

42 Gubberley Street,
Kenmore. 4069
3 rd March, 1988

The President.
Kosciusko Huts Association Inc.,
P.O.Box 626,
Manuka, A.C.T. 2603

Dear Graham,

Thank you for your letter! You touched a spot of deep curiosity that was smoldering away inside my mind.

I have written to the family patriarch, my uncle, born in 1899, I think, with one remaining wish, that of being alive to see the next century. He and my father, who is dead, spent the early part of their lives in the Kosciusko area.

You may well have all the information that he has passed on to me.

My maiden name was Lampe, my uncle is Hector and my father was Carl, sons of Henry Frederick Lampe of Talbingo. During our riding holiday with Reynella of Adaminaby my husband asked about snow leases and the conversation led on to our association with "Gooandra", a name I had never heard of although when I was a little girl Dad used to go to the snow lease, bringing home ("Caringal", Narrandera) a bunch of big everlasting daisies for his daughters and a water bag of "good" water for my mother! You may be interested in the details my Uncle Hector sent me. He writes:- "Your questions re "Gooandra" will not be hard to answer excepting the dates but I think Oscar" (another uncle) "and I can find some records...."

"Gooandra" was first used and held by The Austin Wanganelia family in the shepherding days. The sheep were braked each night in the same yard and as a result foot rot, brought from Riverina, got out of hand in that high rainfall area ("Gooandra"). The Austins abandoned the area. Father then came into the picture. When it was up for tender he inspected the area and decided it was country much easier to work than Talbingo. Father tendered (being the only tenderer) and secured the area at 5 pence per acre - a lease for 18 years. This lease was renewed for further periods until the area was split up into small blocks."

"Father eventually fenced the area and got away from

shepherding. Re the shepherding - instead of having one brake, Father used two brakes side by side, used night about and thus got away from wet yards and this wiped out foot rot troubles. I think "Gooandra" area was 16000 acres."

"Eventually "Gooandra" was leased back to the Austins after Father showed them how to handle the area. When the lease expired they bought "Gooandra" from Father and Father bought "Tantangara" from Wildash of Bibinluk near Bwabala, about 16000 acres and it is from "Tantangara" area that your Dad had an interest later on, very high carrying country in spots, some capable of running 1 1/4 sheep to the acre for the summer. Sheep were sent to the Snow area, not before December for preference, and moved out early April to avoid snow."

"Father would have been the most successful land owner in the Klandra Snowy area and a report in The Tuat paper recently mentioned that he would have done more to help that area than anyone else in the grazing days."

"In 1914-15 "Tubbo" (via Darlington Point, west of Narrandera) had big numbers of sheep in the snow area, mostly in the Kosle area. They had very big losses through staying too late in the area. In 1916 your Dad and I collected a lot of dead wool from these sheep with aid of pack horses and sold for 1/- per pound."

"Father had the homestead at "Gooandra" built. The material was moved from a house close by. The old hut remains that are close to the Homestead" (we took some photos when there in Nov.'87 and sent them to Uncle Hector) "was a miner's hut which Father bought when he first settled there- two rooms, all cooking done with camp ovens to the last."

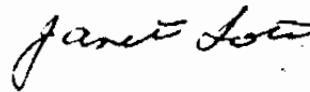
"Although "Gooandra" was sold to A.W.Austin about 1916 Father, not having a residence at "Tantangara" continued to live at "Gooandra" to the end and he was always the supervisor for the Austins, to the end!"

I know little of this part of the family history. One favourite story that has been told again by my cousin is of my father taking 3,000 sheep out in single file, having blazed a trail with a bullock, following an early snow storm and next year they went back to pick up the dead wool to sell for pocket money. I wonder if this is not the same incident that uncle refers to, adding to whom the sheep belonged.

My Dad was involved in a delegation at the cancelling of the snow leases, who were of the opinion, as you are probably aware, that the cessation of grazing would bring a greater fire danger. I hope this bit of information will add a little to your archives. I would like to ask you that if you have any details that I could add to my research I would be very appreciative. I hope to press Uncle again!

I was "tickled pink" to read that your Committee is working on a proposal to restore "Gooandra".

With very best wishes,



Janet Lott.