

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FAMOUS OLD TOCAL STUD

By Reginald C M Reynolds

The famous old Tocal Stud on the Paterson River, 10 miles from Maitland, New South Wales was founded by Charles Reynolds in 1840. He was the son of Sir Thomas Reynolds of Faddon Court, a well-known English stud at Pinhoe, 18 miles out from Exeter in Devonshire, England. Where he, Charles managed for his father, Sir Thomas known as the 'father of the flocks' was a great friend of Albert, the Prince Consort, known as the 'Farmer Prince'. Together they formed the first agricultural and stock show, later to become the RAS of England and from where all subsequent shows sprung.

Charles Reynolds first occupied Mooki Springs, Liverpool Plains, with his brother, Richard but owing to severe drought and stock losses, he left it and came down to Louth Park out from Maitland and later Mooki Springs passed into the hands of the Dangar family of Singleton. After a short stay at Louth Park, Charles Reynolds established himself at Tocal, a glorious property then owned by the Wilson family.

The first sire at Tocal was 'Cossack' by 'Sir Hercules' (imp) his best horse being 'Tallyrand' who won the VRC Champion Stakes of 3 miles. 'New Warrior' (imp) foaled in 1851 followed by 'Pyrrhus 1st' the first being a great success serving three Melbourne Cup winners in 'Tim Whiffler' (1867), 'Warrior' (1869), 'The Pearl' (1871), also 'The Prophet' Sydney Cup (1872) and Australian Cup as a 3 year old. 'Tarragon' and 'Volunteer', his sons, were two very good horses and dead heated for the VRC Champion Stakes (3 miles) and 'Tarragon' won the run off, also won the Australian Cup (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles).

'New Warrior' sired many other good horses. 'Kelpie' (imp) came next foaled in 1855; he was by 'Weatherbit' from 'Child of the Mist'. 'Kelpie's' greatest son was 'Fireworks' (from 'Gaslight' (imp)). He won the AJC Champagne Stakes and Derby, the VRC Champion Stakes (3 miles) a great race for the weight for age champions, the VRC, St Leger and had the distinction to be the only horse to win two VRC Derbies. The second one being put on for the royal visit. I fancy the 'Duke of Edinburgh', his sister 'Gasworks', won the VRC St Leger and Australian Cup and was the dam of 'Gaslight' VRC Oaks.

'Fireworks' later became the sire of the very great sire 'Goldsborough' and I do not think there is any doubt that he was the greatest all round sire that ever stood in Australia.

'The Gem' (by 'Kelpie') won the AJC Metropolitan Stakes and 'Kingfisher' (another by 'Kelpie') won the Sydney Cup (1877), 'Warlock' ('Kelpie') won the Adelaide St Leger and twice beat 'Chester' (by 'Yattendon') and winner of the Melbourne Cup (1877) in long distance weight for age races. 'Crown Prince', 'Leander', 'Oliver Twist', 'Tom Brown' and many others were all good winners. 'Kelpie' though not as great a success as 'New Warrior' was still very good indeed.

It should be said here that in 1870, Mr Reynolds purchased 15 high class thoroughbred mares from the Marquis of Waterford in Ireland but the shipment was lost in a violent storm off the Irish Coast further south. These highly bred bloods were to have been used as brood mares and this select company was a great loss to the stud.

Then came 'The Drummer' (imp) foaled in 1866. He was by 'Stockwells' brother 'Rataplan' from 'My Niece' by 'Cowl'. 'The Drummer' sired many useful horses such as 'Brandmaster', Chicago. 'The Pontiff', Wakatipu. About this time Charles Reynolds purchased 'The Barb' (1863) by 'Sir Hercules' (Aust) from 'Young Culnure' from 'Honest John Tait' for 2,000 guineas for stud work. He had a great turf career winning the Melbourne Cup in 1866. He won the Sydney Cup in 1868 and again in 1869 with the 'Crusher' of 10st 8lbs. His sister 'Barbelle' won the following year, this showing how good the breed was on the turf.

'The Barb' also won the VRC Champion stakes (3 miles), the AJC Derby and the Metropolitan Stakes. 'The Barb' did not come up to anticipations as a sire but left several good mares behind him; 'Baronet Fitz Hercules', 'Othello', 'The Barber', 'Trathearn' and 'Tocal' were his best racehorses but not first class.

'Freetrader' (1863 by 'The Hermit') came to stand at 'Tocal' but never really got a chance as he was stolen out of his box one night by the historical bushranger Thunderbolt and the horse was never seen again. 'Freetrader' had won the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree, England. At this time, 'Vanguard' also stood at Tocal. 'Vanguard' was by 'Traducer' (imp) by 'The Libel' and 'Arethusa' was high successful in New Zealand and left a long line of good horses. 'Vanguard' won the New Zealand Cup and the Dunedin Cup. He sired 'Advance' and 'Skirmisher' and had some success at Tocal.

The mighty 'Goldsborough' (1870) by 'Fireworks' from 'Olivia' appeared next. He was not conspicuous on the turf but won one classic, the AJC St Leger, 3rd in the Melbourne Cup and some unimportant races. As a sire, he shone with splendour chiefly famous for his successful matrons at the stud and their farm was legend. He sired winners of 600 races of all descriptions and had one Melbourne Cup winner in 'Arsenal' (1866). 'Melos' won the AJC Derby and St Leger and the following year the VRC Champion Stakes (3 miles) weight for age beating 'Dreadnought' and the great 'Carbine'. He also won the Hawkesbury Guineas (then a semi classic for 3 year olds) and the Randwick Plate weight for age then 2 ¼ miles. 'Melos' also ran 2nd to 'Abercorn' in the Melbourne Stakes with 'Carbine' in 3rd place showing that the horse possessed class.

'Crossfire' a 'Goldsborough' filly had the rare distinction of winning the Doncaster Handicap as a 2 year old, the VRC Oaks, Derby and Melbourne Cup winner 'Briseis' being the other 2 year old to do so. 'The Broker' (brother to 'Melos') won the Adelaide St Leger but never in the same class as 'Melos' who ran some desperate races against 'Abercorn' and 'Carbine', two out and out champions who defeated each other three and four times respectively and who always covered themselves with glory. Would that Australia could produce such horses today. To further reveal the superb quality of 'Melos' he, after a titanic struggle, locked together went down to that champion of champions ('Carbine') in the Sydney Cup of 1899. 'Carbine' again won the Sydney Cup in 1890 with 9.9 aboard).

'Carbine' won this first cup in the then record time of 3.31 and 'Abercorn' after a desperate race carrying 9.4 against 'Carbine's' 9 stone was 2 lengths back third. 'Lochiel' one of the best and 'had it' at the distance finished fourth. 'Abercorn' had beaten 'Carbine' at weight for age in the Autumn Stakes just previously. In 'Carbine's' greatest victory, the Melbourne Cup of 1890 in which 'Highborn' was second and 'Correze' third, 'Melos' again ran a great race dropping back to fourth when the post was reached. He was 'Goldsborough's' greatest son as he could certainly 'foot it' with 'Carbine' and 'Abercorn' the two greatest. 'Goldsboroughs' next best son, 'Arsenal' won the Melbourne Cup as said in 1886 with 7st 5lbs.

'Goldsborough's' greatest brood mare was 'Frailty' (from 'Flora McIvor') who with 'The Fawn' are the two greatest brood mares Australia has seen. Bred at Tocal 'Frailty' was sold to the Wellington Park Stud Company at the Yearling Sales for but 60 guineas. All her progeny were champions or first class. 'Frailty's' first foal was the great 'Trenton' by 'Muskett' a good racehorse and a famous sire. He won the CJC Champagne Stakes (NZ) and many weight for age races in Australia, and was twice narrowly defeated in the Melbourne Cup.

'Trenton' stood for two seasons at 'Hobartville', NSW, Andrews Stud and sired some very good horses there. He also sired 'Aureria' and 'Revenue', Melbourne Cup winners. He was then acquired by W K Wilson, St Albans Stud, Victoria and became the leading sire in Australia with over 100,000 pounds in prize money in the days of small stakes, before being exported to England in 1896 and going into the Cobham Stud of Mr Allison and doing very well there.

'Niagara' was 'Frailty's' next foal (to 'Auteros') and after winning good races in New Zealand came to Australia as the rival of 'Abercorn' and the 'Australian Beer'; a champion stayer and weight for age horse, being placed with in races and they were both champions. He had success at the stud; 'Cuirossier' (G N Derby, NZ), 'Zalniski', sire of 'Clean Sweep' (Melbourne Cup), 'Siege Gum' (Auckland Cup), 'Havoc' (Australian Cup), were all extra good sons of 'Frailty' and 'Cissy' won the Auckland Guineas and threw several classic winners at stud. These are cited to show the greatness of 'Frailty'.

'Goldsborough's' brood mares are too numerous to mention and they were all noted for their success at the stud.

'Splendour' (imp) 1880 by 'Speculune' was very successful at Tocal and sired winners of over 400 races. His son, 'Jeweller' won the Epsom with 9st 5lbs.

The first blood stallions used at Tocal were 'Aaron' (imp) about 1835 and 'Akbar' an Arab of high caste, imported for the Glendon Stud in 1841. Also 'Ron's Emigrant' (imp) by 'Admiral Rous' in 1826 or 1827 and it is said no horse did more for the blood stock of the colonies and his fame spread far and wide. He was by 'Pioneer' out of 'Ringtail' by 'Buzzard' from a daughter of 'Trentham'. 'Pioneer' was by 'Old Whiskey' out of the celebrated 'Prunella' by 'Highflyer Gratis' (imp) was also used.

The last sire imported by Frances Seaton Reynolds (widow of Charles) was 'Simmer' by 'St Simon' from 'Dutch Oven' (winner of the St Leger) and while at Tocal he sired 'Dividend' from 'Lady Trenton' and he won the VRC Champion Stakes twice and all the long distance weight for age races.

'Sweet William' (1878) was also at Tocal. He was by 'Yattendon' from 'Lady Hooten' (imp) by 'Stockwell' and sired many useful horses. 'Medallion' by 'Nordenfeldt' from 'Locket' foaled in 1887 and was purchased from New Zealand for a high figure to stand at Tocal. He won the CJC Champagne Stakes, Auckland and Canterbury Derbies and other good races. He sired 'Archilles' (bred by A A W Nivison, Tillimby Stud, Paterson, NSW) and was purchased from New Zealand and became the champion racehorse of the day there. "Medallion" greatly distinguished himself as a sire of brood mares.

At the break up of the Tocal Stud 'Simmer' was purchased by Percy Reynolds for this 'Hobartville' Stud where he was a marked success and all told he sired winners of 817 ½ races. His brood mares were also very good, producing many very good racehorses.

'Sir Tristram' (imp) followed foaled in 1897 by 'Bend Or' (Derby) from 'Angola' by 'Macbeth' from 'Angelica' (sister to 'St Simon' unbeaten and after England's greatest sire). 'Sir Tristram' came to Australia with a tremendous reputation on the score of breeding and mares from all over this continent visited Tocal for his service. He was not, however, a very great success although he sired a few good horses and considerable winners. His best were 'Welcome Trist', 2nd AJC Derby, 3rd VRC Derby and won the Grantham Stakes. 'Harpist' was also a fairly good colt winning AJC Plate weight for age of 3 miles beating good horses in 'Cadonia', 'Anrofodina', 'Cagouc'. 'Saxonite' won the Sydney Cup and dead heated with 'Prizefighter' in the Australian Cup of 2 ¼ miles in (1912). 'Harpist' was also 2nd in the Randwick Plate. 'Uxbridge' was a good horse and won the Australian Hurdle Race of 3 ½ miles. There were a lot of other useful horses by 'Sir Tristram'. Mr Frank Reynolds, a great student of breeding, imported this horse as he succeeded to the Tocal Stud after his mother, Mrs Frances Seaton Reynolds died in 1900.

'The Nut' (imp) was leased from the Sledmere Stud for a while, but was of little account. Mr Frank Reynolds later imported 'Knightlight' bred by Lord Rosebery and by 'Sir Visto' from 'Allumenuse'. He was a very high class horse but before he had a chance to really prove himself, he died of sunstroke. 'Don Reynaldo' by 'St Frusquin' from 'Donnetta' was the next sire imported and he ran 2nd in the Prince of Wales Stakes at Ascot before leaving and was half brother to 'Diadem' by 'Orby' who the Hon. George Lambton said was the greatest and gamest mare he had ever trained. 'Don Reynold' sired a lot of good horses, his best being 'Don Moon', Epsom Handicap and 'Donald' who won the AJC Summer Cup twice. The last sire to come out was 'Grey Monk' and although by 'Roi Herode', a good French staying sire (imp) to England where he sired the unbeaten flyer 'The Tetrach', he did not succeed though without much of a chance as the Tocal Stud property and thoroughbreds and stud cattle were sold lock, stock and barrel to the great regret of all Australian breeders.