

I recovered the name
Doddles

"Bibbulmen" in my first investigations among the ~~people~~ ¹⁹⁰¹ of South Western Australia. but could find no other meaning of

the term than "Bibbul" "breasts"; "men" - "many". Their
was groups of "many breasts" for many women, "groups
having many women among them." Women were always

"negotiable" ^(temporarily) at the great-gatherings for Beeda-wo ceremony
& when visiting groups in numbers came to exchange
& barter local products (of women) for temporary use by the
visitors who paid in products & perhaps ^{their own} women in the
exchange & barter that always occurred at their great-
gatherings.

BIBBULMUM.

The Story of the Bibbulmum races and the tragic story of Natives.

The Bibbulmum were the largestst homogenous race in all Australia. Remnants of the first (uncircumcised) hordes entering from the North, traversing the continent, during the ages, resting here and there beside good water, with none to dispute their progress but the animals and birds frequenting the water. These harmless creatures in time became their "elder brothers", the "totem" of America's natives. They had evidently not been many centuries established in their new land when the second ~~the~~ circumcised hordes came in also from the North. By the time these arrived the first hordes had probably reached the S. W. and S. E. coasts in their age-long treckings. The S.W. coast, like that ^{part} ~~patch~~ of Australia that is now Victoria, was a most fertile area. The roots and fruits, its rivers and lakes, with their plentiful fish. Its birds, animals, and reptiles, all in great abundance, and its great length of coast. The Bibbulmum occupying its whole area from the lat. to lat, and long. to long., made it a permanent homeland for those first comers.

The little families became family groups and family tribes, the tribe being the aggregate of group and family, and each family sat down by a permanent water, making the animal or bird or reptile frequenting that water its "friend and brother", in a kinship that endured through the ages of their being. The fertile area was thus divided amongst them, and here they were living and producing their kind in such numbers that it might be suggested that their name "Bibbulmum" rose from the number of women and children amongst them. - "Bibbulmum" - Bibbul, meaning "breast"^{"woman"} "Bibbulmum" - people with many breasts (women). Infanticide was rare, only twins being killed because of the magic in "two heads" coming where one only was expected. The facts of birth were unknown to them. Men and women believed that babies lived in rock and stone and cave. Also they believed that the moon could give them a baby. The moon being a male and the sun, his wife, a female, they objected to moon-given babies and usually threw sand at him if they thought he was giving them a baby.

Their laws were brought with them, probably supplemented by their age-long travels on their way to the South and South-West coast, always seemingly trecking till they had the great water close to them. They were a fair and darker people and their fairer type was named after the White Cockatoo - Manitch - using the terminal "mat", meaning ^{"belonging to"} ~~the~~

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the darker type following the dark crow - Wordung. These very simple pairs intermarried. Wordung-mat married Manitch ~~mat~~, and where paternal descent obtained, the children entered the fathers' family. If Maternal Descent was the law the children entered the Mother's family. These two forms of descent were the only lawful ones. To the extreme South and South-West ^(Albany, Doubtful Islands area etc) descent was paternal. To the North of it, in about ^{of the ~~boundary~~ of Kellamui, Jering, etc} the latitude ^{the} the child entered the mother's moiety.

Their laws of kindred were equally simple and Jewish. There were no paternal uncles, their father's brothers all being fathers, and there were no maternal aunts, all their mothers sisters being mothers only, down to the very last, least, littlest mother's sister and father's brother. Their fundamental marriages were also simple. Only father's sister's children and mother's brother's children intermarried. Again ^a Jewish relic

Their land laws began with the settlement of the little family group. All the year round there was food. Each group area had its group growths, and the sea and rivers supplied the estuary and coast groups with fish, from a whale cast up on the beach. The Mallee-hen "brother" group invited neighbouring groups during the egg-laying season and this group would be in its turn invited to the fish "brother" group during the spawning period. The swan "brother" group also had its egg-laying season, when other groups were invited whose food products were not in season. Each group had its own area and none could trespass on that area without being invited. And thus the food-laws were made and observed from generation to generation.

At festivals and ceremonies connected with the initiation of their boys into manhood, an area was chosen which would provide plenty of food during the ceremonies, though each group brought some products from his own home for the ceremony. Especially was this so amongst the Estuary groups, as the spawning fish gave a generous diet to the largest gathering, and a change of food during the period was welcomed. There was always this interchange of food products between the groups and a friendly feeling between them all. though "Donnybrooks" occurred now and then, when, for some reason or other, group members fell out.

And so the groups lived their lives through centuries. How far north and east the Bibbulmun race extended can now only be surmised or guessed at. Vestiges of their dialect can be traced ^(west) to Central Australia further in an easterly rather than a northerly direction and one or two of their myths have a "central" dressing.

3.

The advent of the second ~~uncircumcised~~ horde from the North brought drastic changes. Its groups amalgamated or annihilated the first horde met at various waters, and on its journeys east and west and south, always south - the uncircumcised families must have fled before its advance or given their young boys to it for initiation and circumcision.

The pressure of the new hordes continued without cessation until at the time of white settlement, they had reached the Bight area in the south, and had penetrated to within 20 miles of the western coast at Geraldton, reaching the coast through the protection of White Settlement for a few year afterwards. Pressure continued all along the inland uncircumcised border to Twilight Cove until in 1907 I found that it had reached Kellerberrin, where the last Bibbulmun family there had held out against it and finally died from its evil magic, which they could not avert. Genburdong refused to give his son to them for initiation and they sent fire magic which "caught" the boy and his mother and father, the last of the Kellerberrin (snake-brother) totem group.

The arrival of Lockyer in 1826 at Albany was the first unconscious move of the Whites towards Bibbulmun extinction. Lockyer's soldiers dug up the soil for the new vegetables and so destroyed native food and roots. The sea coast was changed by the white man, the woods were cut down and gardens and paddocks, which were fenced and guarded, divided the ground into white men's huts and settlements.

In ¹⁸²⁹~~1829~~ Governor Stirling arrived, following occupied Perth and later Bunbury, Busselton and other places, east and north of Perth. And as each white settler purchased his little holding, fenced and sowed, ploughed and planted it, the group that owned each "purchase" lots at once lost their home-ground, that had been theirs and their families throughout the centuries.

There was no fault on the part of the White man. To him the natives had the whole of Australia to fall back on. He did not know that every part of the land he took up belonged to one group or another, and by purchasing it from a government equally ignorant of its pre-ownership he was evicting its home people, who became as homeless as any white man evicted from cabin or cottage.

The kangaroo ^{totem}~~toem~~ group of Perth was a large and numerous group. It had luscious fruits and food, meat and fish, shellfish and succulent roots of orchids, and had never suffered a famine so well stocked was it with its own natural products.

4.

The slopes and gullies of King's Park in Perth were favourite grazing ground for the kangaroos. When visitors arrived a great ^{battle} ~~battle~~ would take place on the hill and slopes and everyone would have meat and crab and fish food in plenty.

The landing of the first white settlers in Perth spelt extinction for the Perth Bibbulmun. Within 80 years the last member of that group died. He could not visit any friendly groups or expect to live amongst his friends. He had no home to invite them to and no food to give in return for their hospitality to him. Outcasts from their age-old kalleep the members wandered to and fro and here and there, eking out a poor living by begging, or being fed by the kindly Government of the day, but their own days of freedom were over, their own homeland, the little area that had belonged to them for thousands of years, was covered with the white man's houses. Joobaitch, the last "kangaroo" Bibbulmun showed in his whole life among the white people (he was born in Stirlings time early 30 's) the fine qualities of his people.

The story of the Bibbulmun races and the tragic story of
Natives of all Australia.

The Bibbulmun were the larger homogeneous race in all Australia. Remnants of the first (uncircumcised) hordes entering from the North, traversing the continent, during the ages, resting here and there beside good water., with none to dispute their progress but the animals and birds frequenting the water. These harmless creatures in time became their "elder brothers", the "totem" of America's natives. They had evidently not been many centuries established in their new land when the second uncircumcised hordes came in also from the North. By the time these arrived the first hordes has probably reached the S.W. and S.E. coasts in their age-long trekkings. The S.W. coast, like that patch of Australia that is now Victoria, was a most fertile area. The roots and fruits, its rivers and lakes, with their plentiful fish. Its birds, animals, and reptiles, all in great abundance, and its great length of coast. The Bibbulmun occupying its whole area from about lat., to lat., and long to long., made it a permanent homeland for those firstcomers.

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Their laws were brought with them, probably supplemented by their age-long travels on their way to the South and South-west coast, always seemingly trekking till they had the great water close to them. They were a fair and darker people and their fairer type was named after the White Cockatoo- Manitch- using the terminal "mat", meaning "big" "family" "stock" etc., the darker type following the dark Crow, - Wordung. These very simple pairs intermarried. Wordung-mat married Manitchmat, and where paternal (apparently the earlier) descent obtained, the children entered the father's family. If Maternal Descent was the law the children entered the mother's family. These two forms of descent were the only lawful ones. To the extreme South and South-west, descent was paternal. To the North of it, in about latitude, the child entered the mother's moiety.

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x Joobaitch