

Land Ballots, Clearing & Dairying 1930s

The first few (3-4) blocks of land for settlement were surveyed and selected in the Dalrymple Heights area in 1912.

In 1935 land ballots were drawn for 39 blocks in the Crediton and Broken River district, for the purpose of dairying. The range road had been improved and the P.E.I. workers were building access roads in the area. Successful applicants, to abide by conditions of the ballot, had to clear and grass 25 acres of scrub each year for 3 years. Some found the task too enormous and surrendered.

The settlers cleared their land by hand with brush hook, axe and springboard ready for burning off and seeding with grasses suitable for carrying stock.

Some Dalrymple and Eungella farmers closer to the township were already established and transporting their cream by packhorse down the range to Netherdale to be railed to Gladstone.

Info from: the "Up In The Clouds" leaflet produced by The Valley Genealogical Special Interest Group 1995
& Dairying 50 years by Eric Ross :in the 'Memories of Crediton' book 1985

Flora Cunningham (Neil's mother) now aged 92,
remembers riding in to Eungella with a cream can attached to the pummel of her saddle.



Tom Dunbar on spring board
cutting timber on his block, Upper River Road Crediton



Tom Dunbar on the land he had cleared,
Upper River Road Crediton

Photos from: John Dunbar

Contributed by: Glenda Parish



Typical first dwelling of early settlers