

MALONEY STREET

(Research by the Coolamon & District History Group)

Reference: Article printed in 'Back to Coolamon Week' – 1934 (South of the Railway Line)

BLAZING A TRAIL How the Millwood Road Was Made

'...At this period (1890-1895) the district was still very sparsely settled, most of the land being held by Gobbagumblin and Marrar Stations, and the Lysterfield Estate owned by the late David Roach. A block of about 3000 acres are now held by Messrs. E.A. Furnell, M. Maloney, and N. Mutton & Co., was owned by a Mr. Keogh.

This piece of land had been fenced, leaving no roadway to the township, although provision for a road had originally been made by the Lands Department. The great trouble was that none of the farmers outside knew where the "right of way" should be. Under these circumstances all traffic had to make a detour round Keogh's property to enter Coolamon, either via the Wagga Road or Mowsar's Lane. This bad state of affairs obtained for some years, until John Maloney, sen., decided to bring about improvement.

One moonlight night, while the rest of the world lay sleeping, he took his axe and cut through the fences a new track to town. In the early morning he and his sons took their drays laden with golden grain straight to the Coolamon railway siding, the boys wondering who the good Samaritan was who cut the fences and marked the new road.

Nearly half a century has passed and even now it is not an uncommon sight to see the "baby" of that grand old family, Mr. Martin Maloney, wearing the grey hairs of honor and maturity, still working, still improving the same Millwood Road, the track his father blazed many, many years ago. Millwood Road residents, headed by Mr. Martin Maloney, have recently carried out work on the road to the value of £180 without cost to the Shire...'

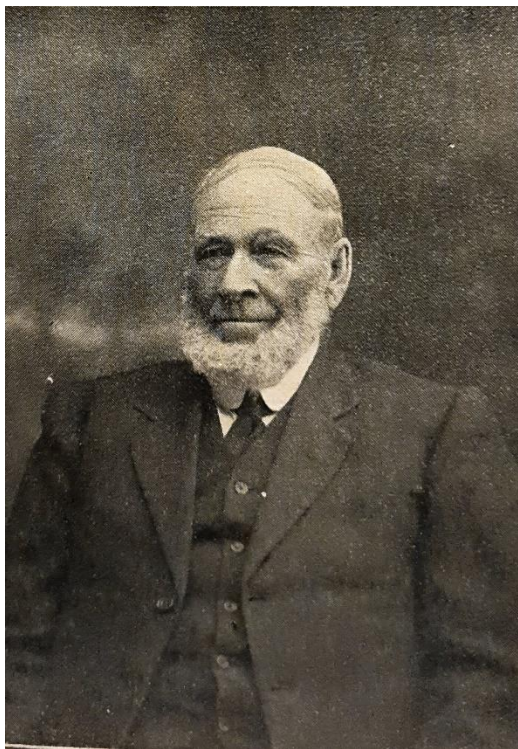


Image: Mr. John Maloney, sen.