

## The Retreat

Gwenda Lord

In Hobart Town during the 1830s "The Retreat" was a well known Tea Garden and place of accommodation, as is shown by the following advertisement in the *Colonial Times* of the 24th December 1830:

### TEA GARDENS, &c.

That delightfully-situated Spot, known by the name of

#### THE RETREAT

AT CRAY FISH POINT, was opened, on the 15th Ult. as a place of Public Accommodation and Amusement, similar to the most respectable Tea Gardens near the British Metropolis. The Vicinity of Cray Fish Point to Hobart Town renders the situation most advantageous, being at all times an agreeable ride — an inviting promenade — and pleasantly situated for excursions by water. The advantages proposed are as follow:

#### SPACIOUS

Gardens and Pleasure Grounds;

BOWLING GREEN;

CRICKET GROUND;

FRUIT, IN ITS SEASON, IN GREAT VARIETY;

Boats for Fishing;

A DAIRY;

GOOD APARTMENTS;

ALL THE

DELICACIES OF THE SEASON  
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Dinners provided at short notices, in the first style, and at moderate prices.

"The Retreat" stood on the site now occupied by the Taroona State High School and was built on the land originally located to Charles Clarke in 1813. This land and dwelling, after passing through various peoples' hands, was sold to Mr H.J. Emmett for £100 in 1821<sup>1</sup>. He developed it as a farm and called it "Marylands"<sup>2</sup>.

However, in 1827 Mr Emmett sold to George Cartwright for £370 and he in turn sold to Mr Henry Lloyd for an undisclosed

sum in 1830<sup>3</sup>. Mrs Harriet Baines leased the property, renamed it 'The Retreat', and was the proprietress until at least the 24th December 1833, when she again advertised in the *Colonial Times* of the 17th December.

#### To the Public

H. Baines, of the Retreat, in returning her most grateful acknowledgments to those ladies and gentlemen, by whom she has for some years past been so liberally supported, assures them that having relinquished her licence, it will nevertheless be her constant study to continue to entertain her friends, during the summer seasons, with her usual choice supply of delicacies, fruits, &c. &c. upon the same economical principles, she has hitherto adopted, and which has given such universal satisfaction. She likewise intimates, that the gardens and pleasure grounds, with which the Retreat is surrounded, renders it a most delightful and enchanting spot, and from its very convenient distance from town, either by land or (*sic*) water. Parties desirous of participating in a days real enjoyment are most earnestly invited to pay a visit to the Retreat. Here parties by water have safe moorings for their boats, and land parties accommodated with boats, in which they can proceed upon fishing excursions, or other wise enjoy themselves upon the bosom of the Derwent, whose winding course may be traced for many miles from the Retreat.

N.B. Dinner and supper parties provided for at shortest notice, in the first style, and at moderate prices.

The Colonial papers at the command of visitors.

In 1839 John Cartwright purchased the property from his brother George and it was advertised for lease in the *Hobart Town Courier* of the 18th April 1846:

#### To be Let

THE RETREAT, Crayfish Point. These premises consist of a comfortable Dwelling-house, containing five rooms, kitchen, and other conveniences, stable, farm-yard, &c., with about 40 acres of land fenced in, 25 of which are in cultivation, with a good garden, being delightfully situated on the River Derwent, and bounded on the back by the public road to Brown's River, and would make an eligible spot for a Licenced house, affording every opportunity for pic-nic parties to spend an agreeable day. Enquire



*Watercolour entitled "Retreat, River Derwent" [1832?] by Mary Morton Allport.  
This is now the site of the State High School.*

ALLPORT LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOBART.

*Nineteenth Century*

at the *Colonial Times* office.

John Cartwright died in 1840 and the Cartwright family retained the property until the 21st October 1858, when it passed to the trustees of George Cartwright, who were William Sorell, William Fletcher and Edward Samuel Pickard Bedford<sup>4</sup>.

References

1. SC 285/605, AOT.
2. CSO 1/263. pp, 228-231, AOT.
3. SC 285/605, AOT.
4. *Ibid.*



*The site of "The Retreat" today, taken from the same location where Mary Morton Allport painted her watercolour, illustrated on the previous page.*

PHOTO DAVID LEES.