

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission

From:

Dated:

Submission:

My Family Remembers.

I am now 53 years old and as a 7 year old, we listened to May and Daisy Hunter from Hunterston, Gippsland Victoria speaking of the old days. As kids, we were fascinated by the aboriginal stone axe in my grandfathers display cabinet, and how he found it as a kid on the very property we were on, listening to these old ladies and the stories of taking the horse and cart to Woodstock and the lepper house in the back field. The lepper house was the original family house before the new "very old" house was built. That house is still standing.

We heard how Aboriginal family groups would sometimes walk passed the property and sometime get fed by our family. There would be a leading group for fit men, then small groups of other elderly, men, woman and children. Sometimes twenty to thirty in total.

There was three stories that seemed to be widely known.

Two stories were thought to be from around Warrigal, where a family group was expelled from town as the humpy they lived in at the saw mill was no longer tolerated. Another story was rat poison was mixed with the flour in the Black's rashians. The third story, I think from Bairnsdale, was our first peoples were droved to the sea and shot. I never got a sense of the number from this story, but it could have been a single family group or many groups, numbering a few hundred. I heard it with a sombre voice of a 90 year old lady who said. " They drove them on horses to the sea, and then shot em".

Several historical books have been written about some of this information and an Aunt in Boronia is our family historian. The family I know is the Coughlin line that came out of Hunterston. I think they moved from Walwa on the Murray to Hunterston, where they married some of the Hunterston daughters. I thinks the Hunterston daughters were decendants of Olivier Lucas, wife of Nathaniel Lucas.

I hope that helps and thanks for being the Voice, which we most desperately need.