

| DATE | REFERENCE | DETAILS |
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| 1851 Sept | Faull, Jim - The Cornish in Australia , pub 1983, p 52 | Reference to an advance party from Burra - dates to be confirmed (see report from South Aust Register of Oct 27) |
| 1851 Oct 20 | Clode, Richard - letter to mother in September 1852. Typescript of letter provided by family member. Original in State Library South Australia D 3105(L) and quoted in Manning, Geoffrey H - Hope Farm Chronicle p37 and Manning Index of South Australian History , SLSA website) | <i>"left Adelaide on foot, with my blanket on my back, accompanied by my dog, en route for the diggings in Victoria".</i> Was prepared for <i>"great difficulties"</i> on account of <i>"the wettest winter ever known in Australia"</i> but was ill prepared for some of the swamps along the way, in particular Tilley's Swamp, where his dog drowned. At another, he <i>"fortunately .. fell in with a few natives, who put me on the right scent"</i> and provided him with fish from the Coorong. Another tribe he describes as being on a <i>"war expedition against another tribe"</i> . There are descriptions of several birds. In western Victoria, in vicinity of Glenelg River, tired out and travelling barefoot, he obtained work during the (sheep) shearing season, where one night he was bitten on the hand by a snake. Medical treatment took time and his hand was disfigured as a result. He found his way to Geelong and eventually back to Adelaide and appears not to have completed his journey to the Victorian diggings on this occasion, but in September 1852 was on his way to the South Australian goldfields. [Code was a surveyor who came to Australia from England in 1849, but could not find work.] [NB: appears not to be following detailed directions, but perhaps happening upon existing tracks, signposts] |
| 1851 Oct 27 Also / ? or 1851 Nov 1 | The South Aust Register , p 3 | <i>'The Burra miners have resolved to send a deputation to report on the 'Diggings' in Victoria before any general movement is made. The prudence and reasonableness of this united resolve cannot be too highly commended, and contrasts strongly with the rash proceedings of others among the working classes ...'</i> |
| 1851 Oct | Blake L J - Gold Escorts pub 1971, p20 | <i>"... reference to blazed trees suggests that early squatters or teamsters had marked parts of this route to central Victoria. The track gained clearer definition in October 1851, when a group of intrepid diggers, eager to save time and miles, struck east from Wellington on the Murray. They took aboriginal pads from native well to well and tracks between the few lonely stations in the Long Desert of South Australia to make a fairly straight route to the border. On the Victorian side the Little Desert could be similarly crossed by ways already trodden by both Aboriginals and white men. Squatters' and teamsters' roads usually followed streams to ensure a good water supply and avoid unnecessary crossings. The Wimmera River lead one almost to the Pyrenees Range."</i> [this paragraph not referenced] |
| 1851 Nov | Murphy L - in Records of Castlemaine Pioneers , 1972, p51 | Describes shutting up store at Bryant's Creek (now Coleraine), when the diggings broke out, and <i>"formed one of a party of four to start for Fryer's Creek, at which we arrived in November, 1851"</i> . After clearing £200 each in less than a month, <i>"The party then broke up, and I returned to Coleraine and disposed of my store, after which I again started for the diggings, this time for Bendigo, and opened a store at Long Gully."</i> After stores in several other mining areas, he settled in Castlemaine in 1854. [Not specified, but overland travel between Coleraine and goldfields is likely] |
| 1851 late Dec (most likely 18 th , see Baker & Chaplin accounts below) | Thomas Frost - account from diary published by Pederson, Vale (ed) - Overland to the Diggings in 1850 See also Baker and Chaplin accounts | Party of 15 mainly fellow-members of the Congregational Church. They had 2 two-horse teams and took with them tools, timber to make cradles and mining tools, a tent, firearms and ammunition, sufficient stores for the journey plus 3 months, swags, bedding, 2 ale Hogsheads to carry water, etc. Route was east from Wellington across the 90 mile desert to Scott's Woolshed (Bordertown) and account highlights difficulties they faced obtaining water, also faced by group of 'natives' that appear to have been travelling with them for a time. Members of the group: Mr Pickering (Capt), S Smallwood, William Gibson, R Blackwell, J Chaplin, A Abrahams, I Mitton, I E Mitton, W Shadwell - all connected, Henry Hill & his father John, - both known to Frost, James Taylor and two Cornish miners (unnamed). [NB: There is some doubt as to the accuracy of this account. The date of 1850 mentioned in the title is clearly inaccurate, but the month is confirmed in that they celebrated Christmas during the early part of the journey. The |

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| | | <p>mention that Tolmer's Gold Escort had preceded them and that they followed the tracks, cannot be correct as the Gold Escort surveyor McLaren set out from Adelaide on 26 January and Tolmer with the first Escort left Adelaide on 10 February 1852.</p> <p>However this, and accounts of the same group from two others, are the earliest accounts located where in which the 'northern' route has been followed, rather than along the Coorong. It closely resembles the (later) Gold Escort route.]</p> |
| 1851 Dec 18 | <p>Baker, George - in Records of Castlemaine Pioneers, 1972, p109</p> <p>See also Frost and Chaplin accounts</p> | <p>From Hindmarsh, commenced overland journey to Mount Alexander about a week before Christmas 1851, in a group of "about 13", with "two drays, four horses" and "necessary provisions". Murray River at Wellington was overflowing its bank (no mention of punt). In the 'short desert', assisted by "two blackfellows with their lubras and picanninies to show us where the water was". Near the Grampians they met a man returning from the diggings who gave an "awful account". The rest of the journey was quite enjoyable - "the weather not being so hot". Journey of about 4 weeks from Adelaide, resting each Sabbath. Five of the original party stayed together. Returned to Adelaide (estimate early 1853) by ship from Melbourne. Returned soon afterwards, intending to travel overland again, but "wife repented" and he joined others in voyage by ship. (see also account of Mr Chaplin below and Thomas Frost above)</p> |
| 1851 Dec 18 (mid) | <p>Chaplin, Newton - Reminiscences - family records</p> <p>See also Frost and Baker accounts</p> | <p>(Same group as George Baker - above). Party of 16 with 2 drays and 4 horses - took 5 weeks including a break of 1 week to revive the horses. Group included: correspondent, Mr Baker, Mr Blackwell (Chaplin's brother-in-law), Mr Pickering, Mr Mathews, Mr Bourne. Route via Macclesfield, Langhorne Creek, Wellington, and across the 90 Mile Desert to Hawk's Nest (northern route), and describes difficulties locating water, and the assistance of a 'family' group of 11 'natives' 'lead by King Billy' including being shown methods of finding relief from the heat and lack of water. Reports seeing carcasses of bullocks, dogs and drays beside the tracks. Describes an 'oasis' where they stopped for 1 week. Description of the Murray River at Wellington being very wide and bordered with swamp, also 8-10 feet deep and flooding the causeway. Returned to Adelaide by ship in March 1852 and 'soon began to prepare to return with our families back to the diggings', see May 8, 1852. NOTE: Reminiscences compiled in old age, not a 'diary'.</p> |
| 1851 late – earliest (possibly 1852) | <p>Trevithick, Henry and companions - family history (See also entry for Aug 1853)</p> | <p>Henry Trevithick (of Sithney, Cornwall) in ? 1850 'rode East across the country, hoping to reach the Goldfields of Ballarat... They crossed the Murray River at Morgan's Crossing and followed the River to where Swan Hill stands today .. turned south to reach the Pyrenees Ranges To take a SSE direction to achieve the destination of Ballarat.' Horses exhausted and companion ill and camped near Avoca River for several days. Others continued but Henry stayed with ill man for several weeks. By that time he had investigated the area and as the Avoca area looked promising they stayed there for approx. 11 mnths before returning to Burra. (Returned to Avoca in 1853)</p> |
| 1852 Jan 2 | <p>The South Aust Register</p> | <p>Report of Overland Parties to the Diggings:</p> |
| 1852 Jan 14 | <p>Blake, Les (Ed) - A Gold Digger's Diaries (Ned Peters), 1981</p> | <p>Party of 5 men set out for the Victorian diggings - Henry Evans, John Opie, Edward Roberts, Walter T Peters and Edwin Frances (Ned) Peters. Opie was a blacksmith, and his brother-in-law Edward Roberts a Cornish miner. Walter was Ned's older brother. The group had a signed agreement for a period of 3 months to share their earnings. They bought 1 horse & dray from Mr Evans, a portable forge and set of blacksmith's tools, two dozen horse shoes plus bars of iron & steel; clamps for wheels, carpenter's tools and axes; and food supplies. Mr Evans also took a horse that he intended to sell. Route via Mr Barker, Strathalbyn, Murray River crossing not specified, western edge of Ninety Mile Desert, (guided by group of Aborigines), Coorong, Tilley's Flat, Reedy Creek, Mosquito Plain, Lake Wallace, Glenelg River, Rose's Gap (Grampians), Glenorchy, near Forest Creek (Fryers Creek).</p> <p>Ned Peters recalled in his reminiscences that (before leaving Adelaide in Jan 1852) "some excitement was caused by</p> |

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| 1852 Jan 15 | The South Aust Register , p 3a | <i>the return of men who had gone to Victoria and were returning with gold which they had found at Forest Creek, Mt Alexander</i> ". Overland Route to Mt Alexander: Account of the journey - new route being opened – to be confirmed!! Suggested more direct route to the goldfields needed - instead of following the overland mail route |
| 1852 Jan 23 | Ragless, Margaret - An ankerchief of 'erth , 1986 See also SLSA D6299(L) | Oliver Ragless & group (5 brothers and 2 brothers-in-law), all in their 20's and 30's, left Gawler for Vic goldfields. They took 7 or 8 horses, a dray and a light cart laden with a tent, tools, boxes, bedding, food, cooking utensils, firearms and a force pump. Another brother had left a month earlier by ship and claimed a hole at Adelaide Gully, where the rest of the party joined him in mid February. Route: via Enfield, Langhorne's Creek, Wellington, McGrath's Flat, Wood's Well, Salt Creek, Tilley's Flat (Coorong), Baker's Station, Reedy Creek, Mosquito Plains, Lake Wallace (here there was a party of Cornish miners with a knocked up horse), Officer's Sheep Station, Pinson's (Pynsent) Sheep station, Wilson's Sheep Station, Horsham, Wimmera River, Clarke's station, Crowlands, across the Pyrenees to Mt Alexander. |
| 1852 Jan 26 1852 Jan 28 | Clyne, Robert - Snell, Edward - The Life & Adventures of – pub 1988 | Deputy Surveyor General, John McLaren, left with party of sappers to map route - as per Jan 23 direction Group of 7 men (& boys?) left Adelaide for Vic goldfields - had an agreement for 6 months from 1 Feb. They had a roster for keeping watch at night, and duties allocated. Other members Henry Barlow, Edward Tongue, Conrad Wornum (half share), Robert Stirling, William Counsell and Philip Sanders (half share). Route: via Echunga, Macclesfield (where public houses were placarded 'No credit till the Gold fever is over'), Langhorne's Creek (lots of drays round about us all bound to the diggings), Wellington, Coorong, Tilley's Flat (avoided area where others were bogged by travelling further south - sketch of cropping at Tilley's Flat), Brown's Station, Cole's Station, Musquito Plains, Merino Inn (Naracoorte), Border Inn, Lake Wallace, Mt Arapiles, Major Firebrace's Station, Horsham, Glenorchy, Burnbank, Mount Alexander. On arrival on 4 Mar 1852, heard of " <i>new diggings much surpassing Mt Alexander had been discovered at Bendigo 25 miles to the Northward</i> " and decided to go there. |
| 1852 Jan late | Adelaide Morning Chronicle , repeated in The South Aust Register Jan 31 Also Ragless, Margaret - An ankerchief of 'erth , 1986 | Published a 'suggested overland route' to the Victorian goldfields - on the basis of information provided by Sergeant Rose, a policeman who for the preceding two years had been stationed at Mosquito Plains (McIntosh's Station), and was 'acquainted with the whole country between Adelaide and Mt Cole, near Mt Alexander. The proposed route plus three (shorter) variations were given with suggested halting places, being those commonly used by horsemen. Intermediate stations were also given with appropriate mileages, and in some cases directions. References to Ham's Squatting Map were given for locations in Victoria. Variation 1 involved turning inland (s-s-e) at Tilley's Swamp towards McIntosh's. Variation 2 involved turning inland at Salt Creek to Lawton's Station, Tatiara. (Variation 1 & 2 were deemed not to be safe for 'travellers unaccustomed to the Bush'). Variation 3 involved travelling east from Wellington through the Hundred Mile Scrub to Horsham (along a route similar to that taken by McLaren's survey team). The report refers to their objective to ensure water available every 12 miles. |
| 1852 Sept 24 | Blake L J - Gold Escorts pub 1971 quoting Letter J W Cole in SAA D 3019/3 (L) - letter to his sister describes outfitting and progress | J W Cole with 5 mates tackled the overland track, with fully loaded dray, two of the party going ahead by ship to Melbourne with heavy goods. Party had agreement to equal shares in all gold discovered, and juveniles a half share. All outfitted themselves with 'digger attire'. "Members of the party helped to haul the Wellington punt, laden with several other drays, across the Murray River. They then set out by way of Cooke's Plains to Binnie's, where they took the south -eastern track to Sandford". "The track they found was a 'well-beaten one from the traffic of hundreds of drays'. Route continued through Western District of Victoria past Mount Emu and Mount Elephant [these are a |

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| | | distance apart, they both would have been visible from a distance] to Melbourne to meet the rest of the party. |
| 1852 Jan - Feb | Blake L J - Gold Escorts , quoting McLaren's survey fieldbooks, report & maps, pub 1971, pp 31- | Detail of McLaren's survey - with relevant observations re terrain, water, river crossings, locations, land holders, etc as far as Heifer Station Creek (Navarre) as <i>"With the road ahead so clearly defined and well used, to proceed further would be pointless"</i> . <i>"The survey work was easy (along the Wimmera River). This was the main Wimmera road which, if one wished, could be followed upriver across to Burnbank, then south-east to Geelong. It was another station and teamster track for supplies and loading wool down country. This way had come all over-landing diggers in the past few months; numerous parties passed Maclaren's men frequently now."</i> NB: The Gold Escort route did not reach as far south as Burnbank, but took a short cut via Moonambel. (see entry 1852 Feb 10 for Tolmer) |
| 1852 ? | Blake L J - Gold Escorts pub 1971 quoting account in 'By Bullock Dray to Bendigo, in Educational Magazine , Melbourne, November 1954, p 444 | <i>"John Kentish and his mate George claimed to have made the first crossing with Bullocks"</i> . Their dray carried <i>"a tent, bedding, provisions, mining tools, two single barrel guns, a pair of old-fashioned horse pistols, and a large supply of ammunition"</i> . <i>"Crossing the South Australian desert, they took it in turns to scout ahead for native wells or soaks. After clearing the scrub, they had to force the bullocks over 30 miles in one day to the next watering point, where the exhausted animals had to be rested for several days."</i> They saw several 'jaded and half-starved' horses abandoned. They lived 'quite well' 'off the country' and 'several times met small groups of Aboriginal nomads'. |
| 1852 Feb 3 | Ninnes, Thomas notebook - SLSA D7054(L) | Thomas Ninnes (b 1813) family, John Thomas family, Joseph Ninnes family Thomas Thomas, John ROACH (all related) and William / Wilhelm BRUCE / BRUSE - Left Burra for Vic goldfields - Route via Coorong, Tilley's Flat, McIntosh's, Mt Arapiles, Horsham, Daisy Hill, Bullock Creek. Account written in retrospect. <i>"Brother Joseph and myself bought 2 horses and dray. Brother Joseph wife and Wm ROACH in our dray, John THOMAS, sister Mary (b 1805) [THOMAS, wife of John] and family in Hasset bullock dray, self, wife and three children in John THOMAS 2nd bullock dray. At the hind part of the dray we had a coope of fowls Feed and watered them in a trough outside of the bars of the coope"</i> . <i>We locked up our furnituere up in one house and let two. We went on to Kapunda, Angastown, Colingrove Mr Angas Station fine land all about near Angaston. We gote to the Ready [Reedy] Creek Mine and on the sandy bank of the Murray River A most peaceful road Reached the Wellington on a hot thirsty day and sum took a little too much Porter at the Publick House We crossed the Murray on the Punt two drays at a time There is a strong cable roape fastened at each side of the river at the landing places, drawn tight across the river It runs over rowlers on the bulwarks of the punt The men puls at this rope The stronger you pull the faster the punt goos A fine sheet of soft water You could see that it was running towards the sea by anything on the surface of the water About one fourth of a mile wide ... We reached the Policemans Wells MacGraths Flat the Corong A good many blacks They gote us plenty of nice fish for flour, sugar and tea. We got on to BAKERS Jackie WITES, Mackingtosh Mount Arples ... We had passed the Border One Publick House Very few settlers anywhere about Crossed the Wimmera at Salter WALDENs Station."</i> <i>"We had a splendid tent on our dray of close tick. All our bedding in fact it was as comfortable as a bedroome"</i> . |
| 1852 Feb 3 | Thomas, John Jr account - SLSA D7654(L) & Bill Thomas D7628(Lit Ms) - Also Hettie Smith 1980 | Same group as Thomas Ninnes above - <i>"Thomas Thomas, of Skilly, his brother John, of Burra, with his three sons, John, Wm. Henry, and James left with a party which included Thomas Ninnes, Joseph Ninnes, William Roach, and others from Burra."</i> <i>"The trek of bullock drays, horses and carts, left Auburn (Skilly) and Burra, passed through Kapunda and Angaston, crossing the River Murray at the Wellington punt. The Coorong natives were kind, exchanging fish in return for flour,</i> |

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| 1852 Feb 3 | <p>publication on Thomas family</p> <p>Rule, Charles Sandry - Log Book - SLSA D7486(L)</p> | <p><i>tea and sugar. The party passed through rough, poor, sandy country, Tilley's Flat and Horsham and on to Mt. Alexander, finally pitching their tents at Bullock Creek about eight miles from Long Gully, near Bendigo.</i>"</p> <p>Charles Rule (b 1826) left Burra with 4 other men + 10 yr old boy for Victorian goldfields - Route via Burra to Adelaide, through Glen Osmond south-east to Echunga, Macclesfield, crossing the Murray River at Wellington, Lake Albert, the Coorong, Tilley's station, Baker's, McIntosh's, Border Inn, Mt Arapiles, Wimmera River, Horsham, Glenorchy, McKinnon's Head Station, Loddon River, Mt Alexander. Party included Mr Dovey (?Davey) and Mr Sandry (presumed to be a relative - Charles <u>Sandry</u> Rule). Took horses and a bullock dray to carry their equipment and food. Near Lake Albert Rule "found a great many encamped by some waterhole dug into the sand". He described a 240 metre wide Murray River and good fresh water, ducks and fish, trading with Aborigines - in exchange for tobacco or money.</p> <p>SLSA holdings include transcript by Keith Herman - see webpage prepared by Di Cummings - http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/Burra-MtAlexander.htm</p> <p>NB: In 1982 Keith & Muriel Herman drove the route he describes & made a list of the likely (current) location names (See section on 'Recent Travellers' - www.cornishvic.org.au/overlandgold)</p> <p>From SLSA record: Charles Rule was a stonemason and wheelwright, and built some of the first cottages in Burra. He later became a well known builder in Adelaide.</p> |
| 1852 Feb (early) | <p>Leworthy, Malcolm Henry - "A Trip to the Victorian Diggings in 1852" (in 'South Australians at the Victorian Diggings, 1852, published in South Australiana Vol V, No 2, Sept 1966</p> | <p>Party of 5 including Malcolm Leworthy aged 19 from Yankalilla, a township 47 miles south of Adelaide, left from Hindmarsh Valley, near Victor Harbour. Partnership agreement between them. Route: Port Elliott, Goolwa, crossing the mouth of the Murray River by whale-boat belonging to a local fisherman. 'Blackfellow' acted as guide to watering places as far as McGrath's Flat. Beach travel proved difficult. Continued via "<i>Tilley's Swamp, Ten Mile Point, and the late Mr James Brown's Avenue Station, through the Musquito Planes (sic) and Border Town.</i>" [this is unlikely to be the contemporary Bordertown, a distance to the north - perhaps Apsley] "<i>We were not short of company during this and the remaining part of the journey. Hundreds of parties were, like ourselves, on the road to fortune in all kinds of vehicles, from the Bullock dray to the Donkey cart, and one man had the pluck to trundle a barrow with his goods and chattels all the way overland. We had to cross over the Grampians hills through the Wimmera district and making a bee line as near as possible for the Forest Creek diggings.</i>" Had 'fair luck', but returned 'home' in time for Christmas.</p> |
| 1852 Feb 6 | <p>Marshall, John Ham account (handwritten transcription by his grand-daughter Bessie Wheaton Brice) - SLSA D7468(L) - deposited in approximately 1932</p> | <p>Left North Adelaide for Vic goldfields. Route - via Mt Barker and German Town (Hahndorf) where they sold 1 horse and bought two good bullocks to cope with the hills. Crossed Murray River at Wellington, bought fish from 'the black's and swam in Lake Alexandrina. Coorong. Other references to trading with 'natives', eg biscuits for gathering wood and water. Combined with 5 or 6 other parties to get through swamp near Salt Creek. Tilley's Flat, Baker's Station, Mt Arapiles, Horsham, [On 8 March met Tolmer Gold Escort - camped on Wimmera River near Grampians, (Horsham)] Loddon River where camped and rested to arrive on 1st day of March (licence period). One thunderstorm the only rain all journey. Mr Marshall, Mr Goss, Mr Williams, Mr Edgecombe, Mr Butcher, Mr Hoggits</p> <p>Marshall was from Launceston in Cornwall where the family had been leather tanners and farmers, and in Adelaide he had a business in King William Street, Adelaide, supplying leather goods. On March 5, one month after he left, his wife died and their daughter, aged 12, was cared for by a local family until his return. There is a record of him sending 33 oz of gold with the 3rd Gold Escort in July 1852. Transcript, and presumably the diary, ends with entry 25 March 1852</p> |
| 1852 Feb 10 | <p>Various, including</p> | <p>Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer left Adelaide to establish mounted police escort from Victoria's central</p> |

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| | <p>Clyne, Robert - A History of the South Australian Police Force 1836-1916 p 111</p> <p>Further detail of Tolmer's first route given in Blake L J - Gold Escort, pub 1971</p> | <p>goldfields. Accompanied by two constables, a native guide (procured at Wellington) and pack horse, Tolmer headed out on the direct route being surveyed by McLaren (see 23 Jan). Took 10 days (Clyne says 8 days from Wellington - presume 2 from Adelaide). Route via Mount Barker & Langhorne's, to Wellington, then Binnies Well, Two Wells, Bordertown (then Scott's Woolshed), Mount Arapiles, Horsham, along the Wimmera River to Glenorchy, Navarre, Moonambel, to Adelaide Gully, Forest Creek</p> <p>Meanwhile, M/C William Rowe had left Adelaide on 9 February "with the police cart and three horses to make his way along the overland mail route through Mount Gambier and Portland" and continuing on to meet Tolmer at Mt Alexander [route from Portland not specified - but Ham's Squatting map and others show several options available]. He (Rowe) was joined by a trooper withdrawn from each of Wellington, Mosquito Plains and Mount Gambier posts. (NB: Check reference to travellers meeting the troopers in vicinity of Mt Alexander)</p> |
| 1852 Feb | <p>Clyne, Robert - A History of the South Australian Police Force 1836-1916 p 111</p> | <p>Account of first gold escort: <i>Encountering a great deal of traffic on the road to Wellington, where he camped the first night, he recorded overtaking numerous parties heading to the gold-fields 'in almost every description of vehicle'. During February the Wellington ferry carried some 1,234 passengers, 1,266 horses and bullocks and 164 carriages. £64 in fees was collected.</i></p> |
| 1852 Feb 10 | <p>Blake L J - Gold Escort, pp 43-51 referring heavily on Tolmer's papers and various other references</p> | <p>Details of Tolmer's first Gold Escort journey, which (as per MacLaren's survey party - see entry Jan-Feb 1982) provides observations on terrain, water, river crossings, locations, land holders, etc - as far as Heifer Station Creek (Navarre).</p> <p>The section of Blake's account of Tolmer's journey from Glenorchy is summarised here:</p> <p>From Glenorchy followed "the main line of route from Wimmera to Melbourne or Geelong" but, on reaching Green's station, 12 miles from Glenorchy, "Tolmer took the track to the left to avoid travelling as far south as Burnbank" (saving approx 20 miles). "On a gum tree fork he cut a notice: 'Take to the left' for the benefit of MacLaren and all overlanders following him. The ride to the Navarre Inn was an easy one, through well-watered, timbered country."</p> <p>From Navarre they took the "northern track [around the Pyrenees Range] which twisted circuitously through valleys of the foothills, skirting the main range that lay to the right, and passed through a gap in the Range (Moonambel)." ..</p> <p>"After forwarding the Avoca River (just north of present day Avoca) the troopers road east, through stringybark and box country, to McNeils' (Bet Bet) Creek" south of Carisbrook and crossed Mount Greenock (McCallum's) Creek "approximately where Craigie is now". They continued on through 'Rodborough Vale' then owned by Edward Bucknall and "forded the Deep (Tullaroop) Creek a few hundred yards below the homestead". (Later a toll bridge was built there, but the escorts always passed through without charge - the bridge is now underneath Tullaroop Dam).</p> <p>They crossed Middle Creek, the boundary between Bucknall's Rodborough Vale and Alfred Joyce's Plaistow, to the north of Mount Tarrangower. "Joyce spoke of the track that went past his front gate as 'the main road from Adelaide'". Beyond Plaistow they 'crossed another plain before they reached the Major's Line' bullock track cut by Major Mitchell's drays in 1836, "which curved in an arc north-east through Green Gully to a crossing place on Barker's Creek, just north of where Commissioner William Henry Wright had established his camp, offered the shortest route to the goldfields. To the north-east, from the intersection of the Adelaide Road and the Major's Line, the thickly-timbered mass of Mount Alexander stood out clearly."</p> |
| 1852 Feb 19 | <p>Clyne, Robert -</p> | <p>First Gold Escort arrived at Mt Alexander - distance 360 miles. 'Unsurveyed and through dense scrub and desert, it was a remarkable feat.'</p> |

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| 1852 Feb 23 1852 early - date not given | Blight, Brian - Cornish Farmers at Open Range Blake L J - Gold Escort pub 1971, p20 reference not given | Moyses, Trestrail, Blight, Rundle left Clare for Vic goldfields (returning for Xmas 1852). Route tbc. <i>"Hampshire-born Henry Robb Hyde and five companions loaded several drays and overlanded to Forest Creek, moving to Bendigo field when the rush set in in early 1852. The horses for which they had paid £10 apiece in South Australia brought £65-70 in Victoria."</i> |
| 1852 Mar 5 | Blake, Leslie James - Gold Escorts in Australia , Rigby, 1978 and others | 1 st return journey of Tolmer's Gold Escort from Forest Creek (Castlemaine) - via Plaistow, Daisy Hill, McKinnons, Navarre, Longrenong, North of Horsham, Polkemmet, North of Mt Arapiles, across Little Desert to McKinley's Well, Tattiarra Station, Victoria / South Australian Border, Scott's Woolshed, west to Monster Mount, Two Wells, Limestone Well, Reedy Well, Binnies Lookout, Hawks Nest, Perkindoo, Wellington and on to Adelaide. |
| 1852 Mar 8 | Marshall, John Ham account (handwritten transcription) - SLSA D7468(L) | On 8 March met Tolmer Gold Escort - camped on Wimmera River near Grampians, (Horsham) |
| 1852 'early' | Faull, Jim - The Cornish in Australia , pub 1983 referring to Trevena, John - Reminiscences of a journey to the Victorian Diggings , in Kapunda Herald , 22 June 1928 | William Trevena, wife Jane & 6 children, 3 Trevena relatives and a fellow miner and his wife. <i>"They had 2 bullock teams and 3 horse, one of which John Henry rode most of the way. The horses and bullocks had to swim across the Murray River, while the families were paddled across by Aborigines in canoes. The bullock drays were pulled across the river by Aborigines on the opposite bank."</i> <i>"Trevena recounted the troubles associated with the long drive through the 'ninety mile desert' (now Coonalpyn Downs), the difficulties of crossing the River Loddon which was so rough the bullocks could not get a footing, and tedious daily progress that lasted for seven weeks before the party reached Bendigo."</i> Found gold - <i>"12 months later they were back in Kapunda with sufficient money to buy small farm"</i> . (John Trevena was 8 years old at the time.) Faull notes that during 1851 & early 1852 migrants to the goldfields were mainly from within Australia. |
| 1852 'early' | Family history records - also South Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc Newsletter Sept 2010 Vol 2 No 33 | Edward Martyn Delbridge b.1808 St. Agnes (stonemason) with wife Mary (nee Pearce) and 7 children arrived SA 1850 and went to Burra where another child was born. Made the trek from Burra to the Mt Alexander Goldfields in early 1852. Oral history is that mother, baby and the girls rode in the wagon and father and the boys walked. At night the boys slept under the wagon. At some stage there was a minor problem with some aborigines. They did well on the goldfields and set up a successful building /contracting business in Fitzroy. Of interest is that the camp oven used by Mary was given to the Burra Museum many years ago. |
| 1852 possibly April | Gaston, Rebecca - letter to husband Charles on the Victorian goldfields – family records | Letter of 18 Jul 1852, in response to letter received that day from husband Charles on the Victorian goldfields refers to her <i>'being unhappy hearing that you had a very bad journey overland ... nearly all lost in crossing the wimer (Wimmera) River'</i> . Letter contains details about others travelling to and from the goldfields and how to make contact with them, also delivery of items such as leather bag, blanket, boots, mattress etc. Second letter of 23 Aug 1852 refers to letter from Charles saying he will not return overland nor by sea! [date for journey allows for approx. 8 weeks travel, time taken for post, plus 10 days delay in Gawler before receipt] |
| 1852 Apr 26 | Olive Schneider - research for The Albert Family History 1821-1983 , and Ray Deutscher - Deutscher - A Family History 1848-1986 | Group of nine families left Rosenthal (now Rosedale, north-east of Gawler) to travel overland to Portland. They had 11 <i>"covered wagons, some drawn by horses and some by bullock"</i> . <i>"Between them they had 52 head of stock, some fowls, the wheat they had grown and gristed as well as their personal effects."</i> During the 6-week journey, they lived mainly on bread. One of the connected families travelled by ship to watch the possessions and equipment sent by the party by sea. Account given in letter to parents by one of the travellers indicates crossing the Murray River, sandy desert, little |

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| | (excerpt only) | water but finding enough in dug-out holes, many lakes with abundant bird life, changing landscape including wide plains and closer to Portland, forest. All arrived safely. [This group was intending to settle in the Portland area and not search for gold, but it is included to indicate the size of some of the groups travelling and the route used at the time]. |
| 1852 Apr 30 | Ragless, Margaret - An ankerchief of 'erth , 1986 | Oliver Ragless & group (5 brothers and 2 brothers-in-law), see Jan 23 for journey to goldfields: Return journey by different 'Gold Escort' route (northern) route. Met several overland parties, and the MacLaren survey party on 4 May 1852 west of Navarre. Close to Mount Alexander, " <i>Kept the line easily as trees are chopped on both sides</i> ", but surveyor's line not so easy to follow in the Wimmera. " <i>Wimmera River running level with the top of the bank when first crossed</i> ", but when crossing it further on, the flood had not come down so far. |
| 1852 May 8 | Chaplin, Newton - Reminiscences - family records | NB: Second journey of Mr Chaplin and Mr Blackwell (1 st journey mid Dec 1851)NB: NB: Again with Mr Blackwell (and possibly others of the original group), engaged a Mr Solly to take them and their belongings to the goldfields at £30 per ton. Mr Blackwell and Mr made two wooden houses to be erected and taken down easily on the goldfields. Other names not given. Party had 4 drays and 32 bullocks. Route: via Coorong (perhaps as a result of hardship experienced on 1 st journey). Had only reached Macclesfield when it began to rain - beginning 'one of the wettest winters' and they were forced to walk almost all the way, and crossing creeks and rivers became so difficult or impossible to cross and they had to wait until they subsided, that it took 15 weeks and 4 days, far longer than 1 st journey. Along the Coorong supplied with mussels and other fish by the 'natives'. Mentions Mr Budd (was he on 1 st journey?) Includes details of diggings at Forest Creek & Campbell's Creek. Mr & Mrs Baker & Mrs & Mrs Mathews joined them in Forest Creek, having come via ship from Adelaide to Melbourne. |
| 1852 May | Blake, L J - Gold Escort , pub 1971, quoting Diary of Charles Homes, May 1852 in SLSA D 3787/1 (L) | Charles Holmes, took 'northern' route of Bonney, Hawdon & Eyre [bringing stock from Sydney, discovery], to the north east, along the Murray River as far as Swan Hill where there was a punt to cross the river, and then along the Loddon (a tributary of the Murray) to the goldfields. " <i>A longer route, but assured water supplies for horses and bullocks all the way.</i> " |
| 1852 Jun | Eamer, John Harman letters - SLSA PRG1153/1 | Two items in collection of letters: 'Experiences Forest Creek gold diggings, June 1852' and 'Return from the diggings, January 1853 experiences'. (not sighted - details of travel unknown) |
| 1852 Oct 9 | Payton, Phillip - The Cornish Overseas , 2 nd Ed'n 2005, p 236-7 | Whitford brothers, John, James & William - <i>Travelled by bullock dray - arriving Daisy Hill diggings on 10 Nov 1852. On the way, loaded up with flour & bacon at Macclesfield. Were troubled by lack of feed and water for the bullocks, complained 'bitterly of mosquitoes'. Swampy country was difficult to negotiate. On one occasion, bullocks 'bolted into the bush & they spent the best part of the weekend rounding them up'. (also quoted in Cornish Miner in Australia (Cousin Jack Down Under) pub 1984</i> |
| 1852 Oct - Nov | http://www.murrayriver.com.au/paddleboats/river-boat-trail-wellington/ | During October and November the Wellington punt over the Murray River serviced 3000 passengers, 361 carriages and 2777 draught oxen. |
| 1852 Late (estimated) | Foyle, Roger (Foyle family history) | Cook Spencer (Yorkshire) and his wife Fanny (nee Foyle) (Wiltshire) sometime following the birth of their second child (1 June 1852) ' <i>sold their property, loaded what they thought they would need onto a dray and with their two small children joined the long trek to the goldfields ..</i> ' Thought to have travelled via Strathalbyn, Wellington, along the Coorong and stopped a few days in Kingston area and on to Campbells Creek (Castlemaine) and then Pleasant Creek (Stawell). In the late 1850's Fanny's sister Sarah Spencer (the sisters married two brothers) and her family ' <i>with their belongings</i> |

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| 1852, possibly 1851 | Baird, Thomas – obituary in The Register , 9 Dec 1910 | <i>and two children in a dray, along with many others, heading toward the goldfields along the track that was to become the Western highway.'</i> Mr Baird, from Fifeshire, Scotland, arrived in Australia in 1837 and after some time in Adelaide, bought land in Kapunda in the early days of copper mining there. <i>'When the Victorian gold diggings broke out, Mr. Baird and his brother took eight passengers from Kapunda in a bullock dray having sold his land to Mr James White for £5. After his return he started carting on the Burra road, but soon settled down to grazing and agriculture ...'</i> |
| Date not given | Blake L J - Gold Escorts pub 1971, p20 quoting (Coulson, Helen, Horsham Centenary Souvenir , Horsham 1949 | <i>"Irishman John Bodey, with six mates tramped all the way. John was so impressed with the fine plains eh saw near the village of Horsham and Taylor's Creek (Longrenong) that 20 years later he returned to settle as a successful farmer at Longrenong.</i> |
| 1853 not given | Faull, Jim - The Cornish in Australia , pub 1983 | Benjamin & Eliza Ware, from Cornwall, arrived Adelaide 1850. With two sons "overlanded with a bullock cart to Forest Creek" |
| 1853 Aug | Trevithick, Henry and family with other families (see also entry for late 1851) - family history | In August 1853 with several other families, Henry, wife Elizabeth (nee Pascoe) and family left Burra to return to Avoca, travelling overland with horses, drays, wagons, food, supplies, etc, settling there, buying land, building a home and in late 1855 opening a General Store. John Pascoe, younger brother of Elizabeth Trevithick, and his family also left Burra and travelled overland to Avoca area between 1855-1857. |
| Not given | Blake L J - Gold Escorts pub 1971, p 16 quoting Kimberley, W B - Bendigo and Its Vicinity , 1895 | Adelaide chemist J Nelson Jones packed up in .. (December 1851) .. and departed to Forest Creek but, disillusioned by his lack of success, returned. Shocked by the appearance of 'the deserted city' of Adelaide and its dearth of financial prospects, he took the overland route to the diggings. |
| Not given | Folland, Charles French, in Keesing Nancy (Ed) - History of the Australian Gold Rushes , 1971 | Joined a party on account of a friend. Others included a watchmaker, a butcher and "a bushman who was to be our guide". <i>"Of such incongruous material as ours, were many of the parties composed. So it could not be otherwise, the accidents would occur in rout".</i> Little detail of route, but includes references to events he had heard of (man killed by dray pole, burial place of white man killed by aborigines, etc) and descriptions of group dynamics. [Folland, a farmer, migrated to Australia from Barnstaple, Devon in 1839. This journey was the first of two overland trips he made to the diggings. He was approximately 36 years of age at the time.] |
| Not given | Morris, Thomas – obituary published in The (South Australian) Advertiser 2 Oct 1917 | Born in Gulval, Cornwall, and came to Australia with his father in 1847. His father, W L Morris, began a coach building business in Adelaide in 1849 which the family continued successfully for some time after his death 1882. <i>'At the time of the gold rush to Victoria, Mr Thomas Morris, with his father and brother, built a waggon (sic) and set off with a bullock team overland to the diggings. After mining for some months without much luck they sold out their teams and sailed from Melbourne to Adelaide in a sailing boat, which arrived after five weeks' tossing about the ocean and a narrow escape from shipwreck'.</i> |