

Hundreds and Townships of South Australia

When Colonel William Light (1836-1838) was appointed Surveyor-General to the Colony of South Australia, his orders were to divide the land within the Colony into townships & counties. The first 9 of these were not proclaimed until 1842. Prior to this the land had been sold under a system of preliminary districts and special surveys.

In the 1850's a hierarchical system of Counties, Hundreds, Sections, and Lots was adopted.

Hundreds

One of the tenets of the Wakefield scheme that guided the founding of the colony of South Australia in 1834, was that no land was to be given away. All land was considered to be the property of the Crown. It was either to be surveyed and sold systematically or leased for pastoral use on payment of the prescribed rental. The funds raised were to be used to pay for the passage of selected settlers, preferably farming families. There was also a clear intention that surveys should always precede sales.

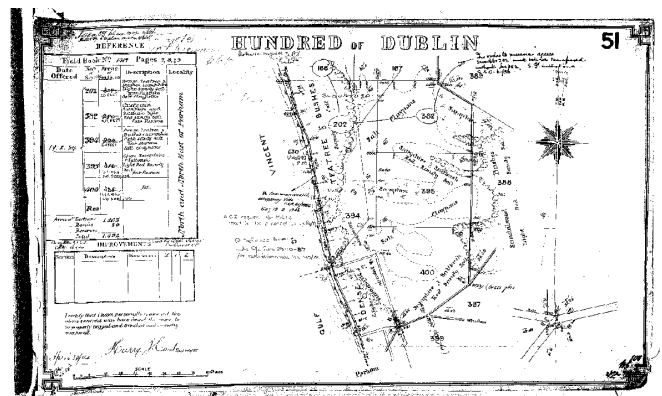
Over time, the major units of survey established themselves as the county, the hundred and the rural section.

The use of the hundred was first suggested by Commissioner of Crown Lands Charles Bonney in 1845. By 1846 it was widely accepted that hundreds had to be proclaimed before land could be surveyed and sold. In 1855 Goyder reinforced the use of the hundred by advocating a pre-survey sketch of the surrounding hundred before surveying sections. This procedure was formally adopted in about 1860. Each hundred was approximately 100 square miles, and each hundred was given a name and divided into numbered sections. Originally, a rural section was 80 acres.

Gradually, the hundred became a device for regulating both the pace and the direction of settlement, which fitted in with another Wakefieldian ideal - the orderly progression of settlement.

The hundred also took on another significance. It became not only a cadastral unit for achieving survey accuracy, but also a means of placing a network of roads and planning for the community needs of early settlers. From the 1870s its use was extended again. At the request of Parliament, and under the

instruction of Goyder, surveyors added soil and vegetation information to the drawings in the Diagram Books of the sections of hundreds they surveyed to help the farmers make their selection of land. The original sections within the hundred had been set at 80 acres with the idea of encouraging the small farmer. By the 1860s the government had accepted the reality that wheat growing - a mainstay of the economy - required larger farms. Under the Strangways Act, 1869 land could be bought on credit with sections of up to 320 acres replacing the old 80-acre section.



SAILIS Image Search Diagram Book Pages Dublin Page 51 HI40400P51

Townships

Apart from Adelaide, the earliest towns were private ventures. In 1846 the government began surveying country towns. At first, Goyder did not like the idea of creating townships in pastoral districts, and expressed his concerns in a letter to Freeling:

'The first erection would undoubtedly be an inn which would be the resort of the shepherds and stockmen within reach and whose wages would go in the purchase of ardent spirits, rum and beer, demoralization would ensure and the interests of the squatter seriously affected.'

Evidently the need for public watering places and accommodation in the pastoral lands became clearer to Goyder when he and his survey party and their exhausted horses were turned away from a water reserve at a private station near Willochra.

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I bitterly felt the want of some accommodation for the poor brutes [horses], and really must respectfully urge upon you the propriety of surveying allotments at this inhospitable abode with the least possible delay.'

In the 1860s the planning of townships became an integral part of the survey procedure. It became common to lay out at least one town in each hundred, leaving little scope for private towns. Apart from Adelaide, the earliest towns were private ventures. In 1846 the government began surveying country towns. At first, Goyder did not like the idea of creating townships in pastoral districts, and expressed his concerns in a letter to Freeling:

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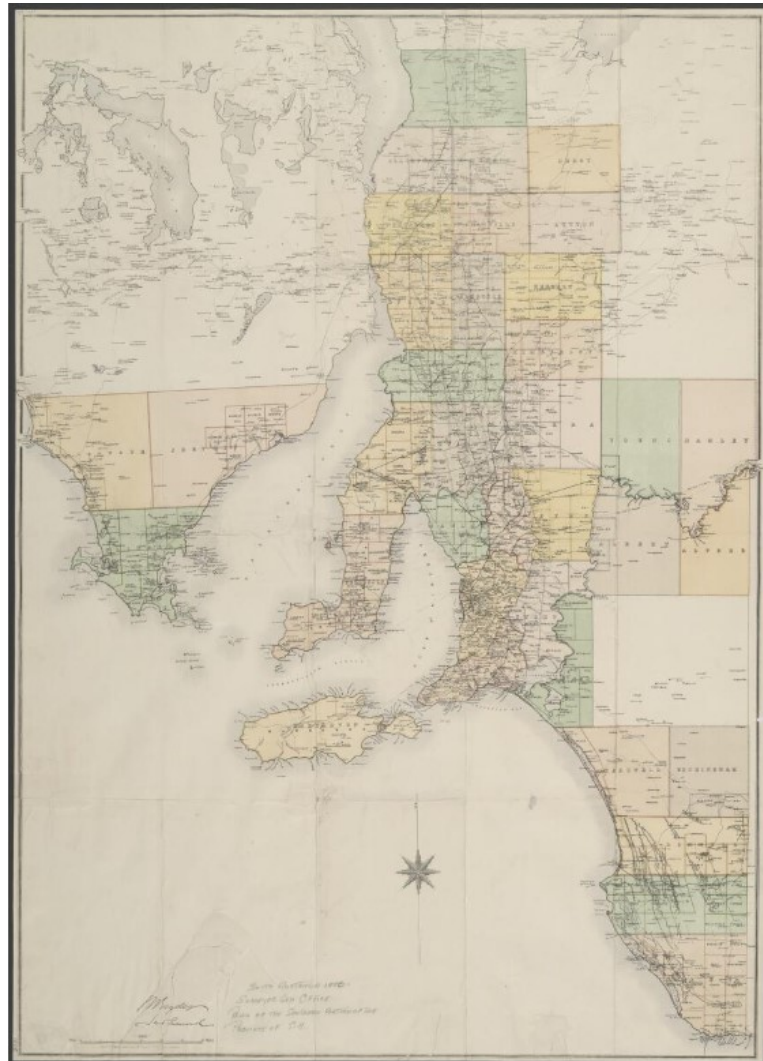
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Information from

<http://archives.sa.gov.au/old-site/exhibits/saonmap/surveyor/townships.html>



<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231889096>

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office and Crawford, Frazer S. Plan of the southern portion of the province of South Australia as divided into counties and hundreds showing post towns, telegraph stations, main roads, railways & C Adelaide: Surveyor General's Office, 1880

The County of Gawler is one of the 49 counties of South Australia. It was proclaimed by Governor George Grey and named for the former Governor George Gawler. It is bounded by the Wakefield River in the north, Gulf St Vincent in the west, the approximate path of Horrocks Highway in the east, and the Gawler River in the south.

The County of Gawler is divided into the following hundreds: Hundred of Alma, Balaklava, Dalkey, Dublin, Grace, Inkerman, Mudla Wirra and Port Gawler

The Hundred of Dublin is located on the northern Adelaide Plains in South Australia and centred on the town of Dublin. The following localities and towns of the Adelaide Plains Council area are situated inside (or largely inside) the bounds of the Hundred of Dublin: Dublin, Thompson Beach, Webb Beach, Parham, Windsor, Calomba, Wild Horse Plains and Long Plains. The Hundred of Dublin officially proclaimed on May 22nd 1856 . (Although Lower Light is not within the bounds of the Hundred of Dublin the Dublin History Group has added the town to their collecting parameters due to the close ties it has with Dublin).

Newspaper article

COUNTY OF GAWLER - NEW HUNDREDS.

Proclamation constituting the several settled portions of territory hereinafter mentioned, being portions of the County of Gawler, to be Hundreds by the names, descriptions, and boundaries set forth: —

HUNDRED OF ALMA. Bounded on the W. by a line extending from the junction of the W. boundary of the Hundred of Mudla Wirra with the River Light, to the S. W. corner of the Hundred of Upper Wakefield; on the N. by the S. boundary or the Hundred of Upper Wakefield from the last named point to the intersection with the Great North road; on the E. by the boundary between the Counties Light and Gawler; and on the S. by the Hundred of Mudla Wirra. HUNDRED OF GRACE. Bounded on the W. by a due N. and S. line, commencing at a point on the N. boundary of the Hundred of Port Gawler, about 11 miles W. of its N. E. angle, and running N. for about 11 miles and a half; on the N. by a line due E. from the last named point until it intersects the W. boundary of the Hundred or Alma, about three miles from its S. W. angle; on the E. by the Hundreds of Alma and Mudla Wirra; and on the S. by the Hundred of Port Gawler. HUNDRED OF DALKEY. Bounded on the N. by the River Wakefield, from the N. W. corner of the Hundred of Alma, to its intersection with the W. boundary of Section 2094; on the W. by the W. boundaries of Sections 2094, 2093, and 2095, by a straight line from the S.

W. corner of the latter section, to Fry's Flat Trigonometrical Station, and by a line due S. from the said station until it intersects the N. boundary of the Hundred of Grace, produced westerly; on the S by a line due E. from the last named point to the N. W. corner of the Hundred of Grace, and by the N. boundary line of the Hundred of Grace, and on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Alma. HUNDRED OF DUBLIN. Bounded on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Grace; on the N. by a line run due W. from the N.W. angle of the Hundred of Grace, and passing the S.W. angle of the Hundred of Dalkey to its intersection with the coast line; on the W. by the sea coast; and on the S. by the Hundred of Port Gawler. HUNDRED OF BALAKLAVA. Bounded on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Dalkey; on the N. by the River Wakefield from the N. W. angle of the Hundred of Dalkey, to its inter-section with the boundary between Sections 229 and 393; on the W. by the W. boundaries of Sections 393, 395, and 396, and by a line due S. from the S. W. angle of Section 396, until it intersects the N. boundary of the Hundred of Dublin; and on the S. by the Hundred of Dublin. HUNDRED OF INKERMAN. Bounded on the E. by the Hundred of Balaklava; on the N. by the River Wakefield, from the N.W. corner of the Hundred of Balaklava, to its mouth in Gulf St. Vincent; on the W. by the sea coast; and on the S. by the Hundred of Dublin.

2094, 2093, and 2095, by a straight line from the S. W. corner of the latter section, to Fry's Flat Trigonometrical Station, and by a line due S. from the said station until it intersects the N. boundary of the Hundred of Grace, produced westerly; on the S by a line due E. from the last named point to the N. W. corner of the Hundred of Grace, and by the N. boundary line of the Hundred of Grace, and on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Alma. HUNDRED OF DUBLIN. Bounded on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Grace; on the N. by a line run due W. from the N.W. angle of the Hundred of Grace, and passing the S.W. angle of the Hundred of Dalkey to its intersection with the coast line; on the W. by the sea coast; and on the S. by the Hundred of Port Gawler. HUNDRED OF BALAKLAVA. Bounded on the E. by the W. boundary of the Hundred of Dalkey; on the N. by the River Wakefield from the N. W. angle of the Hundred of Dalkey, to its inter-section with the boundary between Sections 229 and 393; on the W. by the W. boundaries of Sections 393, 395, and 396, and by a line due S. from the S. W. angle of Section 396, until it intersects the N. boundary of the Hundred of Dublin; and on the S. by the Hundred of Dublin. HUNDRED OF INKERMAN. Bounded on the E. by the Hundred of Balaklava; on the N. by the River Wakefield, from the N.W. corner of the

Hundred of Balaklava, to its mouth in Gulf St. Vincent; on the W. by the sea coast; and on the S. by the Hundred of Dublin.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA), Friday 23 May 1856, page 4

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49746084>



1873 Map of the Hundred of Dublin

http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/maps/series/hundreds_SA_63360/D/dublin/map830bje63360_dublin1873.pdf