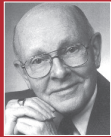


Alan Moorehead  
**COOPER'S CREEK**  
 THE OPENING OF AUSTRALIA

*Narrated by Nelson Runger*

In December 1860 Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills left their last base camp on Cooper's Creek in central Australia to begin a 1,500-mile midsummer walk across an unknown desert to the gulf of Carpentaria. Leaders of an elaborately equipped Victorian Exploring Expedition, they had far outdistanced most of their men and their supplies; but being already four months out of Melbourne, they were impatient to get on with this first crossing of the Australian continent. One evening four months later, they dragged themselves back to Cooper's Creek, exhausted and starving—to find that the camp had been abandoned hours before, all supplies gone.

In 1860, with much flag-waving and cheers, the gold-rush town of Melbourne gave a rousing send-off to an expedition that would cross the unmapped Australian desert. Headed by an eccentric Irishman, the Burke-Wills party—complete with camels and a fatal luxury of supplies—followed their lofty but vague expectations into an interior that they thought would offer untold riches. Instead, they found privations beyond imagination and, at Cooper's Creek, both the base camp and the resting place of their heroic folly.



**Narrator Nelson Runger** became famous for his voice while he was still in high school. As a radio broadcaster for KDKA in Pittsburgh, the world's first commercial broadcasting station, he attracted a wide audience. His success in radio, and then acting, led him to New York to become a narrator for Recorded Books. His special talent is to convey difficult, specialized material with eloquence and ease. His readings have been exuberantly received by listeners and reviewers alike. *Library Journal* praises "the cheerful, sonorous timber of Nelson Runger's voice and the unflinching, even pace of his delivery ..."

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Alan Moorehead  
**COOPER'S CREEK**  
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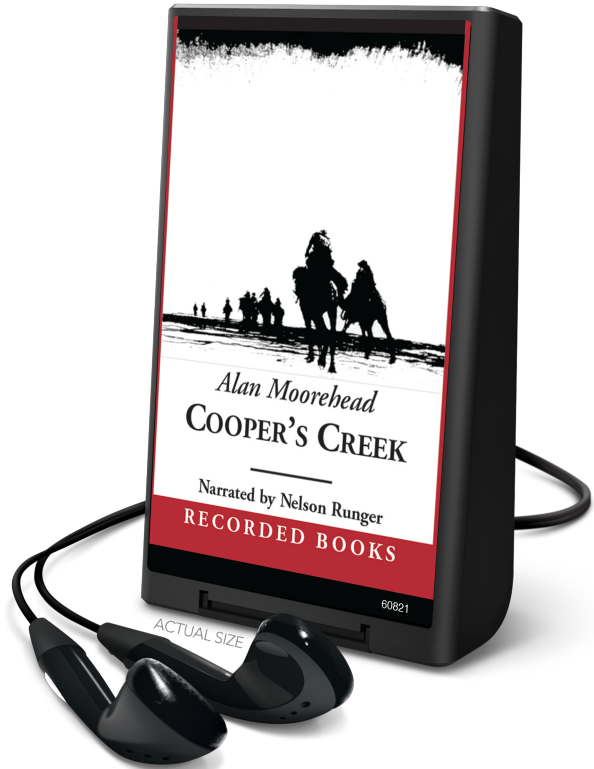
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