

# *Glimpses of Country Life*

## *An Historic Memorial of the Inland*

*To the Men who Pioneered the Finke River Country*

*By Archer Russell*

**A**T Henbury cattle station, away out in the Finke River sandhills, north-west of Charlotte Waters, in Central Australia, stands one of the most interesting memorials in the inland. It is that of a brass plate memorial erected in 1917 by the late Mr. Joe Breaden, of Henbury, to perpetuate the memory of the hardy band of men known in that part of the world to-day as the Finke River pioneers. The idea is a capital one, and might well be copied in other parts wherever it is practicable. The inscriptions on the plate are given below in the order in which they appear, the number attaching to each man's name being the year in which he arrived on the Finke:—

R. E. Warburton, 1875	H. Breaden, 1877
A. D. Breaden, 1875	J. McDonald, 1877
W. Stokes, 1876	R. D. Coulthard, 1879
J. A. Breaden, 1877	Tom Norman, 1879
E. W. Parke, 1877	E. H. Sargeant, 1879
Chas. Walker, 1877	A. H. Elliot, 1880
H. Merrick, 1877	L. A. Bloomfield, 1887
Chas. Tomlin, 1877	J. E. Warburton, 1890
W. Parke, 1887	A. Fergusson, 1888

To the Memory of the Above,

Pioneers of the Finke,

This Plate was erected by

J. A. Breaden, Esq., 1917.

First Motor Car, property of J. A. Breaden,

Driven by C. Woodward,

Arrived here 10/4/17.

**O**F this little band of eighteen men, twelve have "gone west," and only six survive, of whom four—A. D. Breaden, A. H. Elliot, L. A. Bloomfield, and Tom Norman—are still on the Finke, or in

Norman—are still on the Finke, or in country adjacent to it. Of the two other survivors one — J. E. Warburton—is, I think, in Adelaide, and the other—A. Ferguson—is thought to be somewhere in Australia, but just where, his surviving confederates do not precisely know. The R. E. Warburton figuring on the scroll is the late Richard Egerton Warburton, who accompanied his father, the late Colonel P. E. Warburton, on his famous journey across the western interior, from which they staggered out only with their lives. He it was who, with the A. D. Breaden on the plate, first opened up the Western MacDonnells to pastoral settlement (1875), and first occupied the Goyder Springs—Erlunda country—with which his name, together with that of his nephew, J. E. Warburton, was for so long associated. J. A. (Joe) Breaden, though perhaps best remembered as a cattleman, and the owner of Todmorden and, later, of Henbury, was also not unknown in the field of exploration, having been a member of Carnegie's expedition into far nor'-west Australia; while Harry Breaden, the third of the Breaden brothers, was one of the original mailmen of the interior, having ridden the pack-mail from the Peake to Alice Springs when the north-going railway—from Adelaide — was somewhere about Farina, six hundred miles south of where it is to-day.

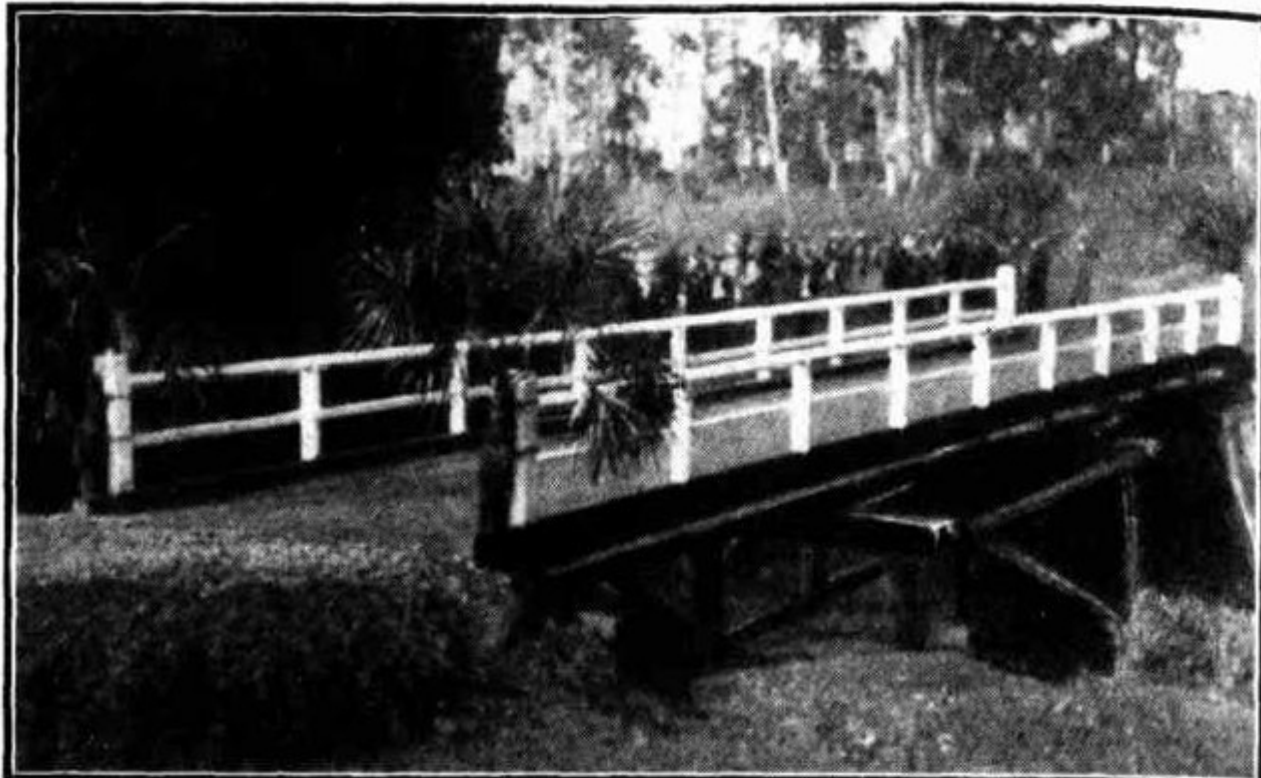
**T**HE E. W. Parke and Charles Walker figuring on the plate were the first men to take up the Henbury country (1877); and the station was named after the Parkes' ancestral home, Henbury, in Dorset, England. The ruins of the old stone hut that was their original station home may still be seen on Eillery's Creek, near the famous Valley of Palms, in the James Range, a little south of Missionary Plains. Mr. Tom Norman, who is, I believe, still alive, and whom I met in 1928

lieve, still alive, and whom I met in 1928 at the Horseshoe Bend, on the Lower Finke, came into the Macumba-Oodnadatta country (prior to his coming to the Finke in 1879), but seven years after McDouall Stuart had passed through it on his journey from south to north in 1862. Mr. A. H. Elliot is now a run owner and the proprietor of the Horseshoe Bend Hotel and store, and Mr. L. A. Bloomfield, whom I met at Alice Springs, is the owner of Love's Creek Run, in the eastern MacDonnells. Norman is a very old man and feeble, and Breaden is getting on in years, but Elliot and Bloomfield are still able men on a cattle camp.

These, then, are the men who pioneered the Finke, and few there are among us who will deny to them the laurels of achievement—that of performing one of the most arduous and perilous pioneering feats in the history of Australian settlement.



**FINK RIVER PIONEERS' MEMORIAL.**  
A brass plate on Henbury Cattle Station,  
Central Australia, erected in 1917 by Mr. J.  
A. Breaden.



**SELF-HELP IN THE COUNTRY.**

The settlers in the Rocks Bridge district, near Gympie, Queensland, badly needed a bridge across Eel Creek. Instead of waiting for the shire to build it they subscribed over £90 and gave and cut all the log timber. The result is the structure seen in our photograph.