

# PROCESSING THE WHEAT

*Information kindly provided by  
Dr John Radcliffe AM FTSE,  
RA&HSSA Grain and Fodder Committee*



175  
1839 | 2014  
ANNIVERSARY

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

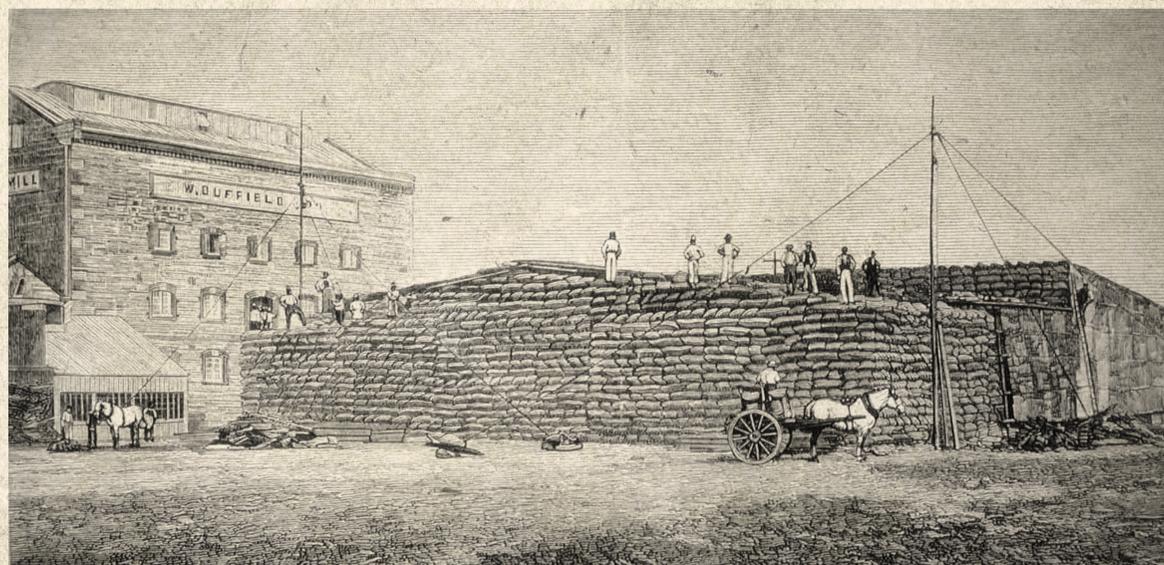
When the newly-arrived settlers established grain crops in 1837, they needed to process the grain for use. This meant turning the wheat into flour for bread, and barley into beer.



*SA Company's Mill at Hackney – sketch by FR Nixon, 1845*

John Ridley's Hindmarsh mill produced the first flour in 1840. The South Australian Company built its own mill on the River Torrens, adjacent to what is now Hackney Road.

Most mills were steam driven. Often the owners made their own boilers and steam engines. By 1842, there were mills in Wright Street and West Terrace driven by wind. As grain increased, many country mills were established, the Blumberg (Birdwood) mill being still best known.



*Victoria Mill – Gawler – Harcus 1876*

Most mills used stone grind-stones but later, some used rollers to crush the wheat into flour. The by-products of bran and pollard were used for feeding milking cows and poultry. However, mills were very dusty places and the fine dust when combined with a spark could explode. Much of the sieving equipment was made from wood. Many mills were destroyed by fire. Searches of old papers tell the story.

# PROCESSING THE WHEAT

Information kindly provided by  
Dr. John Radcliffe AM FTSE,  
RA&HSSA Grain and Fodder Committee



175  
1839 | 2014  
ANNIVERSARY

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

## INQUESTS.

### THE FIRE AT THE OLD WEST-TERRACE STEAM FLOUR MILLS.

A fire broke out in the premises generally known as the Old West-terrace Windmill, once the property of Messrs. W. Elliott & Co., but now owned by Messrs. Giles & Smith, on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th instant. Flames were first seen in the fourth story of the tower of the mill, about half-past 4, by a lad named O'Hal-

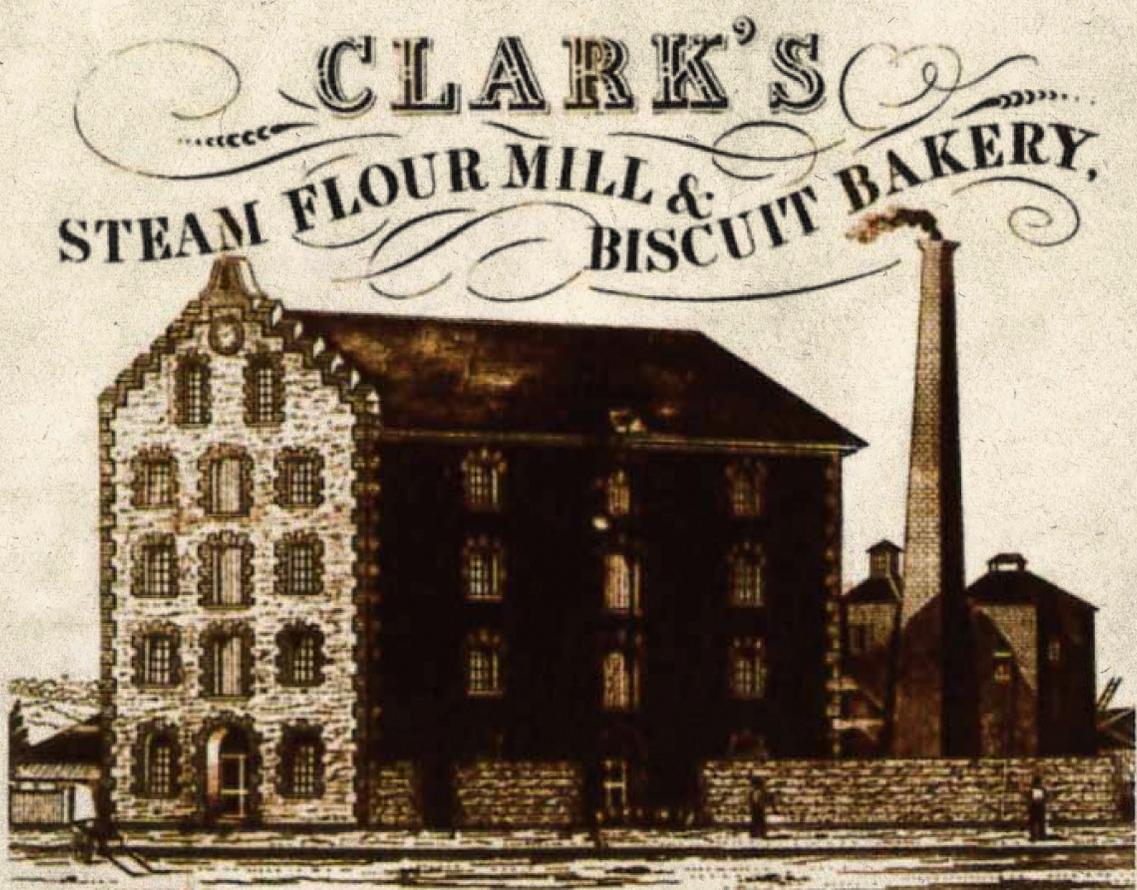
SA Register, 27 April 1876, page 7

Overheated boilers could also explode.

A terrible boiler explosion occurred at Mr. Pool's Mill, Reynella, on December 9, when the stoker, Edward Condy, was killed, and the boiler carried a distance of about 140 yards.

SA Advertiser, 5 January 1870, page 2

Bakeries soon proliferated in Adelaide. Some were established by people whose names we still recognise today – Balfours (from 1853), Menz (1850), still known for Yo-Yo biscuits. Some entrepreneurs brought together wheat and barley. WH Clark built a state of the art flour mill and bakery next to his brewery in Halifax Street



Most country towns had their own bakery. Many still do – a centre of the local community.