

KIRKIMBIE

The station name first appears in Mounted Constable McBeath's stock report for 1910. This mentions, 'Kurrikimba (J. McDonald's place). – McDonald sold 400 mixed cattle to Joe Brown, who has started through with a mob of 1,100 for Alice Springs, via Tanami; thence southern markets.'

In a report from the Midnight Creek police camp (Limbunya), written by Mounted Constable W.F. Johns (Johns, 1-1-1912), he mentions that, 'James McDonald is camped at Kirkimbie with 300 cattle and 34 horses'. The station is later mentioned in various entries of the Timber Creek and Bow Hill Police Journals between 1913 and 1916 (TCPJ, 7-10-1913; BHPJ, 31-12-1915; 11-4-1917). From these entries it's apparent that James McDonald was the owner at that time. It appears that he was still there in 1925 because in the Apsley's book (*The Amateur Settlers*, 1926: 118) they mention 'one old man, aged 76, who was still droving horses and cattle. ... This old drover, McDonald by name, ... had an "Abor" wife and two black sons, and a nice little property of his own, but makes a bit extra every year by droving.' In 1927 George Forrestal's brand, FTF, and Leeson and Stubbs' brand, LST, were both listed as having been cancelled. The address given by these men was Kirkimbie (*Northern Territory Times*, 22-7-1927).

According to Bill Hamill (*SHOF*, September 2000), he supervised the building of a homestead there in the early 1950s and he believed that no Kirkimbie station existed before this time. This suggests there may have been a substantial time period between the early 'Kirkimbie' and the later Kirkimbie. In 1975 the Kirkimbie brand was DJT.

Gary Dann bought Kirkimbie in 1984 or 1985 (pers. comm., Dave Napier and pers. comm., Milton Jones) and sold it to Consolidated Pastoral Company in 1986 (CPC website: <http://www.pastoral.com/en/content/Kirkimbie>).

James McDonald. Apparently owner-manager as he had cattle 'illegally branded' by Joseph Brown in 1916. Brown was arrested but the charges were withdrawn (BHPJ, 8-11-1916). McDonald himself was investigated for 'helping' his neighbours on Inverway muster their cattle:

M.C. Mac Donald station duty. ... At 3 pm Native arrived from Inverway Stn with a letter from Mr A. M. Farquharson complaining that James McDonald of Kirkimbie had sold 270 head of Cattle branded with A.P.T. the same being the property of Farquharson Bros of Inverway Stn & that McDonald intends mustering & delivering these cattle to man named Henry Hayes. Mr Farquharson requests that Bow Hill Police grant him protection on this matter. (BHPJ police journal, 11-4-1917).

Ken Hughes. The first manager of the 'second' Kirkimbie (pers. comm., Bill Hamill).

Clarrie Wilkinson. Manager in 1956. He was the first manager of the 'second' Kirkimbie (pers. comm., Cec Watts; pers. comm., Len Hill). Cec says that, 'he and his companion Margaret lived there during the building of the Station buildings '55-'56. Moved down to Mistake Creek in 1956 after the big flood.' For additional biographical information see entry under Sturt Creek.