

## Deeargee Woolshed - Scenic Drive 19

A short drive, 11km east of Uralla along Tourist Drive 19, brings you to the picturesque, Boston Ivy covered, Gostwyck Chapel and the unique woolshed at Deeargee. Gostwyck, one of the earliest squatting runs in New England, originally extended from the outskirts of Armidale and included the area south and east of Uralla as far as Salisbury Plains.

Henry Gostwyck Cory obtained a holding of 80,000 acres, which he settled in 1832 and named Gostwyck. In 1834, Cory sold his grazing rights to William Dangar, who subsequently sold them to his brother Henry Dangar. Henry Dangar had been an Assistant Government Surveyor under John Oxley and had been responsible for the survey of Newcastle and much of the Hunter Valley.



In 1831 Henry Dangar retired from surveying to concentrate on his pastoral and business interests and lived on his Singleton property named “Neotsfield.” In 1845 Henry Dangar was elected to the Legislative Council and from 1856 he lived in retirement in Sydney, where he died in 1861.

Later Gostwyck was managed by Arthur Palmer, who became Premier of QLD between 1870 and 1874. After WWI the government reclaimed some of Gostwyck for Soldier Settlement blocks and again after WWII. By 1970 only 13,000 acres remained of the original holding and this was divided between the two grand daughters of Henry Dangar - 6,500 acres each.

The Western side, or homestead area, retained the name of Gostwyck, whilst the eastern side on which stands the historic Woolshed, was called Deeargee. This name is derived from the old Gostwyck wool brand, DRG, which in turn stood for Dangar, Gostwyck.

An earlier Woolshed near the same site had been destroyed by fire. The current Woolshed was rebuilt and extended in 1872 and is still fully operational. The Woolshed is very large, erected on brick pillars and its successive roofs are of galvanised iron. It contains a great quantity of glass at the sides, and has every facility necessary for shearing, sorting, pressing, and bailing.

These days the Gostwyck and Deeargee properties are known for the production of some of the finest wool in Australia.