

9 Yelki Road, One Tree Hill  
'Yelki Homestead'



YELKI

## Lot 1. "Yelki" Homestead.

4.07 Ha. being portion of the land contained in Volume 4175 Folio 544 comprising two pieces 11 and 12 to be held in One Title as per Filed Plan FX26154.

Yelki Homestead, built in 1909 has been home to five generations of the Kelly Family. The site of the Homestead is on the original land grant of Section 4210 in the Hundred of Para Wirra, granted in 1850. Yelki was built as a grand old family home of solid construction with return verandahs, lead light windows and lofty ornate ceilings.

Typical of its era "Yelki" has a large entrance hall with feature timber panelling which gives a warm welcome feeling to all. To the left of the foyer is the living room with its cedar book shelves and stained glass windows.

Passing through double doors from the living room one enters the formal dining room, the epitome of spaciousness and grandeur with functional open fire place. Entry to the kitchen is through a scullery. The country size kitchen with built in oven and hot plates, has plenty of builtins, and room for family dining. Across the hall from the kitchen is the study. In the centre of the house is the lobby room, complete with model timber and brick running through all the rooms. In the lobby room is the laundry disguised as an entrance lobby and is made light and functional. Adjoining the laundry is what was the maid's quarters, built over two dry cellars. In recent times it has been used as a music room but would make an excellent family room.

To complete this country residence there are 5 bedrooms and a library. The main bedroom has an ensuite and together with the main bathroom, they both have brass fittings, timber features and marble wash tops. At the rear of the house there is a paved pergola area and parking under cover for 4 cars. At the front of the house is an inground pool.

Yelki homestead is set back nicely away from the road in a mature, natural garden setting with room to run a pony or two on the 4 Ha. of fertile land. Situated only 10 minutes from Elizabeth and 30 minutes from the city, it offers country living close to the city.

## Lot 2. Adamson's Mill Paddock. 154.4 Ha.

Being the whole of the land described in Volume 4161 Folio 956 Volume 4175 Folio 537 and portion of the land described in Volume 4175 Folio 539, Volume 4175 Folio 540 now comprising 3 pieces 14 -15 & 19 to be held in one Title as contained in Filed Plan FX 26154.

Vacant Land. Excellent grazing and cropping. Fenced into 6 paddocks, approx 75% arable, watered by Smith's Creek. Historic Flour Mill —Heritage listed.

Portion of this land is subject to a lease.

## Auctioneers Note:

Yelki Homestead offers a rare opportunity to purchase one of the last true solid stone country homesteads. Built for the Kelly Family in 1909, it has been well maintained and cared for since. The land has been in the Kelly family for over one hundred years. Situated in a 450 -500mm rainfall area, the land is well suited for grazing and cropping. Ideal for fattening lambs, Fendi lambs are well known at the Cattle & Sheep for quality. The auction of this property will give intending purchasers the opportunity to own a part of South Australia's Heritage. Inspection is strongly recommended.

# Architect Information

Garlick, Sibley & Wooldridge,  
\* Architects \*

THE LATE DANIEL GARLICK.

HARRY EVAN SIBLEY.  
CHAS. WM. WOOLDRIDGE.

TELEPHONE 2082.

No. 1 A.M.P. BUILDINGS,

KING WILLIAM STREET,

Adelaide, 10th March, 1909.

E. A. Kelly Esq.,

" Y E L K I,"

NEAR SMITHFIELD,

DR. to GARLICK, SIBLEY, & WOOLDRIDGE, A D E L A I D E.

1908.

Sept. 17 )

to )

Feb. 23 )

1909. )

To measuring up present premises and obtaining £: s: d.  
levels, "YELKI," near Smithfield,  
preparation of sketch plans, working drawings  
and specifications & calling for tenders

2½% on £1,507: 12: 6 ... ... 37: 13: 9

" cost of advertisements for tenders "Register" 17: 10

" " " " "Advertiser" 17: 10

" Out-of-pocket expenses - fare Sept. 17 = 4/- )  
fare 28th Jan. 4/- & hire of trap 5/- = 9/- ) 13: 0



£40: 2: 5

Received with thanks  
Garlick Sibley Wooldridge  
12 Mar '09

Loach Compld.  
G S W



# Architect Information

G L E N E L G,

Nov. 1st, 1909.

Mr. Kelly,

DR. to J. Rose, on Contract at Smithfield.

	£	s	d
Contract Price	1,507:	12:	6
Extras:- on Back Wall	4:	0:	0
" Paving	1:	5:	0
" Gas Fittings		12:	6
" Insurance	1:	10:	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,515:	0:	0
Received by Cheques:-			
1st Payment	£125:	0:	0
2nd "	125:	0:	0
3rd "	100:	0:	0
4th "	100:	0:	0
5th "	300:	0:	0
6th "	200:	0:	0
7th "	200:	0:	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,150:	0:	0
Contingency amount	10:	0:	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,160:	0:	0
Total amount of Contract	£1,515:	0:	0
Total amount Received	1,160:	0:	0
	<hr/>		
Amount due ... ..	£ 355:	0:	0
	<hr/>		

**Index**

Architect Personal Details  
Firms or Professional Partnerships

Architectural works in South Australia  
Bibliographic Sources

**Architect Personal Details**

**Surname** Sibley  
**First name** Henry Evan  
**Gender** Male  
**Born** 01/07/1867  
**Died** 20/01/1917

**Biography** Henry Evan Sibley was born in Middlesex, England on 1 July 1867, the son of Nicholls Joseph Sibley, a civil engineer. The family migrated to Australia in 1879, when Henry was twelve, aboard the Aconcagua and settled in South Australia. Harry, as he was known, attended Prince Alfred College at Kent Town for his schooling and was subsequently articled to Adelaide architect Frederick W. Dancker.

On 30 December 1890 Harry married Helen Jane Anderson McKechnie at Christ Church, North Adelaide, with whom he had ten children, five sons and five daughters. They lived at Norwood. He died on 20 January 1917 aged only 49 years and was buried at North Road Cemetery, Collinswood. His wife lived until she was 82, passing away in 1955.

On 28 September 1902 Sibley, then aged 35, entered into an architectural partnership with Daniel Garlick. However Garlick died, aged 84, eight days later. The partnership was known as Garlick and Sibley. Notification of the firm's formation appeared in the Register newspaper, 29 September 1902, on the same day as Garlick's funeral notice. Sibley continued the business as Garlick & Sibley (Lapins 1982) until 1904 when he took Charles W. Wooldridge as a partner and the partnership became known as Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge. In 1910 they dropped the name Garlick and continued as Sibley and Wooldridge until 1 July 1912 when Wooldridge left the partnership ('Dissolution of Partnership' 1912) and Sibley practised solely again until his death in 1917.

The partnership of Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge designed two stone pedestals for significant Adelaide statues. The Boer War Memorial on the north east corner of the intersection between North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide was unveiled in June 1904 with the pedestal, designed by Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge, supporting a life size bronze horse and rider sculpture (Masterpiece in Bronze' 1904). Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge also designed the pedestal for the Colonel Light statue, which was unveiled in November 1906.

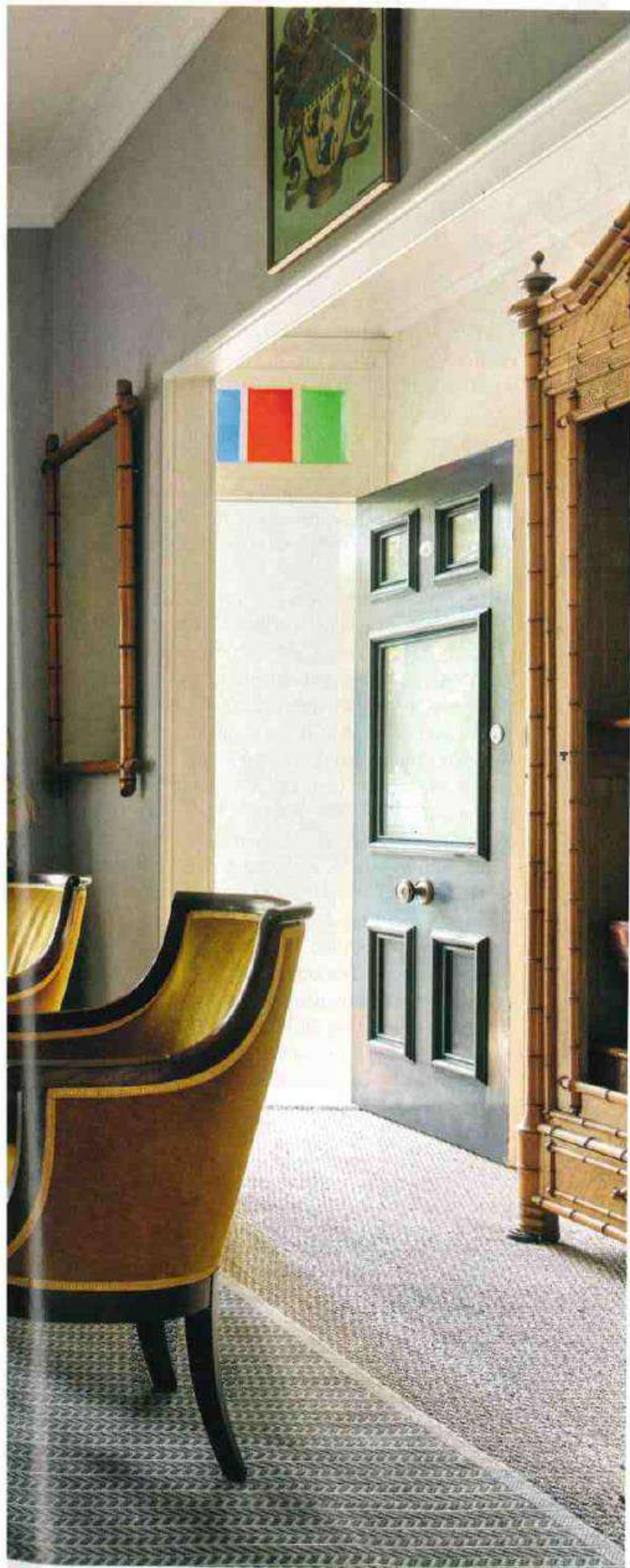
Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge designed many smaller projects including a pair of semi-detached homes at Stepney in 1907 ('Tenders and Contracts' 1907: 2), a residence at Glenelg in 1908 ('Tenders and Contracts' 1908: 2), and business premises for E.A. Dobbie and Co. at Petersburg (Peterborough) also in 1908 ('Tenders and Contracts' 1908: 2). The partnership designed a residence at One Tree Hill near Smithfield in 1909 ('Tenders and Contracts' 1909: 2) for E.A. Kelly called 'Yelki' (PRG 865/5 SLISA). In 1910 they designed four cottages and a shop at Mile End, and a balcony to the Sturt Arcade Hotel for Mrs E. Lean ('Tenders and Contracts' 1910: 7).

The proposal for cottage homes for the elderly in danger of becoming destitute was first proposed by Archdeacon Marryat in 1872 and the scheme continued into the twentieth century (Manning Index). The Scarfe Cottage Homes, Gertrude St, Norwood were designed as part of a competition held in 1905 and won by Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge. They were to be used by 'indigent literary and commercial men over the age of 65' ('The Scarfe Homes' 1905). Comprising four semi detached double fronted cottages and two single ones, each cottage was designed with a back and front verandah and garden areas. The floor plans included a living room with a bay opening off of it, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom situated off the bedroom.

The Wallaroo Mines Institute Hall in country South Australia was designed by the partnership of Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge in 1906 ('Wallaroo Mines Institute' 1906). In the same year they designed Unley Town Hall, with the construction supervised by fellow Adelaide architect F.W. Dancker, to whom Sibley had previously been articled. Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge and F.W. Dancker had entered the competition for Unley Town Hall as joint architects ('The Proposed New Unley Town Hall' 1906). On its opening the works were described as having converted the old hall 'into much needed municipal offices' with the present building made 'capable of holding an audience of 1,230' (Unley City Hall Opening Ceremony' 1907). The practice also designed buildings interstate including the large commission of the Mildura Workingman's Club in Mildura, Victoria in 1908. This building included a 68 foot by 42 foot billiard room as well as a 55 foot by 34 foot bar room ('Mildura Workingman's Club' 1908).

Sibley and Wooldridge worked on the Hackney tram barn and administrative offices for the Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) in 1908. These buildings comprised an administrative block and car depot as well as two foreman's residences, sheds, and bicycle shelters and were situated on the eastern edge of the Botanic Gardens. Philip Claridge gained employment in the office during this period. Other works for the same client included a bandstand, kiosk and shops at Henley Beach ('Henley Beach Improvements' 1911).





**W**hat would this room be like in the 19th century? It's a question Annie Kelly asked herself while creating her office in her inner-city terrace. "I had

an idea in my mind that I wanted to bring to life," this writer and interior decorator tells me as we stand in the room, with its views over gum trees and the red terracotta tiled roofs that signify where we are almost more than any other architectural vernacular: Sydney.

Downstairs her husband, photographer Tim Street-Porter, is seated at the dining room table, checking his emails. "When we are in Los Angeles, his office is as big as this entire house," explains Annie. "But somehow, when we are here, it becomes the size of a notebook."

The pair, who are well-known for their many design books published by Rizzoli, a New York-based publishing house famous for the quality of its illustrated books, spend at least four months a year in Australia.

There have been some remarkable houses in Annie's life including Villa Vallombrosa, their current home in Los Angeles, but perhaps the most important of all was where it all started: a homestead on a South Australian sheep property.

"'Yelki' was a wonderful place to grow up. It was a large house surrounded by verandahs and built by my great-grandfather," she tells me as we sit at a table covered in an Indian block-print cloth from her friend, textiles expert, Sally Campbell. "When I was about 14, my mother consulted me ►

**OPPOSITE** Heritage architect Clive Lucas from Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners was consulted for the restoration of the house and a major part of the work were the windows in the sitting room. "The front had been boxed in, so the front windows had to be replaced," explains Annie. The chairs are French antiques bought at auction.



## H&G AT HOME WITH



on colours to repaint the interiors, which was a great success. I think this may have determined my entire life's progress." (Another repainting at 'Yelki' was slightly more controversial. Her father decided to repaint the roof, changing it from green to red, not realising the pilots at the local airport used it as a landmark. "He had an irate call. Of course, he had no idea about the 'turn right at the house with a green roof' thing – they had to change all their maps!")

But back to the house we are sitting in today. Built possibly in the same year as 'Yelki' – "We think it was about 1909" – Annie and Tim bought the terrace in the 1990s and then rented it out for many years.

"We were so busy in America at the time. When we came back to look at it six or seven years ago, every other house had been fixed up. I suddenly realised, the ugliest house on the street is ours," she says with a laugh. "I thought I'd better get it fixed up; it needed to look better for the whole street."

After some research, architect Clive Lucas was called in to consult on the restoration. "I was out of the country and I needed a heritage expert. Clive was vastly over qualified for this little house, but he took it," she says. The job was to take nine months and involved extensive work to restore it.

"The tragedy was that the house was in the middle of the row and the exterior was a mess. But today it is seamless – like a bit of invisible mending," explains Clive.

**THIS PAGE Top** The 19th-century French bamboo display cabinet in the hallway was purchased at auction. Boheme Ivory bowl, The Foundry. **Bottom** A 'Fandango' hand-block printed tablecloth from Sally Campbell Handmade Textiles is on the dining room table while the sideboard is from a family home in South Australia. Bobbie lamps from Pigott's Store. **OPPOSITE** "Tim is an excellent cook," says Annie. The vegetable prints are from a loose-leaf Taschen book *Vilmorin: The Vegetable Garden* by Werner Dressendoerfer. Small drawing on kitchen benchtop by Annie. Canasta vases in Moss, The Foundry. Tea towel, Utopia Goods.

"When I was about 14, my mother consulted me on paint colours for the interiors, which was a great success." ANNIE KELLY

## A HISTORY OF YELKI

Yelki, a farming property near One Tree Hill, was home to a branch of the Kelly family for a hundred years, but finally it succumbed to the fate of other large properties in the district, and was subdivided in 1988.

The site of the homestead is on the original land grant of section 4210 in the Hundred of Munno Para. It was made in 1850 to Alexander Hay, at that time a storekeeper of Adelaide, who bought 178 acres in two sections, 4210 and 4211, as a speculative investment. He paid the standard £1 an acre for "Waste Lands belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies", and seven years later he sold it for £2 an acre to William Innes, farmer, of Springfield near One Tree Hill. An article in The Adelaide Observer of 12 April, 1862, gives us a picture of those early days:

### MR. INNES'S FARM, NEAR ONETREE HILL.

Mr. Innes occupies about 400 acres. Three hundred acres have been cultivated; the remainder is rather stony, but good grass land, with plenty of timber growing on it for the use of the house. The ploughed land is clear of timber. Mr. Innes has generally cropped his land for five or six years in succession after first breaking it up, allowed it to remain in grass for a year or two, and then ploughed it again. He has grown ryegrass, which thrives very well for two years; but the seed is too expensive to grow it as a rule. But for the storm during the last harvest he would have had a first-rate crop this year. As it is, the crop has turned out pretty well, but several bushels per acre have been lost.

Goldsmith's wheat has grown much the heaviest crop. As this kind is easily thrashed, more of it was wasted by the storm. Still, it gave two and a half bushels per acre more than any other kind.

Mr. Innes has until lately kept a dairy, in addition to his corn-growing. It has paid him very well; but from different causes -- principally the difficulty of obtaining female servants at any reasonable amount of wages -- he has sold off his cows, and purchased 300 sheep. So far they have succeeded very well, but he



does not consider he has tried them sufficiently long to speak decisively as to their suitability for keeping on the farm. Mr. Patterson and other neighbours of his have had them a longer time, and are very well disposed towards them. Mr. Innes has bought lambs to commence with, preferring them to old ewes.

Lucern, maize, and holcus all come up, but do not appear to thrive, the soil and climate being apparently too dry for them. The Bathurst burr is rapidly spreading on Mr. Innes's farm; indeed, I may say all over the colony. I am much deceived if sheep feeding will not extirpate it. I have seen, in many places, where sheep have access to it, that it is yet green and has not perfected its seed. Mr. Innes has substituted horses for bullocks on his farm; he works three horses abreast on ploughing. His land is rather hilly and sidelong, and he finds two horses scarcely equal to the work.

Between 1857, when Innes bought those two sections, and 1881 when his land was transferred to a mortgagee, Thomas Greaves Waterhouse, Innes had had his property almost constantly mortgaged. This sounds like the story of an unsuccessful farmer, but the total amount of land finally transferred to Waterhouse was in the neighbourhood of 1,300 acres, so Innes had built up quite a large holding over the years by mortgaging one lot so that he could purchase another. This was a fairly common strategy in the district. After transferring the property to Waterhouse, Innes leased it back for seven years, but his death the following year put an end to that arrangement and on 17 July, 1882, the estate was purchased from Waterhouse by a neighbour, William Kelly.

William Kelly had arrived in South Australia in 1840, two years after his father who had settled at Cudlee Creek. He was sixteen years of age at the time, and he found employment at One Tree Hill on the property of Joseph Gould. In 1848 he married Elizabeth, Gould's eldest daughter, and bought some land further down the creek from his father-in-law, where he built the Gould's Creek homestead. When Gould died in 1870, William and Elizabeth inherited half his property. This was then built up over the years by the purchase of neighbouring farms as they became available, and with the addition of Innes's, in 1882, William Kelly became the largest landholder in the district.

William and Elizabeth had eleven children, and their

youngest son, Arthur (E.A.Kelly), remained at home with his father while his older brothers settled on properties near Maitland and Tarlee. The purchase of Innes's farm made it possible for Arthur to marry in 1890 and set up house there, and it seems that this was when the place was given the name of "Yelki", an aboriginal word meaning "camp on the hill".

It was while travelling to Yorke Peninsula to visit his eldest son, in May 1891, that William Kelly died rather suddenly at the age of 66. The newspaper reports state that he was taken ill at Hamley Bridge, and was put to bed on the arrival of the coach at Maitland. He at first seemed to be suffering from a severe cold, but later symptoms made it clear that tetanus had set in, and he died the next day. About ten days previously he had been branding young cattle at Gould's Creek, when he had been knocked down, causing a wound to the back of the head. It was this accident which caused his death.

William Kelly "the younger" inherited Gould's Creek, and Arthur inherited Yelki. His entry in The Cyclopedia of South Australia Vol. 11 (Adelaide, 1909) is as follows:

EDWARD ARTHUR KELLY, agriculturist and grazier, "Yelki," Smithfield, is the fourth son of the late Mr. William Kelly, of Gould Creek, near Onetree Hill, where he was born in 1866. He received his primary education at the local school, and subsequently attended Whinham and Prince Alfred Colleges, Adelaide. Mr. Kelly obtained his training in agricultural and grazing industries under the experienced tuition of his late father, and remained at the homestead until his twenty-fourth year. He was then entrusted with the management of his parent's property at "Yelki," and upon the decease of the late Mr. Kelly, in 1891, inherited this fine estate, which at that time consisted of 1,500 acres. Success attended his operations, and eventually he purchased a further 839 acres, known as "The Run," situated on the Little Para River, and formerly owned by the late Mr. Reuben Richardson. Mr. Kelly stocks his land chiefly with crossbred sheep, and raises lambs for purposes of export, about 1,500 ewes of this class being run on the estate. In addition, however, he has a separate flock of Merinos, specially valuable for the quality of their wool, this also being a profitable branch of the "Yelki" industry. Hay and wheat are grown on the property, about 200 acres being cropped



annually. Mr. Kelly interests himself in public affairs, and for the past two years has been connected with the Munno Para East District Council. He is President of the Onetree Hill Institute, of which he laid the foundation stone on March 7, 1906, upon that occasion being presented with a handsome silver trowel as a memento of the ceremony. He occupies the position of Society Steward in the Methodist Church, of which he is a prominent member. Mr. Kelly was married, in 1890, to Eugenie Adelaide, eldest daughter of Mr. J.S. Harvey, of Onetree Hill, and has one son.

That son was their only child, Harvey William, born in 1892. An entry in the Cash Book for December 29 that year states: "Perambulator & sundries, £5.0.0".

The estate which Arthur inherited from his father was valued for probate at £5,832.1.3, varying from £3 to £3.10 per acre, and entries in the Cash Book over the next eleven years indicate that he paid his father's executors a total of £1,327 (plus over £390 interest). Perhaps this was his share of the death duties.

The purchase of "The Run" in 1903 at the cost of £3.10 per acre was financed by mortgages, and by the time these were paid off in 1909, Arthur was also able to pay £2,000 for the building of a substantial new homestead, and raise another mortgage of just over £800 for the Adamson's Mill Paddock (£10 per acre). The ruins of the Adamson's Mill have recently been placed on the State's ~~Interim~~ <sup>Federal</sup> Heritage List, but when Arthur Kelly acquired the property his main interest was in providing water for stock. Smith's Creek, the site of the mill, provides a permanent source of water for Yelki, because even in summer it is fed from springs which arise just outside the eastern boundary fence. In 1911, a Paternoster waterwheel was installed at the old mill to help deliver water to parts of the property not serviced by the creek.

The thirty-odd years of Arthur's management saw many improvements to Yelki. The sugar gums which line Yorktown Road were planted in 1896; a shearing shed was added to the old barn, and a workman's cottage was also built, in 1907, and then a second cottage in 1913. Apart from the new house in 1909, the Kelly's first motor car was purchased in 1911, a vacuum cleaner in 1913, and in 1918 an electric light generator replaced the gas lighting the house had been built with. The bathroom was an outhouse with a cement tub, and in 1915 "the little room next to the bathroom" was added, a toilet with a

septic tank.

Arthur's son Harvey took over the management of Yelki, in partnership with his father, when he married in 1922. The parents retired to Adelaide, leaving the younger generation to raise a family and look after the property at what was now known as Smithfield. Being situated almost half way between One Tree Hill and Smithfield, it was more convenient to use the latter address for three reasons: the Post Office, the telephone exchange and the railway station, which were all at Smithfield.

A report in The Adelaide Chronicle dated 15 September, 1932, gives a comprehensive account Yelki as it was then:

ROUND THE FARM -- AND ALL THAT

"YELKI" IS A WELL-CONDUCTED FARM AT SMITHFIELD

Messrs. E.A.Kelly And Son Have Been Successful  
With Fat Lamb Raising

FINE PROPERTY OVERLOOKING PLAINS

By "Yeoman," Our Travelling Staff  
Representative.

Three generations of the Kelly family have been farming at "Yelki," Smithfield, on those gentle, sloping hills, overlooking a vast expanse of the Adelaide plains. The late William Kelly, of Gould Creek, One Tree Hill, was an early settler there, and he has been succeeded by his son, Mr. E.A.Kelly, and grandson, Mr. Harvey Kelly.

This picturesque property, of 2,100 acres, is worked on modern progressive lines by Messrs. E.A.Kelly & Son, more particularly for crossbred wool and lamb production.

Despite periods of agricultural depression it is a good sign to see families remain landed proprietors. Too frequently we see a man become a farmer "by purchase overnight," spend a few years on the land, sell out, and live in the suburbs, while his sons are content to work and live in the city.

Mr. E.A.Kelly inherited 1,500 acres from his father in the early nineties, and subsequently



extended his holding by purchasing several hundred acres on the Little Para from the estate of Mr. Reuben Richardson. He gave his son, Harvey, a good training, and when the latter went to the war he took advantage of an educational course with the A.I.F. in England, after the Armistice was declared. By that means he was enabled to see a number of leading English studs, and thus broaden his knowledge.

The young farmer lives in a fine homestead on top of a hill, amid a forest of gums and pines and a rambling garden. His outlook is as broad as the inspiring view of the countryside obtained from this lofty site.

#### Formerly Big Hay Growers

Years ago 300 acres were cropped for hay, and between 500 and 600 tons were cut, but the market for that fodder has gone now, and accordingly the area sown has been reduced to meet farm requirements only. The tall growing Huguenot was an ideal hay variety for the district, and it has for the last couple of seasons proved a very suitable macaroni wheat yielder. About 100 acres have been grown for the macaroni miller at a price of 1/ a bushel above the market price for the ordinary flour types.

The annual rainfall here is between 18 and 19 in., and the climate varies appreciably in this locality. The further one goes into the hills the later the season gets. On the rise at "Yelki" it is from a fortnight to three weeks later than that on the plains half a mile away.

"When everybody else gets knocked out by drought, this district does not produce a great quantity of stuff, but we always have sufficient to cut for hay," Mr. Kelly told me during a visit last week.

"The only year I remember that we could not cut hay was in the exceptionally wet season of 1924, when we had the worst crops I can ever recall. We had 28 in. of rain altogether. It washed gutters everywhere, and the plant roots, instead of going down into the soil, remained near the surface. At harvest time we could pull the plants out quite easily. The only hay we cut in one paddock was that growing near a row of trees, the roots of which apparently absorbed

the excessively surplus moisture. In normal years this growth burns off.

"Feed got an early start this year, and it is better than in an average season, but the winter has been a bit too wet and cold, and growth has been checked. It is, however, coming away better now with the advent of spring conditions."

#### Keen Lamb Breeders

Messrs. Kelly & Son have always bred export lambs, and this year they mated 1,600 Border Leicester-Merino cross ewes. They have 150 pure Border Leicester ewes, and ewe hoggets, the sires of which came from Mr. G.J. Butler's Veradale Stud, Carlsbrook, Victoria. Mr. Harvey Kelly is buying another ram for this year. The sire was imported from Scotland three years ago, and the dam took first prize at the Melbourne Royal Show.

"We are trying to concentrate on getting a short-legged, thick-set type of lamb," Mr. Kelly said. "We maintain that for general purposes the Border Leicester is quite as good as, if not better than, any of the other British breeds. Wool prices must improve, and if one is going to breed fat lambs why not have a ewe that will give a decent bit of wool and rear a good lamb?"

"The wool from the Border Leicester-Merino cross is of better quality than that from the Lincoln-Merino cross. You might get more weight with the latter, but more money per lb. with the former. If you are in a district where you cannot get the lambs away as suckers, you can shear the ewe hoggets, and use them for breeding later, while the wether hoggets are a very favorable proposition."

As for the fat lambs, Mr. Kelly contends that they are quick growers, and their skins are more valuable than the black-faced types. There appears to be a certain amount of black fibre in the lamb pelts of the latter, and this is depreciating their value.

#### Practical Feeding Methods

For exceptionally early lambs Mr. Kelly cannot compete with the growers on the Adelaide plains, which is much earlier, but in order to get



somewhere near the mark, he sows barley preferably on pea stubble, with the first rains. The farm has been divided into 23 or 24 paddocks, varying from 10 to 600 acres.

As the lambs are dropped, these, with the ewes, are drafted out, and put on the barley, and by that means there are 100 per cent. lambs with the ewes on soft, milk-producing feed to nourish the offspring. By having so many small paddocks, Mr. Kelly can move his sheep on to fresh pastures every week, and thus give those vacated a rest.

After the lambs have been marketed, starting from the beginning of August, the dry ewes are put out onto hard, feed paddocks, and their work is done for the year. Any lambs that are left over are shorn, and are put on to the peas to finish up. From 100 to 150 acres of peas are grown.

The peas are fed on the ground to the lambs. Cyclone fencing is placed temporarily across a paddock, and is moved about as the peas are cleaned up. Thus the sheep are maintained throughout the summer with a minimum of waste and trampling in of seed.

"I can say unhesitatingly that the Border Leicester cross lambs on peas stand [on] their own for thicker growth and quickness of fattening," Mr. Kelly declared.

After the lambs are taken off the barley crop is allowed to mature and the grain is harvested for feed for the pigs.

Mr. Kelly conveys his lambs to market, 15 miles away, on a motor lorry. An hour after they leave the paddocks they are in the sale pen.

Before he went in for Border Leicesters Mr. Kelly used Suffolk rams. He is only retaining these until they have outlived their usefulness, after which he will dispense with them.

#### Cattle And Pigs

A nice herd of swine is being bred up at "Yelki." Mr. Kelly started recently with four Tamworth sows which he purchased from Murray Bridge, and additional animals from Mr. R.T.

Melrose, of Rosebank, Mount Pleasant. He now has 15 Tamworths, and has crossed some of these with the Berkshire. He intends to infuse the Large White into these.

This year 15 acres of peas have been sown to enable the pigs to farrow and range out in the open. Under these healthy conditions Mr. Kelly should be able to produce good sweet-fleshed porkers and baconers.

Mr. Kelly has eight grade Jersey cows, and he intends to buy a Milking Shorthorn bull. He relies solely upon horse-power, and uses 16 or 17 workers. A good stamp of Clydesdale entire was purchased from Mr. Ray Kelly, of Maitland.

Hidden away a half mile from the homestead on the banks of Smith's Creek, are the ruins of an old flour mill -- one of the many in country districts, which have fallen into decay. The creek, which runs through "Yelki," has never been known to cease flowing, and a water wheel at the old mill harnesses the stream, and lifts the water 350 feet to a tank three-quarters of a mile away. By this means all the paddocks are supplied with stock water. Although dams have been sunk, Mr. Kelly relies mainly on this creek. Underground supplies are not easily obtained because of the necessity of sinking a bore to a great depth.

#### Other Improvements

I asked Mr. Kelly whether he had ever top dressed his pastures. He replied he had, and since doing so the sheep carrying capacity of the land had improved. Although the results had not been as good as those obtained in heavier rainfall districts, and the growth of clovers had not been heavy, the grass appeared to be more nutritious. In that district it was more advisable to break up the land, and cultivate it periodically for top-dressed pastures. He tried Wimmera rye grass, but this also could not compete with the native grasses on the hard ground.

During my visit shearing was proceeding in the big stone and iron shed, in which four machines have been installed. Mr. Kelly shears about 2,500 sheep and lambs a year, and is getting a good type of crossbred wool. In the same

building is a chaff house and hay loft, while at the rear portion are the cosy stables with 12 stalls.

"Yelki" is a well-managed well-laid-out farm, and a credit to the owner. Times have changed. Mr. Kelly motored me to Smithfield railway station, which has been reduced to the status of a siding; no staff is located there now. He recalled a time when trainloads of lambs went to market from this station. Growers would be loading them up to midnight, and often would have to await the return of empty trucks. Now hardly a truckload is dispatched for the whole season. The only arrivals are a few wethers or store sheep, which have come from a distance.

One of the photographs illustrating this article in the Chronicle is of an eight-year-old boy on a pony: "Master Kelly helps muster the sheep." Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kelly had two children, William Arthur (Bill) and Josephine, and Bill was brought up like his forefathers, to run the property.

The depression during the thirties and the war during the forties were hard times for everyone, but Messrs. E.A. Kelly & Son managed to survive debt-free, and even enlarged the property to about 3,000 acres by the purchase some neighbouring farmland. When Arthur died in 1945 (aged 79), death duties alerted the family to the danger of losing Yelki if Harvey should die prematurely, so a company was formed -- Yelki Pty. Ltd. -- with all members of the family holding shares.

After serving in the R.A.A.F. during the war, Bill returned to Yelki and studied agricultural practices both interstate and overseas, but there was little he could do to improve on his father's management. It took four men to run the place, Harvey, Bill and two employees, and when Harvey retired in 1959 another house was purchased at Elizabeth for a third employee.

Changes in farming practices occurred after the war when fuel became available again, and tractors replaced draught horses. Heavier machinery could be used with the tractors and the jobs could be done more speedily, but at a greater initial cost to the farmer. However, until Harvey's death in 1963, there seemed no need to alter the traditional ways of working that had been initiated by Arthur in the nineteenth century. Power was laid on by the Electricity Trust in 1961, so the diesel engines used for shearing and water pumping were phased out and electrical appliances of all sorts were used in the



workshop, and, of course, in the houses. Horses for mustering gave way to motorbikes, and motorbikes gave way to fourwheel drive vehicles, which made life easier for the sheep dogs as well as the men.

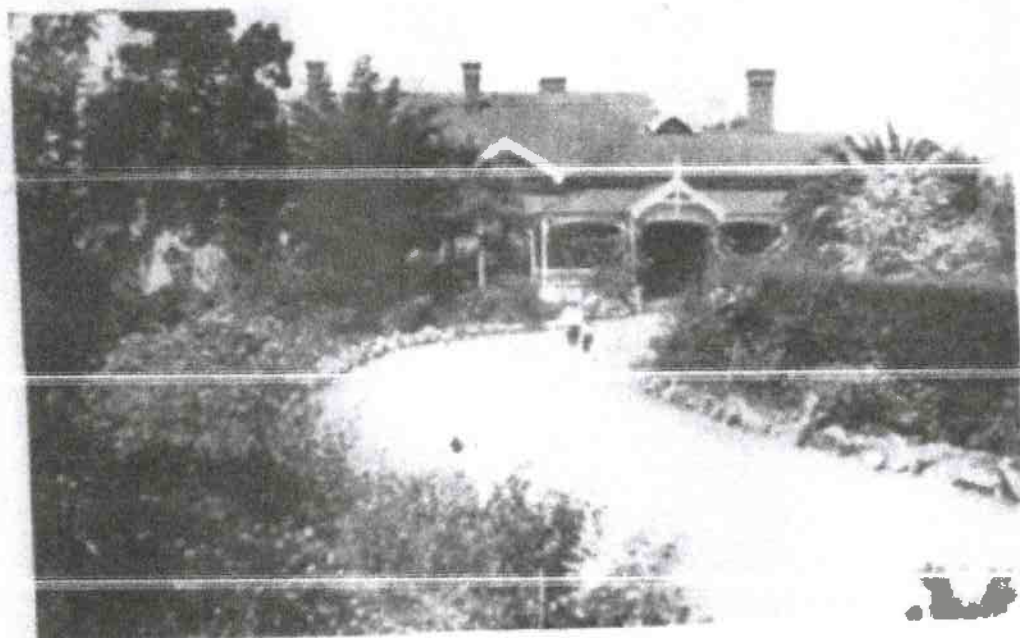
The encroachment of Elizabeth was a distinct disadvantage as far as farming was concerned because of vandalism, dog attacks, and fires in the summer. Sheep were stolen, so were bales of hay; fences were cut, troughs were damaged, tanks were shot at, and gates were left open so stock could roam.

Changes had to be made as wages escalated and the prices received for primary produce stagnated. Instead of replacing old machinery Bill found it was more economical to have a share-farmer to do the cropping, and sheep handling was reduced -- rather than draft out the ewes as they lambed, they were left with the rest of the flock in larger paddocks. Land which did not earn its keep was sold, starting in 1970 with a paddock bordering Elizabeth that went for housing, then "The Run" which had been acquired in 1902 was subdivided for hobby farms. Over the next fourteen years, further inroads were made by selling off sections for hobby farms, which made it possible to reduce the work force in an attempt to keep costs down. Bill was very unhappy to see the estate which had been built up by three generations of his family disintegrating, but the town was coming too close for broad-acre farming to continue in the district, and his health was not good enough to start again further out. When he died of cancer in 1984, his youngest daughter Susan came home to take her father's place running the business. She was the fifth generation of the Kelly family to look after Yelki, and supervised the final subdivision of the estate. Adelaide has crept closer to One Tree Hill and people want hobby farms there, so the demise of Yelki as a family property has meant that many more people can now share the pleasure of living there.

R.J.B.K., 1988.

## HARVEY WILLIAM KELLY

"YELKI"



The Beautiful Homestead at "Yelki."

**M**R. Harvey William Kelly, of "Yelki," four miles east from Smithfield, is one of the younger generation of farmers in the Lower North. "Yelki" was taken up by his grandfather in 1885, his father acquired it in 1891, and in 1922 the son took charge. Mr. H. W. Kelly is actually in partnership with his father, but the former manages the property, which comprises 2 100 acres. This is a large holding, comprising for the greater part cleared hilly and undulating land. Some peppermint and redgums are retained on one portion for shelter purposes. The soil is heavy chocolate, portions limestone, with limestone marl subsoil, and some slate and quartzite. The rainfall average is 19 to 20 inches.

An abundance of water is provided by the Little Para River and Smith's Creek, which pass through the holding. In addition there are two dams, one forming a reservoir from Smith's Creek. A water wheel takes the water from Smith's Creek, delivering the water for three-quarters of a mile and making a lift of 300 ft. This goes into a dam, and is then pumped by a windmill into an overhead tank. From here it waters eight paddocks, stables and gardens, over a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The wheel is on the site of an old water mill.

At "Yelki" 600 acres are cultivated every year, 300 acres being devoted to wheat, 100 to peas (half reaped and the rest

fed to lambs), and 200 acres of barley sown for sheep feed. Even during the summer the "Yelki" pastures are able to maintain three sheep to the acre. The wheat lands turn in eight bags to the acre and 2 to 2½ tons of hay is reaped. These are good figures, and denote exceptionally good farming. Mr. Kelly finds fallow, wheat, barley, peas and wheat a very successful rotation. He uses 48 per cent. Cresco fertiliser, and top dresses by means of a broadcaster which covers 50 acres a day over any type of country. He spreads 1 cwt. to the acre, and each portion is done three years in succession. At a conservative estimate he reckons this increases the feed by 100 per cent. in quality and quantity. The natural grasses are wallaby grass, wild oats, geranium, cluster clover, burr clover, barley grass and dandelion. In fodder grasses Mr. Kelly is experimenting with subterranean clover and Wimmera rye grass.

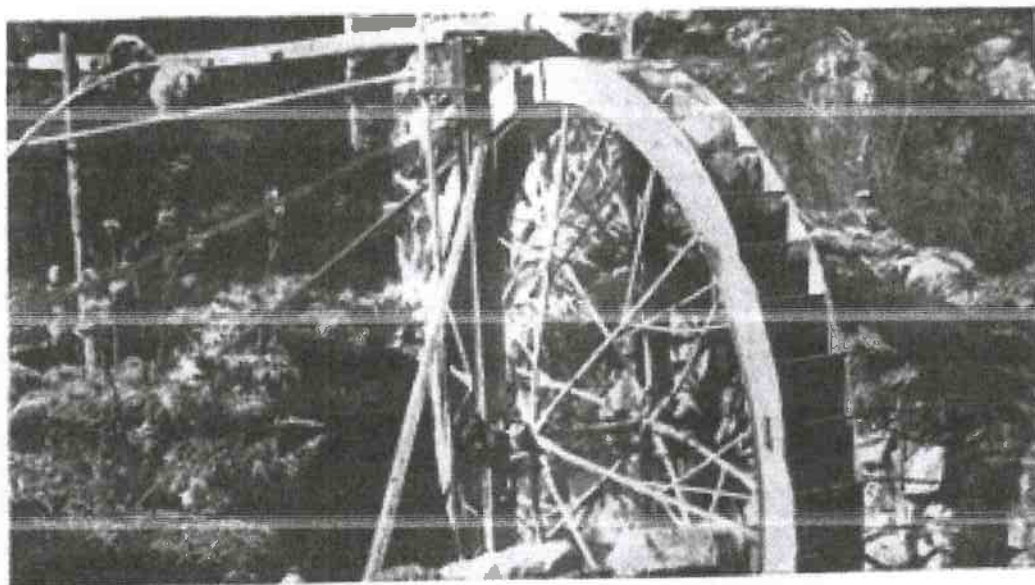
Mr. Kelly is essentially a progressive farmer. He has divided his estate into 20 paddocks, and considers that in the inside areas, by cutting the land into small paddocks, sowing grasses such as subterranean clover and Wimmera rye grass, top-dressing, and cultivating and working, the carrying capacity of the Lower North can be trebled. Although expensive to lay out a farm on such lines, he considers the results would warrant it. Mr. Kelly grows peas for winter and barley for summer feed.

One of the chief features of the homestead portion of the estate is undoubtedly the fine flower garden which surrounds the house. Horticultural beauty is usually conspicuous by its absence in the vast majority of country properties, and when



Portion of Mr. H. W. Kelly's Flock.





A Waterwheel on the "Yelki" Estate.

one discovers a garden such as that of "Yelki" it is indeed worthy of comment. Mrs. Kelly makes the care of the flowers and the general neatness of the garden her chief hobby, after her essential home duties, and the manner in which it is kept in order reflects great credit upon her. In the illustration on the previous page portions of the garden, with shrubs and hedges, are seen.

The homestead is a fine type of country residence, comprising 12 rooms, with Delco light, telephone, septic tanks, flower garden, shrubbery, an orchard of 100 trees, and underground tanks for domestic water. The latter is pumped by a Paternoster windmill, and there is also another mill 50 years old that still works well.

The stock is principally Merino and crossbred sheep, with a few stud Suffolk Down ewes for breeding rams to mate with crossbred ewes to produce spring lambs. There are 1,600 breeding ewes, of which 1,100 are crossbred and 500 Merinos. No fewer than 20 Clydesdale working horses are used on this farm.

The outbuildings include stone stable, barn, loft, iron-roofed shearing shed 60 ft. long by 50 ft. wide, iron and wood general implement shed 70 ft. by 50 ft., straw shelter shed for horses, cowsheds, smithy, and two workmen's cottages built of stone. All the fencing is sheep-proof, wood and iron fencing posts, with six wires, the top being barbed.

Mr. Kelly is greatly interested in all district matters, and is a member of the Munno Para East District Council.