

The Four Thousand

“The Four Thousand” is a locality on the Maleny to Woodford Road past Booroobin as you drop off the Conondale Range. It runs down to Cedarton at the junction of the Beerwah to Kilcoy Road. (This road was known as the Peachester to Upper Stanley Rive Rd where the Northern Highway main Gympie Rd came through this area).

The Parish of Durundur Land Agents Map of 1954 shows its location. Why was this locality named “The Four Thousand”?

Well, according to notes by John Charles Ferris it became known by this name after a teamster (bullocky) named Pointon in the late 1860s was looking for cedar along the Stanley River and also found good grass land. Word got around that Pointon had discovered good grassland beyond the scrub and Durundur Station owners applied to select the area but were refused because the Closer Settlement Act had been passed through Parliament.

Crown Lands Department sent the Crown Lands Ranger to inspect the area and he estimated there were 4,000 acres so the Department granted the Station a lease of 4,000 acres. The Station always referred to the area as “The Four Thousand”. When Durundur Station was subdivided and sold for closer settlement in the 1890s the 4,000 lease reverted back to the Crown and it also was subdivided and offered for settlement.

Settlers included Frank Gordon on Portions 222 & 223, Norman Bleakley on Portions 224, 381 and 382. Charles Ferris on Portion 238 and his brother Allen on Portion 237. All of these portions are still marked on the 1954 map. John Charles Ferris was the son of Charles Ferris.

Previously this area was known as Pointon’s Pocket after the bullocky, but was changed by the PMG to Cedarton due to another exchange named Pointon’s Pocket. Pointon obtained a licence to cut cedar and had to move it all out into the flat area before his licence expired. The station hands started calling it “Cedar Flat” and even today some may know the area as Cedar Flat.

So when somebody talks about “The Four Thousand” you’ll know it’s an area on the Maleny to Woodford Rd.

(Research by Maureen Glover of the Landsborough Museum & written by Bill Johnston, 1999)