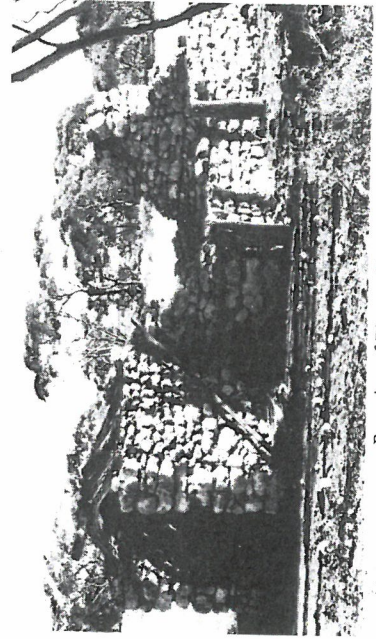


From a letter by Mr B. B. Woolston to A. Lunnay, head teacher, 1945

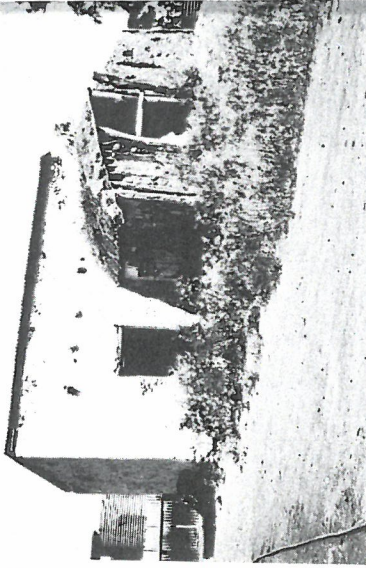
HISTORY OF MOUNT MARY FROM 1885

I was 6½ years of age when I arrived at Mount Mary. The train arrived there about 10.30 from Adelaide. Our selection was at Tiger Plain (3 mile crossing), said to be named so because a tiger was killed there. Then again, a good sheep dog called Tiger died there — also a good old bullock called Tiger died on the plain. I feel sure it was named after the bullock as the skeleton was there and we collected the knuckle bones when we were boys. The two government dams were on the edge of this plain and the shearing shed and huts for the shearers, of which there were three, were also there. Before my time a big part of the land was held by a squatter named Nobby White who lived at Kapunda and held most of the land around Mount Mary.

At the time I arrived, the son, Warton White, held part of the country, the rest was cut into selections for the farmers. This son was afterwards a Member of Parliament for three years.



Remains of Pioneer Dugout



Ruins of cottage on Nettica Station

My dad put in 10 acres of crop in 1885 on a and it did not come up. In 1886 crops went about bushels to the acre; 1887 about two bushels; 1888 total failure; 1889 wheat 6 ft high; 1890 was fair. 1890 the seasons were up and down. The drought known was about 1900 when rabbits and not a leaf could be found on any bush that a rabbit could reach. I have seen rabbits hanging by the where they got caught by a forked branch of a bush known as kangaroo bush — so named because kangaroos camp under them on hot days — ran out large holes. At this time a lot of the sandalwood trees died. There must have been a previous drought worse than this as a lot of sandalwood trees were killed when we arrived and we suppose it was then the wombats were starved out and none were seen in the locality since and the nearest we knew of was Craigie's Plains.

The next squatters had the hay run and were named Coleman's. Dr Schneider of Adelaide now owns it (1951) and it is called Haylands.

Some people by the name of Chapman kept a