

Whether the drover with these cattle was Palmer is unclear, though this seems likely. In December 1886 the *Northern Territory Times* (11-12-1886) reported that, 'Mr. Longfield has also arrived [at Katherine] with a herd of horses for the same owner [Macartney], but intended for the Victoria River run'. Palmer definitely took cattle to Auvergne in 1887 as this was reported in the *Northern Territory Times* (23-4-1887).

Florida was effectively abandoned in 1891 and the remaining cattle were moved to Auvergne in the dry season of 1892 by Jack Watson and a party of stockmen. The Florida buildings were pulled down and 'valuable parts' and 'other sundries' were shipped around to Darwin (*Northern Territory Times* 16-9-1892). Whether these were shipped through to Auvergne is unclear, but this seems likely. The Florida lease was formally abandoned in 1893 (Stott, 4-1-1894: 12).

Macartney died at Ormiston House, Cleveland (Brisbane), in 1917. In the Victoria River district his name is commemorated at Macartney's Gap, on the Victoria River a few kilometres upstream from the Timber Creek-Victoria River junction. This is the same gap used by Gregory's party, first on December 12th 1856 on their return from a reconnaissance up the Victoria River, and again on June 21st 1856 on their way overland to Queensland (Gregory, 1981). Reg Durack told me that when the first cattle were brought to stock Auvergne the drovers took a dray over Macartney's Gap. The gap is not named on the current 1:100,000 map, but is known to local Aborigines and a few local whites. Aborigines pronounce the name 'Micardo Gap'. In local Ngaliwuru language the name of the gap area is 'Kanawunamin'.

The first cattle taken off Auvergne were 128 fats, shifted in 1889 (Stevens, 1889: 2). In March 1897 Auvergne was sold to Francis Connor and Denis Doherty (GRIC, NTAS NTRS F790, A1 item 7524). At this time the station covered more than 3,000,000 acres (Durack, 1983: 5, 63). Connor and Doherty came to the Kimberley with the goldrush of 1886 and established a store in Wyndham, and probably met the Duracks there (*The Pastoral Review*, 16-11-1935: 1161). Shortly after their purchase Connor and Doherty formed a partnership with the Durack brothers and both soon returned permanently to Fremantle, leaving the management in the hands of the Duracks.

In 1896 the Auvergne manager wrote:

A few years ago when Kimberley broke out men went there from every quarter, and got there either by fair or by foul means; several got there by foul means by coming to this station and stealing from 60 to 100 head of horses. These horses have never been recovered and the scoundrels that took them are still at large. But now Kimberley is supposed to be worked out, Wandi goldfield appears to be the centre of attraction and the return tide is setting in from Kimberley and with it many of these horse-stealing and cattle-killing scoundrels are returning and making for Wandi (*Northern Territory Times*, 28-6-1896).

He went on to describe a group of such travellers helping themselves to Auvergne cattle en route.