



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Peel Family

Thomas Peel

1828

Peel presented a proposal to the Secretary of State for Colonies, for the colonization of the Swan River area in return for land.

Capt. Stirling negotiated to establish a settlement at Swan River.

1829

All of Peel's partners abandoned taking part in the Swan River settlement.

Capt. Stirling sailed for the Swan River settlement on 29th January.

Solomon Levey, an ex-convict, provided financial backing for the project.

Peel applied for land and was granted 250,000 acres in January, on the condition that he arrived in the colony by 1st November 1829.

The ship, '*Gilmore*' was bought. Peel also chartered a ship called the '*Hooghly*'.

Departure of the '*Gilmore*' from England was delayed after the crew mutinied, as the distance upset them. The weather was dreadful, but they set sail on 10th August. As the '*Gilmore*' arrived in Capetown, the Captain, who had become married to a passenger on board, was loathed to leave. These delays resulted in the ship arriving late, and this caused the promised grant to fall apart. Frederick Peel (his natural child) came with his father.

On 15th December 1829, the '*Gilmore*' landed at what is now called, Woodman Point. The people, who stayed aboard for nearly a month while another grant was found, were then moved to a settlement named Clarence.

1830

The ship '*Rockingham*' arrived on 12th May. A storm developed as passengers disembarked and the boat went aground during the gale.

Peel was allocated land between Cockburn Sound and Murray River.

Peel used the ship '*Industry*' to examine Murray River. He suffered an injury to his right hand, possibly in a duel with the captain of the '*Rockingham*'.

Bushfire raged through the Murray area, destroying possessions and stores.

By the end of October 1830, most people had left Clarence, either to go to Perth or Murray River.

September – 14 soldiers were stationed at "Soldiers Cove".

1831

Peel finally settled in Mandurah. Land was no longer free and five shillings per acre was in force. Land was being picked by many people.



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Peel Family cont'd

1832

By 31st July, Peel was granted 250,000 acres.

1833

Peel started to develop a farm around his house, situated on the Serpentine River.

1834

Peel's family arrived in April - Mrs Ayrton, (Mrs. Peel's mother, was 75 years old), Peel's wife Mary Charlotte, daughter Julia (13), Thomas (9), Dorothy (or Dora) (7) and Sarah Scott (30).

The Aborigines were becoming more and more aggressive. They stole stock, set fires and harassed people. Peel had very little sympathy for the Aboriginal people, and it was apparent they did not care for him. On 15th July, Messrs. Barron & Nesbit, accompanied several Aboriginal men to find a horse belonging to Peel. The idea behind this trip, seemed to be the killing of Peel, who did not go with the two men. More aboriginal men appeared, surrounding the two men. Barron felt threatened and attempted to return to Mandurah. Nesbit was struck with three spears and fell from his horse. Barron fled with spears in his back. Whilst Nesbit died from his injuries, Barron recovered. This was the trigger to the Battle of Pinjarra.

In October, Peel, wishing to free himself of debt, offered land in exchange for money, (money worries caused him problems many times through his lifetime). John Tuckey and Thomas Eacott took up 50 acres each.

Peel received the title to his land.

1835

Peel, still attempting to call in debts, appointed an infamous solicitor, William Nairn Clark.

Notice in "Perth Gazette" calling on Solomon Levey's creditors to apply for redress.

1836

Peel and his solicitor, Mr. Clark, break up and Peel hires W.T. Graham, who is also infamous.

Hard-pressed, Peel began rendering down whale meat to raise funds. Many others did the same to survive.

Government board was established to recover early settlers' debts - which had to be paid in cash. Peel, the largest debtor owed 2,823 pounds, 18 shillings & 1 penny.

Peel Family cont'd

1838

Peel made a submission to hunt whales in co-operation with American Capt. Adams of the "Pioneer". They operated for one season until Adams departed.

By this time, the Colony was picking up economically.

25th May, Peel writes in the "Perth Gazette", recommending Safety Bay as a harbour.

1839

4th January, Governor Stirling appoints Peel to the Legislative Council.

6th January, Peel and Ball are elected to the Pinjarra Road Trustees and take up the matter of a road from Perth to Pinjarra via Canning.

In May, Peel sold the best portion of his land to Captain Frances Corbel Singleton. He also sold land to Messrs. Creery, Tate and Montgomery and the settlement of the Murray began in earnest.

Peel requested an accurate account of his land. He received an outstanding account incurred on behalf of his indentured servants, to be paid on completion of survey. He paid a part of the amount and then sent his wife and two (2) daughters to Britain in January 1840.

The "Peel Inlet" officially discovered by Lieut. Preston and Dr. Collie, on their survey voyage of the coast, from Fremantle to Geographe Bay in the "Sulphur"

1840

By February 3rd, Peel had established his Serpentine farm.

Peel finally received his title to his land and in October, 1840 allocated 500 acres of land, at Banjup, for a church. Peel was in conflict with his workmen and landed himself in court. He took a worker to court for evasion of duties at Serpentine Farm. Mr. Singleton - who was presiding at the time - found the worker not guilty. This made Peel furious and he later resigned from his position as member of the Legislative Council and as magistrate. Some time later, Peel and Singleton were appointed to the first Board of Road Directors.

1841

31st March saw Peel resign from both the Magistrates Bench and the Legislative Council.

In April, Governor Hutt sent Peel a copy of Mr. Levey's Will and asked if it was accurate. Peel ignored the request and a further demand was made. Peel refused to reply.

1842

On 3rd January, Thomas Peel (Senior) advertised his Mandurah home - "Mandurup" or Mandurup - for rent. It was a long low thatched cottage built of wattle and daub. His family had returned to England in 1839. There was a General depression in the Colony and the Government warned those that departed, that it would not be able to guarantee retention of their land titles, so Peels' return to England was cancelled.



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Peel Family cont'd

1843

Mrs Ayrton (Peel's mother-in-law) died on 31st March in Mandurah.

1849

Peel, to enable his return to England, made another attempt to have his debts cleared by an offer of 10,000 acres, but it was refused again.

1850

Peel spent a great deal of time on business in Perth, with J.L.Roberts, who was the son of Levey.

1856

Julia Peel died 6th July – aged 32. She was stricken with tuberculosis.

1858

In May, Thomas Peel was accused of violence and trying to molest his servant Eliz. Maudrell - who most people thought of as a scheming woman.

1865

Thomas Peel died 22nd December in his own residence. The inquest found his death was due to natural causes.

Dora and Thomas Peel (Junior)

1858

Thomas Peel's daughter, Dora Peel arrived from England to stay with her father after Mrs. Peel and Julia had died. Dora moved to Serpentine Farm where her brother, Thomas (Jnr.) lived.

Thomas Peel (Jnr.) had success on his farm until his 1,000-bag crop of wheat was destroyed by fire. A farmhand dropped the contents of his pipe near the crop.

1859

In July 1859, Thomas Peel (Jnr.) was declared insolvent. He could not recover from his loss of property by fire and most of his effects were auctioned.

1860

Thomas Peel (Jnr.) decides to build a new home, "Peelhurst", 9 miles north of Mandurah. Despite only completing the rear of the house he lived here with his housekeeper until his death in 1892.

1867

Dora Peel married Henry Hastings Hall.

1869

Dora and Henry Hastings Hall donated money to build a church, which is still standing on the corner of Sholl Street and Pinjarra Road.

1892

Thomas Peel (Jnr.) died.