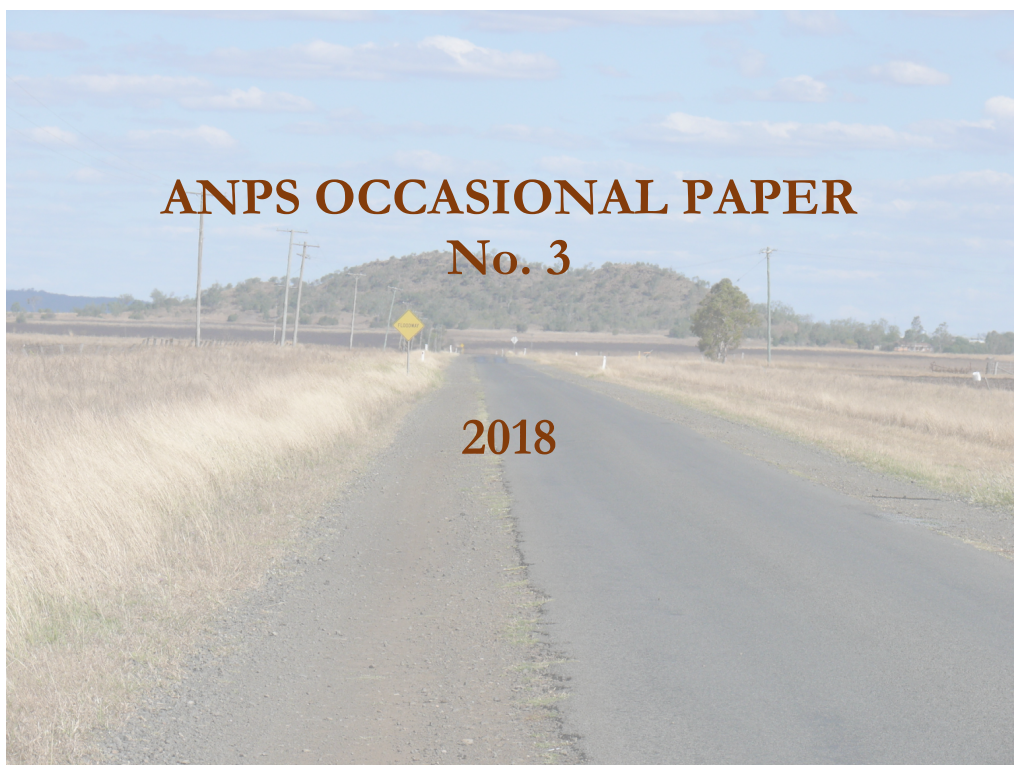


# The naming of Irvingdale and Mt Irving





# THE NAMING OF IRVINDALE AND MT IRVING

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Mt Irving (photo: Diana Beal)

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**Irvingdale** is a toponym-form found attached to several features in south-east Queensland, in the area known as the Darling Downs. A search of the Queensland placenames database held by the Department of National Resources & Mines<sup>1</sup> produces the following entries for the toponyms *Irvingdale* and *Mount Irving*.

#### Irvingdale - Parish

*16853 Western Downs Regional, 27° 09' 00" S / 151° 27' 00" E*

Probably named derived from Irvingdale pastoral run taken up in the 1840s. The run was east of the town of Dalby and north of Mount Irving. May have been named for Clark Irving, a pastoralist active in the district during the 1840s. [J.W. Buxton, Toowoomba Chronicle, Maurice French, ANPS files]

#### Irvingdale - Locality Bounded

*47973 Toowoomba Regional, 27° 10' 04" S / 151° 30' 37" E*

Named and bounded by the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines, 7 September 2001. Derived from parish name which was probably named after Irvingdale pastoral run taken up in the 1840s. The run was east of the town of Dalby and north of Mount Irving. May have been named for Clark Irving, a pastoralist active in the district during the 1840s. [J.W. Buxton, Toowoomba Chronicle, Maurice French, ANPS files] Locality re-gazetted by an Amendment Notice published in the Government Gazette on the 5 April 2012 due to the council amalgamations under the Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007.

#### Irvingdale – Locality Bounded

*47713 Western Downs Regional, 27° 08' 25" S / 151° 24' 28" E*

Named and bounded by the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines, 14 September 2001. Boundary changed vide CHQ022459/427. Regazetted on 9 December 2011 due to council amalgamations under the Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007. Derived from parish name which was probably named after Irvingdale pastoral run taken up in the 1840s. The run was east of the town of Dalby and north of Mount Irving. May have been named for Clark Irving, a pastoralist active in the district during the 1840s. [J.W. Buxton, Toowoomba Chronicle, Maurice French, ANPS files]

#### Mount Irving - Mountain

*16850 Toowoomba Regional, 27° 30' 37" S / 151° 35' 26" E*

Reportedly named after Clark Irving (-) pastoralist, Warra pastoral run. Refer Toowoomba Chronicle, 22 November 1928.

#### Mount Irving - Locality Bounded

*48010 Toowoomba Regional, 27° 30' 51" S / 151° 34' 40" E*

Named and bounded by the Minister for Natural Resources 25 February 2000. The locality name is derived from the nearby mountain, probably named for Clark Irving of Warra (Warra Warra) pastoral run. [Toowoomba Chronicle, 22 November 1928] Henry Dennis is believed to have claimed Warra Warra run for Irving in 1841. [Maurice French, ANPS files] Locality re-gazetted by an Amendment Notice published in the Government Gazette on the 5 April 2012 due to the council amalgamations under the Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007.

The entries for the Irvingdale locality (now split across two local government areas) contain information that appears to be of etymological interest: 'Derived from parish name which was probably named after Irvingdale pastoral run taken up in the 1840s. The run was east of the town of Dalby and north of Mount Irving. May have been named for Clark Irving, a pastoralist active in the district during the 1840s'.

**Who was Clark Irving?** Clark Irving (1808-1865) was born at Wigton, Cumberland, in the far north of England, and his father was Thomas Irving, farmer, according to the information he gave for his marriage record in London in 1839. At some stage, he left the north and went to London where he worked in the jewellery, watchmaking and fancy goods trade.

By October 1838, he had sailed to Sydney with his former employer or partner, Richard Lamb of J and R Lamb, Ludgate Hill, London. They set up the business of Irving, Lamb and Co in George Street. The business opened in November 1838, and sold silver plate, jewellery, watches and cutlery. They evidently were successful in the first few years, as they soon were advancing funds on wool consigned to London. This last enterprise effectively made the firm a banker.

On 11 March 1839, Clark Irving boarded ship for a return journey to London to purchase more stock for the firm. Whilst in London, he married on 28 November 1839 at St Paul's Church, Deptford, in Kent on the south bank of the Thames. His bride was Adelaide Thanet of Deptford Parish. The couple arrived back in Sydney in late 1840.

In December 1840, the Sydney papers carried extensive advertising that the business would no longer be run as Irving, Lamb and Co from 1 January 1841, but would be styled Richard Lamb and Co. Nevertheless, the old firm apparently carried on for some time after that date. Then, in January 1843, Walter Gray, accountant, was appointed by Clark Irving and Richard Lamb to receive all debts owing to the two men.

The mid-1830s was a time of optimism and confidence in NSW. Wool prices were high, and would-be squatters could see good grass and convict labour available cheaply. All they needed were the funds to buy sheep. A dry spell started in 1839 and, inexplicably to Englishmen, continued for several years. Men who had borrowed heavily were in trouble, and so too were some of the lenders. Irving, Lamb and Co was often listed in insolvency hearings as a creditor of failed enterprises, and often the amounts owed to them were several thousand pounds.

By late 1842, Clark had detected the state of the economy and moved to a new growth industry. He became first a trustee in bankruptcy and then in July 1844 an official assignee. (At the time, the Court appointed several official assignees, not just a single officer.) He remained a trustee in bankruptcy and an official assignee at least until 1857.

While this position was lucrative and close to a full-time job, Clark had ambitions to be a squatter. The *Government Gazette (NSWGG)* of 27 October 1843 announced that he had been granted a pasturage licence in the Clarence River district of (now) northern NSW.

The 1843 pasturage licence was the start of the building of a pastoral empire, most of which appears to have been located in the Richmond-Clarence Rivers district. In the *NSWGG* of 3 June 1848, Clark Irving is given as the lessee of Cassino, Blakebrook and Ellengowan, which three runs totalled 126 800 acres and a supposed carrying capacity of more than 5000 cattle. Shortly afterwards, he 'bought' Ashby, also in the Richmond River area, of 54 000 acres with a carrying capacity of 8000 sheep, and divested himself of a property in the 'Morumbidgee'.

Some authors assert Clark Irving owned runs on the Darling Downs. I can find no source records for this assertion. Possibly, assumptions have been made in relation to the run Ellengowan. There was a run named Ellengowan on the Downs, but the run owned by Clark Irving, Ellengowan (No 23), was quite certainly located in the Richmond River area, as described in the *NSWGG* of 3 June 1848: 'Bounded on the north by the Richmond River; on the south by a range which divides the Clarence and Richmond waters; on the east by the coast ranges; and on the west by the south arm of the Richmond River'. Not much doubt to be had there!

In 1856, the parliamentary government of NSW was reformed and responsible self-government was established. A new electorate in the Legislative Assembly for the northern areas of the colony was drawn up. It was named the *Clarence and Darling Downs*, and extended north from the Clarence Valley (i.e. Grafton area) to include all of the Downs. The electorate was formed during a period of high agitation for the separation of the northern area of NSW (i.e. Queensland) from the southern section, and a large part of the argument was concerned with where exactly the separation would occur – at 28°S or at 30°S.

Clark Irving stood for the seat. There were many vocal critics of him as a potential member especially among northern residents. The Rev. John Dunmore Lang, never one to withhold his opinion, wrote to the *Moreton Bay Courier* on 1 March 1856 that Irving was unsuitable as the electorate's member as he was a resident of Sydney and a squatter in the Richmond, and Moreton Bay men should not have to go begging to Sydney for a representative. Nevertheless, Irving was elected. However, as he was opposed to the more southerly colonial boundary, which would have cut off from Sydney, and prove contrary to, his own economic interests, he lost the support of electors in the northern area of the electorate and Arthur Hodgson of Eton Vale defeated him at the next election.

So, was Clark Irving active in the district in the 1840s? No, he was not. He lived in Sydney, had practically a full-time job there as an official assignee which involved being present at many meetings, and his pastoral interests seem to have been limited to the Northern Rivers area of NSW. Additionally, by the time he did represent the Downs in the NSW Parliament in 1856-7, both the run and the hillock (Mt Irving) had been long since named.

Irvingdale run was located directly east of (later) Dalby town in the Myall Creek catchment (oriented east-west in that region), west of Rosalie Plains run and north of Jondaryan run. (See map below, p.7). Mt Irving is a small bump in an otherwise pretty flat plain, mostly about 380 metres above sea level. Mt Irving, the highest point for miles around, rises to a mighty 464 metres and thus has an elevation of about 80 metres above the plain. It lies near the southern boundary of the old Westbrook run with its adjacent Beauarraba run, south-east of Jondaryan run.

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Squatters came to the Downs from the south as part of the inexorable expansion of settlement of pastoral areas further and further out from the hub of Sydney. Patrick and Walter Leslie made several sorties to the region during mid-1840 and claimed their 'virtual principality' of grassland in July of that year. They were followed by more men looking to make their fortunes from the abundant grass of the Downs—Arthur Hodgson (Eton Vale), Sibly and King (Haldon and Pilton), and Hughes and Isaac (Gowrie and Westbrook).

Henry Stuart Russell (1818-1889) was another of these ambitious young men. He, a second cousin of Arthur Hodgson, arrived in Sydney in early 1840 and decided to accompany Arthur and his brother on an adventure to the north of the colony. He rode as far as the Peel River (Tamworth is now in the vicinity), became ill, had to return to Sydney but later resumed his journey to what became Eton Vale run just south of (now) Toowoomba. He spent some months there and found time to ride around the area and down to Moreton Bay.

Luckily for local historians, Henry left a florid and often opaque but nicely detailed account of his adventures in *The Genesis of Queensland*<sup>2</sup>. He noted (p.193) that at Peel's River in mid-1840 he met a Mr Irving, late lieutenant of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, who was running a bush store. After he finally arrived at Eton Vale at the end of October 1840, he recorded that Irving (from the Peel) had joined the merry throng of young gentlemen there.

A question which was exercising the minds of the young squatters was whether the Condamine flowed west or east down to the Moreton Bay region. Numerous sorties were made in the summer of 1840-41 to try to determine its ultimate course. These parties were made up variously of Henry, Sydenham Hodgson, Fred Isaac, William Glover, and Irving. They rode west and north to areas which soon became claimed as runs: Tummaville, Cecil Plains (which Henry Stuart Russell claimed as his own), Jimbour, Gowrie and Westbrook (pp.237-9).

**So who was 'Mr Irving, late lieutenant of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment'?** Lieutenant Irving was born on 29 August 1815 at Birr, King's County, Ireland, and baptised Samuel James Crummer. He was well connected. His father, William Irving, rose to be a lieutenant colonel in the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. A Major James Henry Crummer, also born at Birr, and almost surely a relative, came with the 28<sup>th</sup> Foot to Australia, and later sold his commission to become a JP and magistrate. Samuel joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Foot, but transferred into the Regiment as an ensign in 1832 and then bought his lieutenancy in December 1834.

The Regiment, which was designated a north Gloucestershire unit, fought in the Napoleonic Wars, and then spent 20 years in the Mediterranean, Ireland and England. It was posted to Australia in 1835. Lt S J C Irving sailed to Australia in the convict ship, *Marquis of Huntley*. He remained in the army for two years before selling his commission in August 1837.

At some stage, S J C Irving decided to become a squatter. He took out a licence to depasture stock on the Liverpool Plains for the year starting July 1840<sup>3</sup>. Possibly to augment his funds, he started the bush store on the Peel River, which runs through the Liverpool Plains, where Henry Stuart Russell found him in mid-1840.



On 31 December 1840, Governor George Gipps approved the sale of 1220 acres of land near Guangua Creek (near Scone) in the Hunter Valley to S J C Irving for £305, with a £100 discount allowed because Samuel was a retired army officer. In early 1841, he became entitled to seven convicts, six labourers and one gardener, as a new settler at Scone<sup>4</sup>. He may not have kept this property for long, as he was back in the Tamworth region later in that same year<sup>5</sup>.

After a period where no records of his deeds appear to be available, we can again determine his activities by reference to the detailed records kept from 1843 to 1852 by the Commissioner for Crown Lands, Darling Downs, Christopher Rolleston. The first mention of S J C Irving in these records is dated 31 March 1846 where Irving was paid £10.10.0 for 14 days' work as a census collector. It is of interest to note that there is no mention of Irving in Rolleston's records from late 1843 through to early 1846, even though several historians assert Irving had taken up runs (Irvingdale?, Warra Warra?) on the outer, more westerly part of the Downs.

That he had taken the job of census collecting suggests he was short of money. Notwithstanding, on 30 May 1848, Rolleston collected £23.16.6 from Irving, but unfortunately did not specify for what. Collections were made at about the same time from other squatters, so this suggests Irving was paying a lease fee.

During the early 1850s, the NSW Government ran a scheme where supposedly independent gentlemen assessed the carrying capacity of the squatters' runs to determine the lease fees. S J C Irving carried out this task for the Isaac brothers at Gowrie on 7 January 1852, and for Colin Mackenzie at Kogan Creek on 2 July 1852<sup>6</sup>.

By 1849, S J C Irving had started a long campaign to get a government job. On 7 August from the Darling Downs, he wrote to Lt Col Barney, Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands in Sydney, asking for an appointment as an officer in the Native Police Corps. After not getting a successful response, he wrote on 16 January 1850 to Edward Deas Thompson, the NSW Colonial Secretary (CS), begging for an appointment. He went on to inform the CS that he had held a commission in Her Majesty's Service, his family had served the country for nearly a century, he had 12 years' experience in the bush [since 1838], he could provide references from magistrates and squatters in the Burnett, Darling Downs and Moreton districts, he had sold out of his Regiment and was nearly insolvent. Finally, he noted he would accept a menial situation<sup>7</sup>.

After again not receiving a satisfactory response, he wrote from the Downs to the CS again on 28 December 1850 asking for employment. He noted that he had been unable to find a job as a superintendent or storekeeper on a station. During the first five months of 1851, he wrote twice more asking for employment in the public service, preferably as a Clerk of Petty Sessions (CPS). He noted he would be happy to take an appointment at Drayton, Warwick or any bench to the north of Moreton Bay<sup>8</sup>. He wrote again in April and June 1852 from Drayton to the CS asking for appointment as a lieutenant in the Native Police Force.

Samuel Irving's fortunes changed after 8 April 1853 when the *NSW GG* announced that the Governor had approved his appointment as a Senior Sub-Lieutenant in the Native Police. Four months later in August, he was made a magistrate, and on 7 February 1854

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he was promoted to Lieutenant. Three years later, the *North Australian, Ipswich and General Advertiser* of 21 April 1857 contained this death notice: ‘On the 14th instant, at Maryborough, Wide Bay, Samuel James Crummer Irving, late of H.M. 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and Sub-Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Native Police’. (His death was not registered with the authorities. It would be interesting to know who inserted the death notice in the Ipswich paper and who cleared up his affairs and disposed of his possessions.)

Now you know the stories of the lives of two Irvings. Which one is the likely source of the naming of the hill and the pastoral run on the Downs—

the Sydney-based NSW Northern Rivers squatter;

or the man who rode with the earliest squatter/explorers trying to determine the course and flow of the Condamine from the ranges west to the vicinity of (now) Dalby, which was unknown at that time, and who roamed widely the Downs from 1840 to 1857?

You decide.

***Diana Beal***

*Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society*



<sup>1</sup> Department of Natural Resources and Mines. Queensland placenames search.

<https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/place-names/search>. (Accessed June 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Russell, Henry Stuart. *The genesis of Queensland: an account of the first exploring journeys to and over Darling Downs: the earliest days of their occupation; social life; station seeking; the course of discovery, northward and westward; and a resume of the causes which led to separation from New South Wales: with portrait and fac-similes of maps, log, &c., &c.* Sydney: Turner & Henderson, 1888.

<sup>3</sup> *NSW Government Gazette*, 11 June 1841.

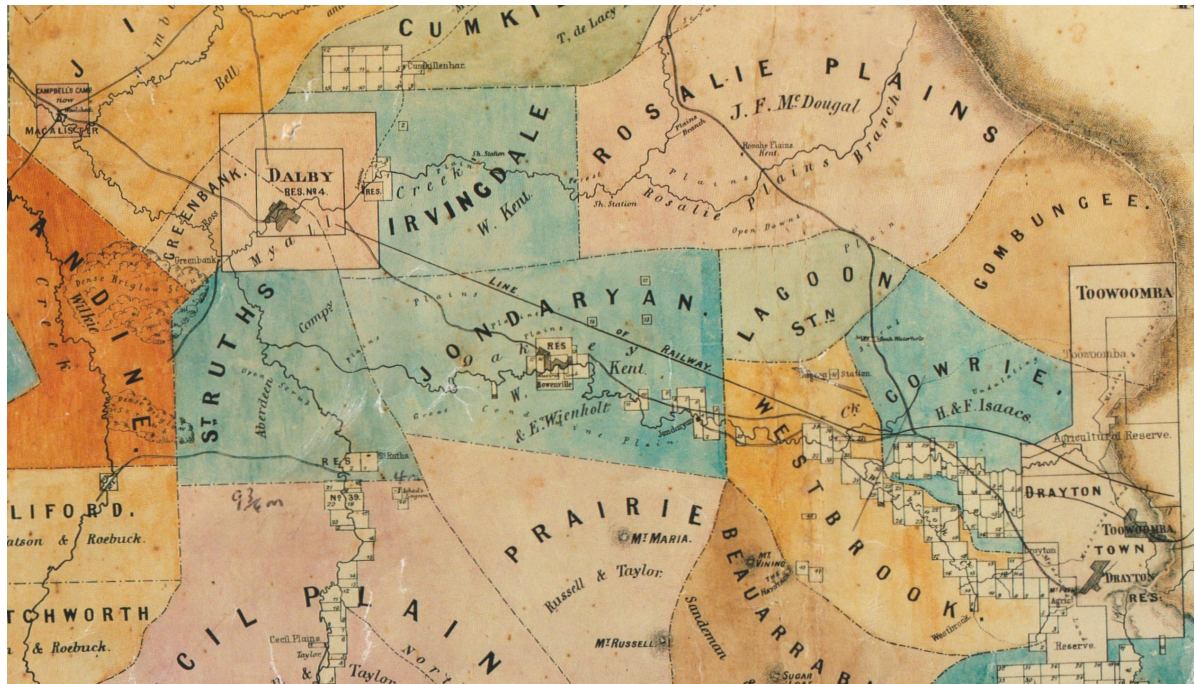
<sup>4</sup> *Sydney Herald*, 27 March 1841.

<sup>5</sup> *Sydney Herald*, 8 September 1841.

<sup>6</sup> *Initial settlement on the Darling Downs 1843-1852: a transcription of Rolleston's records*. Toowoomba, Qld: Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society, 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Letters relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland. State Library of Queensland, A2 series, Reel A2.22.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*



The 'Irvingdale' property, located in relation to the proposed Darling Downs railway line (1864)

*Source:*

Squatting map of the Darling Downs District-Queensland, shewing the proposed line of railway, pre-emptive purchases, townships, reserves, roads & approximate boundaries of runs, with head stations / compiled from the most authentic official records and published by J.W. Buxton, bookseller & stationer, Queen St., Brisbane, 1864. (detail)

*Electronic resource, National Library of Australia. Bib ID: 975805*