

16 ditches were dug, & the sods placed in position along the side, & the loose earth thrown behind, as this acted as a drain as well as a fence, on top of the fence, were planted gorse, & in a couple of years there would be a complete hedge & a first class shelter for stock, several other very small paddocks were enclosed close by, to run the calves in & also to act as a stockyard, & later to be used to build hay stacks & grain stacks as well. ~~On~~ Inside of these were planted a double row of blue gum trees which grew up very quickly but were not altogether a success, as to providing shelter. This was the commonest tree planted then, although there were poplars and willows, there were no pine trees nor Macrocarpa at that time. These plantings of gum trees, would show up all over the country where the homestead of every farm was situated.

There was one very wet piece of ground running across the farm about the centre, at first it was thought that this would be

17 permanent; & so father planted weeping willow cuttings or branches along the line of bogginess. However after the place was drained, this particular piece of land sank considerably, till it settled to about eighteen inches below the general surface, and became what was called a Blind Creek possibly it might have remained a water course but the ditches in the vicinity took what water there was, there was only water running in this after heavy rains. The willows soon died out, but this was because there was no protection for them from the horses and cattle, I think that it was these willows, that suggested the name of "Willow Holm" to the farm. Why the "Holm" instead of "Home" I do not know. There was one tree however, which was planted close to the house & developed into a very respectable ~~tree~~ ^{one} until the gum trees in close proximity, put certain check upon its growth. There was abundance of water for