

62/1609 W. Lauderdale 20 June  
Bunnawannah

Barley River 1 June 1862  
Report of arrival at Bunnawannah  
and route of Expedition

I do myself the honor to inform you  
that the Expedition party under my command  
arrived here yesterday in safety and in  
good health

From the Gulf of Carpentaria we came  
in search of Burke's party without dif-  
ficulty to Gregory's route from Darwin  
to South Australia to a point within 100  
miles of a point marked 1<sup>st</sup> Depot on the  
route of Burke on the map which shows  
the different routes explored

our route from the Gulf of Carpentaria  
to Gregory's route to South Australia  
and

To His Honor the  
The Honble Secretary  
Adelaide

W. Lauderdale  
62/1609  
Bunnawannah  
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and the routes of other deep lands demon  
since the fact that sheep Calves and  
Horses can be taken at a summer coast  
and in the finest condition from  
both Australia Victoria and New South  
Wales and the inland districts of various  
land to stock the country near the  
Bay of Parapetana, or for exportation to  
India or elsewhere

The road we came was as easy from  
the arching of the pastures and the abundance  
of water that a foal named Flinders from  
his having been foaled on the Thunders River  
followed his mother most busily from the  
time he was a few hours old until his  
arrival here

When we were on Gungah road to  
South Australia and for some time  
previously we took many opportunities  
of enquiring from the Blacks respecting the  
explorer they had seen. This we were  
enabled

to do as Secumy the Native (Plover) would  
speak that language - we learned from  
them that they had seen during the last  
two months explorers talked (I understand) but  
that they had seen none with larger  
animals than horses

I am sorry to have to inform you that  
our familiarity at last led to our having  
a hostile collision with them on the Bercoo  
River - near where the blacks attempted  
treacherously to take Mr. Euzap party  
by surprise during the night - they had  
to take us at night by surprise - if  
they had succeeded they would no doubt  
have overpowered us, but it was during  
Secumy the Native (Plover) and as  
he always kept his watch well he would  
us when they were within a few yards of  
our fire, and was fortunately succeeded in  
driving them away, and morning very  
early - two of them came near our camp  
at my request Secumy warned them to  
leave

us for that and we had a most hostile  
feeling towards them, instead of their showing  
the least symptom of pleasure, they got  
their companions who were in an  
heavily armed with clubs and the army  
saw to join them, under these circumstances  
stones were fired upon them - we doing  
so and we following them up as far as  
when the horses were feeding one of them  
was shot and another slightly wounded  
us this by -

I had very little opinion from  
Walker's previous discoveries as he had  
left instructions - that while his chart and  
Journal was in Captain Rowland's charge  
no one shall be allowed to take notes  
from them - I tried to follow Mr Walker's  
tracks to the Flanders River where he reported  
he had left the tracks of Bentley's party, after  
an <sup>unsuccessful</sup> <sup>effort</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>reach</sup> <sup>them</sup> <sup>by</sup>  
tracing them for four days we reached  
plains near the Lichard River, where

much rain had fallen on the red soft soil that it was impossible to trace them farther.

From the Suchell River we travelled over well watered country to the Henderson River then travelled up that River through fine rich pastoral country to about latitude 20° 30' from there we ascended Bowen Downs a few miles - the Creek and the River that watered that country I knew previously to a certain point down the River, but beyond this point I did not know where the River flowed, on this Expedition I followed it down to near its junction with the Bencos River (formerly known as the Victoria and Cooper River) and discovered it to be the Thompson River, after leaving the well watered country of Bowen Downs with the assistance of one of the blacks of that locality we came <sup>through</sup> a few miles country to the Bencos River - then without following the

was further or searching ahead for water  
we went across to the Warrayo River without  
the horses being for a day and part of a night  
without water - the country is therefore I should  
be doubtful as the whole well watered -

From the Warrayo River we tried to go  
to the South eastward but found not  
knowing the country we returned from such  
finding water, on this occasion although  
the weather was cold - the horses suffered  
very much - we travelled almost incessantly  
day and night in going from and returning  
to water the horses were without water for  
72 hours - in returning we found water  
in a creek in which we found no water  
at the place we crossed it in our outward  
route - if I had had plenty of provisions I  
probably would have marched with one  
of the Aborigines for water before taking  
the whole  
the whole of the horses on a journey of that  
kind

kind - afterwards we followed the river down  
to near Kinnedy's XIX camp to the station of  
Messrs Williams where we received a most  
hospitable reception, learned the melancholy  
fate of Messrs Barber and Wells, sold some  
expedition supplies which we thought we  
should not require anymore and bought  
substance to take us <sup>to</sup> here -

Following the Hudson River up from the  
Gulf of Parpentaria it took us for a long dis-  
tance in a <sup>more</sup> westerly than easterly direction  
then in a more easterly than westerly direction  
about 20 miles below where we left the Hudson  
River we saw bear tracks which were probably  
made by Mr Walker's party when on his way to  
from the Nelson River to the deposit at the Gulf  
of Parpentaria - when we saw the mouth of Walker's  
party the channel was about 120 yards wide  
with a sandy bed and a shallow stream  
of water flowing along the surface - lower  
down and higher up the River we saw the  
rich tracks of deer or caribou, and on going  
Borson

cleansed similar tanks - we had so little  
meat that we would have had hard to  
have found the time to kill it for provisions  
if I had not thought from seeing the tracks  
of a dog in the same locality that we  
were near a station -

The point where we reached the  
Barcos River in latitude  $24^{\circ} 37'$  is  
nearly south from where we left the Flinders  
River -

Several times during the course of our  
journey from the Gulf of Carpentaria  
Gleson, Jimmy the Nalutahut trooper,  
and the aborigine Jimmy Fisherman were  
invaluable, this was owing I think no doubt in  
a great measure if not altogether from the  
action I think being insufficient, our  
usual ration was a pint of flour in bad  
condition and barely half a pound of  
spoiled meat <sup>without tea nor sugar</sup> per day - the amount of  
of returns will show that the quantity I  
obtained



our staying would not admit of my opening  
a larger quantity - the remainder of us, namely  
Sally an aborigine Mr Brown and myself did  
not lose our health from this voyage -

After ascending the Wacaya River seeing the  
Native Polio troops unfortunately by some the  
fire as a party night that his shell caught  
fire and burnt him severely so much so that  
he was obliged to quit the river in continuing the  
journey to head -

Last night I learned from the Keuffen  
that Mr Martin had received instructions to  
wait for us at the Dept on Cooper's Creek. If  
I had known that there would have been  
a Dept there I would have gladly gone to it  
from the Thomson River - Now I intend  
proceeding down the River to Morinda where  
I intend if necessary to take the most advisable  
mode to let Mr Martin know of our arrival  
from the Gulf of San Pedro -

I might have sent a letter off yesterday  
day

day to the neighbouring States if I had only  
known that the Postman had been delayed  
from starting from there until this morning

There is a Camel on this Plain which  
I will endeavor to get and take to Menindee  
Mr Brown who is a good bushman  
could a good guide of country  
Mr Brown who has read this letter

does not think that I have given a too  
favourable an account of the country along  
our route from the Bay of Conception -

When I reach Town I will make a  
release of the money I received from Messrs  
Williams for the Impetuous Store - a copy  
of my Journal and a sketch showing our  
Route

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

W. Landsborough  
Commander of the Victorian  
& Queensland Expedition from  
Brisbane -

List of Provisions received at the Depot  
Cape Wapentane on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1862

40 lb Peas

96 lb Salt Beef

40 lb Rice

268 lb damaged Salted Beef

37 lb Bacon very much damaged

650 lb Flour

10 lb Biscuit (broken)

18 lb Tobacco

90 lb Flour

40 lb Sugar } from Expedition to the North Coast

These provisions were all the Party consisting  
of 6 persons up to the 21 May 1862 the date  
of our arrival at the Station of Messrs Williams  
on the Warrigou.