

Bendethera, Bendithera, Bindethery, Bendetherey Bendithey, Bundethry 35.9337° S, 149.7497° E

The earliest record so far found for Bendethera is the Depasturing Licences which uses a number of the different spellings of the name as listed above. The first of these was issued to David Drummond in 1838. Any settler south of the Moruya River was a squatter with no title to the land but from 1836 they could pay for a Depasturing Licence to graze stock on Crown land. The Licences were granted for one year and were renewable. The index to these records can be searched on the NSW State Records web site. https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/search_form?id=67

In John Lambie's 1839 census tours of the region he lists Bendithey as being occupied by David Drummond (himself). John Lambie was one of the Commissioners of Crown Lands, he was required to provide half-yearly returns to the Colonial Secretary. These returns are with the Colonial secretary's letters in the State Archives, in separate volumes. The Commissioner was required to record the extent of each day's journey, name of each station visited; licences' superintendents; number of residents; nature of the buildings; acres under cultivation; stock as well as details on quality of the soil and vegetation.

We have no details of David Drummond's intentions for Bendethera as after the Departuring Licences he disappears from the records. The next records relating to Bendethera is when the George family move in. As the records show that David Drummond was originally recorded as living at Gilston the residents in that area may well have known of Bendethera. One of the later residents were the Hart family, the family of Joseph George's wife Mary Hart.

Below is a summary of what has been so far ascertained about David Drummond.

Time Line for records possibly relating to David Drummond Esq

1. **Arrived** in Australia in 1829 as a passenger on the "City of Edinburgh" from Scotland.
2. **Land Purchases.** 1833 Acquired land at Brisbane Waters in the Erina Creek area. 1834 Applied for 2 allotments at Double Bay village.
3. **1837 Muster.** Convicts assigned to David Drummond, district of **Ballalaba**. John Flanagan, Francis Hogan and Michael Mcfarlane.
4. **Depasturing Licences** for Bendethera (spelt in various formats). 1838 David Drummond, Residence of **Gilston**; 1839 David Drummond, Residence of **Gilston**; 1840 David Drummond residence of **Gilston**; 1841 David Drummond, Residence of **Gilston**, 1842 David Drummond, Residence of Gilston; 1843 David Drummond, Residence left blank.
5. **Index to Squatters and Graziers**, State Records. 1839 David Drummond, Station Bendethera, Superintendent John Flanagan (one of the convicts who had been assigned to Drummond in the Ballalaba district).
6. David Drummond does not appear as a head of household in the **1841 census**.
7. **James Brown** offers a reward for his horse lost from Gilston in January 1842. SMH 4th Feb 1842.
8. A **suicide** of a gentleman named Mr Drummond was reported on 21st October 1842. He jumped overboard from the cutter 'Industry' off the coast of Wagonga. He was said to lately be residing at Juribegulla. He was going to Sydney for medical advise. He was presumed to be suffering brain damage after a fall from a horse. (Australian 7th November 1842)
9. 1849 Government Gazette 13 March. The last mention of David Drummond is in the **unclaimed letters**. Drummond, David Esq, care of Brown and Co. (they were shipping Agents in Sydney.)
10. No further records have been found for a David Drummond.

See page 20-21 for details of the properties listed in Group E of Lambie's 1839 Census which covers the Eurobodalla area.