

*This sampler file contains various sample pages from the product.*

*Sample pages will often include: the title page, an index, and other pages of interest.*

*This sample is fully searchable (read Search Tips) but is not FASTFIND enabled.*



[www.gould.com.au](http://www.gould.com.au)

- The widest range of Australian, English, Irish, Scottish and European resources
- 11000 products to help with your research
- A complete range of Genealogy software
- 5000 data CDs from numerous countries

Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter  
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK



[www.familyphotobook.com.au](http://www.familyphotobook.com.au)

- Free software download to create professional looking personal photo books, calendars and more

*To view more samplers  
click here*



[www.unlockthepast.com.au](http://www.unlockthepast.com.au)

- Promoting History, Genealogy and Heritage in Australia and New Zealand
- A major events resource
  - regional and major roadshows, seminars, conferences, expos
- A major go-to site for resources
  - free information and content, newsletters and blogs, speaker biographies, topic details
- Includes a team of expert speakers, writers, organisations and commercial partners



[www.archivecdbooks.com.au](http://www.archivecdbooks.com.au)

- Over 1600 rare Australian and New Zealand books on fully searchable CD-ROM
- Over 3000 worldwide
- Including: Government and Police gazettes, Electoral Rolls, Post Office and Specialist Directories, War records, Regional histories etc.



[www.worldvitalrecords.com.au](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com.au)

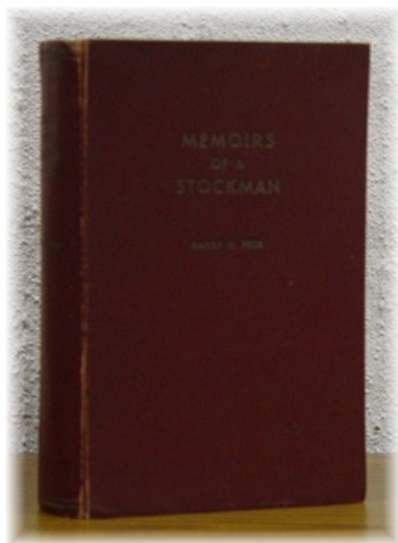
- 50 million Australasian records
- 1 billion records world wide
- low subscriptions
- FREE content daily and some permanently



This sampler file includes the title page, foreword, preface, contents and sample of text pages.

This file is fully searchable (read search tips page)

Archive CD Books Australia exists to make reproductions of old books, documents and maps available on CD to genealogists and historians, and to co-operate with family history societies, libraries, museums and record offices to scan and digitise their collections for free, and to assist with renovation of old books in their collection.



## Memoirs of a Stockman

Ref. AU7025

### Navigating this CD

To view the contents of this CD use Acrobat Reader's forward and back buttons to browse through the pages, alternatively use the **INDEX** bookmark to search for specific information and then use the bookmarks and Acrobat's page buttons (or slide bar) to go to the relevant page.

Use Acrobat Reader's bookmark functions to jump to highlighted sections.

To activate bookmarks click on "Window" and then "Show bookmarks" (or press F5)

### Searching this CD

This book has been formatted to be searchable using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

- Adobe Reader 6 or later is recommended for more advanced searching capability within a file or across multiple files.
- Generally 95% - 99% of the words can be searched. Where the original type was poor the words may not be recognized for searching.
- For more detailed explanation and tips to get the best search results [click here](#)

The technical advancements that allow this searching bring a wonderful finding aid but there is still no substitute for reading the book!

Copyright ©2005 Archive CD Books Australia Pty Ltd. All Rights Reserved

For more books on CD from Archive CD Books Australia, see the web pages at [www.archivecdbooks.com.au](http://www.archivecdbooks.com.au)

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1884, Harry Huntington Peck became an auctioneer and 54 years later he surrendered his licence, the record stock salesman of the Commonwealth. What memories this wealth of experience has left! How well have these been recorded in this story of Newmarket and the men who supplied it from the 'sixties to 1900! Here is a history of Victorian stock-raising and marketing that retains all the colour of picturesque times and people, that laces historic narrative with humour. It is an epic story and at the same time a prodigious feat for a man aged 81 years. But Mr. Peck does full justice to his pioneers.

These memoirs appeared in serial form in "Stock and Land" from 1939 to 1941, but have since been revised extensively by the author. However, the difficulties associated with war-time conditions prevented numerous additions which Mr. Peck otherwise would have made.

As the doyen of Australian stock salesmen Mr. Peck is known from the Gulf to Westernport; as chairman of the Associated Stock and Station Agents of Melbourne he was intimately associated with the organisation of Newmarket, and as an all-round judge of pure stock he has hardly been excelled. His great knowledge and ability earned him the respect of a multitude of countrymen; his human qualities, kindly tolerance and generous spirit, revealed in the following pages, have gained their affection.

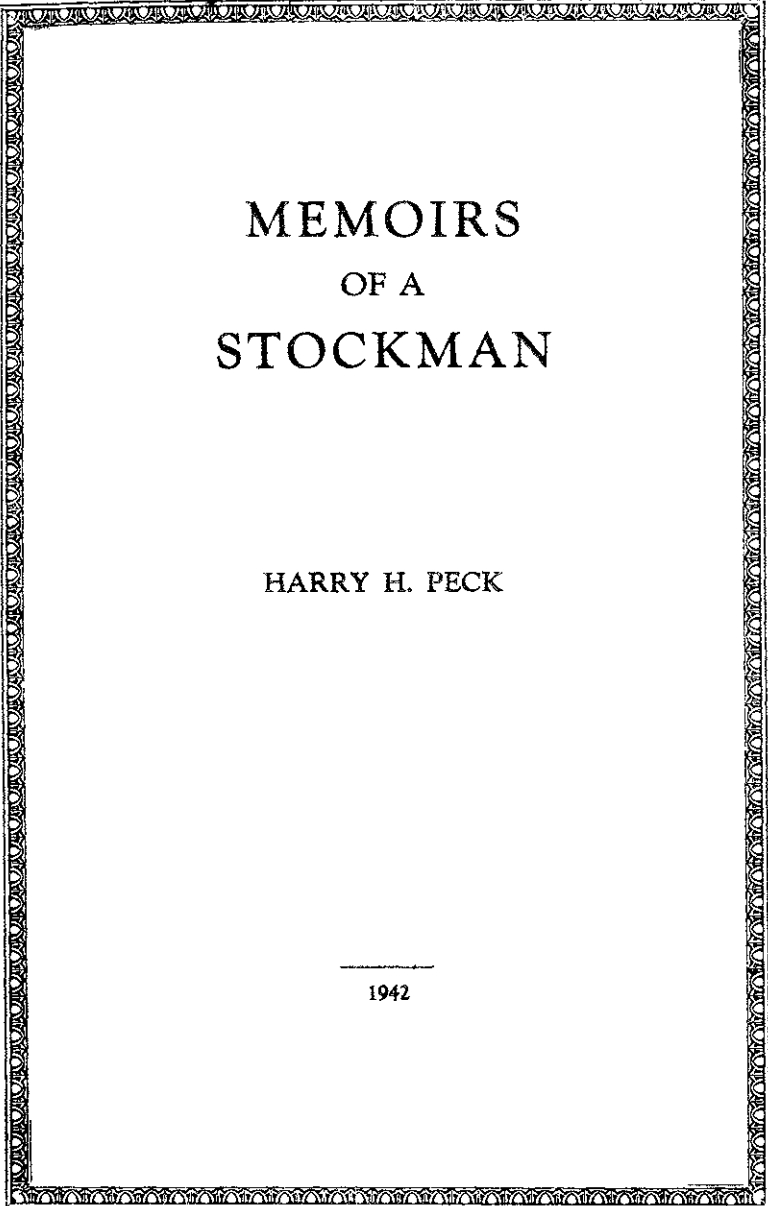
**J. A. BAKER,**

Editor of "Stock and Land,"

Melbourne, January, 1942.



THE AUTHOR AT 81

A decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern of circles and lines surrounds the entire page.

MEMOIRS  
OF A  
STOCKMAN

HARRY H. PECK

---

1942

## MEMOIRS OF A STOCKMAN

THE compilation of these reminiscences was undertaken as a labour of love to the memory of those gone before, at the request of many old friends who were aware that my association with Newmarket and memories of it, went back for nearly 70 years. They thought that memoirs, and a record of the personalities, of those early days would be of interest to many connected with Newmarket to-day, and later to those who are to follow in the conduct of our great market, for many years one of the leading stock markets of the world.

For help, as to the details of some of the old firms with which they were more or less associated, I have to sincerely thank my old friends and confreres, Charles G. Locke, Bert Friend, Charley Matthews, Allan King, Jack Ballantine and the late Harry Read; for the minutes and records of the first and early market authorities and dates thereof, Mr. Richard R. Birch, our present superintendent, and Mr. John Robertson, till recently the holder of that important office; also Mr. James A. Maher, the author of "A Tale of a Century," of Kilmore and district, for detailed information, beyond my ken, of some of his district's personalities who were closely connected with Newmarket, and I am also indebted to that very valuable historical work, "Pastures New," of Messrs. R. V. Billis and A. S. Kenyon, for the origin of the Mt. Noorat and Manifold Shorthorn herds, their "Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip" for dates of some of the earliest leases, and to my old friend and regular attendant at Newmarket for the last 40 years, Mr. Henry E. Holmes, for the loan of his copy of "The Letters of Early Pioneers to Governor La Trobe." Other authorities I have acknowledged where used.

I can only hope that the perusal of these memoirs will give those interested half the pleasure they gave me in their jotting down, and if so, I shall be well repaid.

HARRY H. PECK.

# CONTENTS

<i>PART I.</i>		Page
NEWMARKET IS FORMED .. .. .	1	
THE FIRST AGENTS .. .. .	4	
CLASSERS .. .. .	26	
BUYERS MADE A GOODLY COMPANY ..	36	
DROVERS AND LESSEES .. .. .	61	
FAMOUS CATTLEMEN AND OTHER NOTED SUPPLIERS .. .. .	70	
 <i>PART II.</i>		
GIPPSLAND PIONEERS .. .. .	132	
WESTERNPORT .. .. .	155	
SOUTH AND WEST GIPPSLAND .. ..	188	
GREAT KYOGLE LAND DEAL .. .. .	215	
ON THE UPPER YARRA .. .. .	222	
ALONG THE GOULBURN .. .. .	229	
OVENS AND KING RIVER DISTRICTS ..	251	
 <i>PART III.</i>		
ALBURY AND THE BORDER MARKETS ..	257	
MURRAY, KIEWA AND MITTA RUNS ..	275	
THE UPPER MURRAY .. .. .	303	
HOLBROOK-TABLE TOP .. .. .	325	
RETURN TO GISBORNE .. .. .	332	

## FAMOUS CATTLEMEN AND OTHER NOTED SUPPLIERS

**O**F THE BREEDERS AND FATTENERS who regularly supplied Newmarket apart from the few already mentioned who generally drove their own stock, the most notable in the earlier days in the cattle line was James Tyson, and later, taking Tyson's place as the Cattle King of Australia, Sir Sidney Kidman. I knew these outstanding cattlemen well for many years.

James Tyson was born near Campbelltown, New South Wales, early in the last century. His father, a Cumberland man, came out as a sergeant in one of the regiments sent to guard convicts, and keep order generally in the young Crown colony at Sydney. When Sergeant Tyson's term of soldiering expired he settled down to farming near Campbelltown, only about 35 miles from Sydney, where most of his large family were born and reared. James was the second son. Nothing much is known of his education, but that he received, or adapted himself, to a good one is certain. For though in his latter years his manager, Buchanan, at Felton, his home station on the Darling Downs, wrote nearly all his letters, his own letters, in a firm flowing hand, bore the stamp of such a man. Tyson stood six feet two inches in his socks and was broad shouldered and deep chested in proportion. It took a good horse to carry him well. When I first met him, in the '70's, during one of his periodical visits to his famous fattening property, Heyfield in Gippsland, "The Old Gentleman" was handsome, straight as a rush, with a long flowing iron-grey beard, and would have been a man of mark in any crowd. However, he loathed personal publicity and busy-bodies who tried to draw him out, and consequently travelled incognito as "Mr. Smith" or "Mr. Shiels." But it was not of much use, as once met or seen few were likely to forget him, considering his reputation and his unusual personality. He was a life abstainer from alcohol, of which he had a dread, and a non-smoker, although he usually carried a plug to use sometimes for snuff, or give a traveller a pipe-full. Because he never married, or was ever known to have any love affair, folks sometimes called him "a woman-hater," but in this they were mistaken for, though generally shy, he had a genuine regard and friendship for the



## PART TWO

### GIPPSLAND PIONEERS

**G**IPPSLAND, WHICH WAS FIRST opened up around Omeo in '36 by squatters from the Monaro side, did not get an outlet for its fat cattle till the explorer Angus McMillan found Corner Inlet in 1841, and then only for shipping to Tasmania. It was not till many years after that a track was opened through the scrub districts intervening to allow fats to be driven to Melbourne market.

Some of the earliest leaseholders in that great rich central district between the Morwell and Avon rivers, from which between 1860 and 1890 were to come the largest and most regular mobs of fat cattle that supplied Newmarket, were Edmund Croke of The Holey Plain; the Kings of Nambrok and The Ridge; John Foster, from Tasmania, who had a big Government contract for beef to supply the soldiers and transportees at Hobart Town, and first secured The Heart but later acquired Boisdale and other runs; William Pearson of Kilmany, and Cunningham of Fulham. After the Duffy Land Act in 1872 some of the original squatters lost a large proportion of their best country to selectors who, in course of time, put together some very fine fattening properties, in some instances equal to those of the squatters.

Croke, the Kings, Foster and Pearson all held on till central Gippsland became the most regular supplier of fat cattle to Newmarket, but they were early reinforced by William Whittakers at Loy Yang, on the Latrobe near Traralgon; Campbell Bros. at Traralgon Park; John McMillan at Hazelwood, on the Morwell; William Riggall of Glenfalloch and later Byron Lodge; George Davis at Riversdale; Johnson-Boe and Glassford at Mewburn Park; Donald and William Manson; the Clyne brothers, David and James; old Malcolm Campbell and William Merry, all were from Newry, covering mostly that very rich pocket of fertile alluvial natural rye grass and clover country across from the Thompson to the Macallister, where Peter Clements and his brother William later bought. Then farther east over on the Avon was Willy Power at Powerscourt, and Murdoch Macintosh at Bushy Park, taken up by Alex. McMillan in October, 1940, and the first station

around the Western District and the metropolis, Andrew Chirnside his owner sent him down to the Bass for one of the annual meetings originated by his friends the Penders. The rider from town engaged to ride Sailor became ill on the way down and young Bothwell was put up as the best possible substitute. The rails of the fences were long messmate springy poles and, approaching the first fence with Sailor slightly in the lead and going easily, two horses rushed up on either side at their top, took off just ahead of him and with the pace on clouted heavily. The springy poles swung back, caught Sailor in mid-air, brought him down and broke Jimmy's thigh. However, almost right up to his eighteen-months illness which ended in his death at well over 70, he would ride half-broken young ones, always with exceptionally loose girths—so loose that strangers fearing the saddle might slip often called his attention to the girths. But Jimmy would reply, "Balance keeps the saddle safe and no fear of girth galls."

James Bothwell was undoubtedly a man of personality but an enigma to strangers who, meeting him for the first time and taking him for a typical Australian of the stock world, would suddenly be startled with a quotation from some deep philosophical work. He was an omnivorous reader of standard English literature and poets, and especially studied philosophy, ancient and modern. He was an outstanding example of a deep thinker and student hidden in a most unlikely environment. Jimmy, a cattle man for many years, in the last 40 years also ran a good many sheep and bred mostly export lambs. He attended the local markets regularly and was well known at Newmarket, where Bothwell fat bullocks had been marketed for about 70 years. He was a cattle man to the end as he always kept a good team of working bullocks and no one knew how to drive them better. His father Guy Bothwell was a great admirer of the poems of Rudyard Kipling, and Jimmy had the following epitaph by Kipling engraved on his father's tombstone in the Corinella cemetery:—

*"High crest and froward bearing  
Proud heart, rebellious brow,  
Deaf ear and love uncaring  
We seek Thy mercy now,  
The sinner that forswore Thee,  
The fool that passed Thee by,  
Our times were known before us,  
Lord grant us strength to die."*

James McNabb of Wendoora was a contemporary and neighbour of James Bothwell for practically the whole of their long lives, but he took up sheep somewhat earlier. Originally specialising on Romneys,

## ON THE UPPER YARRA

**N**UMBERS of fat stock sent to Newmarket from the Upper Yarra districts were few in the early days and, until the top-dressing of pastures, the district could not keep itself supplied all the year round with meat, especially in summer when Healesville, Marysville and surrounding guest-houses were crowded with holiday visitors. In those years Adams & Sons, who had a general store at Alphington, bought supplies at Newmarket weekly for butchers of both sides of the river to the head of settlement. Of late years, however, thanks to superphosphate and introduced grasses the pastures of the Upper Yarra have so improved in fattening capacity that a considerable surplus of fat stock finds its way to Newmarket fairly regularly.

As a boy in the '70's I spent Christmas holidays on the Badger creek just where the Sir Colin McKenzie sanctuary for native animals is now situated, and so had an early acquaintance with the district and knowledge of some of its earliest settlers and properties. It is generally known that Paul de Castella a young man from Switzerland with viticultural experience settled in 1848 at Yering, which at first he worked as a cattle station with John Sayle a notable character of those early years as overseer. Yering was taken up by that fine old pioneer of many districts William Ryrie in '37 with cattle from Monaro and was a big run bounded on the north by the river, on the east by the Woori Yallock creek, on the west by Lilydale and on the south by the Dandenong ranges. However, for some further details of the early settlement around and above the present Yering I am indebted to Mr. George de Pury who, with his brother Victor, is the present inheritor of Yeringberg.

In '52 Mr. Hubert de Castella and Mr. Guillaume de Pury arrived from Switzerland and soon the three famous vineyards were planted—Yering by Paul de Castella, Saint Huberts by Hubert and Yeringberg by Mr. de Pury. The three vineyards became celebrated the world over for the quality of their light wines, as nothing in Australia has approached the Yarra wines in their particular class. When Cohn Bros. who had bought the last of the Yeringberg vintages entered them in the Royal Show over several years only a few seasons ago, they won the championship for the group of light wines on every occasion against strong interstate competition.

However, it was certainly Peter who passed on to many his version of the old Yankee proverb:—

*"If you have a thing to sell, do not whisper down a well, but  
"Climb a tree and holler."*

—so forcibly demonstrated in the stock-agency business.

A Queensland aborigine "Skerry" came to Bringenbrong with a big mob of store bullocks from his State as a horse-tailer, and stayed on. He was a great favourite with Peter, who left a sum by his will for "Skerry's" upkeep for life. "Skerry" was a wonderful rider. Mustering in bush country no one could pace him through timber and scrub. Both an excellent breaker and jockey, he broke in the mighty Trafalgar.

Peter and Walter Mitchell bought Towong Hill on the Victorian bank opposite Bringenbrong in 1902 and Biggara adjoining it a good deal later. About 1914 they dissolved partnership. Peter took Bringenbrong and Indi and Walter, Towong Hill and Biggara. Peter died in Sydney in 1921 when George Evans, who had been with the Mitchells since boyhood, was managing for him. His trustees sold both Bringenbrong and Indi to a syndicate, of whom the late Mr. Arthur Rogers, M.H.R., one-time Minister of Customs, was the leading member. Kerry Pierce of North Greg Greg, was also a member. The syndicate subdivided, Arthur Rogers taking the Bringenbrong homestead with about 2500 acres, and John and George Drummond and Sons buying Lower Bringenbrong; Harry Tyrell, Indi, and other buyers smaller blocks. When Rogers died Tony and George Sassella bought the homestead and improved the hill portion very considerably. After Tony died the Sassellas sold to Nankervis Bros.

Some wonderful averages were made at Newmarket by Bringenbrong cattle, the top line being in June, 1920, when 80 bullocks sold to £39/2/6 and averaged £33/19/1. They were sold by Harry Kirk of Thomas Mates & Co., and father of Clyde Kirk, now head salesman for Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co. Ltd., Melbourne.

The main branch of the Murray above the Bringenbrong bridge is the boundary between New South Wales and Victoria but is known as the Indi. The Swampy Plain or Khancoban river joins the Indi just at the bridge; the river below is the Murray. The Indi run has a long river frontage on the New South Wales side above Bringenbrong and was taken up by Matthew and William Harvey

# Getting around this CD

## Navigating Archive CD Books CDs

---

All Archive CD Books products can be navigated easily using the handy bookmarks on each CD. The table of contents in most original books, and the original book index where it exists, can provide additional ways of finding the information required.

## Searching Text on Archive CD Books Australia CDs

---

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology has been developing over the years as a useful mechanism to convert images (as Archive CD Books pages are) into text which can be searched. The quality of the OCR can still vary, and hence the searchability can vary. Around 95% or 99% of the words in books with good type are searchable—or even higher with very good type.

*OCR is now a wonderful searching aid in many instances  
but there is still no substitute for reading the book!*

## Different Versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader

---

Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 or later should be used. Adobe Reader 6 (as it is now named) in fact has considerably better searching options and is recommended.

- **Acrobat Reader v4** has both a “Find” and a “Search” tool. Those tools are two \*totally\* different things. Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*FIND\* tool
- **Acrobat Reader v5** has only a “Find” tool (not a “search” tool). Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*FIND\* tool.
- **Adobe Reader v6** has only a “Search” tool (not a tool labelled “Find”). HOWEVER — what is called “Search” is the same as the tool that used to be called “Find” Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*SEARCH\* tool

## Tips For Searching and Getting More From the CD Books

---

- update to Adobe Reader 6 for more versatile searching options, including the ability to bring up a list of all instances of the word you are searching for — across multiple files on a single CD in a single search request.
- enter the MINIMUM number of characters needed to bring up the search results required.
- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering “rederi” if you want “Frederick”, but find that the letters “F” “c” and “k” are sometimes misread.
- use the “Match whole word” option to eliminate unnecessary items in your results list, e.g. to eliminate all the blacksmiths and tinsmiths etc when you only want the name Smith.
- use the “Match case” option to eliminate all the occupations “smith” if you only want the name “Smith”.
- don’t just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
  - › look for others of the same name
  - › look for others who lived in the same place or street
  - › who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
  - › how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
  - › what churches were there and what time were services held?
  - › what other activities were there in the community?
  - › look for others who had the same occupation or other interests
- all of this and more may be available in a seemingly mundane book such as a directory. You can learn much of the background of life at the time, even if your ancestor is not listed there.
- Many CDs have only one file, but some have the book content spread over several files. Adobe Reader normally searches in the file that is open at the time. If you wish to search ALL files at once choose the “All PDF documents in” option and select the CD drive or directory the files are in—Adobe Reader 6 only.

ADOBE ACROBAT SEARCHING IS A WONDERFUL FIRST FINDING AID.  
BUT DO NOT RELY ON IT TO PICK UP ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

