



# The history of Table Cape Farm

## The Major



Alexander and Ivy head to town



The Major in Cavalry uniform



Ivy and Alexander with their 10 children

Major Alexander Roberts-Thomson and his wife, Ivy, emigrated to Tasmania in 1910. "The Major", as he was generally known, arrived to take up farming at Table Cape at the age of 39 after serving for several years in the British cavalry in India.

Alexander and Ivy arrived at Table Cape with a family of 5 boys. The family finally grew to 10, 8 boys and 2 girls, despite the fact that Ivy's physician in England had cautioned the Major to look after her delicate constitution.

The totally new career, climate and the intervention of war service at Gallipoli and France made farming a real challenge for the Major. Thanks to Ivy, the farm manager and his sons, especially Bill, the farm survived through the war and the depression. After the First World War the Major was often absent from the farm on preaching and missionary activities.

Farming during this period concentrated on livestock, chaff and potatoes. Cropping was hard work, especially ploughing with horses around the massive tree trunks remaining from the clearing of the farm during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A particular interest in stud breeding began with a Shropshire sheep stud and in 1921 the Major exhibited his sheep with outstanding results at Melbourne Show.

In 1936 the Major and Ivy retired to Burnie and two of their sons, Bill and Eric, took over the ownership and running of Table Cape Farm.



Ploughing the fields



Hay at harvest time



The lighthouse in its early days