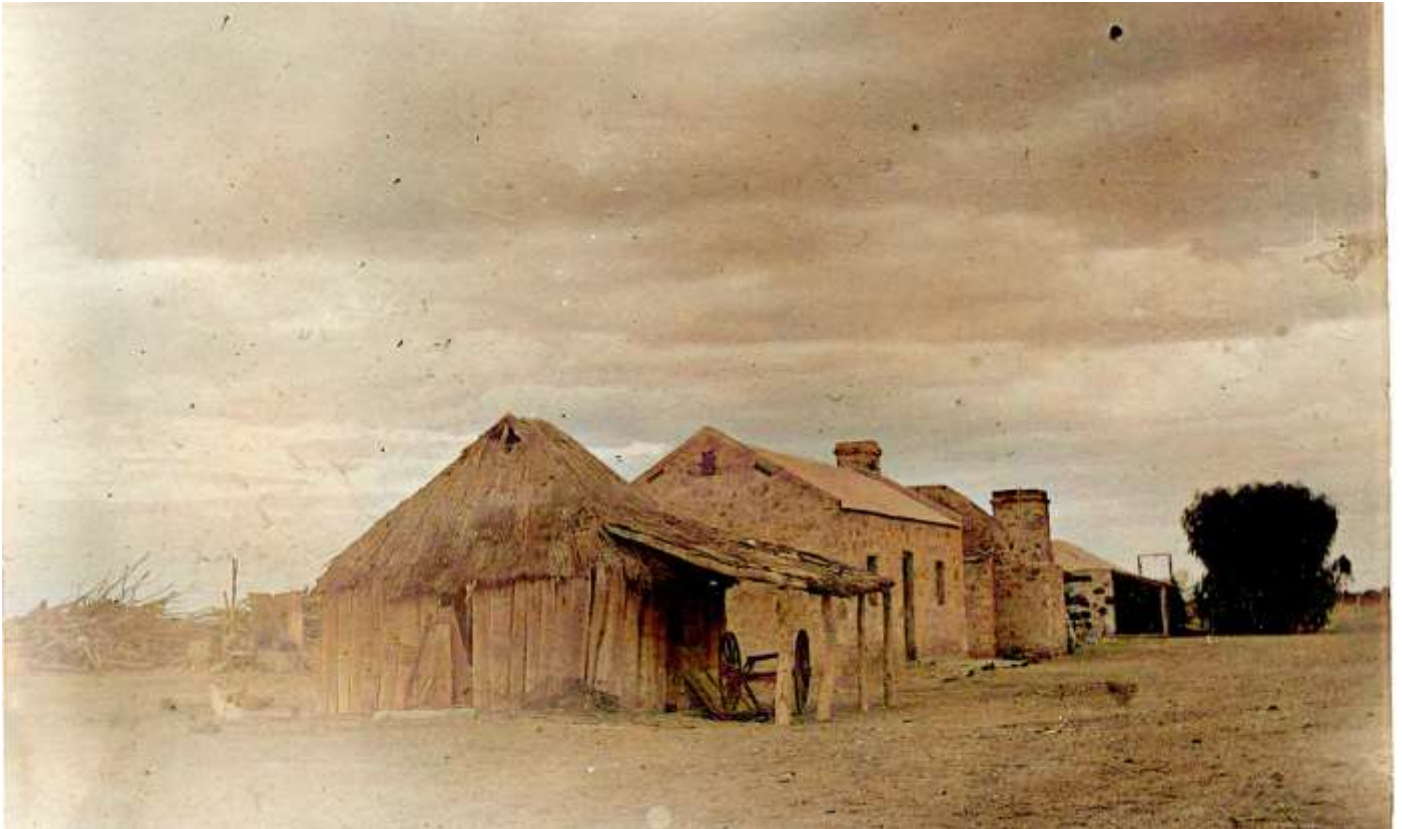
Blanchewater June 1890 as mail driver

1	J. Linnick	2 16 0	Mail Services & Wages
2	E. Hingrove	1 8 6	Wages
3	J. Linnick	3 11 1	Exchange
4	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Exchange
5	J. Linnick	1 11 1	Exchange
6	J. Linnick	10 16 6	Exchange
7	J. Linnick	11 11 1	Exchange
8	J. Linnick	13 15 11	Exchange
9	Bennett & Hingrove	15 12 2	Men's Wages
10	J. H. Townsend	15 11 1	Mail
11	R. H. Kearney	16 2 6	Vant. Carting
12	W. Daves	2 10 1	Mail Wages
13	H. Blankett	7 8 5	Wages
14	H. E. Kearns	6 9 1	Wages
15	H. Harker	4 4 8	Men's Wages
16	E. Stokes	2 11 1	Drill Hole
17	A. Ryan	15 11 1	Exchange
18	R. E. McDonald	1 11 1	Station Exp.
19	W. Coles	3 11 1	Wages

Blanchewater December 1890 as mail driver

1	J. Linnick	16 11 1	Station
2	J. Linnick	2 10 1	Wages
3	H. Blankett	7 10 1	Mail Wages
4	A. Nelson	1 11 1	Wages
5	R. Hingrove	3 10 1	Contract
6	W. Linnick	21 5 1	Men's Wages
7	J. Linnick	5 11 1	Contract
8	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract
9	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract
10	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract
11	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract
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99	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract
100	J. Linnick	2 11 1	Contract

Blanchewater Homestead Photograph of buildings at Blanchewater Station, one timber and a few stone
1897



Homestead with thatched roof and station buildings - group of workers stand around the outbuilding 1905



Murnpeowie 1891

Chopper	M	Returning from Derring 12/10	35/.
Baker	M.	12/10	20/.
Parsons	Jimmy	12/10	20/.
Bail	q	Blacksmith 12/10	20/.
Waters	A. Driver	12/10	50/.
Bralla	C	12/10	60/.
Davis	M	3/10	60/.
Herman	J	Rail Service 3/10	12/10.
Townsend	J. H.	5 days	17/10.
Bralla	A	12/10	25/.

Murnpeowie June 1891

497	Jaylor	J
502	McDonald	+ Gillett
512	Misgrove	M.
514	Rowland	R
516	Gardner	C.
518	Davis	M.
520	Hunt	J
522	Steinbar	John:
524	McNamara	M.

Station		640	
Summary Persons Ledger Balance 30th Nov 1898			
Folio	Dr	Cr	
233 O. Schmitt	Dr	148	19 1/2
247 Wright (Sergeant) John	Dr	5	10 -
255 Robinson	Dr	80	- -
261 Smith	Dr	12	16 6
265 Hancock	Dr	10	17 8
266 Evans	Dr	7	-
267 Mackie	Dr	8	6 2
271 Dean	Dr	1	7 8
280 Oldham	Dr	8	11 1
292 Greenish	Dr	2	9 8
300 Thomas	Dr	2	2 2

In 1891 William (Billy) was mentioned in the below newspaper clipping as the Driver of the Innamincka Coach (taken from the 21st March 1891, "Observer" newspaper)

Adv

Home Abc

04) / Sat 21 Mar 1891 / Page 33 / THE FLOOD IN THE COOPER AND STRZELECKI.

sterilizing apparatus by which means all the bacteria are destroyed.

THE FLOOD IN THE COOPER AND STRZELECKI.

[From our own Correspondent.]
Innaminka, March 6.

The state of the country may be gathered from a short account of my trip from Farina. I left there by coach for Cordillo Downs on 1st inst., when the rain had only been enough to lay the dust; for the next fifty miles there had not been sufficient to put out tracks. At Murrumbidgee the gauge showed 0.050; at Blanchewater the fall was 0.043. At Peta-morra there was a fall of over 2 inches, and Box Creek was running when the coach passed on 2nd inst. At Montecollina Woolshed, where the Farina and Innamincka coaches meet, the rainfall was about half an inch, and the same at the head station.

When we arrived at Montecollina Woolshed we found the driver of the Innamincka coach, Billy Dawes, had not brought his coach from Innamincka on account of the flood in the Strzelecki and heavy road. Mr. Sella, the Manager of Montecollina, had kindly lent Dawes his buggy, so we got to the head station comfortably.

From there we rode to Innamincka, that is, Dawes and myself, and found that the rainfall at Tingatingana had been about 1.500 inch., and that the Strzelecki had run from local rain as far as Chidlee, all the holes from there up to Innamincka being full.

At about Tilparie, six miles south of Toolatchie, we met the flood water, which was then about 3 ft. deep. After leaving Toolatchie we had to keep out in the sandhills to the eastward, as the flood water was spread out as far as the foot of the sandhills, the Moonbar Flat being full. Toonditchie also looked a fine sheet of water, and the boggy state of the ground and other indications showed that the rainfall had been heavy from Dullingri to Innamincka, where the record showed 3 inches.

William Arthur Dawes married Mary Ann Pedlar in Broken Hill, New South Wales, on 11 August 1892 when he was 28 years old. They had eight children in 12 years.

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TROVE

Al

Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900) / Tue 23 Aug 1892 / Page 4 / Family Notices

the wife of G. M. Sugars, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

DAWES—PEDLAR.—On the 11th August, at the Church of England, Broken Hill, by the Rev. Alfred Wheeler, William A. Dawes, second son of James Dawes, to Mary A. Pedlar, eldest daughter of Sarah Jane Pedlar, and eldest granddaughter of Joseph and Margaret Hisgrove, Cordillo Downs. Broken Hill papers please copy.

His daughter Gladys May was born on 3 September 1893 in Port Pirie, South Australia.

In 1894 William bought land Lot 62 in Innamincka. Diagonally across from the current Hotel/Trading Post. On the corner of Mitchell and Browne Streets. He sold it 1897.

South Australia.
(CERTIFICATE OF TITLE)

Register Book,
Vol. 589 Folio 156


Pursuant to Memorandum of Transfer 224450

William Arthur Dawes of Innamincka Pastoral Leases
is the proprietor of an estate in fee simple
subject nevertheless to such incumbrances liens and interests as are notified by memorial underwritten or endorsed hereon in
that Section of land situated in the Town of Kapetown County not named
62 containing one rood & hereunto and bounded as appears in the plan in
the margin hereof

Except and always reserved unto Her Majesty Her heirs successors and assigns all gold silver copper tin and other metals ores minerals and
other substances containing metals and all gems and other precious stones and all coal and mineral oil in or upon the said land with full power
for the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration of the said province for the time being and all persons authorised by him at all times
to enter upon the said land or any part thereof and to search and mine for and remove therefrom any of the metals and other things hereby
excepted and reserved there found doing as little damage as may be to the surface. Provided that in the event of the exercise of the foregoing
powers the said Commissioner shall pay to the person or persons thereby damaged fair and reasonable compensation for any damage sustained
(exclusive of the value of any of the metals and things excepted and reserved as aforesaid) such compensation to be determined by valuation
in manner provided by section 170 of "The Crown Lands Act 1888" Which said section is delineated in the public map of the said
Town deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal this first day of September 1894.

Signed the first day of September 1894 in the presence of
Vernon H. Edwards
Frederick J. Turner
Acting Registrar-General.



Transfer No 317361 from William Arthur Dawes
to John Alexander Donaldson of
Innamincka of an estate in fee simple
in the within land produced for
registration the 16 day June 1897 at 2:40pm
J. H. Heath Dep. R. G.

Pursuant to Application No 317367
Thomas Roberts of Brimstone Schoolmaster
and Frederick Wilson of Klemzig Farmers
are proprietors of an estate in fee simple in the
within land with the Extension reserved in the
Bill dated the 25 day January 1897 of the
within named John Alexander Donaldson
who died on the 15 day March 1897 an application
by Trustee dated the 15 day May 1897 produced
for registration the 17 day August 1897 at 12:40pm
J. H. Heath Dep. R. G.

1102

His son Arthur was born on 17 July 1895 in Port Pirie, South Australia. Arthur passed away in 1896 in Wilcannia, New South Wales, when he was 1 year old.

During 1899 – 1904 William was in Innamincka, Murnpeowie and Farina. Taken from the Financial Journal at Murnpeowie Station, he was a camel driver there 1899-1904

His son Joshua was born on 16 July 1900 in Farina, South Australia. Joshua passed away on 20 December 1901 in South Australia when he was 1 year old at Murnpeowie Station.

His daughter Nellie Blanche was born on 25 November 1901 at Murnpeowie Station. The name, Blanche may have come from Blanchewater which is between Farina and Innamincka.

In 1901 William bought land Lot 271 in Farina on Third Street. He sold in 1907.

South Australia
(CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.)

Register Book.
Vol. 679 Folio 113

Pursuant to Memorandum of Transfer No 370639

William Arthur Dawes of Farina Merchant

is the proprietor of an estate in fee simple

subject nevertheless to such Incumbrances, liens and interests as are notified by memorial underwritten or endorsed hereon in

that SECTION of land situated in the Farina Town and COUNTY of not named

16th 271 containing one rood or thereabouts

GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
11-2-00

and bounded as appears in the plan in the margin hereof

which said Section is delineated in the public map of the said Town deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal this twenty eighth day of August 1907

Signed the 28th day of August 1907 in the presence of A. H. Salkey

F. J. Turner
Registrar-General.

THIRD ST
272 271 270
150
150
258

200 0 200 L^{ns}

Transfer No 446791 from William Arthur Dawes to Thomas Edward Kite of Farina Merchant of an estate in fee simple in the within land produced for registration the 16 day of January 1907 at 11 am

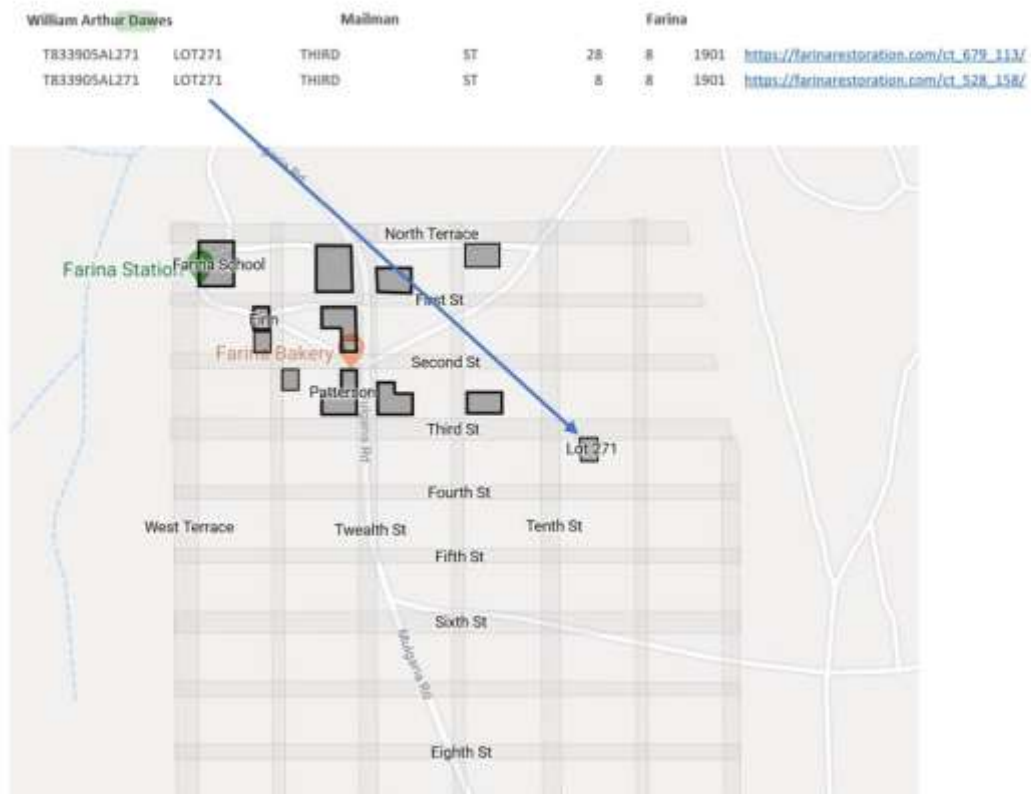
Vernant Edwards Registered Clerk

Transfer No 469222 from Thomas Edward Kite to Said Abdul Khair Marajaku of Farina Carrier of an estate in fee simple in the within land produced for registration the 20 day of May 1907 at 11 am

Vernant Edwards Registered Clerk

(over)

Farina



His son James was born on 31 January 1903 at Murnpeowie Station. James died 1 March 1903 when he was less than a year old at Murnpeowie Station.

His son Alfred Laurance was born on 22 May 1904 in Farina, South Australia. The father of Rev James Arthur Dawes OAM and grandfather to Stephen, Robyn and Russell.

His son Norman Alexander Giles was born on 4 December 1905 in Quorn, South Australia. Norman Alexander Giles passed away on 13 March 1906 in Quorn, South Australia, when he was less than a year old.

From the South Australian Almanacs they have William registered at the below :

1906 – 1910 Murnpeowie Station

1912 – 1920 Clifton Hills Station as Manager

1921 – 1923 Cordillo Downs as Overseer

During this time his wife Mary Ann lived in Adelaide. According to the Almanacs her addresses were 20 Bowers Cottages, Regent St (1911-1913), 27 Carrington St (1918/1919), 248 Grote St (1920-1925).

At the time of his death in 1923 W A Dawes was employed by the Beltana Pastoral Company and was Station Overseer at Cadelga. His usual place of residence given by his death certificate was Cordillo Downs.

He also managed the Kanowana Cattle Run and was described in the minutes of the Company as “He had been a long while in the service”.

He had died at the Durrantie Waterhole while droving 6,600 woolly wethers (unshorn sheep) from Cordillo Downs to Mount Lyndhurst.

The below picture is during a droving of sheep (1923). Have been told William most likely on the white horse (as being the boss, man in charge) on the far right side of the picture. The 6,600 woolly wethers crossing the Cooper at Innamincka. The photo was taken by Keith Healey aged 10 (born 1913) whose parents (Albert Healey) ran the Innamincka Hotel between 1919-1924. Keith Healey gave my father James Arthur Dawes the photo.



He died on 13 July 1923 at the age of 59.

Below are the newspaper clippings about this death.

we all understand.
DAWES.—On the 13th July, at Innamincka,
William Arthur, beloved husband of Mary A.
Dawes (suddenly), leaving three daughters and
one son to mourn their sad loss, aged 58 years.
HANSON.—On the 24th July, at his resi-

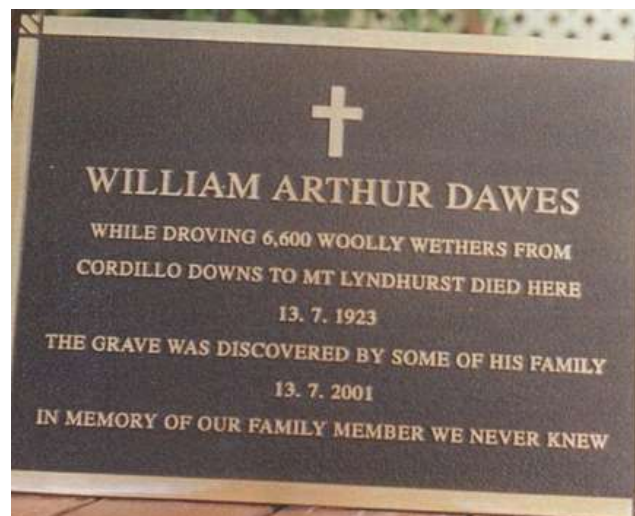
AN OLD DROVER'S DEATH.

Innamincka, July 16.

Drover W. A. Dawes, in charge of Cor-
dillo sheep, travelling to Murnpeowie, be-
came suddenly ill, and died at his camp,
within a couple of hours. He had com-
plained of pains in his chest for some days.
The police-officer, with two residents, and
Mr. Peterson, of **Innamincka** Hotel, who
promptly offered the use of his motor car,

went out and brought the body in to
Innamincka where Mr. Patterson, of
Tinga Tingana had prepared a coffin. The
respected old identity therefore had a
very decent burial. Wreaths were made
by Mrs. J. A. Peterson and Mrs. Edwards,
and an old friend was laid in his last rest-
ing-place to-day.

Williams grave was found in 2001 (See The Durrantie Waterhole Experience, Retracing the steps of my Grandfather, William Arthur Dawes, July 2001. Compiled by Rev James Dawes OAM). The Innamincka Station organised for the white barriers to be placed around the grave, marking and protecting it. My father Rev James Dawes organised for the below plaque to be made in Adelaide and sent it up to be fixed at the head of the grave on the white barrier.



There was a blaze cut into the Coolabah Tree indicating the grave



The siblings did a recent trip in July 2020 to revisit the grave and the trees have grown



A portrait photograph of William Arthur Dawes

Various

1882 out the front of the general store at Farina. William maybe the guy on the far right with the hat.



B 8007

1898 Murnpeowie Mail Coach. Maybe William in the passengers seat with the hat.



B 60681/73

Camels bringing goods to J.W.Manfield's premises at Innamincka. Innamincka was the traditional home of the Yandruwandha Aboriginal people approx. 1910. Maybe William in the centre with tie and hat. Goods would have come from JW Manfields in Farina.



This photo says it was taken at Warrina circa 1885.

WA Dawe possible sitting in front of the camel on the left with the beard. He would have been 22 years old



FLOODS AT COOPER'S CREEK. INNAMINCKA STATION WASHED AWAY.

Farina, April 10.

The flood in the Cooper is now 2 ft. higher than that of 1891. The Innamincka station has been washed clean away, and the police station is in ruins, surrounded by 4 ft. of water. Mr. Norris, the manager of Coongy, and his wife are supposed to be shut off by the floods, with no rations. Their boat is known to be in very bad order.

Farina, April 12.

The mail which left Innamincka on March 31 arrived here to-day and brought news of a big rise in Cooper's Creek. The water is now 2 ft. above the 1891 flood mark and is at the highest level on record. At the township the water is 4 ft. above the level of the police station, which has collapsed and is in ruins. The balance of the township buildings are on much higher ground. The floodwaters are now within 25 yards of Mansfield's store. When the mail left the flood had receded a little, but this is feared to be only temporary, as more water from Queensland has yet to come down. At Innamincka station a lot of damage has been done. Mr. Walker, the manager, and his men had for weeks past been constructing big earthworks around the station buildings, while the station boats had been busy conveying everything of value to the high stony tablelands opposite the station. It is fortunate that these precautions were taken, for the big rush of water topped the embankment and made a clean sweep of all the station buildings.

Grave fears are entertained for the fate of Coongy station and its inhabitants, as no news of any description has been received from them. The general opinion at Innamincka is that they are entirely cut off, and as they are short of rations they must be having a bad time of it. The station boat is reported to be unfit for use. The Murnpeowie camel teams failed in their endeavor to punt the Cordillo and Cadelgo loading across at Innamincka, and the loading is now stacked on the stones there. No more punting will be attempted until the river falls. As before reported, there is not a sufficiency of cable to reach across the stream, which is almost a mile wide opposite the township, and even if there were enough cable at the present time there is nothing to fasten it to, the tops of the enormous gum trees being almost beneath water. No further word has been received from Nannamerrie or Nocundra.

Mr. M. R. Oakes, who has taken up the Tinga Tingana country, left Innamincka for Tinga Tingana ahead of the big water and tried to race it down to his camp, 100 miles, but could not keep pace with it. The flood reached his camp before him, and his whole belongings are now in the middle of a raging body of water. The Murnpeowie camels passed through water up to their girths at Lake Crossing on the trip down, and the maildriver here expresses the opinion that this mail is the last we will receive from Innamincka for some time, as

opinion that this mail is the last we will receive from Innamincka for some time, as a boat will have to be provided at Lake Crossing to ferry the mail over. This had to be done in 1891 and the present flood is higher.

The latest news from Kopperamanna is that the Cooper would reach there in two weeks' time, when it would be a case of punting any loading or teams across. The Beltana Pastoral Company are now dispatching camels with rations for Cordillo and Cadelgo stations by that route, and probably Haddon and Arrabury to dine; will go the same road. At Innamincka it is expected it will be fully two months before the punt will be able to work. Stearing at Haddon and Arrabury stations will no doubt be delayed in consequence. At Callabonna station, whence news has just arrived, over 2 in. of rain was registered.

Innamincka, March 30.

Matters are becoming serious here now, as Cooper's Creek is in flood and still rising at the rate of 5 or 6 in. a day. Fears are entertained that it will continue to rise for some time. At present there is no doubt as to whether the Barcoo and Thomson rivers have come down, as there has been no communication between Innamincka and Nocundra for some time. The last news received, five weeks ago, was that at Windorah the people were surrounded by water and were short of rations, and if the rise has continued they are now in imminent danger and there is no chance of doing rescue work by boat, as the distance would be too great. At Nappamerrie station, just on the border, they are completely isolated, and have no means of receiving or dispatching mails, as it is owing to the strong current considered unsafe to attempt to cross a boat until the water has gone down. The flood is now 2 ft. higher than the 1891 flood, and is the highest known by the white people along the creek. A considerable amount of damage will be done to buildings and fencing. The Innamincka station and outbuildings on Messrs. Campbell's run are a total wreck. This is a great loss, as it was one of the stone buildings which were put up before the drought set in. The flood waters rose so quickly that, despite the fact that the manager (Mr. Walker) had an embankment all around, up to the 1891 flood mark, the inmates had little time to escape in the boats to a hill, where a temporary structure is being erected. No news has been received from Coongy station for a fortnight, as they are completely hemmed in by water, and cannot be reached. If the flood keeps up for long Cordillo and Haddon Downs stations will have difficulty in getting stores across. Only this week W. Dawes, in charge of the Murnpeowie camels, arrived here with loading for Cordillo, and had to stack it on high ground. An attempt was made to punt some across, but the currents were too strong for towing even a small punt, and the big punt with the cable is useless now, as the large trees used to attach the cable to are mostly under water and the only chance is to land a few of the bare necessities of life by boat. All the country for 50 miles is under water, with a few islands showing here and there. The police station is

The 'Advertiser'

12/9/01

with
Bryan Littlely



Grandson 'stumbles' on drover's isolated grave site

AT the end of a long day droving sheep across the rugged terrain of the Cooper Basin, Billy Dawes camped under a coolibah eucalypt on the banks of beautiful Durrantie Waterhole.

The outback oasis, 35km west of Innamincka, was to be Drover Dawes' final resting place - he died that night, Friday, July 13, 1923.

In charge of a flock of 6600 woolly wethers being driven 650km from Cordillo Downs to Mt Lyndhurst, the 60-year-old drover would have had it tough.

A report in *The Advertiser* from the day Drover Dawes died said Cooper Creek had overflowed its banks after two weeks of heavy rain across the countryside.

But no amount of rain, or years under the bridge, could wash away Jim Dawes' hopes of one day finding the place where his grandfather spent his final moments.

Mr Dawes stumbled across more than he'd hoped for while on a recent family holiday to the Cooper region in SA's northeast.

He found his grandfather's humble grave, 78 years to the day he died. "I must admit, I shed a tear," the retired Uniting Church minister, of Angaston, said.

"It (the waterhole) was a magnificent oasis. My kids said to me



END OF SEARCH: Jim Dawes holds a sheet of paper to highlight the wire cross on his grandfather's grave at Durrantie Waterhole.

that if there was a place to die, Durrantie Waterhole was it."

The grave is marked only by four branches cut from the coolibah at whose base it rests and has a strand of thick wire around its boundary, the wire also having been used to form a rough cross.

Drover Dawes had been well known in the area, as driver of the Innamincka coach, more than 30 years as camel driver for Murnpeowie station, manager of Clifton Hills station and stockman

on the Kanowana cattle run, Cordillo Downs and Cadelga stations.

Mr Dawes intends to get further protection for the site and Greg Campbell, general manager of S. Kidman & Co, the lessee of Innamincka station, has offered help.

"There are numerous unmarked graves throughout the north but it's quite an amazing feat for Jim to find that one armed with the little information he had," Mr Campbell said.