G.W. Goyder Subject Guide

History of the Expedition

The Goyder survey expedition 1869–1870 was led by George Goyder; Surveyor-General from the South Australia Department of Lands and Survey, and marks a significant chapter in the story of the Northern Territory. Goyder was sent to the Northern Territory in 1869 to complete a land survey and select a site for the capital. One hundred and fifty men were selected for the expedition and within six months they had surveyed 269,683 hectares, identified further land for growing tropical products and recommended Palmerston as the site for the capital.

Published Works


Goyder, G. W. Mr. Goyder’s report on Victoria land regulations. Adelaide Advertiser, April 28, 1870.

Goyder, G. W. Diary of Surveyor-General Goyder, 1869. Darwin: Dept. of Lands, 1980. Goyder’s diary for the period 5th February - 1st March 1869, transcribed by officers of the Dept. of Lands. NTC PAM B526.9 GOY


NTL 304.25 CHAN


Compiled from the most recent information in the Survey Department, Adelaide, under the direction of G. W. Goyder, Surveyor General. Online maps omit Northern Territory.

Rare Map – NTC SP COLL FOL 912.942 OFF

South Australia. Surveyor General's Office, Goyder, G.W. Northern exploration : letter from the ... surveyor-General enclosing report of Mr. G.W. Goyder, of his expedition into the Northern districts of the colony. Adelaide : Govt. Printer 1857.


NTC PER 910 ROYA

Parliamentary papers

South Australian Parliamentary Papers (SAPP) available on microfilm at the library.

Goyder, GW. and Freeling, A.H. Northern exploration: letter from The Hon. the Surveyor-General, enclosing report from Mr. G.W. Goyder of his expedition into the northern districts of the colony. Adelaide : Government Printer, 1857.

SAPP, no.72, 1857.

Goyder, G.W. Survey of land, Northern Territory, etc. Adelaide : Government Printer, 1866.

SAPP, no. 128, 1866.

NTC 333.18 GOYD

Goyder, G.W. Remounts for Indian Army. Surveyor-General’s report on Indian Remount service, Northern Territory. 23 November 1869.

SAPP no. 155 1869.

Papers relating to Goyder's Survey Expedition (1868-72)

SAPP no. 81 (1868-9): Tenders for Survey, Northern Territory. Return to Order of the House (Mr.Cottrell, 26th August, 1868), for copies of all correspondence not already before the house referring to the survey of the Northern Territory Lands between the Government, and Mr. Gregory, the Surveyor-General of Queensland, and other persons, who may have tendered or made propositions for the survey, since the return of Mr. McKinlay from the Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 100 (1868-9): Tenders for surveying with Surveyor-General; report thereon, with sketch of Mr. Finniss’ surveys.


SAPP no. 175 (1868-9): Northern Territory Survey Expedition. Instruction to G. W. Goyder, Surveyor-General, to proceed to Territory for the purpose of surveying.

SAPP no. 177 (1868-9): Reports on vessel "Sea Ripple" : reports of surveyors &c., on schooner for use of Northern Territory survey party (Goyder's).

SAPP no. 193 (1868-9): Vessels offered for Northern Territory Service, with terms and tonnage, to convey Goyder’s party to Territory. 27 January 1869.

SAPP no. 31 (1869-70): Northern Territory Survey Progress reports by Mr. Goyder, dated March 2nd, 1869, and May 3rd, 1869.


SAPP no. 161 (1869-70): General plan showing natural features of the country, towns, reserves, roads & sectional lands at, and in the vicinity of Port Darwin, Northern Territory of South Australia, surveyed during 1869 by Mess’rs. Woods et.al.

SAPP no. 201 (1869-70): Correspondence re bonus to members of Goyder’s expedition.

SAPP no. 204 (1869-70): Plans of survey of near Port Darwin and Palmerston, Southport, Virginia, and Daly townships. Map soon to be loaded to HistoryNT.

SAPP no. 32 (1870-71): Surveyor-General's description of soil, and name of surveyor of land already formed into hundreds.

SAPP no. 46 (1870-71): Cost per acre of surveys, number of miles actually marked on ground during surveys; average number of miles and acres marked out per diem by each surveyor; amount of all bonuses and allowances exclusive of salary. 14 June 1870.
SAPP no. 57 (1870-71): Officers and Men in Northern Territory Service: List of officers and men, with rates of pay, with estimated cost of contingencies for land and sea service for 1870.

SAPP No.89 (1872): Names of persons excluded from terms of bonus for extra work in Northern Territory.

Papers relating to North Australian Exploration 1860-1875.

South Australia. Parliament. [North Australian exploration 1860-1875]. 1 v. South Australia: Govt. Printer, 1860. Consists of the following:

SAPP no. 55 (1860): Cost of Mr. Goyder’s survey party.

SAPP no. 98 (1860): Cost of and work performed by survey department.


SAPP no. 177 (1860): Mr. Goyder’s report on northern triangulation.

SAPP no. 70 (1861): Survey of Australian coast.

SAPP no. 71 (1861): Ocean postal service repayments.

SAPP no. 147 (1861): Instructions to Mr. McKinlay.


SAPP no. 180 (1861): Annexation of additional Territory to South Australia.

SAPP no. 185 (1861): Report from Burke relief party.

SAPP no. 27 (1862): English and Australian mail service.

SAPP no. 75 (1862): Survey of Australian coast.

SAPP no. 129 (1862): Progress report of coast survey.

SAPP no. 218 (1862): Instructions to Mr. McKinlay.

SAPP no. 70 (1863): Annexation of Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 77 (1863): Survey of South Australian coast.

SAPP no. 92 (1863): Postal service with Great Britain.

SAPP no. 106 (1863): Sorting English mail on board steamer.

SAPP no. 113 (1863): Extension of South Australian boundary.


SAPP no. 127 (1863): Annexation of Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 133 (1863): Proposed Northern Territory land regulations.

SAPP no. 28 (1864): Survey of South Australian coast.

SAPP no. 111 (1864): Passage for stock to Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 130 (1864): Instructions to Major Warburton.

SAPP no. 149 (1864): Passage of stock through Queensland.

SAPP no. 150 (1864): Northern Territory land sales.

SAPP no. 163 (1864): Reports from Northern Territory. Boyle Travers Finniss. 12 October 1864.

SAPP no. 195 (1864): Report from Major Warburton.

SAPP Map: Upper part of the Adelaide River.


SAPP no. 84 (1865): Marine survey of Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 79 (1866): Proceedings of surveying schooner "Beatrice".

SAPP no. 83 (1866): Despatches from Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 131 (1866): Exploration of Northern Territory.

SAPP no. 246 (1874): Examination of Lake Eyre.


SAPP no. 95, (1876): Reports on northern mineral lands.

Unpublished Manuscripts


Photocopy made from the original in the State Library of South Australia (ref. GRG 35/256); includes a map showing location of Larakia, Woohnah (Wuna) and Warnunger; some place names in area listed.

trove.nla.gov.au/version/20423432

Theses

Sheldrick, Janis M. *Nature’s line : George Goyder over South Australia.* 1999.

Ph.D Thesis. School of Literary and Communication Studies of the Faculty of Arts, Deakin University.

trove.nla.gov.au/version/7348108

Pamphlet


Goyder's diary for the period 5th February - 1st March 1869, transcribed by officers of the Dept. of Lands.

trove.nla.gov.au/version/19951818


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trove.nla.gov.au/version/27020522

Journal Articles


NTL Storage PER 711 AUST


NTC PER 378 CHAR


(Revised and updated version of an article published in the *Canberra Historical Journal*, March 1990).

McGowan, Barry. ‘Goyder's Line: Australia's first environmental debate?: an historical perspective’.

(Expanded version of address to Canberra and District Historical Society, 1989).


NTL Storage PER 994.7 CANB


NTC PER 910 ROYA

On Forrest's expedition into the interior of Western Australia, Goyder's survey of the neighbourhood of Port Darwin, and on the recent progress of Australian discovery 1870. *Royal Geographical Society.* Session 1869-70, Ninth meeting, 28 March 1870.

ntrove.nla.gov.au/version/20483554


‘Mr C. Winnecke’s last explorations in the Northern Territory, South Australia’. *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society.* No. 6, 1884: 566-569.

Online Databases

Online databases are available for use within the library.


adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A040316b.htm


[This article was originally published in 1981 in Carr, D. J. and Carr, S. G. M. (eds). *People and Plants in Australia.* 1981: 295-321.]

NTL 581.0994 PEO

search.informit.com.au/fullText;res=APAFT;dn=200507828


[This paper is reprinted from *Agricultural History.* Vol. 35, 1961: 207-216 with the permission of the journal and author.]


search.informit.com.au/fullText;dn=200807131;res=IELAPA
Microfilm


Maps

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
Goyder, G. W. *Diagram shewing lands sold between the years 1835 and June 1892*. Adelaide: Surveyor General's Office, 1892.
Graph in bar chart format the total acreage of land sold and rented annually from 1935 to 1892 and the amount of money raised that year. A set of statistical totals at the foot of the graph shows the total acreage sold for cash as well as under different types of credit agreements and the money so accrued for each. nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm1176

Goyder, G.W.
*General plan showing natural features of the country, towns, reserves, roads, & sectional lands at, and in the vicinity of Port Darwin, Northern Territory of South Australia* [map] signed G.W. Goyder. Australia, 1872.
Describes natural features from Fred's Pass to Port Darwin examined during the month of February 1869. Route taken shown in coloured ink. Copy made by Bessie Threadgill of original in Home and Territories Office, Melbourne.
NTC Rare Map 2 nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm3447

Goyder, GW.
*Plan of the South Arm [Port Darwin, Northern Territory]*. Canberra, 1968.
Facsimile of ms. map of Haycock Reach, Middle Arm, from Diamond Island,(unnamed island near Storm Point) up the Blackmore River almost to Tumbling Waters. Shows Government jetty, rocks and sand bars, features and water courses entering the river. Detail confined to river and reach. Drawing made during Goyder's expedition, by a member of his Northern Territory survey party, 1869, or by a member of the Government Resident's Party, 1870. Photograph of an original held by the Northern Territory Archives Service.
nta.gov.au/nla.map-vn42155

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
Goyder, G.W. *Southport. Street plan and lot numbers from Goyder's 1869 survey, on which have been noted ruins surviving at an unknown date*. trove.nla.gov.au/version/22363868

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
*Copy of rough plan shewing explorations by Mr Winnecke*. Adelaide : Surveyor General's Office, 1880. nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm1250

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
Goyder, G.W. *Copy of rough plan shewing explorations by Mr Winnecke*. Adelaide : Surveyor General's Office, 1882 nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm1251

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
*Copy of rough plan shewing explorations by Mr Winnecke*. Adelaide : Surveyor General's Office, 1882. nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm1248

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.

South Australia. Surveyor-General's Office.
Territory Stories contain photographs and documents from the Goyder survey expedition.
territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/217053

The Goyder survey expedition was a truly significant chapter in the ongoing story of the Northern Territory. Having these unique images in the Northern Territory Library collection gives us a wonderfully real link with that distant past. These historic photographs give us a better appreciation of those untamed early days, before Darwin became the exciting City we now see.

Aside from their cultural significance, these distinctive stereoscopic images are also fascinating examples of early 3D photography, first used in 1840.

The photographs depict members of the expedition, the new settlement and the surrounding scenery, and the men are seen at work and around their camps, clearly showing the isolation of the tropical north.

These historic photographs give us a glimmer of insight into what life would have been like and to help us appreciate those rough early days.

Photographers during the expedition were Joseph Brook; the official photographer and Samuel White Sweet; a sea captain who sailed twice to the Northern Territory and joined the Goyder expedition on both occasions.

These images are extremely rare and are an important photographic record of the foundation of Darwin, showing how our modern city began its life as a small collection of tents and huts.

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More information and other subject guides available through the NT Library website.