

ARCHER

The first of the Archer brothers, the sons of William and Julia Archer of Laurvig (Larvik), Norway (previously of Scotland) came to Australia in the 1830s. Three of them, John, David and Thomas drove several thousand sheep from the Castlereagh district of N.S.W. to seek their fortunes on the Darling Downs. They arrived in August 1841 when Thomas, the youngest, was aged 18. The Darling Downs had been claimed by other squatters so they moved on to try their luck in the Brisbane River Valley. Settlers already in this area were the Balfours of Colinton (uncles of R. L. Stevenson), the McConnells of Cressbrook and the Mackenzies of Kilcoy.

They followed the Stanley River and camped at a place called "Durundur" by the aborigines. This spot was on the right-hand side of Archer Creek (now called Stanley R.) about 4 km west of the present site of the town of Woodford.

Having decided to make their permanent home here they laid claim to an area of roughly 35000 ha (c. 135 miles²) (later increased to about 200 sq. mls). They discovered that the country was not suitable for sheep but was suitable for cattle and in 1845 re-stocked with cattle brought up from the Port Macquarie district (N.S.W.) by A.G. Cameron who remained as manager of Durundur. The Archers moved their sheep to Cooyar and Waroongundie (Emu Creek), not far west of the Brisbane R. In 1848 the Archers sold Durundur to the McConnel brothers. However, they continued to explore and expand their pastoral interests by establishing and developing stations at Coonambula and Eidsvold (Upper Burnett).

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Gracemere (near Rockhampton) and Minnie Downs (near Tambo).

The famous but ill-fated explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt, stayed at Durunder with the Archers from July 1843 to March 1844 and undertook several exploratory journeys and conducted much scientific and botanical research. He spoke very highly of the local aborigines. The Archer brothers, in all their various pursuits in different areas, were always well-known for their kindness to and understanding of most aborigines.

Apart from the brothers mentioned above, other brothers of the Archer family included: Charles and William (graziers), Archibald (a politician), Alexander (first Manager of the Bank of N.S.W. in Brisbane) and Colin (a shipbuilder who built Amundsen's famous ship "The Fram"). John was a sea captain and Thomas, in his later years, was Queensland's Agent-General in London.

Reminders of the Archer's presence in the Woodford area are Archer Street (the main street in Woodford) and Mt. Archer, near Neerum, overlooking Lake Somerset.

Archer

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Durundur Homestead



STANLEY RIVER

Post Office Creek

← To Kilcoy

To Beerwah →

D'Aguilar

One Mile Creek

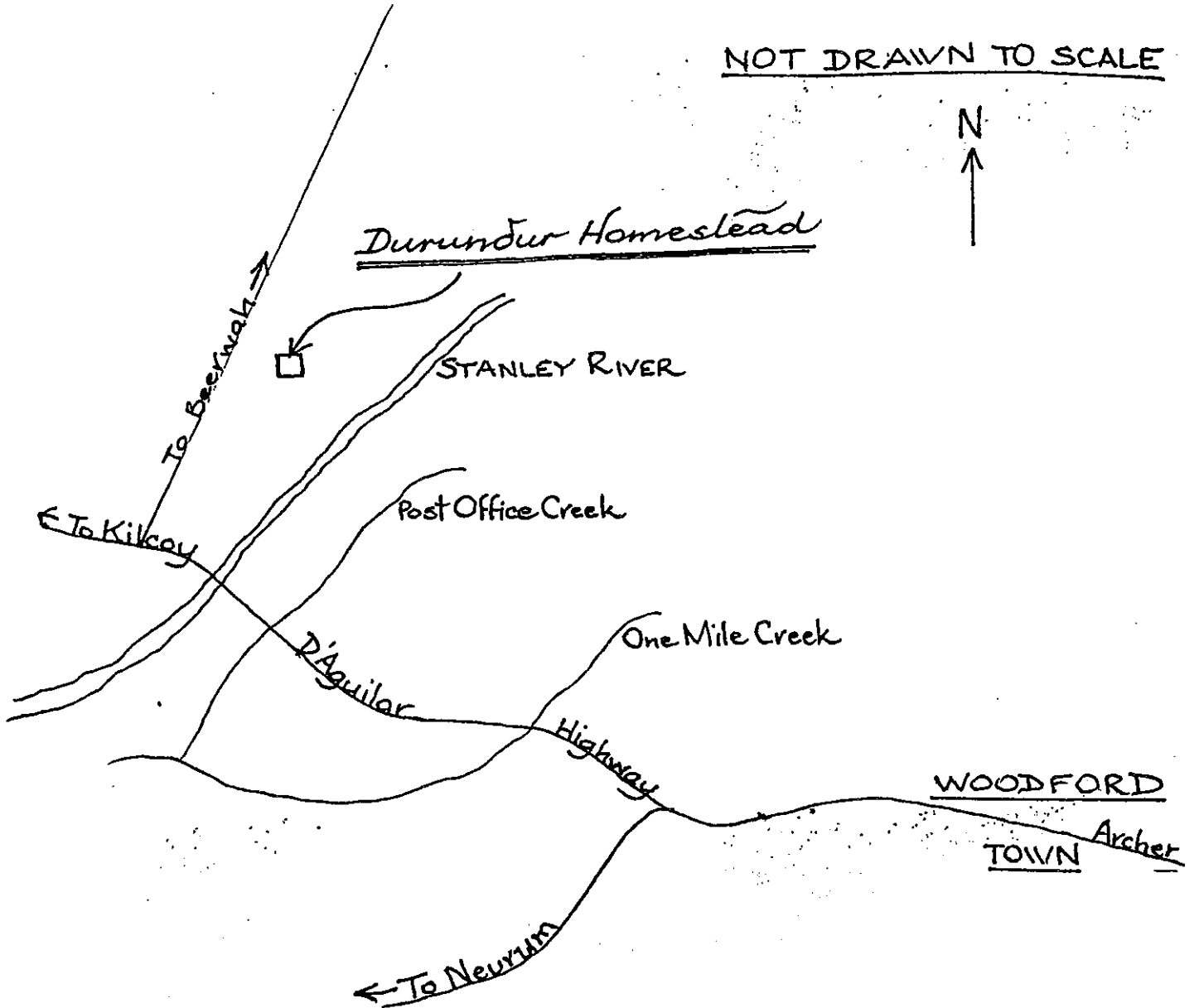
Highway

WOODFORD

TOWN

Archer

← To Newnam



JEFFREYS

The aboriginal's "place of the carpet snake", now known as Caboolture (a.k.a. Kabullūr, Cabul-ture, Cabullūcha) was taken up as a pastoral holding by Henry Jeffreys in 1850, nine years before Queensland became a separate State and nine years after the first settlers arrived in the Shire. The Kabi name for the area was Wongadum (also meaning "place of the carpet snake").

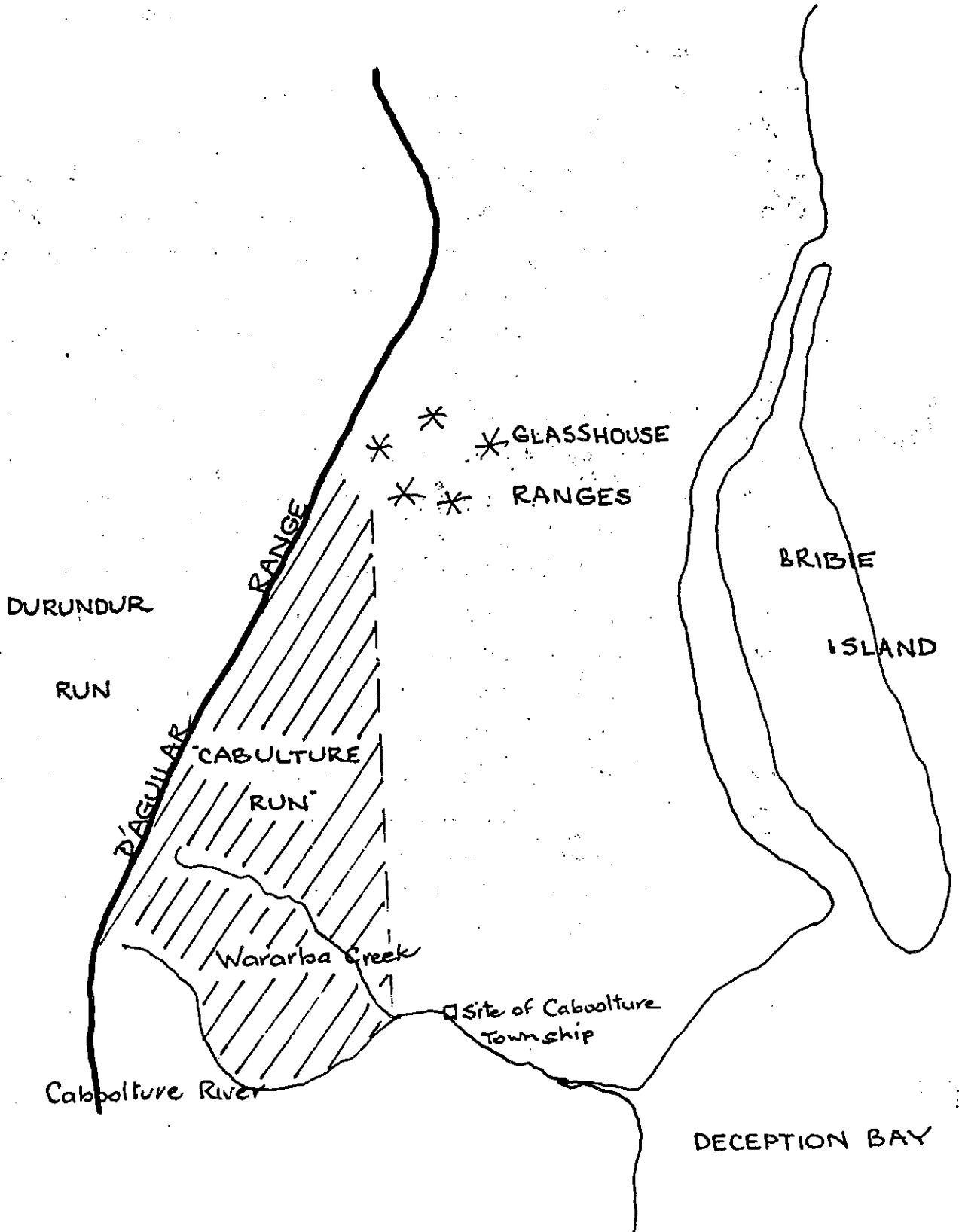
His application for a licence appears with a description of the run in the New South Wales Government Gazette of 26 July 1851. The area of 16,000 acres (6,400 ha.) was estimated to have a carrying capacity of 640 cattle.

The official description was as follows:

"Bounded on the south by the Caboolture River, being the boundary of the County of Stanley; on the west by the same river, being the county boundary and the continuation; on the north by Mr Archer's (Messrs M^cConnell's) and the Glasshouse ranges; on the east by a line due north from the junction of Waraba Creek with the Caboolture River."

This property changed hands several times during the "fifties" with the various owners including: J. Vaughan, D. Graham, Darby M^cGrath, Zillmann, Gerler & Franz and Henry Jordan. On a mortgage document for this property registered with the Supreme Court in Brisbane the stock on the property were listed as 1 bay horse, 1 bay mare, 1 bay horse, 1 bay mare, 1 brown mare, 1 roan mare, 1 bay mare, 1 black mare, 1 chestnut filly, 1 bay colt (differentiation of brands were given) & 800 head of cattle

Jeffreys



GREGOR

Not many months after the Archer brothers settled at Durundur, near Woodford in September 1841, the first free settler took up his holding in the Caboolture district. His name was Andrew Gregor and the land on which he settled was beside a creek (which now bears the name Gregor's Creek) which is a tributary of the upper reaches of the Caboolture R.

The place he chose was about 3 km. south of the junction of the river and Gregor's Creek. It was quite a large holding and the final remaining section of the original holding, consisting of some 35 ha, was sold by the Carseldine family in 1995 after having been in the hands of that family for 128 years. This property is called "Gregorsford" and is situated about 13 km. south-west of Caboolture at No 242 Moorina Road.

Andrew Gregor's brother, Rev. John Gregor M.A. was the Anglican clergyman based in Brisbane and his "parish" consisted of all South-east Queensland.

In October 1846, Andrew Gregor and Mrs. Mary Shannon, the wife of one of his station hands, were killed by aborigines. This was evidently a result of a dispute over supply and payment of bark supplied to Mr Gregor. Other employees witnessed and heard this commotion and luckily the three daughters of the Shannons escaped the vengeance of the natives. The father, Thomas Shannon, headed off towards Griffin's Whiteside Station (on the Pine River) to seek assistance. After a long period of fruitless search, the miscreants were finally

GREGOR

apprehended and their leader Dundalli was hanged in 1855 at a spot near where the present G.P.O. stands in Queen Street.

This property for many years was referred to as "Old Cabotture Station."

Gregor

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

