

A Thousand Choice Fruit Trees to Dispose of: Nurserymen in the colonies 1804 - 1854

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One of the unexplored areas of Australian culinary history is the place of colonial nurserymen (and the documentary evidence is that they were all men) in developing the precondition for all that fruit that was eaten - fresh, jammed, preserved, stewed, pied, souped, roasted and chutneyed - and the orchards, home garden or commercial enterprises in which to cultivate the fruit.

I stumbled across Thomas Shepherd and his Darling Nursery and wrote about him as *The Oldest Professed Gardener in The Colony*.¹ Writing it I came across other nurserymen/gardeners/seedsman, the earliest being George Suttor in 1804.²

TO BE SOLD, At Mr. SUTTOR's NURSERY, Baulkham Hills. A Variety of Young FRUIT TREES, &c, consisting of Apples, Pears, Early Peaches, Figs, Apricots, a few Almonds of a particular fine sort from the Cape, Pomegranates, Lemons, Locusts, Raspberries, large Chily Strawberries, Bearing Quinces, Willows, &c. N, B, Orchards Planted if required.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 20 May 1804 p.4

I determined to bring to Australian culinary histories what I could find about these men and their enterprises. This article is the result of my investigation. I have limited my research to the fruits cultivated by the nursery men, though some also sold vegetable, herb and flower seeds.³

I searched *Trove*, the repository of digitised newspapers, magazines and journals managed by the National Library of Australia, finding that virtually all references to them had to be gleaned from advertisements for their nurseries, letters to the editor by them or by others about them or writings of others about orcharding in the colony in which they were mentioned. In the case of Thomas Shepherd there were also the posthumously published two volumes of his public lectures on horticulture in New South Wales and landscaping.^{4 5}

¹ Van Reyk, Paul, *Thomas Shepherd - the Oldest Professed Gardener in the Colony* compost.sydney 2023

² 'To be Sold' *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 20 May 1804 p.4. 'George Suttor is generally considered to be the first nurseryman in Australia ... In 1798 he was put in charge of eighteen boxes of plants to take to the Colony of New South Wales...[after some delays] he arrived in Australia in November 1800...he took up 186 acres of land he was granted at Baulkham Hills ... he called the property Chelsea Farm ... in the *Sydney Gazette* of May 1804 George Suttor advertised for sale a variety of young fruit trees.' McMaugh, Judy, *Living Horticulture. The lives of men and women in the New South Wales nursery industry*, Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT, 2006 pp. 1-2

³ 'The culinary and flower seeds of the present season being now collected and arranged in appropriate packets, with the English and botanic names to each, a favourable opportunity is presented to gentlemen desirous of stocking their gardens, especially those proceeding to Port Philip and the other late settlements in New Holland'. 'Denmark Hill Nursery', *The Hobart Town Courier* 26 February 1836 p.3

⁴ Shepherd, Thomas, *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Delivered at the Mechanics' School of Arts* 1835 and Thomas Shepherd, *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia*, 1836

⁵ Shepherd's wasn't the only publication of advice for horticulture in the colonies. In June 1838 Daniel Bunce published the first monthly part of a *Manual of practical Gardening adapted to the Climate of Van Dieman's Land. Containing Plain and Familiar Directions for the Management of the Kitchen, Fruit, and Flower Garden, Nursery, Green-House, and Forcing Department. For every month of the year*. In 1838 he was writing a *Guide to the Flora of Van Dieman's Land*. I found no evidence that it was published.

By way of an introduction: colonial fruits

The first European fruits brought to Australia arrived with the First Fleet in 1778. The Fleet made two stops to collect various provisions for the sea journey and also to begin farming and orcharding in the colony with a view to having the colony able at the earliest to produce its own basic foods. It has to be said that this provisioning was based on no knowledge of the soil, water or other conditions for agriculture and horticulture in the colony.⁶ At Rio de Janeiro they took on board banana plants, cocconut, the eugenia or pomme rose (a plant bearing a fruit in shape like an apple, and having the flavour and odour of a rose), lemon - seeds and plants, and oranges – seeds and plants. At the Cape of Good Hope they took on board apples, peas, quinces - young trees and seeds, figs and strawberries.⁷

From here the variety and number of fruit trees in the colony increased exponentially. By 1804 nurseryman Suttor was selling almond, loquats, pomegranate and raspberry.⁸ By 1817 Birch was selling English gooseberry, white or red currant, plum, and grape vines.⁹ By 1825 Joseph Kenyon was selling: filberts, medlars, peach, apricot, cherry, nectarine, mulberry, walnut, chestnut and elderberry.¹⁰ In 1830 Thomas Shepherd is reported as having '27 different kinds of apple trees, and 20 varieties of the best pears, several of which are unknown in England'. In 1840 the whole of the stock of nurseryman F. Lipscombe was listed for sale among which were: 43 varieties of apples; 18 varieties pears; 21 varieties plums; 10 varieties peach; 15 varieties cherries; 2 varieties nectarines; 3 varieties currants; 2 varieties raspberries; 2 varieties filberts; 2 varieties walnuts; 2 varieties almonds; and 1 variety mulberries.¹¹

What qualifications did they have to be a nurseryman

Information on their horticultural backgrounds is scant.

Some presented work they had undertaken in England. Thomas Shepherd would be familiar to many from his Darling Nursery and his lectures in which he presents his professional landscaping and nursery work in England.¹² In 1845 C. W. seeking work declares himself 'A PRACTICAL Gardener who has had considerable experience in a neighbouring Colony, and obtained a Prize Medal from the Welsh Horticultural Society in 1838. The most satisfactory testimonials can be produced.'¹³ John Warren 'has had twenty-five years colonial experience'.¹⁴ George McEwin says he has had great experience in the various branches of Landscape Gardening in England¹⁵; Michael Guilfoyle describes himself as 'for some time Gardener to T. S. Mort, Esq.¹⁶ and formerly with Messrs. Knight and Ferry, Nurserymen London'.¹⁷

⁶ James Cook had spent little time on land in his journey and certainly had not investigated the conditions under which food would be produced in a future colony.

⁷ 'Plants and Seeds to Botany Bay', *firstfleetfellowship.org.au*.

⁸ 'To be Sold' *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 20 May 1804 p.4

⁹ 'Fruit Trees', *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter* 28 July 1817 p.1

¹⁰ 'Joseph Kenyon's Nursery', *The Australian* 2 June 1825 p.1

¹¹ 'Extensive Sale of Fruit and Forest Trees', *The True Colonist Van Dieman's Land Political Dispatch, and Agricultural and Commercial* 12 June 1840 p.2

¹² Thomas Shepherd, *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia*, 1836 pp.12 -15

¹³ 'To Horticulturists', *Adelaide Observer* 10 My 1845 p.5

¹⁴ 'John Warren', *The Sentinel* 23 July 1846 p.3

¹⁵ 'Glen Ewin Nursery', *Adelaide Observer* 1 June 1850 p.1

¹⁶ Thomas Mort was a Sydney based entrepreneur notable culinary-wise for solving the issue of refrigeration of products for export.

¹⁷ 'Exotic Nursery' *The Sydney Morning Herald* 30 November 1850 p.1

Some mentioned more local measures of expertise. Mr Dickenson of Hobart Town is described as a 'Nursery, Seedsman and Superintendent of the gardens of the Royal Tasmanian Horticultural Society.'¹⁸ Richard Hipkiss was 'the venerable and respected Secretary to the Floral and Horticultural Society'.¹⁹ Mr. Harris (had) 'obtained many prizes for his productions in Horticulture'.²⁰

Descriptions of their nurseries

Nurserymen's advertisements usually included a list of the plants they had for sale, sometimes mentioning the price, and often making claims for the superiority of their nursery.

For Sale, at William Furber's, Kissing Point, the following assortment of fruit trees, viz. orange trees from the bearing trees 10s each, Bengal and early Newington bearing trees 2s. 6d. each, cyder bearing trees 6s each, seedlings from plums, apple, and pears, for ready money only.²¹

NOTICE. WILLIAM HAWKINS begs leave very respectfully to inform the public in general, that he will be able in June next to supply those gentlemen, and others who may favor them with their commands, with the best description of fruit, consisting of apples, plums, cherries, etc., of every class and description, at a more reduced scale of price (calculated at the rate of thirty percent.) than any other nursey man can afford to produce in any part of the Colony.²²

Daniel Bunce in 1837 advertised that he was writing for publication '*A Brief Introduction to the Linnaean System of Botany*' and was 'now engaged in arranging the plants at his nursery in Botanic order and in the course of the season anticipates the pleasure of shewing growing specimens of each division—to the inspection and explanation of which the little volume will form a useful companion.'²³

John Raker's was the only advertisement I came across which suggests that nurserymen were experimenting with creating new varieties:

JOHN BAKER respectfully informs the gentlemen and settlers of this colony, that he has established a Nursery on his own Premises, on Dempsie's Island near Newcastle, where he has an extensive Fruit Orchard of the best peaches, nectarines, and apricots, in the colony, from which he has obtained several beautiful new varieties ...²⁴

Where they sourced their stock

The source of the nursery stock is rarely mentioned in the advertisements. I have listed above the plants the First Fleet brought to Australia but could find no information as to how these were managed or how nurserymen got saplings or cuttings from them for propagation.

Most advertisements I reviewed were for established nurseries so the source would be their own stock.

¹⁸ 'Fruit Trees and Plants from Hobart Town', *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* 12 July 1845 p.1

¹⁹ 'For Sale by Private Auction', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 11 May 1849 p.4

²⁰ 'To Nursery Men and Others', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 5 July 1851 p.4

²¹ 'For Sale at William Furber's', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 2 June 1810 p.2

²² 'Notice – William Hawkins', *The Sydney Herald* 29 April 1841 p.3

²³ 'Linnaean System of Botany', *The Tasmanian* 1 September 1837 p.8

²⁴ 'John Baker', *The Sydney Herald* 4 June 1842 p. 1

THOMAS SHEPHERD, Nurseryman, Sydney, intimates to the Public, that he has collected a few thousand of Cuttings, consisting of four varieties of hardy GRAPE VINES, which have borne abundant crops well in cold seasons, in sheltered situations, without being blighted.²⁵

They may have got stock from other orchardists or growers.

Mr Bailey has on hand nineteen thousand choice vine cuttings the genuine productions of Messrs McArthurs' Sydney establishment ...^{26 27}

Some, like Bunce, directly imported stock as he advertised in 1835:

LARGE IMPORTATION OF FRUIT TREES.

DANIEL BUNCE, Florist, Nursery and Seedsman &c, acquaints his Friends, and the Public in general, that he has received, per Medway, 15,549 forest and Fruit Trees, Flowering and other Shrubs, &c.²⁸

George Furber in his advertisement of 1841 'beg(ged) to assure those who may favour him with their orders that he can warrant the trees being equal in quality to any in the colony, having been enabled, by the kindness of his neighbours, to procure scions and buds from the choicest trees'.²⁹

Some on-sold stock from other nurseries.

Mr Bailey, Hackney Nursery has the pleasure to inform the public that he has been appointed sole agent in South Australia for Mr Dickerson ... and has arranged a regular supply of fruit trees, and of the choicest Tasmanian plants, English fruit and forest trees, rare shrubs, and culinary vegetable seeds, the genuineness and freshness of which can be relied upon.³⁰

Personal connections with nurserymen/ botanists and the like overseas were a source. *The South Australian Book Almanack* in 1853 said of nurseryman Bailey that he 'has an extensive correspondence with England and the colonies, and the garden is rich in exotic shrubs, and in flowers, as well as in fruits.'³¹ In 1853 'The Messrs Shepherd of the Darling Nursery told the public that they 'had received a case of plants from a correspondent in Tahiti, containing many specimens that are quite new in this Colony'.³²

²⁵ 'Grape Vine Cuttings' *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 2 June 1931 p.1

²⁶ 'Local Intelligence', *Adelaide Observer* 10 August 1844 p.5

²⁷ 'In 1844 it was probably William Macarthur and maybe a brother or father as the other 'Messrs'. William was very active in the plant trade, including grapes which I assume the quote implies, and several agricultural ventures. Eg:

<https://search.slnsw.gov.au/primo-explore/fulldisplay/ADLIB110373546/SLNSW>. My thanks to historian Jacqui Newling for the information on William Macarthur and for directing me to this resource.

²⁸ 'Large Importation of Fruit Trees' *Colonial Times* 4 August 1835 p.1

²⁹ 'Fruit Trees for Sale', *Australasian Chronicle* 27 April 1841 p.4

³⁰ 'Fruit Trees and Plants from Hobart Town', *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* 12 July 1845 p.1

³¹ 'South Australian Book Almanack', *South Australian* 23 November 1853 p.2

³² 'Botanical' *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23 November 1853 p.8

Promoting their nurseries

Nurserymen promoted their nurseries in three ways:

by advertising in the press to specific targets:

To New Emigrants, Connoisseurs and Horticulturists³³

those persons who may be desirous of improving or Laying out Orchards.³⁴

those Gentlemen and others who have favoured (the nurseryman) with their orders for fruit trees, &c. &c. during several years past.³⁵

by inviting visits to their nurseries:

Henry Baynton 'has a Thousand choice Fruit Trees to dispose of which can be seen with the fruit growing on them at this time, in his Nursery at Sandy Bay.'³⁶

The garden so agreeably situated in the immediate vicinity of Hobart town, with a very extensive collection of flowers, will be at all times open as a promenade for ladies and gentlemen on the same principle as the popular Nurseries round London.³⁷

MR. MORTIMER would respectfully invite Orchard planters to visit his nursery near the Queens Wharf, George Street, Parramatta.³⁸

and by catalogues.

(J. Bailey's) extensive catalogue of plants, as advertised in the Adelaide Observer of the 3rd May, has been re-printed, and is on sale at the office of the Observer, and at the Hackney Nursery - price 6d.³⁹

CATALOGUES of about two hundred varieties of Choice Vines, Fruit Trees, Ornamental Shrubs, Roses, Flower Roots, Herbaceous Plants, Garden Seeds, Flower Seeds, WITH THE PRICES AFFIXED TO EACH ARTICLE. To be had at Messrs. Stevenson and Mathewson, late Mr H. W. Mason, Collins street, Or Richmond Nursery. T. C. COLE.⁴⁰

Thomas Shepherd used the novel approach of offering strawberries and cream to visitors to the Darling Nursery. It isn't clear whether the visitors had to pay for this.

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

at the Darling Nursery Gardens, fresh every day.

³³ 'Select and Very Superior Fruit Trees' *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 1 May 1830 p.

³⁴ 'Cheap Meat and Vegetable Mart', *The Tasmanian* 25 February 1831 p.1

³⁵ 'Fruit Trees', *The Australian* 4 May 1827 p1

³⁶ 'Cheap Meat and Vegetable Mart', *The Tasmanian* 25 February 1831 p.1

³⁷ 'Denmark Hill Nursery', *The Hobart Town Courier* 26 February 1836 p.3

³⁸ 'Mr Mortimer ... Parramatta Chronicle and Cumberland General Advertiser 12 April 1845 p.3

³⁹ 'Hackney Nursery', *South Australian* 6 May 1845 p.2

⁴⁰ 'Richmond Nursery', *The Argus* 10 June 1851 p.2

WILL NOT LAST LONG⁴¹

So popular was it that when a second crop of strawberries was ready he advertised this again for just 10 days.⁴² This may have been a canny move on his part to play to people's fear of missing out.

John Heed took a different tack, false humility: 'John Heed is unwilling to puff his productions in the public papers — the numerous prizes he has received at past horticultural exhibitions— or, an inspection of his nursery, which he respectfully invites, he is convinced will fully prove his plants are worthy of the consideration and patronage of the public'.⁴³

The nurseries of some were popular with more than buyers.

The garden (of Daniel Bunce) is so agreeably situated in the immediate vicinity of Hobart town, with a very extensive collection of flowers, will be at all times open as a promenade for ladies and gentlemen on the same principle as the popular Nurseries round London. Some attracted more than just potential buyers.⁴⁴

'Mr Bailey's nursery at Hackney's eastern verge of the Park Land, is a favorite resort of the citizens.'⁴⁵

Some, like C. Ware offered a 'Liberal allowance to the trade' as inducement.⁴⁶

Auction sales

Plants were also sold at auction.

DARLING NURSERY

to sell by public auction, at the Nursery Newtown Road,

ON MONDAY, AUGUST 6,

At 11 o'clock.

15,000 FRUIT TREES,

SHRUBS, &c, including the best varieties of apple, pear, quince, mulberry, peach, nectarine, apricot, almond, plum, cherry, filbert, walnut, loquat, madura, guava, cherimolia, orange, lemon, citron, lime, 3000 morus multicaulis (two years old), ash, elm, oak, sycamore, lime or linden tree, Norfolk Island and Moreton Bay pine, Moreton Bay chestnut, &., &c.

Terms-Cash⁴⁷

Sometimes this was when the nurseryman was declared insolvent.

Bunce's Garden, Trees &c.

BY W. T. MACMICHAEL,

On the Premises, known as the Denmark Hill Nursery, on Friday the 5th April next, at 12 o'clock precisely, by order of the Assignee to the Estate of Mr. Daniel Bunce, as insolvent,

⁴¹ 'Strawberries and Cream', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 7 October 1850 p.7

⁴² 'Strawberries and Cream', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 5 December 1850 p.1

⁴³ 'John Heed' *The Cornwall Chronicle* 7 May 1851 p.281

⁴⁴ 'Denmark Hill Nursery', *The Hobart Town Courier* 26 February 1836 p3

⁴⁵ *The South Australian Book Almanack* (sic) 5 March 1850 p.2

⁴⁶ 'Clifton Nursery, Near Kensington', *South Australian Register* 12 June 1852 p.2

⁴⁷ 'Important Sale', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 2 July 1849 p.4

THE GARDEN, situated on the New Town Road, lately in the occupation of Mr. Bunce, containing about three and a half acres of land, in the best state of cultivation.

ALSO,
The Household Furniture

AFTER WHICH,
The whole of the fruit and forest trees, bulbs, &c. &c, in lots to suit purchasers.
Terms made known at the time of sale.⁴⁸

Horticultural consulting

Some nurserymen advertised their availability for assisting the orchardist to plan and plant their orchard.

The very many years (John Hardy) has been a practised gardener warrants him in offering his services. Estates can be laid out with taste and care.⁴⁹

Mr Curnow intends to visit the several districts around Adelaide, and will be happy to point out to any landed proprietor desirous to consult him, those sites which are suitable for orangeries, orchards, or gardens; his experience, especially as to orange cultivation, which is so different to that of ordinary planting and management, being such as (he trusts) may be relied on.⁵⁰

Staffing the nurseries

Other than themselves and their family nurserymen often needed assistants.

Wanted

A Working Gardener and Nursery man who will be required to act as overseer, and take the entire management of a farm. — None need apply who do not understand gardening in all its branches. Respectable references will be required.⁵¹

Wanted Immediately.

TO GARDENERS.- A Person having a Farm in the vicinity of Maitland, is anxious to establish on it a Nursery for Fruit Trees. A Gardener competent to undertake and manage a concern of this kind may meet with an engagement with the advertiser, upon the following conditions:-

Period of service, three years.

Wages per annum, £10

Rations (for one)

The Gardener to be entitled to have the number of trees raised by him on the intended Nursery.⁵²

⁴⁸ 'Bunce's Garden, Trees &c', *Colonial Times* 5 March 1839 p.2

⁴⁹ 'Nursery and Horticultural Garden at West Maitland', *The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser* 12 July 1841 p.3

⁵⁰ 'To Horticulturalists' *Adelaide Observer* 10 Maa 1845 p.5

⁵¹ *The True Colonist Van Dieman's Land Political Dispatch, and Agricultural and Commercial* 6 October 1837 p'729

⁵² 'Wanted Immediately', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 18 August 1840 p.3

Experienced gardeners advertised their availability.

WANTED, by an experienced Gardener, Nurseryman and Seedsman, who understands the culture of a Garden in all its branches, a situation in that capacity. The Advertiser would wish to engage with any Gentleman who is desirous of forming a Nursery or Vineyard, as he understands thoroughly the propagation of the Vine. The Advertiser is a married man, with no incumbrance, and can produce satisfactory testimonials of character and ability.⁵³

In 1832 E. S. Proprietor of the *Sydney Monitor* published a letter in London reproduced in the *Monitor*. It included a *Description of Emigrants Wanted* among whom was listed 'Wine and oliveyard dressers from the South of Europe; Farming-men, gardeners, and nursery men.'⁵⁴

Nurserymen, as other colonists, were able to have convicts assigned to them. 'Assignment' meant that a convict worked for a private employer. Private employers did not have to pay their assigned convicts for the work they did. But they did have to provide them with food, clothes and a place to live. Thomaas Shepherd had convicts assigned to him. Shepherd's assigned workers were given 'an allowance of 20 lbs best beef, 12 lbs first flour, 1 ½ lbs sugar, 4 oz tea &c, for a week's ration, and 4 s per week to find clothes' The men (were employed 'in the eradication of large stumps, some of which measured from four to six feet in diameter, removing large rocks, trenching the ground and filling up hollows'.⁵⁵

Purchase or rental of land

The advertisements reviewed for this article were placed by nurserymen who had already established nurseries. However, there was frequent advertising of land and properties for sale or rent describing them as being suitable for nurseries (and in this context it didn't mean a private nursery).

SEVERAL LOTS of BUILDING GROUND, in Three Acres each, most advantageously situated a short distance beyond O'Brien's Bridge. This Land has a valuable Frontage on the main Road — commands an extensive view of the River Derwent — the Scenery is picturesque and enlivening — the Soil good, and affords Lime Stone and abundance of Timber: has also a Stream of Water on each side. For the purpose of Market Gardens, Nurseries, Orchards, or Gentlemen's Villas, these Lots will be found invaluable. TERMS — liberal.⁵⁶

Building Allotments .

Rent Free for Ten Years :

To be let on building leases for the term of ten years, Building Allotments eligibly situated at Franklin Village, with a considerable, frontage on the main road ... The situation is also well adapted from its contiguity to Launceston, for a market gardener, nursery ,and seedsman. ... The conditions are easy and in the power of any industrious man to fulfil. The proprietor will render every reasonable encouragement and assistance to any respectable person desirous of securing a livelihood and a home without the inconvenience of a rent-day.⁵⁷

⁵³ 'Wanted', *The Sydney Herald* 30 May 1833 p.1

⁵⁴ 'Description of Emigrants Wanted', *The Sydney Monitor* 7 January 1832 p.4

⁵⁵ Shepherd, Thomas, *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Delivered at the Mechanics' School of Arts* 1835 p.3

⁵⁶ "Building Ground' *The Colonists and Van Dieman's Land Commercial and Agricultural Advertiser* 7 May 1833 p.4

⁵⁷ 'Building Allotments', *The Cornwall Chronicle* 2 January 1841 p.1

The financial vagaries of the business

Nurseryman it appears were plagued with debt by their customers. They attempted to deal with this in a few ways. William Hawkins informed buyers that an order had to be accompanied by a cheque from some respectable individual.⁵⁸ William Hull & Son advertised a special shipment of plants from the Royal Nursery, Fulham, which would only be sold for cash.⁵⁹ J. Bailey and Son in an advertisement in 1853 wrote that they 'will be greatly obliged by those customers who have not settled their accounts for several years, paying the same forthwith and so prevent proceedings against them'.⁶⁰ William Ivey gave three months credit on purchases over £50.⁶¹ Mr Birch had the novel idea of being paid in cash or wheat.⁶²

Thomas Shepherd's wrote of another financial constraint. 'Gentlemen in this Colony have been so accustomed, for many years, to obtain yearly supplies of trees from the Government Garden, which cost them nothing but the trouble of requisition, that it cannot be supposed if they can obtain trees for nothing they will come to a nursery and purchase, even at a moderate price.'⁶³ 'Shepherd was experiencing a move from a Government free issue concept to the sale of plants by private enterprise,' writes Victor Crittenden, 'and he had, as a result, the difficult task of educating the public into paying for what had previously been obtained free.'⁶⁴ This was undoubtedly true for other nurserymen.

Financial straits drove some into insolvency. Daniel Bunce was declared insolvent in 1839⁶⁵ but recovered and went on to further nursery work.⁶⁶ Charles Ware was declared insolvent in 1854.⁶⁷ I found no evidence that he also recovered.

Cultivating, packaging and delivery

Practices here varied. Some would deliver within a certain geographical area for free. Frederick Lipscombe of Sandy Bay a suburb of Hobart delivered orders free within Hobart town.⁶⁸ John Browne advised 'Parties purchasing must send their own nursery men to see that the plants are properly rooted and safely packed, as the advertiser will undertake no responsibility after their removal'.⁶⁹ Customers of George Anstey who could not visit his Highercombe nursery could collect their orders from fellow nurseryman John Bailey, Anstey's 'sole agent for their sale in Adelaide'.⁷⁰

They assured customers about the quality of their handling of orders. J. Curnow is desirous to receive his orders here so that the trees of each purchaser may be packed up separately, and under particular direction in his own nursery; and the chance of failure prevented, (if possible), in any

⁵⁸ 'Notice. William Hawkins', *The Sydney Herald* 29 April 1841 p.3

⁵⁹ 'William Hawkins', *The Melbourne Daily News* 10 July 1849 p.3

⁶⁰ 'Hackney Nursery', *Adelaide Observer* 20 March 1853 p.1

⁶¹ 'Choice Trees, Shrubs and Evergreens', *Colonial Times* 4 July 1854 p.1

⁶² 'Fruit Trees for Sale', *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter* 28 June 1817 p.1

⁶³ Shepherd, Thomas, *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia*, 1836 pp. 61 - 62 NSW State Library digitisation

https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151

⁶⁴ Crittenden, Victor, 'A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame. Thomas Shepherd Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman', Mulini Press, Canberra 1992 p.54

⁶⁵ *The Hobart Town Courier* 26 April 1939

⁶⁶ 'Fruit Trees &c.' *Port Phillip Gazette* 29 May 1841 p.2

⁶⁷ 'Insolvency Notices', *South Australian Register* 13 January 1854 p.3

⁶⁸ 'To the Landholders of Van Dieman's Land', *Tasmanian Weekly Dispatch* 4 September 1840 p.1

⁶⁹ 'Fruit Trees', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23 April 1841 p.1

⁷⁰ 'Fruit Trees', *South Australian* 9 May 1845 cp.1

instance, by such careful packing as would prevent the exposure of the roots.⁷¹ John Hardy 'will engage to pack up reeds, or plants, or secure cuttings and warrant their taking root'.⁷² Daniel Bunce received '15,549 forest and Fruit Trees, Flowering and other Shrubs, &c.; but, inasmuch as it is possible that upon landing and transplanting many of them may fail, and consequently occasion a disappointment to his Friends, D.B. proposes to retain the whole of them under his own immediate care and culture until the ensuing autumn, when he trusts to have for the inspection of the Public an assortment which, in extent, health, and variety, has not hitherto been presented to them.'⁷³

George Furber used his nursery being in a regional city as a selling point to customers in the surrounding region. 'The price will be the same as charged in Sydney, and persons (in the northern district) will find it a great saving to purchase trees at Maitland in lieu of Sydney, as the risk attendant on shipment in the steamers is very great'.⁷⁴ Breguet and Amiet assured customers 'The trees will be carefully packed, so that they may be sent to any part of the colony without injury'.⁷⁵

Nurserymen assured their customers of the quality of the stock, particularly that they were free from disease. 'The above (plants) will be warranted according to description', wrote George Anstey, 'and free from every disease.'⁷⁶ All trees at the Victory Nursery', assured David Louis Pettaval, 'will be warranted free of blight or disease, and carefully packed to suit for town or country'.⁷⁷

They also sent plants and seeds overseas, particularly native plants. 'Persons wishing to send collections to Europe,' wrote Thomas Shepherd, 'can have them packed so as to ensure their keeping fresh during the voyage. Also plants in glazed cases always ready for shipment'.⁷⁸ Others also sent native plants and seeds overseas. Few are named⁷⁹ so in the absence of an indication that any of them were culinary native plants I have not discussed them in this article.

Summing up

The work of Nurserymen in cultivating fruits for the colonial table has been little studied. This article found at least 68 of them across all the colonies between 1804 - 1854. Theirs was a substantial contribution to the colonial foodscape. The article has sketched a picture of the Nurserymen as engaged in broadening the range, volume and varieties of common and less common fruit through their nurseries, while at times in a precarious financial position. They assisted those interested in forming an orchard through advising on the best stock for their particular land, water and soil situation and in providing the stock. They were concerned to ensure stock was disease free and handled appropriately when being sent to the buyers to maximise the chance of the plants surviving and thriving. The reach of their endeavour was into regional parts of the colonies and overseas.

I thank all the advisors, peers, and readers who have contributed their expertise and time to me in preparing this article.

⁷¹ 'To Horticulturalist' *Adelaide Observer* 10 May 1845 p.5

⁷² 'Nursery and Horticultural Garden at West Maitland', *The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser* 12 July 1841 p.3

⁷³ 'Large Importation of Fruit Trees', *Colonial Times* 4 August 1835 p.1

⁷⁴ 'Fruit Trees for Sale, at Maitland' *Australasian Chronicle* 27 April 1841 p.2

⁷⁵ 'Nursery of Fruit Trees' *Geelong Advertiser* 7 June 1848 p.2

⁷⁶ 'To Persons Forming Gardens', *South Australian Register* 16 June p.1

⁷⁷ 'Victoria Vineyard and Nursery' *Geelong Advertiser* 10 May 1850 p.1

⁷⁸ 'Australian Seeds and Plants' *The Sydney Morning Herald* 6 June 1847 p.3

⁷⁹ The wattle is one of those named as is the blue gum.

Appendix 1 Nurserymen

This is a list of all the nurserymen who advertised their wares from 1804 – 1854. The name of their enterprise is also given where the name for it was not the name of the nurseryman. The names are given in order of their first reference in *Trove* together with the date of that reference.

George Suttor (1804)
William Furber (1810)
Mr. Birch (1817)
Mr. Lilly, Swaffham Farm (1852)
Joseph Kenyon (1825)
Mr Gunning (1828)
Welch (1828)
Mr. Frederick Meurant (1830)
Thomas Shephard, Darling Nursery (1830)
Henry Baynton (1831)
Mr. Scott (1832)
J. Weston (1833)
Daniel Bunce, Denmark Hill Nursery (1835)
F. Lipscombe, Grange Nurseries/Sandy Bay Nurseries (1838)
A. Higgins (1838)
H. W. Rollason (1839)
Mr. Clark (1839)
John Browne (1841)
George Furber (1841)
Willia Hawkins (1841)
John Hardy (1841)
Joseph Kenyon Snr., Woodlands Nursery (1842)
George Anstey, Hackney Nursery (1844)
John McEwin 1844
Mr. Mortimer (1845)
Mr. Curnow (1845)
V. Marshal, Victoria Nursery Grounds (1845)
G. Fry (1845)
John Heed (1846)
G. Warren (1846)
Mr Stevenson (1846)
Mr. Bailey (1846)
Mr. A. Dodds (1847)
Osborne Brother, Pine Apple Place Nursery 1848)
Mr. Marshal (1848)
Robert Henderson, Camellia Grove (1848)
Breguet and Amiet, Neufchatel (1848)
Joseph Finiman (1848)
Mayger's Nursery Garden (1848)
John Everitt, Echungu Nursery (1848)
Daniel Gowing (1848)
Richard Hipkiss (1849)
John Luckins (1849)
John P. Fawkner, Pascovale Nusery (1849)
David Louis Pettaval, Victoria Vineyard and Nursery (1850)
John Caldwell (1850)

George McEwin, Glen Ewin Nursery (1850)
John Caldwell, Rosie Vale Nursery and Vineyard (1850)
Mr. Mortimer (1850)
Michael Guilfoyle, Exotic Nursery (1850)
John Gregory (1850)
Mr. Mayger, River Plenty (1850)
John Heed (1851)
T. C. Cole, Richmond (1851)
W. M. Murray, Mount Barker Nursery (1851)
R.F. Ware, Clifton Hill Nursery (1851)
Mr. Harrison (1851)
Mr. John C. Kirby(1851)
J. Cartwright, Knight's Nursery (1853)
Charles Giles, Grove Hill Nursery (1853)
A. H. Davis (1853)
Messrs. Lawson and Co. (1854)
J. W. Johnston & Co. (1854)
S. Partridge (1854)
William Ivey (1854)
James MacDonald, Camden Nursery (1850)
Messrs. Jake and R. Bakewell (1854)
A.J. Hockings (1854)
Frederick Fisher (1854)