

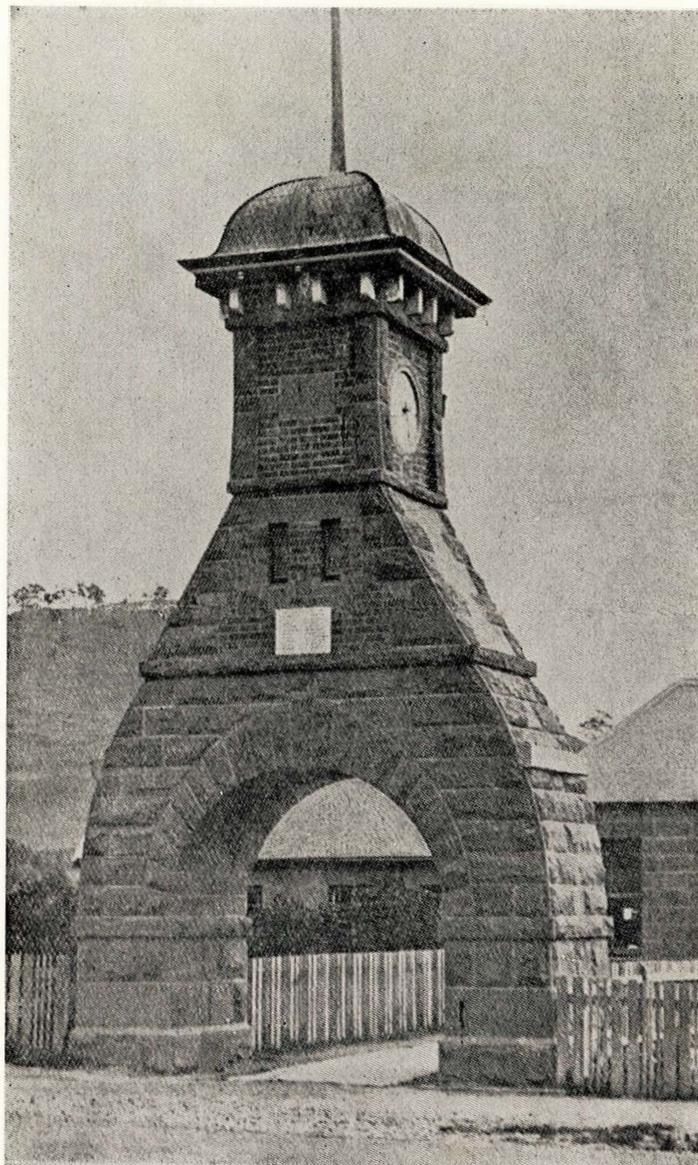
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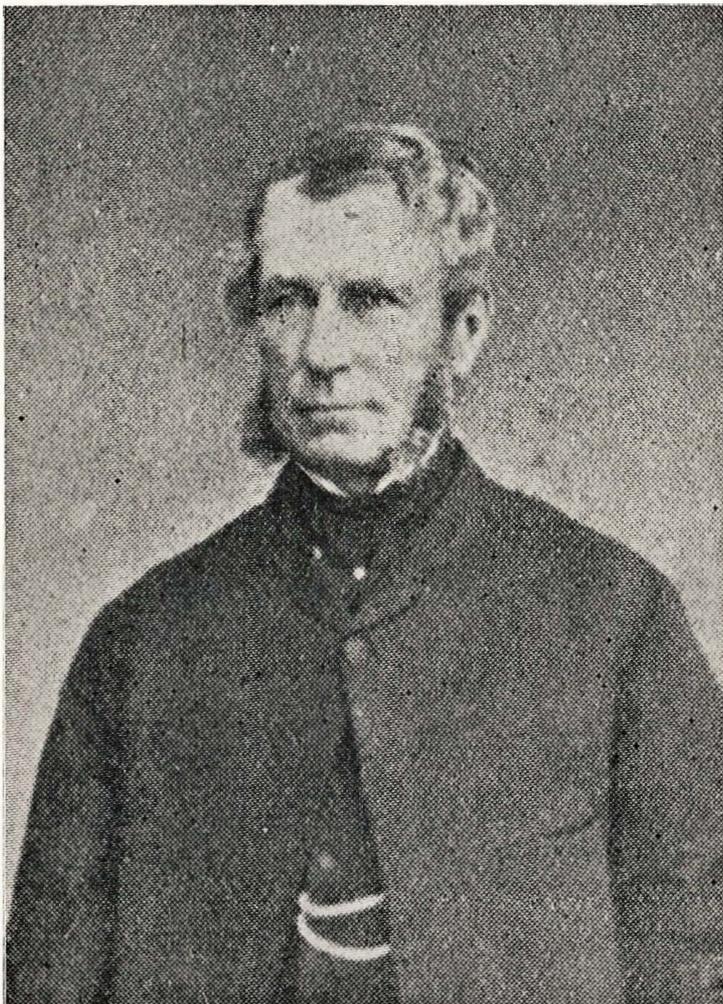
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*A Landmark on the Midland Highway: The 1914-18 War Memorial
Clock Tower at Kempton.*



George Anthony Kemp, Esq., 1806-88
The first Warden of Green Ponds

A HISTORY OF GREEN PONDS

WRITTEN FOR THE CENTENARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE MUNICIPALITY

by

T. R. MACLEOD

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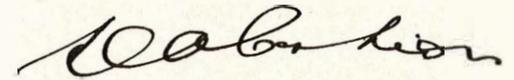
FOREWORD

THE celebration of the centenary of Local Government in Tasmania unfolds to the citizens of our age the outstanding courage of the early settlers who came to this Island at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

With great determination and confidence in the future the pioneers laid a sound foundation for the development of the country, and it is pleasing to see that these occasions are not allowed to pass without recognition. It gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to those early settlers who have contributed so much to the progress and development of Tasmania, which we are now enjoying.

The author has unfolded a wealth of interesting history surrounding the Green Ponds Municipality. This should make good reading for all, especially those who have connections with the early settlers.

I commend the author for his effort in compiling the history of Green Ponds, and recommend it to readers.



Minister for Lands and Works

12th January, 1962.

PREFACE

THIS booklet is written, at the time of the celebration of the Centenary of Local Government in the Municipality of Green Ponds, to collect and set down together as much as possible of the history of the district and its people since the earliest days of the settlement.

While the Council Minute Books and other records adequately cover the last 100 years, it is difficult to find sufficient documented material to present a balanced picture of the early years.

Acknowledgement and thanks are due all those people who made available the material from which this book was written. In particular, thanks are due to Mr. S. E. Hurd, whose collection of pictures, photographs, newspaper cuttings and other material have been a great source of information;

The Archives Section of the State Library, where the Council Minute Books are now held, for their ready help in locating many items;

J. Walch and Sons Pty. Ltd. for the use of their complete set of the "Red Book", the first volume of which coincides with the first year of the Green Ponds Municipality, 1862;

Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz's work, "A History of Local Government in Tasmania", for much municipal history.

Dr. James Ross's "Van Diemen's Land Anniversary and Hobart Town Almanac" of 1831 was a mine of detailed information of the early years in the colony.

Mr. Henry Widdowson's "A Tour of Van Diemen's Land" was a source of much descriptive detail of the country in this district.

T. R. MACLEOD.

*Dysart House,
Kempton.*

2nd January, 1962.

THE EARLY YEARS

THE earliest settlers in Van Diemen's Land who made their way northwards over Constitution Hill gave the name of the Green Water Holes to this district; however, the more acceptable name of Green Ponds was soon substituted both for the district and the township which sprang up in the early 1820s. The Municipality still retains this name.

Cross Marsh was the name in use from 1820, or even earlier, for the flat part of the country northwards from Green Ponds township to and beyond where Melton Mowbray now stands.

Kempton (or originally Kemp Town) was named after the Kemp family about 1838 and applied only to the township. Captain Anthony Fenn Kemp was the first to receive a grant of land in the district; his son, George Anthony Kemp, however, was the more active in local affairs, and possibly it was due to him, rather than his father, after whom the township was named.

Shepton Montacute was the original name for the township now called Dysart, and was so called until about 1875. The name Dysart was taken from Mr. Edward Payne's property, "Dysart Park", nearby.

Melton Mowbray was named after the English town of that name when Mr. Sam Blackwell built his hotel there in 1849 and established his hunting and racing stables. One frequently comes across, in the writings of this time, references to the hotel at Cross Marsh. In the 1820s and 1830s these referred to Mrs. Ransome's Royal Oak Inn on the northern edge of Kempton township; later, after 1849, such a reference meant Mr. Blackwell's Melton Mowbray Hotel.

THE MAIN ROAD

The construction of the main road (or Midland Highway, as it is now called) brought about a rapid development in the district without which progress and growth would have been much slower. The construction gangs of convicts and their military guards alone needed food and promoted trade in the township; however, it was the travellers of all sorts

requiring lodging, and feed for their horses, who increased the volume of business thus encouraging more tradesmen to set up their shops or ply their trade in the district. The increased demand for food was of particular importance in giving an incentive, not only to those already there to produce more from their land, but also to new settlers to take up land nearby. It is necessary, therefore, to include in this history an account of the surveying and construction of this road.

The first crossing from north to south of the Island was made on foot by Lieut. Laycock and four others in February, 1807, carrying mail and dispatches for Lieut.-Governor David Collins from York Town (on the Tamar) to Hobart Town. The trip took nine days, but as Laycock chose a route over the Western Tiers it was much longer than necessary. He was able to return by a shorter route in seven days.

During April, 1809, two men with a dray and team of four bullocks left the Tamar for Hobart Town to bring back reinforcements and supplies to the northern settlement. The journey was slow, but they found a practical route for wagons and made the return trip without difficulty.

In the summer of 1811-12 Governor Macquarie travelled from Hobart Town to Launceston, and on 25th June, 1812, Surveyor James Meehan, who had made the trip with Macquarie, received orders to "travel over the same route as before, chaining the distance between the two settlements" and secondly, to "examine and survey" four places that Macquarie had selected (Perth, Campbell Town, Oatlands and Brighton) and "report on, among other things, their eligibility for military posts".

Meehan painstakingly carried out the work of "chaining" the road; no better man could have been allotted this difficult task for he had landed with Lieut. Bowen at the first settlement, made many excursions into the country, and was the first recorded white man to explore the Coal River and the Sorell district. How well he performed his task is proved by the remarkably few alterations that have been made to his original route in the 150 years since the time he and his men measured the road and established posts for the protection of travellers from bushrangers and natives.

Next came the era of the chain gangs making the road: as the road progressed, convict stations were erected in each

district to house the working gangs, and as each station was built so were barracks to house the military guards—some more permanent than others, though few remain today. There were two of these stations housing convicts in the district; one was situated on what is now the Church Glebe in Kempton and the other was at Picton, three miles to the north. Military units stationed here were housed in a barracks which stood on the present Glenfern Estate near where the new reservoir has been built.

On 17th October, 1836, the Bridgewater Bridge was opened to traffic. This saved a great deal of travelling time from and to Hobart over the old route across the Derwent by boat or punt to Risdon or Old Beach. Four days later the Ross Bridge was opened, making another big improvement in the link between the northern and southern settlements. The Campbell Town Bridge was completed in July, 1838, and the road was well on the way to becoming a highway fit for coaches and carriages.

THE HOTELS AND LODGING-HOUSES

During the construction of the main road, and later the railway, the township was well populated; in fact, there were more buildings than at present, and to cater for the travelling public as well as local residents there were numerous hotels and lodging-houses. There were at least eleven such houses at one time or another, though not more than six or seven at the one time. Coming from Hobart, the first was the Lodging-House on the old road some fifty yards from the present line of the road; then on the western side was the Good Woman, with a stone head wearing a coronet for the sign of the house. This is still to be seen on a cottage built on the old site and also on the original stable, which is still standing. Next was the Wayside Tavern on the old road, and then the Victoria Inn (afterwards called the Kempton Hotel) which was burnt down in 1945. Opposite the Victoria was the fine stone building now called "Dysart House", built by Mr. W. H. Ellis while he was living at the Victoria in 1841 and known then as Ellis's Hotel. Next was the Lodging-House (a second one called by that simple name), and then the Wilmot Arms opposite which was (and is, for it is the only one that is still a hotel) the Exchange Inn. A little farther down was the Turf, and at the far end Ransome's Royal Oak Inn.

THE EARLY SETTLERS

On the map by the then Surveyor-General (Mr. G. W. Evans), dated 1821, only two surveyed grants are shown in the Green Ponds district. The first is that of Capt. A. F. Kemp at or about what is now "Mount Vernon". The second is that of irregular shape and embraces the grants to more than one person, but obviously those of the Franks's and probably those of Dr. Thomas Gorringe and Mr. George Ashton.

From the map made by Thomas Scott, Assistant Surveyor-General, in the summer of 1823-24, which gives much more detail than Evans's, are the names of twenty persons to whom grants were made. They are as follows: Major Bell at Apsley; Mr. Hooper between Apsley and Melton Mowbray; Mr. Espie near Melton Mowbray; Mr. E. Lord near "Kelvin Grove"; Capt. A. F. Kemp at "Mount Vernon"; Mr. Hodgson at "Lovely Banks"; Mr. Slade and Mrs. Birch east of "Lovely Banks"; Mr. Curr, Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Kay on the Jordan; Mr. Cobb, Mr. Urquhart and Mr. Ransome east of the road between Kempton and Melton Mowbray; Mr. Whitchurch near "Castle Hill"; Mr. Franks, jun., and Dr. T. Gorringe embracing "The Wilderness" and "Lonsdale"; and Mr. Deane, Mr. Evans and Mr. Lancetter on the Jordan near "Maurice-ton".

The names of places in the above paragraph are those of the present day and are used (incorrectly for that period) only to indicate the positions on the map of the names of the people who were given grants of land.

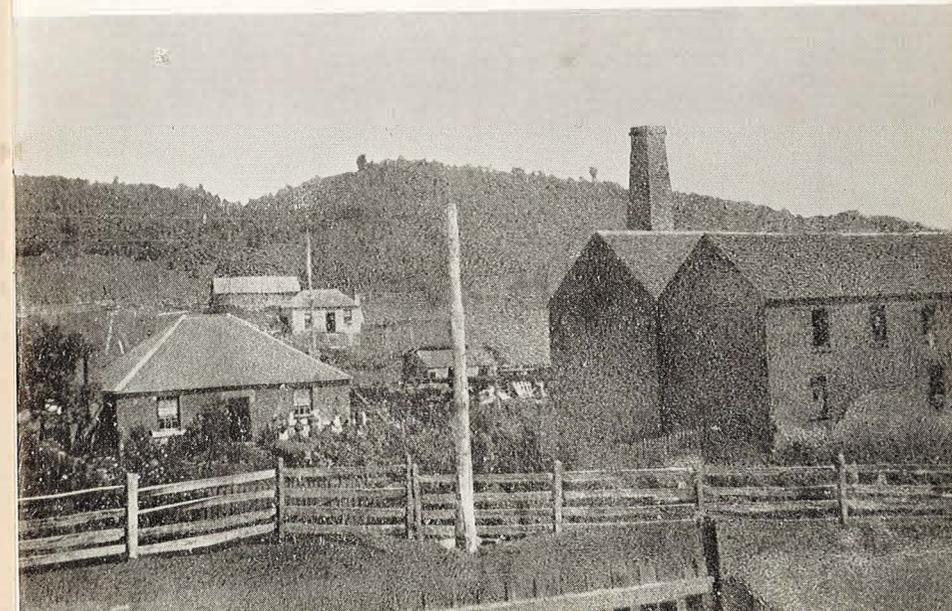
On the map by George Frankland, Surveyor-General and Commissioner of Crown Lands, dated 1839, considerably more names of landholders in the district are shown; also it can be noticed that some lands have changed hands since Scott's map of 1824 was made. The township is so marked on this map, and it was about this time that the name Kemp Town was first used, though Shepton Montacute still appears for the village of Dysart. Names of interest appearing on this map but not on Scott's are Bisdee, three times between "Lovely Banks" and the Jordan; Stockman and Johnson at "Castle Hill".

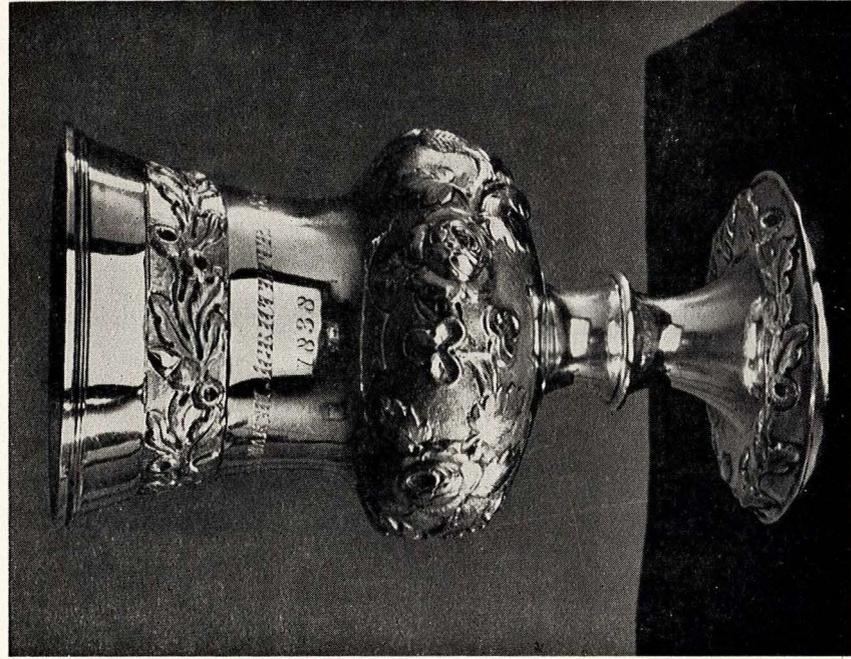
Some of the earliest nominees for grants did not stay in the district very long, but of those who came to settle down were the Kemp family (A.F. and his son G.A.), Dr. Thomas



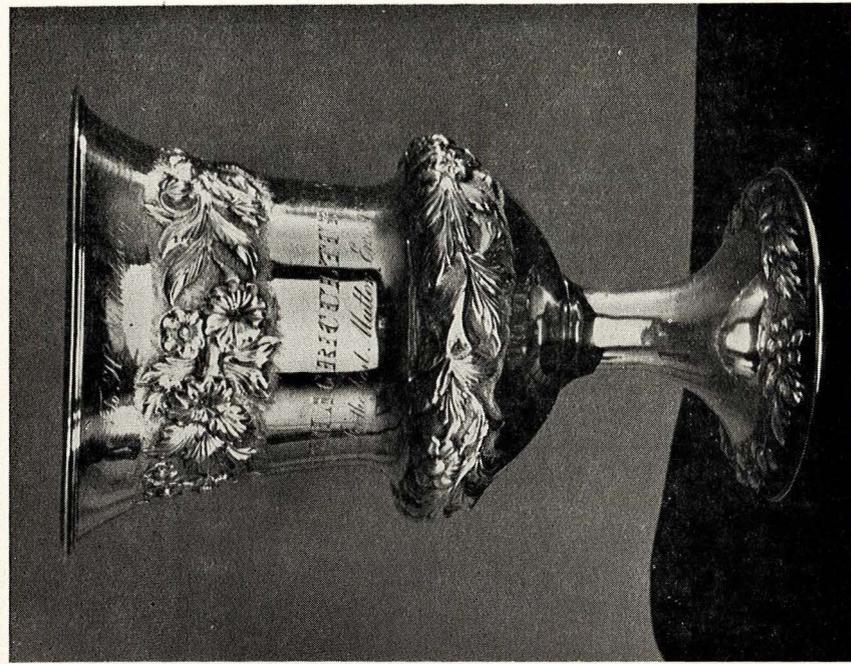
ABOVE: *The Turf Hotel, one of the larger of the Kempton hotels about the middle of last century.*

BELOW: *The Old Steam Flourmill which stood at the southern end of Kempton township.*





Silver Cups presented by the Cross Marsh Society, inscribed "For Best Three Mutton Ewes" and dated 1838 and 1839. Of sterling silver, each was made in London in the year of presentation.



Gorringe and his relatives John, Charles and Edward Franks at "The Wilderness", "Woodville" and "Lonsdale"; Mr. George Ashton at "Glenfern"; Mr. Edward Fryett at "Kelvin Grove"; Mr. Isaac Bisdee at "Lovely Banks"; Mr. Joseph Johnson at "Castle Hill"; Mr. A. Page at "Woodlands"; Mr. John Waltham at "Waltham Abbey"; Capt. Clark at "Mauriceton"; Mr. Edward Payne at "Dysart Park"; and Mr. von Stieglitz at "Cross Marsh".

There were also in the district a great number of small farmers, mostly share farmers on the larger properties. Two groups of these were Scottish and Irish immigrants who settled on the east and west of Kempton respectively and whose farms were known for a time as Scotch Town and Irish Town. Little now remains of these settlements except an old elderberry tree or fruit tree, a well or a pile of stones that were once a rough chimney.

After the Kemp family—who are mentioned elsewhere in this book—some of the pioneers of the district (without whom this history would be incomplete) were, firstly, Dr. Thomas Gorringe, one of the first to take up and farm land here, who also held church services for many years both at the old gaol for the convicts and at the first church when it was built. Dr. Gorringe owned and operated one of the two breweries in the township and later was Warden of the Municipality for many years. A descendant, Mr. A. E. Gorringe, was another member of the family to give many years of service to the community as a Councillor, Warden and Justice of the Peace. His son, Mr. T. A. Gorringe, until recently a resident of the district, now lives in Hobart.

Isaac Bisdee was one of four brothers of "Hutton Court Manor", Oldmixon, who came to the colony in 1821. He took over the property "Lovely Banks" which his brother Edward had purchased in what was then known as the Jericho district, and later purchased other properties. He was a member of the "Old" Legislative Council, and later, after the establishment of Responsible Government, was elected to the Legislative Council in 1858. He died in 1868 at "Lovely Banks", which is still the home of his descendants. Other members of the Bisdee family in the district included E. O. Bisdee, a Councillor of the Municipality, and Warden for eight terms; J. H. Bisdee, V.C. (later Lieut.-Col.), was a member of the

Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen at the South African War and was the first Tasmanian to be awarded the Victoria Cross. B. H. Bisdee of "Hutton Park", Melton Mowbray, the present Warden of the Municipality, has been a Councillor since 1919 and Warden for thirteen terms. A. I. Bisdee of "Lovely Banks" and L. F. Bisdee, M.L.C., of "Kelvin Grove", are also members of the present Council.

Joseph Johnson of "Castle Hill" was the first of that family in the district. Others were Edmund Johnson of "Lonsdale", a Councillor in 1866, and his son Albert of "Belgrove", and James and the second Joseph, Councillors in 1893. A. F. Johnson, of firstly "Kelvin Grove" and later "Lonsdale", was a Councillor for 51 years until he retired in 1960, and was Warden for twenty terms. He was another from the district who went with the Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen to the South African War. Councillors C. E. Johnson of "Lonsdale", and Councillor N. T. Johnson continue the family representation on the Municipal Council.

Edward Goodwin, Esq., of "Glenfern," a member of the first Council, was one of the pioneers of tobacco growing in Tasmania when it was grown here with some success. His descendant, O. A. Goodwin, Esq., who still farms and resides at "Glenfern", has been a Councillor since 1930 and Treasurer of the Municipality for several years.

W. H. Ellis, who built what was then called Ellis's Hotel (now "Dysart House"), founded a chain of stores with headquarters at Kempton and branches at Bothwell, Hamilton, Shannon and Ouse. The hotel did not operate very long as such but was used, among other things, for a school—at least at two periods—and was once offered to the Council for a Council Chambers. In later years Mr. H. W. Ellis ran a skin-buying business at the barn at "Dysart House", mainly for rabbit skins, and sent buyers throughout the Lake country. The Ellis family sold "Dysart House" in 1942, just 100 years after the first W. H. Ellis built it.

There were two flour mills in the district: one at the southern end of Kempton township near the Good Woman Inn, and the other at Dysart, then called Shepton Montacute; this was a windmill. The mill at Kempton was later converted to a bark mill. There were two breweries in Kempton, one operated by Dr. Gorringer across the Green Ponds Rivulet

from the town well (part of the pump of which can still be seen); the other brewery was behind the Exchange Hotel where formerly a tannery had been. Later, on this site, a cordial factory was operated and did a large trade as far away as Campbell Town and Bridgewater.

Another tannery was on the Glebe and had quite a large business for this period. The usual tradesmen were to be found in Kempton, but two were particularly worthy of note. James Lumsden, a cabinetmaker, who was once Warden of Green Ponds, did particularly fine work and his furniture was much sought-after. The other was a more unusual tradesman to find in a country town: Ishmael Lawrence was a watchmaker who traded at his craft in Kempton.

THE CROSS MARSH SOCIETY

Close to the Royal Oak Inn conducted by Mrs. Ransome was the Cross Marsh market place, suitably fenced for the penning of cattle and sheep for sale, where a market was held quarterly. As far as can be ascertained this was the first regular market for fat stock, grain, produce, etc., held in the country in Tasmania. Once a year the Cross Marsh Society held a show or competition at which it awarded prizes and presented trophies, which were usually silver cups embossed with acorns, oak leaves, roses, etc. Many of these trophies are still in possession of families who came from this or adjoining districts.

The market was originally planned by a group of gentlemen at Mr. Myles Patterson's house at the Shannon, after an inquest held there into the death of a shepherd who was killed there by natives during November, 1827. The first market was held early in 1828, about a mile from the Royal Oak Inn. Soon afterwards (probably the next market) the site was changed to a more convenient place adjacent to the hotel. Later, during the 1850s, the site was again changed to Mr. Sam Blackwell's hotel at Melton Mowbray.

The market changed greatly in its character after it was moved to Melton Mowbray, being then mainly sales of store stock from the Lake country and not fat stock to the same degree as before. Possibly this change was the reason for the waning of the show, which was not held at Melton Mowbray after 1886.

The show later again reverted back to Kempton, where the main events were held for horses, produce and poultry until 1914, when it lapsed again during the years of the Great War. It was revived again in the 1920s, the poultry section being particularly well patronised, and the horse events attracted large classes.

The Second World War again interrupted the continuity of the show until 1952, when the present committee organised what is now called the Kempton Gymkhana. This has been held in January each year since; originally catering mostly for horses and ponies, it now embraces many other attractions, including shearing competitions, woodchopping, steer-riding, tree-felling and marching girls displays.

THE POST OFFICE, 1829

The inland mail from Hobart Town was dispatched every Saturday morning on horseback, arriving at Ransome's Royal Oak Inn about 10 o'clock, the messenger having left letters at houses along the road, and at Mr. Gage's Roseneath Inn at Old Beach, the Crown Inn at Bagdad (now called Pontville), and Mr. Butcher's Inn at Constitution Hill, for people living at settlements not on the road but adjacent to those places.

From Green Ponds the mail was carried on foot, one messenger taking mail to Bothwell, Shannon and the Clyde, going as far as Bothwell the first night. Another messenger reached mail for Port Dalrymple and other places en route reached Mr. Guest's Inn at Lovely Banks at 12 o'clock (noon), Jericho at 3 o'clock, and Mr. Presnell's Inn at Sorell Springs at 8 o'clock in the evening. From there another messenger carried the mail overnight to the Ross Bridge, arriving there at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning. Branch messengers took the mail from here to Campbell Town, Wanstead, the South Esk and various places at Norfolk Plains, St. Paul's Plains and the Macquarie and Lake Rivers, the main mail continuing on to Launceston and George Town, crossing the river at Perth by punt and generally arriving at Launceston at about 8 o'clock on Sunday evening.

On the return journey the first messenger would leave Launceston on Tuesday mornings, Sorell Springs on Wednesday mornings, arriving at Green Ponds at 1 o'clock, and from there (together with the mail from the Clyde, the

Shannon and Bothwell) was taken on horseback to Hobart Town, arriving there that evening.

RACING

At least three racecourses were used at different times in the district, but the hey-day of the sport was undoubtedly during the time Mr. Sam Blackwell had the Melton Mowbray Hotel. He opened the hotel (which he built) in 1849 and soon established a fine stable of horses. His racing string was trained by Peter Dallan and his sons, who also trained for others. Most famous of Blackwell's horses was the imported sire Panic. This horse made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of bloodstock in Tasmania and also was an outstanding performer himself, his second in the Melbourne Cup of 1865 being his best-known achievement, though his Champion win of 1865 and other successes both in steeplechases and on the flat were equally meritorious. His progeny were well known for their consistency, particularly as steeplechasers, the best known being (among others) Strop (four times winner of the Launceston Cup), Nimblefoot (a Melbourne Cup winner) and Commotion.

Peter Dallan, a trainer and rider of note in the district, had many successes both in Tasmania and in Melbourne. Of his charges Panic (which he himself rode to victory in the Champion Race of 1865), of course, was the best known; others included Albion, and horses belonging to almost every owner south of Oatlands. Peter Dallan died in 1885, the same year as his early mentor, Sam Blackwell. Dallan's two sons also trained, one going to Singapore and India for owners there.

Dallan originally came from Ireland to train for a New Zealand owner whom he was to have met in Melbourne on Cup Day. However, he did not meet this owner and rode in one of the races under the name of Kelly, to avoid trouble as he was not a registered rider. After the races he met Mr. Sam Blackwell, who persuaded him to come to Melton Mowbray.

Panic was purchased in England by a brother of Capt. W. H. I. Brown, of Hobart, on behalf of Mr. Sam Blackwell for 1,000 guineas. He arrived in Hobart Town on board the sailing ship "Harriet McGregor" (Capt. Richard Copping). By Alarm from Queen of Beauty, Panic was foaled in 1858.

HUNTING

Again it was the popular landlord of the Melton Mowbray Hotel who established and maintained the pack of hounds (beagles, it is believed), and as master gathered the neighbouring farmers for a day's hunting for stag or kangaroo. Later this hunt ranged farther afield, particularly around Oatlands, and became the Midland Hunt Club. Today the club of that name, though it has moved much farther north, owes its beginning to Mr. Sam Blackwell. The name Melton Mowbray, aptly chosen by Mr. Blackwell for his hotel as a centre of racing and horses, became as well known in Tasmania for those sports as was its namesake in England.

Sidelights from Local Newspapers

THE GENTLEMEN OF THE MELTON MOWBRAY HUNT

especially those who were present at the last stag hunt at Oatlands, will greatly oblige Mr. Blackwell by mustering in full force at the above township at 10 o'clock on MONDAY, the 27th instant, as he has, on that day to answer an information for trespass and breach of the Kangaroo Act, on land of Mr. George Wilson.

N.B.—The Hounds will throw off near York Plains, immediately after the case is decided.

*Melton Mowbray,
13th July, 1863.*

THE GREEN PONDS HUNT OF SATURDAY

(From a questionable correspondent)

The morn was rough, the south wind keen as ever south wind blew,
When all Green Ponds turned out so spruce to hunt the kangaroo.
The hounds were Flexmore's hounds, that did on culls and 'possums
feed,

So sleek in coat, so fat withal, and original in breed.
With Brown and Hadden side by side, K. Flexmore on ahead,
Whilst O.M.F. brought up the rear, sighing for his warm bed;
And Peter Dallan, too, bestrode a moke of sorry mien,
One he'd bought from some cockatoo for three pounds ten, I ween.
Now Doctor Pocock shows in sight, well mounted on a bay;
The pace will be severe, or else he'll get the brush today.
Here's Ellis, junr., brushing up; he's on his mettle, too;
If there's a gap in all the line, he's over or he's through.
By George, here's Johnson and his son, the best mounts on the
ground,
And Picken shows agility, the like not easy found.

With Phillpott, Newbold, John Rowe, well-mounted are they all;
Their horses straight as arrows go, without mistake or fall.
Here's Bailey, too, on Winford, a hunter every inch,
No odds how stiff the fences are he'll neither turn nor flinch.
And Bailey, too, from Campbell Town, just like John Gilpin rides,
His hands as high's the horse's head, his spurs fast in his sides,
"Keep back," cries Jim O'Brien, "be aisy there awhile,
The devil a hound I've followed since I left the Emerald Isle."
Next E. J. Wett on Marquis comes. Hold hard, I must be brief,
For fear I, like his rider, perchance may come to grief.
"At this rate," cries the huntsman, "we'll never have a run,
With sober pace we'll lose the chase, and likewise shall be done."
"Ride on, ride on, right gallantly," the horsemen all do cry,
A fence is in the distance seen, a log fence three feet high.
But here the hounds come to a check; so do the horsemen, too,
Until a log is taken off to let the riders through.
When this is done, "Stand back", they shout, "they're on the scent
again,"
And every cur in Green Ponds yelped with all its might and main.
Yoicks hoicks! Yoicks hoicks! They've got him there, down in the
Lonsdale Flat,
And Towser's lips are bloodied with a huge buck forest rat.
Another start is made again; they this and that way shoot,
And after three miles' gallant burst they bagged a bandicoot.
I hope I have not given offence, where no offence is meant,
And if so I'll apologise ere reporting I'll attempt
Another of the Green Ponds hunts whilst abler pens are there.
So good-bye for the present, to home I'll now repair.

"STRINGY BARK"

*Craggy Fells,
July 24th, 1875.*

CRICKET

The Green Ponds Cricket Club was formed on 23rd April, 1858. Thomas Gorringe was the first secretary, and the following were members: H. W. Ellis, P. Goodwin, H. Nichols, W. Shelverton, W. Rider, O. Flexmore, K. Flexmore, G. A. Kemp, J. Weeding, A. Kemp, E. Payne, E. Trollope, J. Johnson, L. Trollope, J. Bellette, D. Brown, H. Denne, S. Blackwell, J. Hadden, V. Ellis, G. Mahew, W. Brock.

The Kempton Cricket Club (change in name only) is one of the very few cricket clubs in Tasmania to have celebrated its centenary; it also made a good start for its second century by winning the Association Premiership two years running. The original Minute Book is a prized possession of the club, not only for its historical value but also for the first rules drawn up by the club, which sound humorous to today's cricketers.

RIFLE CLUB

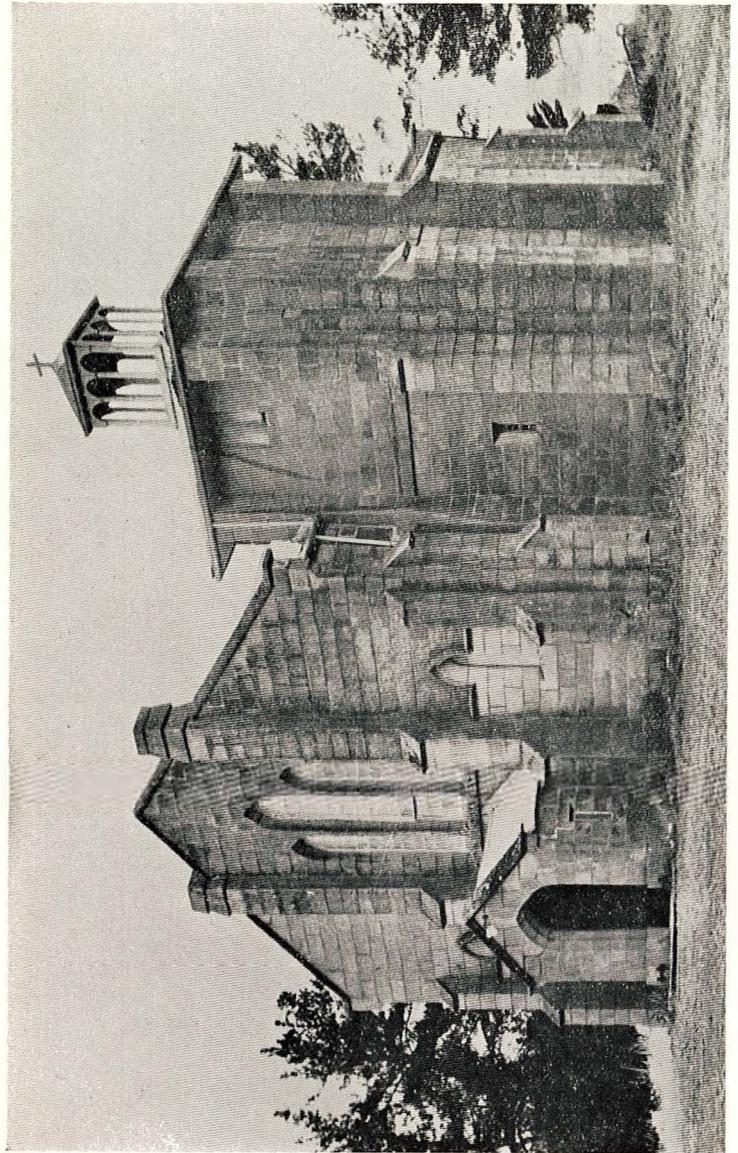
The Kempton Rifle Club was formed in 1865. It was one of the earliest in Tasmania, the first office-bearers being: President, G. A. Kemp; Secretary, H. H. Denne; Treasurer, Edmund Johnson. The club had a range of 1,000 yards in length.

THE CHURCHES

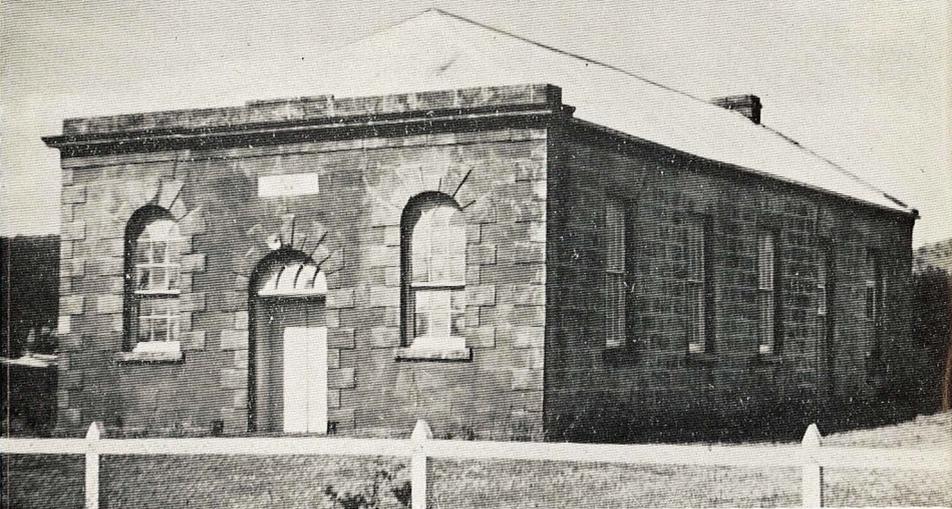
Church of England

Services had been held in the district by visiting clergy before 1827, mainly for the military units and the convicts stationed in Green Ponds, but in that year Lieut.-Governor Arthur appointed Mr. W. Pike to serve as catechist in this district and Oatlands. In the early days use was commonly made in this way of laymen to conduct church services. Dr. T. Gorringe, a resident of the district, also conducted services both before and after Mr. Pike's appointment. On 10th October, 1827, a meeting of residents of Green Ponds subscribed to build a wooden church. This was dedicated to St. Mark and opened for worship by Archdeacon Broughton on 8th April, 1830. Mr. A. F. Kemp was the first churchwarden. The present St. Mary's Church was commenced in 1839 following a petition forwarded to the Government on 26th September, 1838, for assistance in building a new church. Under Act I, Vict. No. 16, 1838, the Government and residents were to be equally responsible for the cost. The Chief Mechanic of the Public Works Department drew up the plans for the building, which was partly completed and in use in 1841. The ceiling was finished by Mr. Geo. Woods in 1845, and in 1863 the present pulpit, prayer desk and altar rails were provided.

The changed name of the new church from the old St. Mark's to St. Mary's was due to the fact that the church at Pontville was dedicated to St. Mark in 1840, and another church of the same name situated so close was likely to cause confusion. No record of any dedication or consecration of St. Mary's exists, and though it was in use before he arrived in the colony it is thought that the ceremony was delayed until the arrival of Bishop Nixon in 1842. In 1844 the Bishop did inspect the church and approved its appointments, but owing to some slight error in conveyance deeds, no consecration was made and was later apparently allowed to lapse.



St. Mary's Church of England, Kempton.



ABOVE:
*The Congregational Church
Kempton.*



LEFT:
*St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
Kempton.*

The service books have been in use for 109 years and were presented to the church through the Bishop by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge on 17th January, 1853; the Bible is a particularly fine one, printed in England in 1839.

The east window was given in 1918 in memory of Alfred Thomas Ellis by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ellis.

The succession of Rectors of the Parish: Dr. T. Gorringe (1830), Dr. R. C. Drought (1831-36), Rev. J. Bishton (1839), Rev. G. Otter (1839-48), Rev. E. H. Wayn (1849-52), Rev. W. Trollope (1852-62), Rev. A. Wayn (1865-68), Rev. L. C. Williams (1868-72), Rev. G. W. Shoobridge (1872-76), Rev. J. H. Wills (1876-79), Rev. J. K. Wilmer (1879-81), Rev. B. M. King (1883-85), Rev. L. T. Tarleton (1886-88), Rev. J. T. Wilson (1888-98), Rev. S. H. Hughes (1898-1901), Rev. J. H. Corvan (1901-12), Rev. C. H. Corvan (1912-14), Rev. S. Armson (1914-16), Rev. C. Allen (1916-20), Rev. A. Gamble (1920-21), Rev. T. Moore-Campbell (1921), Rev. A. E. Biggs (1921-28), Rev. C. Allen (1928-30), Rev. H. M. Maddock (1930-35), Rev. C. J. Coupe (1935-38), Rev. O. L. Davis (1938-41), Rev. H. C. Brammall (1941-44), Rev. L. E. Dando (1944-49), Rev. F. Reeves (1949-54), Rev. O. Pender-Brocks (1954-56), Rev. J. S. Rymer (1956), Rev. C. E. S. Mitchell (1956-59), Rev. C. St. M. B. Macfarlane (1960—).

With the growth of the parish other churches were opened. The first of these was St. Ann's, Dysart, which was dedicated and opened on 9th June, 1872. On 30th April, 1904, Bishop Mercer dedicated St. Michael and All Angels at Bagdad. At Melton Mowbray, Bishop Hay laid the foundation stone of All Saints' Church on 19th June, 1937; the first service was held there on 26th September, 1937, and the church was dedicated on 6th March, 1938.

Congregational Church

The first services were conducted in the district by Rev. Joseph Beazley, who was sent to Tasmania to assist in the development of the Church, according to records published by Rev. A. C. Nelson. On 17th April, 1840, the first service was held in the present church, conducted by the Revs. F. Miller (who was the first minister of the Congregational

Church in Tasmania), A. Morrison and J. Beazley. The Rev. R. K. Ewing succeeded Rev. Beazley as minister at Green Ponds and the succession of ministers since then have been the Revs. W. Waterfield (1846-68), H. Kennedy (1868-1900), A. R. Bunton (1900-04), F. A. Woods (1905-10), D. B. Ashford (1911-12), G. Burrage (1912-15), R. F. Crocker (1915-22), H. Wallbank (1922-24), H.W. Burrage (1926-39), Lyddon Cook (1940-48) and L. Lamont (1954-58).

Roman Catholic Church

The first services were held in Mr. John Ashton's house and he later gave a block of land on which a small wooden church was erected and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Ann. On 17th March, 1918, the foundation stone of the present church was laid by the Right Rev. Monsignor M. J. Gilleran, V.G., the Rev. Arthur Cullen being the parish priest. The church was completed and opened in October that year at a cost of about £3,000, including a stained-glass window. On 12th July, 1931, the Stations of the Cross were dedicated together with a new altar and other appointments.

Presbyterian Church

In conjunction with Bothwell, services were started in the old Lecture Hall in 1874, the minister being the Rev. Joseph Black. A few years later, in 1882, the Rev. Henry T. Hull took charge of the parish and changed his headquarters to Kempton. The building of the present church was then undertaken on land donated by Mr. James Hadden. It was opened in 1886 and cost about £500 to build.

THE COUNCIL

The Municipality of Green Ponds was formed by proclamation dated 7th March, 1862, signed by Colonel Thomas Gore Brown, C.B., Governor of Tasmania.

Following this proclamation the first election for the Council was held on 15th April, 1862. The Returning Officer (John Forster, Esq.) declared the following elected: Kendrick Flexmore, Edward Goodwin, Charles F. Gorringe, George A. Kemp, Thomas Weeding and James Hadden. This Council assembled the following day, 16th April, 1862, at

Ellis's Hotel for their first meeting and elected G. A. Kemp as Warden of the Municipality; Henry Denne was appointed Council Clerk.

The second meeting of the Council was held three days later, on 19th April, at the Council Chambers, when the Warden's salary was fixed at £100 per annum. The following remunerations were also fixed: Council Clerk, £110 per annum; Superintendent of Police, £120 per annum; and three constables at 4/6 per day.

The Council, as in other rural municipalities, took over the local police, making appointments and paying the salaries. The first Superintendent of Police was T. W. Stanwix. The Justices of the Peace for the district (appointed by the Governor) at this time were: K. Flexmore, Dr. T. Gorringe, C. F. Gorringe, A. F. Kemp, G. A. Kemp and R. Pitt (Hunting Ground).

The first Health Officer was J. S. Hope, M.D., appointed in 1864; also in the same year Mr. Z. P. Pocock was appointed Public Vaccinator. Auditors were not appointed until 1865, the first being W. H. Ellis and T. Wright.

The census of 1863 gives the population of Kempton (township only) as 300 persons. The population of the whole district was, unfortunately, included with Brighton, the total population of the two districts being 2,808.

During 1866 the Municipality was increased by the annexation of portions of the adjoining municipalities of Oatlands, Bothwell and Hamilton (vide "Government Gazette" of 1866, page 1019). It formerly was of about 40,300 acres which was by this time increased to about 91,000 acres.

A statistical report in the Municipality in 1867 shows that the following acreages of crops were grown in the district that year:

Wheat	---	---	1866	acres	Hay	---	---	765	acres
Barley	---	---	63	"	Potatoes	---	---	87	"
Oats	---	---	319	"	Turnips	---	---	112	"
Peas	---	---	16	"	Mangolds	---	---	8	"
English Grass	---	---	28	"	Tobacco	---	---	5	"

The following table gives an idea of the growth of the population and the annual value of rateable property compared with the figures for the present year:

Year	Population of the Municipality	Population of Kempton Town	Annual Value of Property
1869	1,380	550	£10,459
1875	1,450	450	£11,287
1880	1,374	443	£11,895
1921	1,123	—	£14,123
1961	1,000	—	£75,994

In 1880 the strength of the police force in the Municipality was: at Kempton, a superintendent and two constables; at Melton Mowbray, a sergeant; and one constable each at Constitution Hill and Spring Hill. This seems a large force for a small district, but at that period must have been warranted. In fact, in 1888, when the building of the Green Ponds Railway was commenced, the Warden of that time, Mr. A. Page (who turned the first sod of the railway), asked for assistance from the Government to provide more police protection while the railway was being built.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council took over for its own use the Government gaol, court-house and police offices on the formation of the Municipality in 1862, as did most rural municipalities. On 4th June, 1888, a motion was passed at a Council meeting striking a rate of 1d. in the £ on private property and ½d. in the £ on Government property to provide money to build new Municipal Council Chambers and offices. However, no new premises were built and the old court-house is still in use both for a Council Chamber and courts. The gaol was demolished many years ago and the only new building is the Council Clerk's office, which was erected in 1959.

THE PUBLIC HALL

Motions were passed at Council meetings on 1st October, 1888, and 5th November the same year, to build a public hall. Again on 1st July, 1889, inquiries were made at a meeting of Council about the building; then, on 2nd September, 1889, the Council inspected Ellis's Hotel with a view to purchasing it for use as a hall. Soon after this the present

Victoria Hall was built and was in use in 1892. The urgent need for a public hall was caused by the loss by fire of the old Lecture Hall, a large two-storey building which was originally Bell's Store, and which had been used for all sorts of meetings as well as for church services, as a schoolroom, and housed the Library.

SCHOOLS

The first public school was held in a wooden building opposite "Dysart House" about 1861. It was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wright under the State Board of Education. This school later moved to the old Lecture Hall and then to the present school-house, which has been added to twice since it was first used. Local Schools Boards were set up at Kempton and Constitution Hill in 1870, and later the Council was made a Board of Advice for the schools in the Municipality.

There were several private schools in Kempton, one of the earliest being conducted by Canon Kemise, a retired Church of England clergyman, at "Waltham Abbey", and who is remembered as a landscape painter of some merit. Another school was conducted at "Dysart House" by Rev. J. H. Wills, another retired clergyman; and Major St. Leger, a retired army officer, held another at "Glenfern" cottage. At another period a Miss E. Robinson conducted a girls' school at "Dysart House".

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1860 the Kempton Library Board, of which Rev. W. Waterfield was chairman, opened a Public Library in Kempton. It was first housed in the old Lecture Hall until that building was destroyed by fire with the loss of some of the books. The Library was still maintained, however, and was housed in several places until the new additions to the Victoria Hall were made in 1956, when provision was made for a permanent Library in that building. The Library is no longer a Municipal one but is a branch of the State Library and the Lady Clark Memorial Children's Library, to which the Council pays a rate for books and service. A "Bookmobile" mobile library also operates at Melton Mowbray, Dysart, Hunting Ground and Bagdad. This is a new State Library service also charged to the Council.

GEORGE ANTHONY KEMP

First Warden of the Municipality of Green Ponds

George Anthony Kemp was the eldest son of Anthony Fenn Kemp by his second marriage. He was born at York Town on the River Tamar on 13th September, 1806, while his father was serving there with the 102nd Regiment under Colonel Paterson. In 1810 the family returned to England when the Regiment was sent home, and George was sent to school there. He returned to Van Diemen's Land on board the "Macclesfield" in 1822 and, except for ten years when he was in New South Wales, lived here for the rest of his life. He was active in the establishment of the first church in Green Ponds in 1828; in July, 1832, he was gazetted a Justice of the Peace for Green Ponds; in 1857 he was made a Coroner; and in April, 1862, became the first Warden of the newly-formed Municipality of Green Ponds. He died at "Leyburn", Albert Road, Lutana, on 30th July, 1888, aged 82. His obituary in the Press of the day says that he was "the oldest native of Tasmania" and "undoubtedly the best-known man in the Colony".

Origin of the Name "Warden"

The term "Warden" as used in Tasmania for the elected Chairman of the Municipal Council, and its chief executive, is almost unique in the British Commonwealth; only in two provinces of Canada is the term used by local government bodies. The Act of Parliament enabling the setting up of local government both in New South Wales and Tasmania used the term "Warden of the Council", but it was adopted only in Tasmania.

The name is certainly derived from "churchwarden", those officers of the Church whose appointment in parishes in England goes back as far as the reign of Henry VIII. During the early part of the nineteenth century in England, the Industrial Revolution caused the sudden growth of small towns or parishes where local government was all but non-existent. The people's churchwardens were called upon to go beyond their normal call of duty to bring about some degree of order from the growing chaos, and in some parishes in the Midlands of England the title "Town Warden" was in use in the 1830s.

THE GREEN PONDS COUNCIL, 1962

B. H. Bisdee (Warden)
T. R. Macleod (Deputy-Warden)
O. A. Goodwin (Treasurer)
R. S. Allwright (Chairman of Works Committee)
N. T. Johnson (Deputy-Treasurer)
A. I. Bisdee
L. F. Bisdee, M.L.C.
C. E. Johnson
H. G. Swan

Council Clerk: R. C. Raymond

MUNICIPALITY OF GREEN PONDS

WARDENS

1862-3-4	G. A. Kemp	1917-18	A. E. Gorringe
1865-66	T. Gorringe	1919	E. O. Bisdee
1867-72	G. A. Kemp	1920-21	A. E. Gorringe
1873-87	T. Gorringe	1922-25	E. O. Bisdee
1888-92	A. Page	1926	A. E. Gorringe
1893-98	O. Flexmore	1927-30	A. F. Johnson
1899	James H. Johnson	1931	A. E. Gorringe
1900-02	A. E. Gorringe	1932	A. F. Johnson
1903-04	J. W. Palmer	1933-34	B. H. Bisdee
1905-07	E. O. Bisdee	1935-44	A. F. Johnson
1908-09	A. F. Johnson	1945-47	R. C. Allwright
1910-13	J. Lumsden	1948-50	A. F. Johnson
1914-15	E. O. Bisdee	1951-	B. H. Bisdee
1916	J. Lumsden		

COUNCIL CLERKS

1862	H. H. Denne	1918	J. Hallam
1869	T. W. Stanwix	1922	F. R. Chalmers
1882	A. W. Martin	1926	M. R. D'Emden
1890	D. T. Moore	1935	H. Clayton
1893	W. J. Maggs	1939	R. C. Raymond
1913	J. Skipworth		

COUNCILLORS

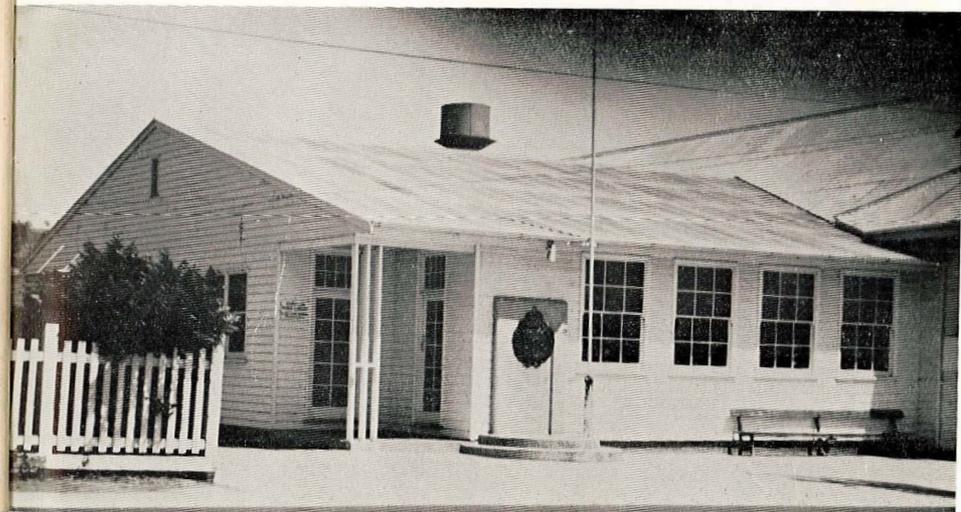
(with date of first election)

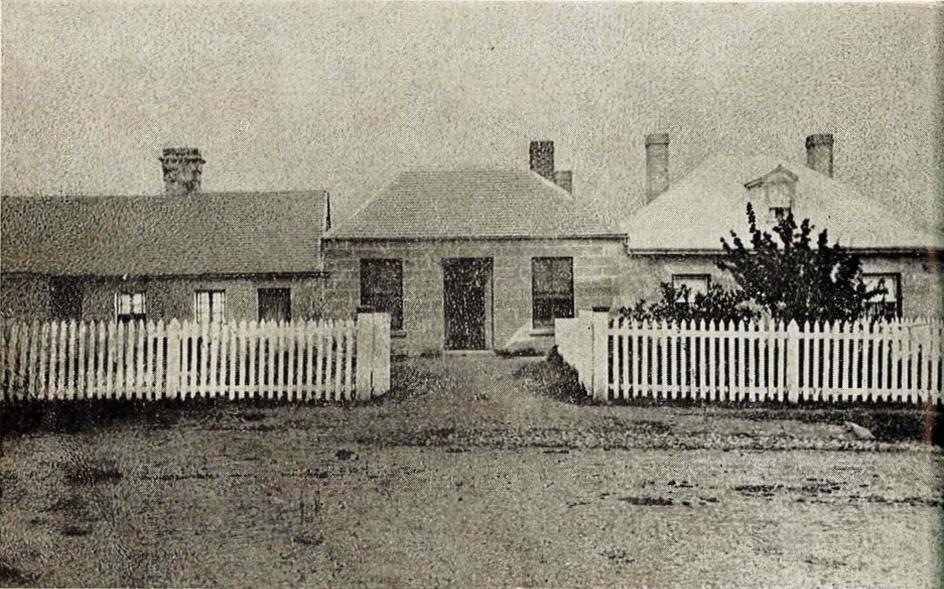
1862	K. Flexmore	1897	A. E. Gorringe
	E. Goodwin	1898	F. E. Johnson
	C. F. Gorringe	1901	F. Roblin
	J. Hadden	1904	H. E. R. Oldmeadow
	G. A. Kemp	1908	A. F. Johnson
	T. Weeding		J. H. Bisdee
1865	T. E. Gorringe		W. G. Munro
	O. Flexmore	1909	A. E. Mansell
1866	J. Brock		A. D. Johnson
	E. Johnson	1910	H. Blake
	D. Brown	1915	S. Porter
1868	J. Bisdee	1917	F. J. Hadden
1869	J. W. Palmer	1919	B. H. Bisdee
	E. Paine		O. H. Jones
1871	A. Page	1924	S. Allen
1872	H. W. Ellis		L. S. A. Goodwin
1874	J. Johnson	1928	A. I. Bisdee
1877	W. Brock		A. Wylie
1879	D. Brown (Jun.)	1930	O. A. Goodwin
	A. H. Flexmore	1931	J. Allen
1881	T. Pitt		G. E. Reed
1882	S. Blackwell	1933	J. C. Graves
1885	A. Dowling		J. M. Radcliff
1886	J. Hadden (Jun.)	1934	A. Gillow
	E. Harvey	1935	G. A. Dick
1891	R. J. Nichols	1939	R. C. Allwright
	T. E. F. Gorringe	1948	W. O. Bantick
1892	E. Reynolds	1949	L. F. Bisdee
1893	James Johnson	1950	N. T. Johnson
	Joseph Johnson	1955	H. D. Hallam
1894	S. Brown	1956	R. S. Allwright
	J. Lumsden	1957	T. R. Macleod
	E. O. Bisdee	1958	H. G. Swan
1895	G. C. Swan	1960	C. E. Johnson



ABOVE: *The Old Lecture Hall. Originally Bell's Store, this building was used for many purposes until it was destroyed by fire in 1888.*

BELOW: *The New Wing of Victoria Hall, showing the 1939-45 War Memorial.*

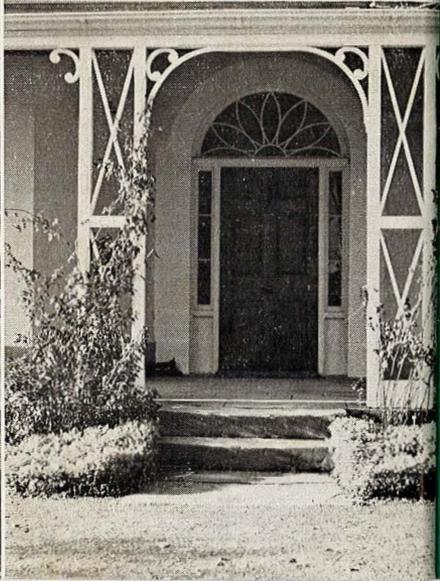




ABOVE: *Old Government Offices and Court-House. The main part of this building is still in use as a Council Chamber and Court-House.*



LEFT AND BELOW: *Design and Craftsmanship. Two examples of the many gems of architecture to be found in the district which reflect great credit on the early settlers and their builders.*



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