

HUGH PROBY SQUIRE OF KANYAKA

An Earl's Son 1829 to 1852



Hugh Proby took up the pastoral lease of Kanyaka on 1st July 1851 as a rental, paying 10/-shillings per square mile.

His ancestral home was Elton Hall in Derbyshire in England. He was the third son of the Earl of Carysfort.

Hugh Proby's father was Admiral Granville Leveson Proby, a sailor with a distinguished naval career, having fought with Nelson.

His parents lived at Glenart Castle.

Hugh came out to Australia with his childhood friend, John Probyn, in the SS Wellington, which arrived in Port Adelaide on 30th May 1851.

Hugh's first run, lease NO.74, called the Mookra Range Run (later it became Coonatta Run) included what is now known as the Horseshoe and is dominated by Mookra Tower or Peak as it was called in Hugh's day.

Hugh only had a hut built on the Kanyaka run. After Hugh's death a Mr. Phillips started to build the many solid stone structures, which were to form the present day ruins of Kanyaka homestead.

Hugh and an indigenous stockman were on the western portion of the run with cattle. During the night there was a violent thunder storm causing the cattle to stampede. The two men saddled their horses and rode out to the mob. The deluge caused a flash flood in the Willochra Creek. While attempting to cross the creek, possibly in darkness, Hugh was swept from his horse and drowned.

Six years after his death, his family had a tablet made of Scottish granite and shipped it to Australia from his homeland. It was hauled to its current site by a bullock team from Port Augusta.

Experts have estimated its weight to be one and half tons.

At the turn of the century his sister, Lady Hamilton, came to Australia to visit his grave which is not far from he drowned in the Willochra Creek.

