**Essays on Mount Crosby - The Big Fig**

Although our soil doesn't grow a tree quickly and there has been a lot of logging over the years, Mount Crosby still has a few trees large enough to be worthy of a mention. The first among these, often the terminus of the school children's annual local history walk, is the big fig in the Board's paddock (near the pumping station).

As with all great survivors, it owes its longevity to good fortune as much as anything. It was a lucky fig that fell into a spot where a little water stays after rain; where although other trees were cleared to let the grass grow, the shade of a fig was a reason to keep it; where although other trees looked hard pressed, a fig (especially alone) looked "farmly"; where although other paddocks became suburbs, the Board's paddock was quiet and that fig's home was ignored until annual audiences of children began to visit; and those children were wise enough to want to keep the big fig.

That's how it lasted long enough to become an impressive thing, visible as a mature tree in photographs dating back to the early 20th century and likely to make itself more unusual, as an urban tree, through dying of old age.

Note: The big fig is on private property, but can be visited when the Mount Crosby Historical Society makes arrangements with the owner and holds a walk that way.

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