

21 July

Dear Aunt,

I thought the paper
written by a very distant
relative might be of
interest insofar as it
touches on Dyak.

Yours

Peter

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CORNISH IN AUSTRALIA. Philip Gidley King, third Governor of New South Wales, was the first Cornishman of note to arrive in Australia; he reached Port Jackson with the First Fleet in 1788, and became Governor late in 1800. Launceston, originally called Patersonia, the second city of Tasmania, was renamed by him after his birthplace in Cornwall. His successor as Governor, William Bligh, was also a Cornishman.

James Ruse, like King a native of Launceston, was another Cornishman who arrived in Australia with the First Fleet. He had been transported to complete a seven-year sentence, and in 1789, when his time expired, he was settled on land near Parramatta. In the following year he planted 1½ acres of wheat and as a reward for his enterprise was given 30 acres of land. This was the first grant of land made in Australia.

Few references exist to early free settlers from Cornwall, but it is clear that Cornishmen were soon on the Australian scene. In 1825 two Cornishmen, brothers-in-law and shipmates, established themselves and their families on land beyond Bathurst. Their names were William Lane and William Tom. Lane settled at Orton Park, and Tom on a grant of 640 acres, 20 miles west of Bathurst, which he called Springfield. Other Cornishmen followed in the footsteps of these pioneers, and in the 1830s a Cornish community was established, known as the Cornish Settlement or Cornish Town. In 1885 the settlement was proclaimed the village of Byng. In 1851 sons of William Tom played a part in the discovery of the Ophir goldfield, the main credit for which was given to E. H. Hargraves.

Another of the early settlers near Bathurst was George Hawke, tutor to the children of William Tom, who later bought the property Pendarves. He went home to Cornwall to marry, and on the return voyage to Australia brought with him a number of young fruit-trees. Those that survived the journey he planted in 1838, but they all died. Three years later he planted some apple-trees and peach-stones, and with these was more successful.

A considerable Cornish community was established in South Australia soon after the discovery in 1845 of the rich Burra Burra copper outcrops and the founding of a mining company. Mining was carried out by open-cut methods, with marked success. Between 1851 and 1855 mining was virtually suspended because of the rush of miners to the goldfields in Victoria, but after their return the mine enjoyed more than 10 years of prosperity. Many of the men, however, remained on the Victorian fields, and their descendants have had an important part in community life.

More important was the discovery of copper on Yorke Peninsula, at Wallaroo in 1860 and at Moonta in 1861. The development of the Moonta mine was the achievement of Captain H. R. Han-

cock, who came from the copper district of Harra-bridge in Devonshire, close to the border of Cornwall, and a Cornishman, Captain James Pryor (father of the cartoonist Oswald Pryor), who arrived in Australia in 1866. The first settlers in Moonta were four Cornish miners brought from the Wallaroo mines, and they were followed by hundreds of other Cornishmen from Burra and Kapunda, from Victoria, and direct from Cornwall. Among these "Cousin Jacks" a strong community spirit existed. About the year 1876 a number of miners and their families were introduced from Cornwall under contract by a Captain Piper. These hard-working and law-abiding people obtained their recreation in carol-singing, brass-band music, and revival meetings, and in creating something of the atmosphere of their native country. Moonta's population was almost entirely Cornish, and remained so for many years. The copper-mine closed down in 1923, and the surrounding district is now an agricultural area.

The Cornish miner has been established in the consciousness of Australian people by the cartoons of Oswald Pryor, who was born in Moonta. Pryor's work has appeared mainly in the *Sydney Bulletin*; his *Cousin Jack Cartoons* (1945) depicts many amusing aspects of the Cornish character. In addition numbers of "Cousin Jack" stories have been written in newspapers, notably by George Cock-erill, who knew his subjects on the mining fields of Bendigo.

Cornishmen or men of Cornish descent who have been noteworthy contributors to Australian development include: Sir John Langdon Bonython, newspaper proprietor and philanthropist in South Australia; Sir James Boucaut, Premier of South Australia; Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, Premier of Tasmania; William Arthur Trenwith, a pioneer in the Victorian Labour movement; Fred Johns, who published seven editions of *Johns's Notable Australians* and *Who in Australia*; Sir John Quick, journalist and parliamentarian; John Verran, Premier of the first purely Labour government in South Australia; William Carlton Lanyon Dawe, novelist; John Laskey Woolcock, Supreme Court judge in Queensland; Samuel Bennett, founder of the *Sydney Evening News*; Benjamin Carvosso, first Wesleyan missionary in Tasmania; Walter Lawry, builder of the first Wesleyan chapel at Parramatta, N.S.W.; Henry Dangar, member of a New South Wales family active in politics, shipping and pastoral pursuits; John Price, head of the penal department at Melbourne, 1853-7; and George Marsden Waterhouse, Premier of South Australia during 1861-3 and Premier of New Zealand in 1872-3.

COROWA, a town on the New South Wales bank of the Murray River, situated 416 miles by rail south-west of Sydney and 503 feet above sea-