

# Lanefield, Ashwell, Calvert & Mount Mort Then & Now

- ① **Lanefield:** Named after early settlers John and Clara Lane.

The area was well-known for dairying and a co-operative dairy was built here c1890 to separate milk and send cream to butter factories in Ipswich and Brisbane. It closed in 1909 after most farms were able to buy their own separator.

- ② **Mining:** Began in Lanefield in 1918 and continued until about 1970. Between Ipswich and Grandchester, you will notice many signs of former activity such as heaps of overburden and the remains of timber loading platforms.

Sidings once ran from the railway stations to collieries to assist with loading coal.

- ③ **Ashwell:** Is just off the main road & the turnoff is marked. The tiny Ashwell School opened in 1887 and still has an early playshed.

The name Ashwell is said to have been a request of one of the original donors of land for the school, Victor Loveday who came from Ashwell in England.

- ④ **Silos:** Two early silos can be seen from Stevens Lane, one constructed in 1932 and the other probably around the same time.

There are several other similar silos throughout this region, all built to the same pattern using moulds supplied by the government. Although no longer in use, they remain a distinctive form in the landscape.



- ⑤ **Drystone Wall:** This wall on Germain Road, and others in the area are believed to have been built by the Coulson family in the 1870s. In Europe, the stones removed from a field were often formed into a 'drystone' boundary wall i.e. built of stones fitted together without mortar. This type of fence is uncommon in Queensland.

- ⑥ **Calvert:** the first building in Calvert was an inn built in 1843. The railway station opened in 1866 and was first called Western Creek. The station master's house is still standing.

- ⑦ **Calvert Ordnance Dump:** During World War II there was a large ammunition store and associated army camp in this area, to the east of Franklin Creek. Many African American soldiers were stationed here and became popular members of the Lanefield Baptist Church.

- ⑧ **Peppers Hidden Vale Retreat:** Is now a resort, conference centre and restaurant. The property was once part of historic Franklyn Vale and was taken up in 1871 by John Jost who used it for breeding cattle, sheep and race horses.

In 1900, it was sold to the flamboyant Alfred cotton. He became a seaman at the age of 19 and later worked in the Australian outback before settling down at Hidden Vale. His son Sidney was a pilot who carried out intelligence missions just prior to World War II, flying the last plane out of Berlin before the War commenced.

Sidney was a personal friend of Ian Fleming and is said to be in part the inspiration for the James Bond (007) character. The cotton family graves are at Tallegalla cemetery.



- ⑨ **St Anne's Anglican Church:** Monthly church services were held in private homes in this area until St Anne's was built in 1937.

Mrs Cotton of Hidden Vale gave the land and the church was constructed by Eric and Syd Meier. The altar was built by Colin Freeman of Rosewood.

In 1937 Rev Saull offered to perform Mr Freeman's marriage ceremony at no charge if, in exchange, he built an altar for St. Anne's.

- ⑩ **Mt Mort Cemetery:** The cemetery reserve was surveyed in 1927 and trustees were appointed in 1929. It includes graves of members of the Mort family.