

**Extract from the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 22 April 1848****DRAYTON.—PUBLIC MEETING.**

A MEETING of the inhabitants of Drayton, Darling Downs, was held at the Downs Inn, on Thursday, the 7th instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present position, and future prospects, of the holders of property in the projected township. Mr. Alford having been requested to take the chair, briefly addressed the parties present, and called upon Mr. Lyon, at whose instance the meeting had been convened, to explain the objects for which they had been called together.

Mr. Lyon said, that more than two years had elapsed since he had the pleasure of visiting the place, and he was most agreeably surprised to find that during that brief period improvements had been effected which were quite in keeping with the well known energy and perseverance of British colonists. They had done wonders in a comparatively short space of time, and had caused the locality they had themselves chosen for the scene of their useful labours to assume the appearance of a thriving village. He recollected the time when there were only three rude dwellings in the place; now they had two most excellent inns, where every reasonable accommodation was afforded to travellers; two stores, where all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life, could be procured at moderate prices; here, too, were two sons of Vulcan, who plied their laborious, though profitable trade; besides carpenters and other artisans, who were sharing those high wages and large profits which new and prosperous settlements usually afford. He had ascertained, also, that a considerable number of sawyers were busily at work felling the splendid and valuable timber which abounded in the neighbourhood, and which would undoubtedly prove a source of wealth to the inhabitants for many years to come. When he

exertions to supply their wants. A good deal remained to be done by the inhabitants; there were thousands of rich uncultivated land around them; they had to fell trees, to clear away the stumps, to cultivate the ground, and to produce order from the existing chaos. Industry was seldom without its reward, and in the course of time, when comfort smiled around them, the present sombre appearance of the bush would give place to the olive and myrtle, and the wilderness would blossom as the rose. Their success in life depended entirely on their own exertions, and he wished particularly

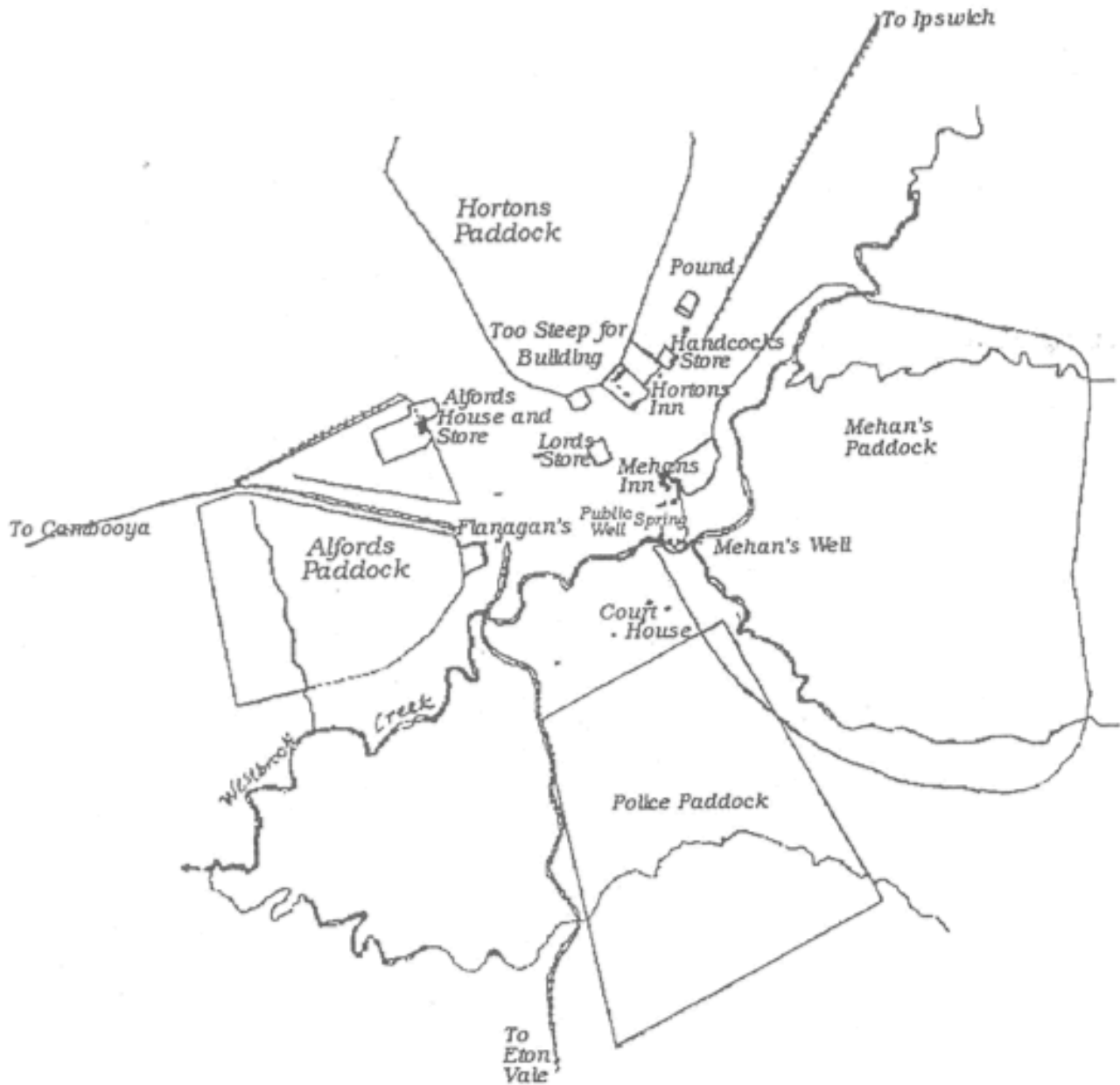
Read the second paragraph and answer these questions in your workbook:

1. In what year (approximately) did Mr Lyon first visit Drayton?
2. What does the first sentence of the second paragraph tell you about the character of the British colonists?
3. How had Drayton changed since Mr Lyon first visited?
4. Vulcan was the Roman god of fire. He is often depicted with a blacksmith's hammer. Who do you think the 'two sons of Vulcan' at Drayton are?
5. What does the last sentence tell you about further changes to the environment around Drayton?

*Note: 'rude' has more than one meaning. In this article, 'rude dwellings' means houses that were roughly built.*

The newspaper article goes on to describe what still needed to be done in Drayton.

6. What does the phrase 'produce order from the existing chaos' tell you about the colonists' attitude towards the natural landscape?
7. What sort of landscape was desirable to the colonists?



Drayton 1849. From Royal Bull's Head Inn education kit. Reproduced courtesy Queensland Department of Mapping and Surveying

Look at this map of Drayton in 1849. What topographical features made this a suitable place for a settlement?