

Early European Settlement in our District

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'The Crossing Place' at the western end of what is now Hume street Albury, was on the Sydney to Port Phillip overland track. It became the principal river crossing place, especially for overlanders driving livestock from NSW to southern pastures.

In March 1892, the *Albury Banner* published a letter from Albury pioneer David Reid, explaining who was the first European after the explorers to cross the Hume River into what was then known as the Port Phillip District of Victoria. Reid wrote that "Mr Hume discovered the river in 1824, and Mr William Wyse crossed in April 1836." He went on to write that he, Reid, "crossed over with cattle in August 1838 and formed stations on the Ovens River."



Charles Hotson Ebden.
After his pioneering days he
became a prominent politician.

Albury historian Dr Arthur Andrews published the paper, *The First Settlement in North-East Victoria*, in March 1916. Andrews pointed out that "In the spring of 1835, William Wyse, employed by Charles Hotson Ebden, gathered a mob of cattle near Sydney, and, with a party of drovers, set out to find suitable pasturage ... and following almost the actual track of the explorers Hume and Hovell eleven years before, pressed on till he reached the Murray at the spot of its first discovery. Here he at once formed the 'Mungabareena Run,' which included the site of the present town of Albury."

Andrews went on "his camp ... was on a small plain where now the Albury waterworks are situated ... chosen by Mr Thomas Mitchell for the first homestead when the run was transferred to his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell, in the following year ...

"Within a few weeks, following some straying cattle, Wyse crossed the river and discovered the splendid flats about the junction of the Mitta Mitta and Little Rivers with the Murray, and at once formed the 'Bonegilla Run.'" This gave Ebden extensive property on both sides of the river.

Later in 1836 Elizabeth Mitchell's brothers, Charles and Paul Huon, formed the 'Wodonga Run.' Robert Brown, with Aimee Huon, his brother-in-law, also arrived in 1836. Brown was the first European settler on the site of Albury. John Dight established the 'Bungowannah Run' in 1837.

William Wyse (or Wise) arrived in the district as a stockman. He later prospered in Albury, building the Royal Hotel on the corner of Hume and Townsend streets and the two-storey home that still stands at the eastern end of the Albury street that bears his name. He died in Howlong in April 1901 aged 86.