



REFLECTIONS

Blessed By The Luck Of The Irish

By Ken Dyer

SOME 108 years ago John Mills wandered away from his camp south of Coolgardie in Western Australia searching endlessly for any small sign of gold that might enable his syndicate of six diggers to stay on and find that elusive El Dorado.

John Mills and his mates had met up in 1894 on the newly discovered goldfields of Coolgardie after all travelling to Western Australia from the Eastern States.

Unfortunately they had arrived too late to stake a claim around the known main finds so they pooled their resources to purchase a horse and dray, enough food and equipment for a six months search around the perimeters of the goldfields.

At first the party searched around Lake Lefroy, a stretch of water some 70 miles south-east of Coolgardie, however, their diminishing resources forced them to return to a camp a few miles south of Coolgardie.

It was now the winter of 1894 and resources were so low that this was the last chance to find gold before the party of six would be forced to return home to Victoria.

Roaming through the dry sparse stunted trees a mile from the camp John Mills came across some quartz rock that had some minor traces of gold, so quickly Mills returned to base and moved the whole meagre operation to the site of his find.

Although finding more traces of gold in quartz rock close to the site, the party became discouraged when they could not locate the main reef. Miraculously when Mills vented his frustration by kicking at a piece of quartz rock protruding out of the dusty ground, the rock broke open revealing a rich vein of gold.

Further digging revealed the prospect of a major find and the party

quickly pegged out what they thought was 25 acres of land around the protruding rock.

It was later ascertained that they had only pegged slightly in excess of 16 acres, but in the end that mattered little.

As discoverer, John Mills was afforded naming rights, naming the middle piece the Londonderry Mine and the two side pieces, South and North Londonderry, after the place of his birth in Ireland. It was popular choice for while Mills and two others of the party were from Victoria and other three from New South Wales, all six were born in Ireland.

Taking the leading role John impressed on his mates the utmost importance of secrecy and working feverishly the party processed a huge amount of gold in a short time, most of it from a rather confined area.

In the meantime John Mills laid official claim to 25 acres situated 11 1/2 miles from Coolgardie, the warden at Coolgardie simply accepting that 25 acres was the correct area of the claim, despite it being in reality only 16 acres.

Even though the claim had been publicly posted, none of the other goldminers on the Coolgardie minefields realised that the party had struck gold and so in the short term the party of six were able to mine the Londonderry Mine in secret.

However, the secret was exposed when the six Irishmen had to lodge the gold they had found with the Union Bank of Coolgardie for safe keeping.

Their first lodgement of gold amounted to 4,280 ounces after six weeks of work and over the next few weeks a similar amount was also banked, meaning that the party had over 8,000 ounces in safe keeping. This was a huge amount of gold and its value in today's terms would be approaching two million dollars.

Not surprisingly other goldseekers swarmed around the Londonderry mine once they realised the richness of the discovered vein and offers were coming thick and fast for the mine itself.

So persistent were the offers, the party decided to stop work on the mine once they had reached a fifty foot depth to consider their future involvement with the Londonderry Mine.

The site was dubbed the "Golden Hole" and became known throughout Australia and Great Britain resulting in Mills and his party being besieged with even bigger offers.

One of those attempting to buy into the famous pit was the 11th Lord Fingall, a then 35-year-old Irishman who had just arrived in Australia and travelled to Western Australia on hearing about the Londonderry Mine.

Lord Fingall met up with his six fellow Irishmen and secured from them an option for the sale of the mine of 180,000 pounds plus one-sixth plus shares. This negotiation was not entered into before Lord Fingall satisfied himself about the richness of the vein by going down the shaft to the fullest extent of the digging.

Returning to London Lord Fingall set about forming the Londonderry Gold Mine to exercise his option with paid up capital of 700,000 pounds, with shares to be sold at one pound each.

Of this amount London entrepreneur Colonel North took up 50% ownership with the remainder of 467,000 shares being offered to the public at par. Human nature being what it is, the issue was heavily over subscribed.

Mills and his partners were to receive 180,000 pounds plus 116,667 shares in the new company to be divided according to the shareholding of the Mills' syndicate.

When Mills' syndicate lodged the original claim for the mine, it was stated that there were 960 shares, of which 160 were owned by Mills and the remaining 800 spread between the other five members of the original syndicate - John Huxley and Thomas Elliott (from Victoria) and William Gardner, Henry Down and Peter Cater (from New South Wales).

For his share of the Londonderry Mine, John Mills received 30,400 pounds plus a proportion of the shares that by the 29th March 1895 had reached one pound, eight shillings and nine pence. In addition Mills received his due proportion of the 8,000 ounces of gold mined and lodged at the Union Bank.

Overall, the minimum amount that John Mills would have had his personal fortune boosted by was 70,000 pounds, a huge amount of cash money for those days and which today would be equivalent to somewhere between two and three million dollars.

The story of John Mills began with his birth in Londonderry, Ireland in 1868 in impoverished circumstances and his father (John Mills senior) decided to escape the squalor by emigrating to Melbourne with his wife and family at the height of the goldrush fever.

Rushing to Ballarat and Bendigo to try his luck John Mills had little success as a goldminer and afterwards had to support his wife and family with wages as farm labourer in the Gippsland district of Victoria.

John Mills (junior) was infected with the gold fever from his father but for the first 24 years of his life was unable to break the shackles of the geographical and social environment of his surroundings.

The discovery of gold at Coolgardie in Western Australia in 1892 was the trigger for young Mills to gather enough money together for the voyage to Western Australia and try his luck on the goldfields for six months in the harsh climate and primitive living conditions of Coolgardie.

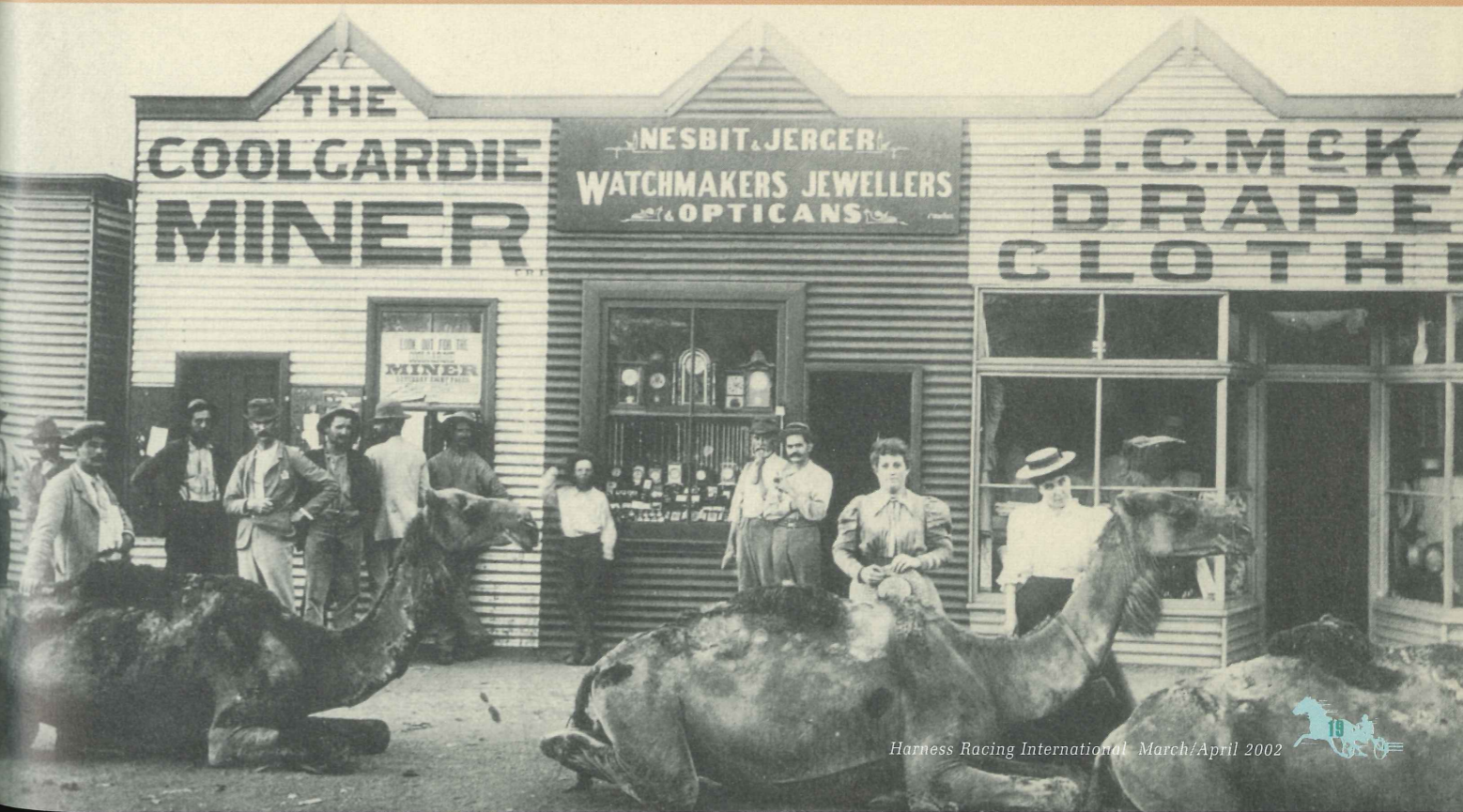
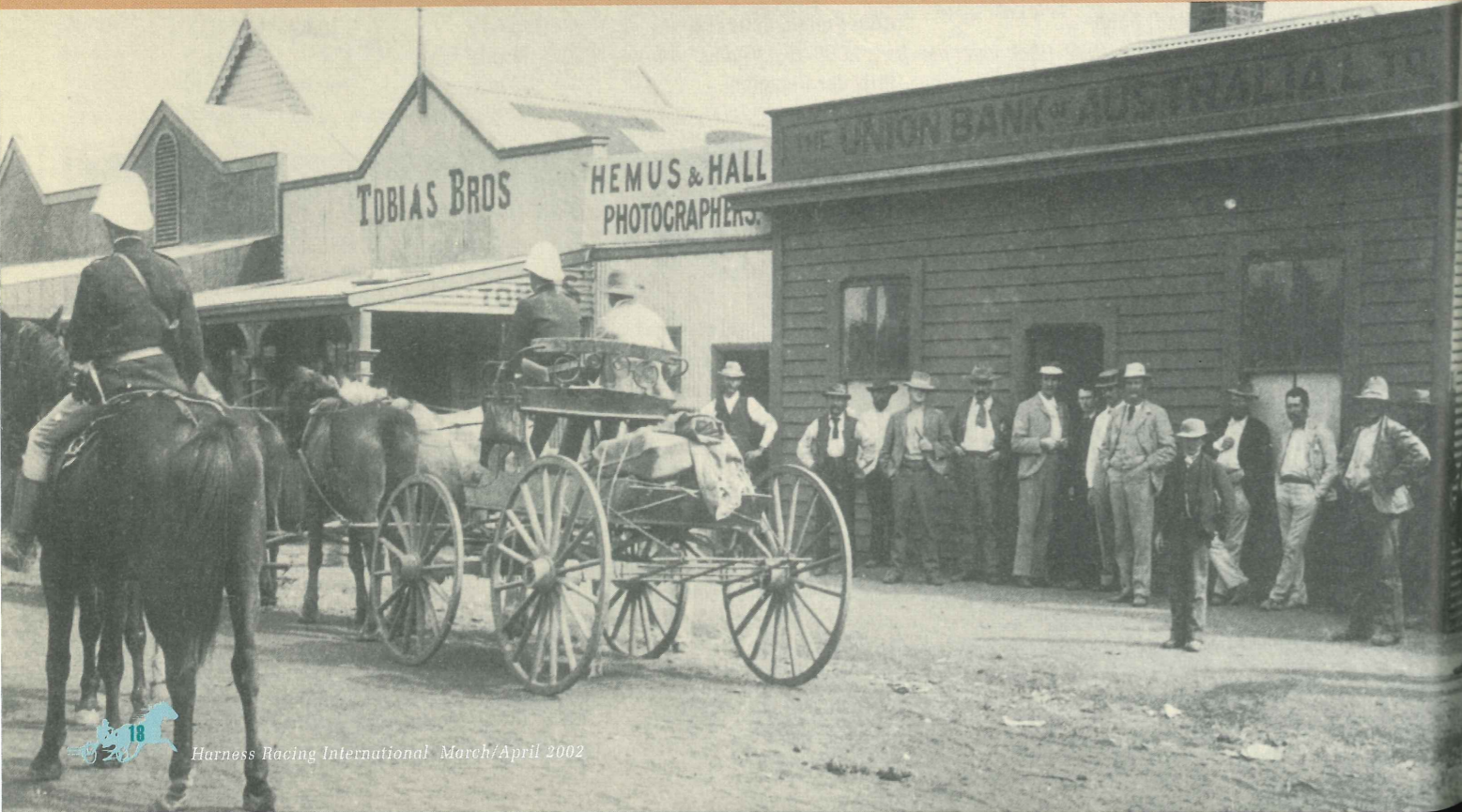
When Mills in 1895 returned to Victoria flush with his multi million dollar fortune, he became an innocent onlooker to the emerging Londonderry Gold Mine disaster that occurred on 29th March of that year.

Lord Fingall had returned from Europe to the Londonderry Mine to oversee the re-opening of the mine to extract the potentially massive amount of gold that it appeared to contain.

You will remember that Mills and his syndicate stopped operations at a depth of 50 feet and when Lord Fingall's team resumed digging they found to their utter dismay that the gold bearing quartz petered out to barren quartz within just one more foot of digging.

On what was known as "Black Friday" in London, Lord Fingall cabled London with the news and the share price immediately collapsed to 12 shillings and six pence. By 1896 only 1800 ounces of gold had been retrieved from the mine and the scandalous furore that ensued set back overseas investment in Australian mining for years.

Although it was rumoured that the original Londonderry Syndicate had known that the gold quartz would peter out, John Mills was adamant that this was not the case. On the balance of evidence of an



inspection of the mine, Mills' statement was probably true for investigators found no evidence that the original syndicate had proceeded any further down than 50 feet or sideways under the find.

In any event John Mills had banked his substantial personal fortune in Melbourne and putting the Londonderry episode aside he set about enjoying the good life and being naturally inclined to racing he dabbled in the ownership of horses.

One of his first purchases was the trotter Daniel Dennis that was competing at the old Richmond Racetrack at the time.

Trained by Will Whitburn, the gelding trotted his way to four wins and in his first win on 17th April 1896, Daniel Dennis was driven by the 22-year-old Frederick Augustus Millsom, later known famously as "Gus" Millsom.

There was to be an enduring association and friendship between John Mills and Gus that ended only with the tragic train death of Millsom at the age of 39 years in 1913 in Sydney.

Back when he first drove for Mills, Millsom was learning the craft of training and driving trotters through an association with Will Whitburn and Lou Robertson.

On the same month as Daniel Dennis' first victory, the 28 year-old Mills attended an auction of "Powerscourt", a country mansion located at Maffra in Gippsland.

Built in 1855 by William Power, "Powerscourt" was situated on a property of 8,000 acres with prime agriculture and dairying capacity and in 1886 Power granted the use of his front paddock on the Sale/Maffra Road for use by the Racing Club.

However, just two years later William Power had left the property and it was disposed of to D. Munro and Company of Melbourne, who subsequently empowered Power, Rutherford and Co. to sell the property.

The auction took place in Scott's Hotel in Melbourne and John Mills was the successful bidder at 31,000 pounds, paying in full by cheque much to the astonishment of the auctioneers and the big crowd in attendance.

Settling into country life like a hand into a glove, John Mills soon became the Maffra District's most noted philanthropist and sporting and business man.

Almost immediately John became involved in the affairs of Maffra and in 1896 he sold 100 acres of "Powerscourt" for 1,000 pounds to the Maffra Sugar Beet Company, with his wife Rebecca becoming the major shareholder and a major grower of sugar beet.

After a couple of years few were lauding the Sugar Beet Company as a resounding success yet by 1903 it was said to be a "white elephant", but despite this it lingered on before succumbing to a slow death in 1945. Maffra in 2002 still maintains a Sugar Beet Company historical display in one of the Company's original buildings that is open to the general public on Sundays.

At the turn of the century John Mills became further involved in trotting, purchasing the stallion Bentwood from Robert and Percy Miller in Sydney. The stallion trained and driven obviously by Gus Millsom won two races at Fitzroy when the main track at Richmond was closed for renovation.

Bentwood competed in one of the sport's annual highlights, the time trials at the Royal Melbourne Show in 1902, trotting miles in 2:32, 2:33 and 2:33 which was considered to be reasonably good at that time.

As he had 100% American bloodlines being by Baywood (imported in utero with his mother Julia) from the imported mare Hattie Benton, Bentwood was used as a stallion by the Millers in Sydney and also stood at "Powerscourt" during racing campaigns.

He unfortunately failed to reach any great heights probably because of the isolation of "Powerscourt" from the mainstream of Victorian trotting, a fact that meant limited patronage.

A more significant contributor to the low total of 13 winners was

Belmont M - winner of the 1906 New Zealand Cup



that Mills did not have many mares with trotting bloodlines and was often forced to use "blood" mares (with little success).

However, Bentwood earned himself some fame when one of his Sydney stock Lady Bentwood later became the dam of St. Elmo, a noted pacer and later influential sire for Percy and Robert Miller.

Mills eventually realised the shortcomings of his breeding programme and arranged with Gus Millsom, who was travelling to Christchurch to race some horses, to look up John Pettie and purchase the broodmare Kola from him.

Kola on arrival in Australia proved not to be in foal so Mills asked that she put back into work and was successful for the Mills/Millsom combination at Fitzroy on 5th March 1902.

Stud duties beckoned soon after for Kola and in 1905 she foaled John Finney to Bentwood before being gifted to Gus Millsom in foal to the same sire, the resultant foal being Miss Bentwood.

John Finney enjoyed success as a trotter at Richmond and for a few years in retirement was the replacement stallion for Bentwood at "Powerscourt".

In the same year that Kola won at Fitzroy, Mills also purchased the trotting mare Donna Cleve from John Swindle and she turned out to be the best trotting broodmare he ever owned and her descendants provided him and others with many winners for over two decades.

At this point of time in John Mills' life everything he touched had been successful, but his next standardbred purchase provided the high point of his connection with trotting.

In far off New Zealand, famous standardbred breeder Henry Mace had died in 1901 and all of his stud stock were for sale in Christchurch in 1902 and among the 2-year-old colts was a chestnut named Belmont M, a full brother to Australasian champion stayer Almont (Rothschild - Puella).

Allen Tye, who with brother George ran the showpiece Allendale Stock Farm in Mentone, Victoria, was present at the sale and purchased the handsome Belmont M for 400 guineas.

After shipping the colt to Melbourne, Belmont M was placed in the hands of Lou Robertson and the next year on June 11th, 1903, while still a two-year-old, Belmont M won an open class event against eleven older opponents at the Richmond track. The time was certainly not fast (2:44.3 for one mile) but the colt won convincingly and the time was an Australian record for a two-year-old.

John Mills was present at Richmond to see Belmont M's win and shortly thereafter negotiated the purchase of Belmont M for 1,000 guineas, an extraordinary amount for a pacer at the turn of the century.

Belmont M was immediately transferred to the stable of Gus Millsom, who had by this time moved his stable from Melbourne to Sydney and was training and driving for Robert and Percy Miller.

In the meantime John Mills became involved in the establishment of the Melbourne Speedway, a track that amateur drivers could try out

on Saturdays and Sundays against the professional leading drivers. The Speedway was situated near the lagoon in Albert Park around which the motorised Grand Prix is currently raced annually.

The building of the Speedway required a lot of capital and it is recorded that John Mills was one of the biggest donors along with his friend Allen Tye, Robert Hunter, William Sharp, W.E. Craig, H.B. Veirs and John Robertson. It is also recorded in the Melbourne daily press that the opening day of the Speedway was attended by almost 30,000 people.

In Sydney, Gus Millsom started Belmont M only twice as a three-year-old for two wins at the NSW Trotting Club's meetings at the Kensington track, then as a four-year-old Belmont M won three races and was placed twice from six starts.

It was at this point that Millsom and Mills realised that they had an above average horse and put into effect a long-term plan to win the 1906 New Zealand Cup.

Although he was in training during most of the 1905/6 season as a five-year-old, Belmont M never raced, no doubt to ensure a lenient handicap in the Cup.

On August 14th, 1906, Belmont M, now six-years-old, had his first start for 16 months, winning at Epping by five lengths from 16 seconds behind. The stage was now set for an assault on the New Zealand Cup at Addington, Christchurch.

As it is now, the New Zealand Carnival was well known to Australians and attracted many visitors every year, but as 1906 was Exhibition year, many more Australians were present for the Carnival than previously and it was to be many years before the 1906 Aussie representation was equalled.

In addition to John Mills, the large Australian contingent comprised John Buckland (Vanish), Allen and George Tye (Dan Patch), J.B. Zander (Lady Inez), D. Kennedy (Alice Palm), G. Ryan (Kola), J. Barrett (Little Doctor), Birchmark and Lou Robertson who drove many of the above during the four day carnival.

Every one of the Australian horses won a race over the Carnival, but the standout performance was undoubtedly that of Belmont M in winning the 400 guinea New Zealand Cup over two miles in 4:46 from a 4 seconds handicap. Belmont M started ninth favourite and paid 16 pounds, 8 shillings and was driven a strong staying race by Millsom, coming around his ten opponents to win by two lengths.

On his return to Australia Belmont M did not race again that season, however he did time trial at the Kurrajong Trotting Club's meeting at North Richmond on July 16th, 1907, recording 4:46.5 for a two mile distance.

Belmont M did not race as a seven or even an eight-year-old and it was during this period of inaction that John Mills deeded by gift Belmont M, Maffra, Kola and several others to Gus Millsom. Most of these stallions and mares later finished up in the hands of Percy and Robert Miller at their Fairfield Stud Farm at Windsor (NSW) and played a major role in the ongoing success of Fairfield.

Belmont M did make it back to the racetrack and raced until he was ten years of age, recording a best time of 2:13.4 and was subsequently used as a sire by Gus Millsom at Canterbury and later at "Fairfield" and thence at the same stud under the farm's ownership.

It is sad to say that although Belmont M did get some good stock, for some reason the stallion suffered the same disappointing fate as his full brother Almont.

Finishing up in obscurity, Belmont M died at Mackay, Queensland in 1923 and can be found in the pedigrees of few 2:00 performances, the best being Opalite 1:57 (\$143,000), whose fifth dam was Lady Belmont (by Belmont M).

During the period from 1902 to 1910 John Mills became seriously interested in the thoroughbreds and his accomplishments in that sphere are dealt with separately within this article.

John Mills' trotting winners included the following and it is noteworthy that many had previously raced unsuccessfully in other ownerships and those that he did race were almost invariably sold after racing for a season or two.

His judgement was exceptional and an example of this was William C (later William Sea) who was foaled in 1902 and had last won in 1910, before he was purchased and won for Mills in 1914 and was runner-up in the Melbourne Thousand.

DANIEL DENNIS - 4 races at Richmond, Vic. for Gus Millsom/Will Whitburn (1896/98)

BENTWOOD - 2 at Fitzroy, Vic. plus Royal Melbourne Show wins for Gus Millsom (1902)

BELMONT M - 2 at Kensington NSW, 4 at Epping NSW, 1 in NZ for Gus Millsom (1903/6)

KOLA - 2 at Fitzroy, Vic. for Gus Millsom (9103)

EMELIE - 5 at Richmond, Vic. for A. Haywood (1910)

JOHN FINNEY - 4 at Richmond, Vic for Gus Millsom (1908-10)

GERSTON - 2 at Richmond, Vic (1910)

LADY ELECT - 1 at Richmond, Vic for J.Jackson (1911)

WILLIAM C - 2 at Richmond, Vic; 2nd in Melbourne Thousand for J.Jackson (1914)

HOPALONG - 3 at Richmond, Vic for J.Jackson (1916)

THE ANGELUS - 3 at Richmond, Vic for Will Whitburn (1917)

John Mills' Powerscourt mansion



John Mills - The Thoroughbred Connection

AFTER RETURNING to Melbourne with his fortune in the 1890's John Mills became interested in thoroughbreds. After the turn of the century he was elected President of the Maffra Turf Club, racing horses of his own breeding not only at Maffra, but also at Sale and Bairnsdale.

Also during this period Mills also became President of the Maffra Agricultural Society and during one of his visits to Sydney, John purchased a regally related thoroughbred mare named Simmerette from the Honourable G. Lee.

Simmerette was a half sister to 1899 Sydney Cup winner Diffidence, 1899 Victoria Derby and 1899 Melbourne Cup winner Merriwee and was the mare that enabled Mills to race horses at Caulfield and Flemington.

Simmerette produced Traquette in 1911 and Etefred in 1913, both offspring subsequently achieving Group Race success in Melbourne. Traquette won the Linlithgow, Memsie, Melbourne, Caulfield and Lloyd Stakes while Etefred won the 1916 Caulfield Guineas.

John and Rebecca Mills' neighbours on the adjoining property "Nambrok Homestead" were John and Edna Widdis also were into racing thoroughbreds and in 1915 Edna owned Patrobus, the winner of the Victoria Derby - Melbourne Cup double, thereby becoming the first woman owner to win the Melbourne Cup.

Patrobus was trained by one of the nations most successful trainers of the time in Charles Wheeler, so it was no surprise that when John Widdis offered John Mills a share in a thoroughbred, it would race out of the Wheeler stable.

Former notable Australian jockey Frank Bullock purchased a job lot of horses in England when racing was restricted because of World War One sending them to his brother-in-law Frank Lewis.

The pair realised a profit over 3,000 pounds on an original outlay of 1,500 pounds and amongst the consignment was the maiden performer Shepherd King, which was sold to John Widdis, who then sold a share of the import to Mills.

Shepherd King was a brother to English St. Leger winner Woolwinder, but had a dismal racing record with only a couple of minor placings from three seasons of competing in Great Britain.

His Australian career commenced in an even more dismal fashion with a couple of unplaced runs in S.A. before a spell and transfer to the Wheeler establishment.

Resuming in the Heatherlie Handicap, the English horse (ridden by the legendary Bobbie Lewis) was friendless in the betting ring and finished amongst the tailenders.

Stewards however took an interest in the run and eventually accepted the explanations of all concerned, however, the public took note of the inquiry, for at Shepherd King's next start in the VRC October Stakes, the imported horse went out as third favourite.

He ran poorly again finished eighth in a field of eleven, with his 20/1 stablemate Green Cap successful from the 1915 Caulfield Cup winner Lavendo.

At his next start Shepherd King ran sixth of ten in the prestigious Caulfield Stakes won by Lavendo, then on the middle day of of the V.A.T.C. carnival he ran a bottler in the Eclipse Stakes.

The Eclipse Stakes was an 11 furlong WFA event with allowances and Shepherd King with 8st 8lb stormed home to be a three-quarter length second to Cyklon, also part of the aforementioned Bullock/Lewis consignment.

New Zealand 3-year-old Sasanof with 7st 8lb on his back was fourth, but in Caulfield Cup Shepherd King was slated to only carry

7st 7lb, making him a "bird" according to many weight students.

So, at the close of betting for the 1916 Caulfield Cup, the maiden Shepherd King was a 11/2 second favourite in a field of 24 runners behind the imported Polycrates who was favourite at 5/1.

There were nine English-bred horses in the Cup and Charles Wheeler established a Caulfield/Melbourne Cups training record by putting the polish on no less than five of the 1916 Caulfield Cup starters.

As is the case in many thoroughbred races especially on the Continent, two of the runners (Sunbury and Aides) were only in the field to ensure a quick and even pace for Shepherd King.

Sunbury burst from the barrier and galloped the first four furlongs in 50 seconds and when he had spent his pennies Aides took over the pacemaking with Shepherd King last of the 24 runners with six furlongs to go.

An extraordinary incident then took place. Jockey Bobbie Lewis explained it thus, "The cranky brute would not go inside another horse, so I had to go round the field. Before we took off I gave him a one-two between the ears and the effect was electric."

In a burst of speed unparalleled in Caulfield Cup history Shepherd King swept past 20 horses in the space of three furlongs to be fourth on the turn behind Aides, Polycrates and Amata.

Aides and Polycrates tired entering the straight and Shepherd King probably still stinging from the unorthodox whipping tactics of Lewis strode away to win by two lengths with the Enzedder Sasanof running on for third.

One had to wonder what current day Chief Steward Des Gleeson would have thought on the way in which Lewis brandished the whip over the closing six furlongs.

Shepherd King duly started 4/1 favourite in the Melbourne Cup, but a 10 pound penalty meted out for his Caulfield Cup win was the difference between victory and defeat, the lightly weighted Sasanof being successful.

The great racemare Traquette had her first foal for John Mills in 1917 and another to his Caulfield Cup winner Shepherd King in 1918. The latter foal was called Salatis and went on to win the 1923 V.A.T.C. Futurity Stakes.

Bred almost every year to quality stallions, Traquette in 1928 was sent to the court of imported The Night Patrol, winner of the Cox Plate and twelve other Principal or Group races.

The following year she foaled a colt, later named Powerscourt and even if he never bred another horse, Mills should be long remembered for this high quality thoroughbred.

Sadly Mills never saw Powerscourt win the 1932 Ascot Vale Stakes at Flemington, a three-year-old classic that is now a Group One event on the thoroughbred racing calendar.

After retirement Powerscourt became a high ranking sire, the best of his progeny being the brilliant sprinter and stayer Comic Court, the winner of the 1948 Victoria Derby, the 1950 Melbourne Cup and overall some twenty two Principal or Group Races. Comic Court once held the Australian record for six furlongs and two miles.

Other high class winners by Powerscourt included Comedy Prince and St. Comedy, each the winner of seven Group or Principal races.

Mentioned earlier was the enduring friendship between Mills and Gus Millsom and it was indeed a melancholy journey that John Mills to attend the funeral of Gus Millsom in 1913.

Millsom's death under a train was a tragic and inexplicable ending to the life of a man considered at that time to be the best driver in Australia and perhaps in New Zealand as well. Many of the horses that Mills had given to Millsom were gifted on to Robert and Percy Miller for use at their "Fairfield" Stock Farm, at Windsor, NSW.

Within the next two decades the mares Kola and Maffra produced descendants of the highest quality - a granddaughter of Maffra produced the brilliant pacer and great sire Master Dixie 2:02.5, whilst Kola produced Australasian record holder King Cole 2:08.4 and later the Australian mile record holder Kola Girl 2:07.8 (dam of influential WA sire Kolekt).

Meanwhile John Mills in the period from 1915 to 1920 began breeding the descendants of Donna Cleve to the imported stallion Mauritius, selling most of the foals to friends who enjoyed good fortune with in the following decades.

A granddaughter of Donna Cleve left Inter Dominion heat winner Moreica whilst others produced top SA trotter Adios Van (S.A. Trotters Cup), Shaver's Pride (Victoria Sapling) and Unhatted (Victoria Trotters Derby). The family of Donna Cleve lingers on to the modern day through at least three daughters and of recent times several two minute credits have accrued.

During all this time John and Rebecca Mills had become an institution in the Maffra district making many worthwhile grants and contributions to the local community for the building of roads and taking a leading role in the affairs of the local council and church.

Rebecca Mills for her part became a generous benefactor to the local hospitals, churches and the not so well off workers around Maffra region. No doubt in this last regard both John and Rebecca remembered their own impoverished upbringing.

Rebecca became Life Governor of the Maffra, Sale and Bairnsdale Hospitals and during the 1914-1918 World War, "Powerscourt" became the Red Cross centre for the region's war effort.

Rebecca Mills died in 1927 but not before being awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to the community while John Mills died at "Powerscourt" in January 1931.

Today John Mills is a mostly forgotten person in trotting and racing, however, in retrospect he is entitled to be recognised as one of the most successful dual racing and trotting personages of that or any other generation.

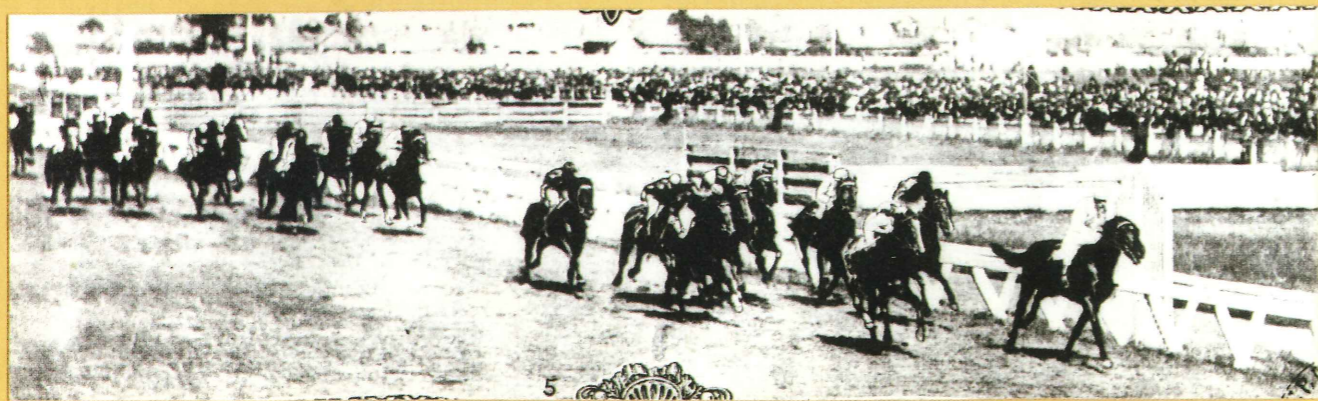
As for the mansion "Powerscourt" it continues on in 2002 after some 147 years in occupation (36 years in the ownership of John Mills) and renovation in recent times has seen the mansion restored to pristine condition and the highest standards or elegance.

Used for receptions, conferences, Bed and Breakfast, its magnificent gardens and surrounds seemingly remember the many happy owners of "Powerscourt" and their great times.

SPECIAL NOTE: This story has been abbreviated somewhat, however, readers interested in the complete story of the Londonderry Gold Mine will be able to find a book entitled, "Londonderry, the Golden Hole" by Austin Sprake (1922) at most State Libraries. The same subject can be found in a short article in the Gold Net Online Magazine - a search on the internet will be successful by entering "Londonderry Gold Mine".

The Australian Trotting Record 1906 - 1931 has been used to gather trotting results as has the various racing books compiling Melbourne and Caulfield Cup information. The online "Australian Stud Book" edited by the AJC/VRC has provided pedigree and race information. "Powerscourt": information can be found on the internet at www.powerscourt.com.au/history.

Caulfield Cup 1916



Distance: 12 furlongs
Time: 2-33 1/4
1 1/4 L., 11.

Shepherd King 1st Owners: Messrs. J. Widdis & J. Mills
(Martagon - St. Windeline)
Trainer: C. Wheeler
Amata 2nd Sasanof 3rd Jockey: R. Lewis