

The higher hills remained a forest reservation until 1893-5, when the Parishes of Monbulk and Mooroolbark were carved from the forest and thrown open for selection, thereby reducing the original D. & W.Y. State Forest from ... to ... acres.

Some ~~of the~~ ^{ed} after ^{had-been-permitted} ~~The~~ ... acres of Crown land remaining ~~in the~~ ^{the} settlement of some of the finest ~~hills~~ fern gullies in the State excision of the Parishes of Monbulk and Mooroolbark (Lillydale Shire) and ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{xxxxxxx} of this land, situated in the Kallista-Sherbrooke area west of the Monbulk Road was named the "Sherbrooke Forest" and gazetted as such on Another ~~portion~~ ^{portion} in the vicinity of "Hardy's Ridge, east of the Monbulk Road at Kallista was gazetted as the "Monbulk State Forest" in ..., and this area of ... acres being named from its proximity to the Monbulk Creek. A third area, within the Shire of Lillydale, ~~was~~ containing... acres was ~~reserved~~ ^{reserved} under the title "Olinda State Forest". (Date?)

General settlement of the hills took place following the ~~excision~~ opening up of the ~~high~~ area in 1893 and men who settled on 10-acre blocks at this period (fully described in another chapter) were forced by necessity to become skilled axemen.

Most were city dwellers inexperienced in ~~any sort of~~ bush work but the necessity for clearing their selections of heavy timber soon made them practised in the art of timber splitting. The sons of George Dodd of Olinda, who grew up in the early days of "the settlement", were probably the greatest exponents of the art and George Dodd, Jr., was responsible for building many