

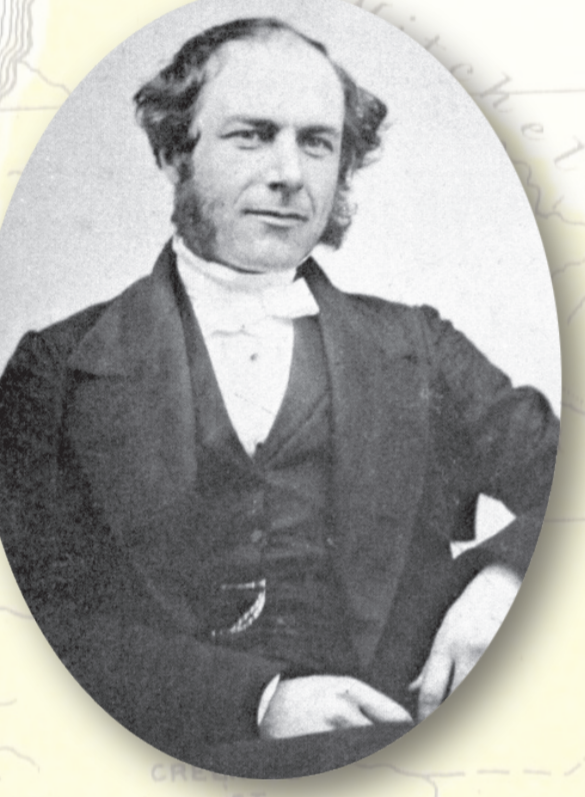
# Geology of Queensland

## The beginning of geological investigations in Queensland 1844–1877

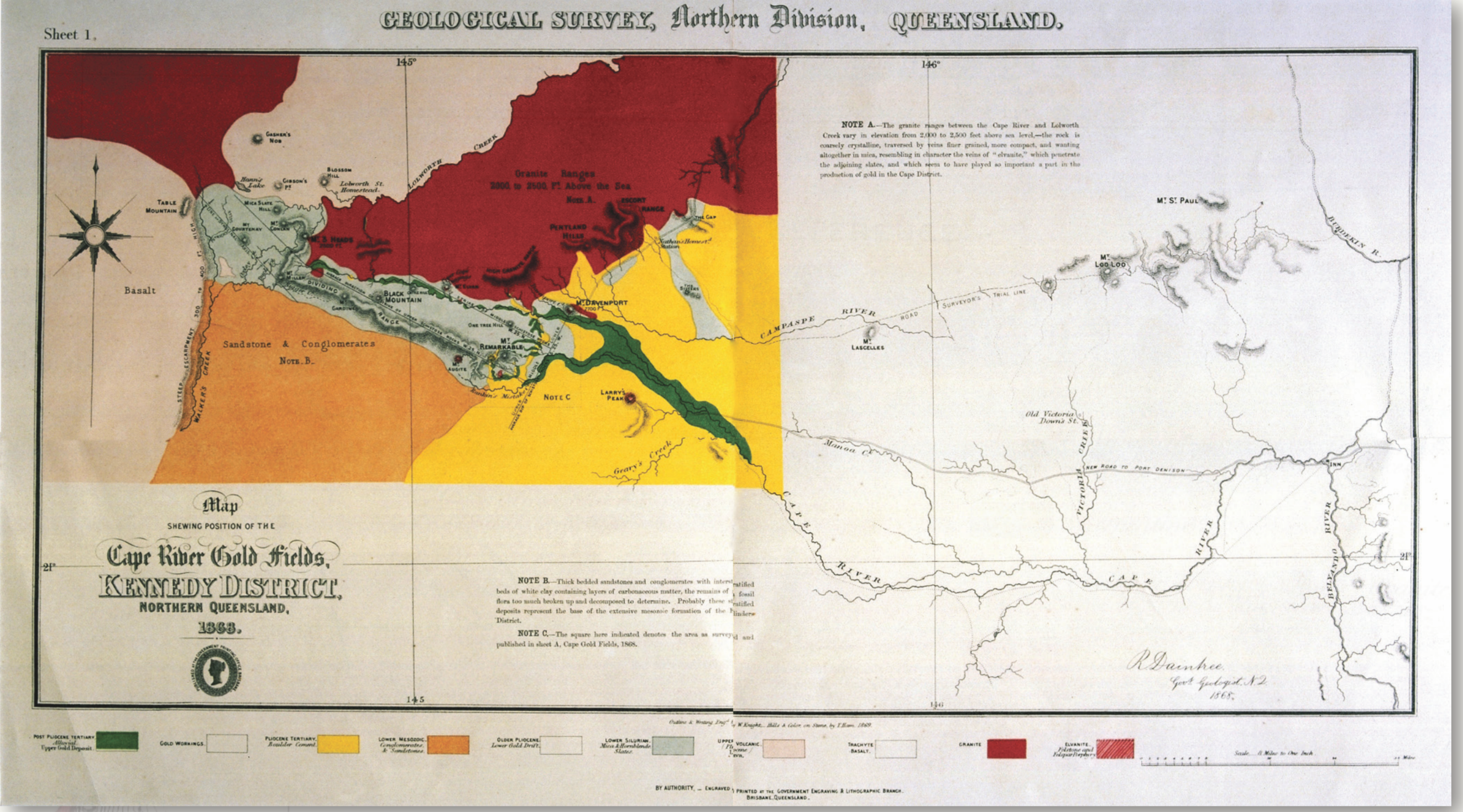
Prior to its separation in 1859, Queensland's geology was investigated as part of New South Wales. The earliest geological notes were by naturalists accompanying exploring expeditions. Most notable was Ludwig Leichhardt, an able geologist and botanist, whose expedition of 1844–1845, from the Darling Downs to Port Essington (Darwin) provided the first geological observations of large tracts of Queensland. He had earlier made shorter exploratory trips in southern Queensland, and on all his travels he maintained detailed field notes.



Ludwig Leichhardt



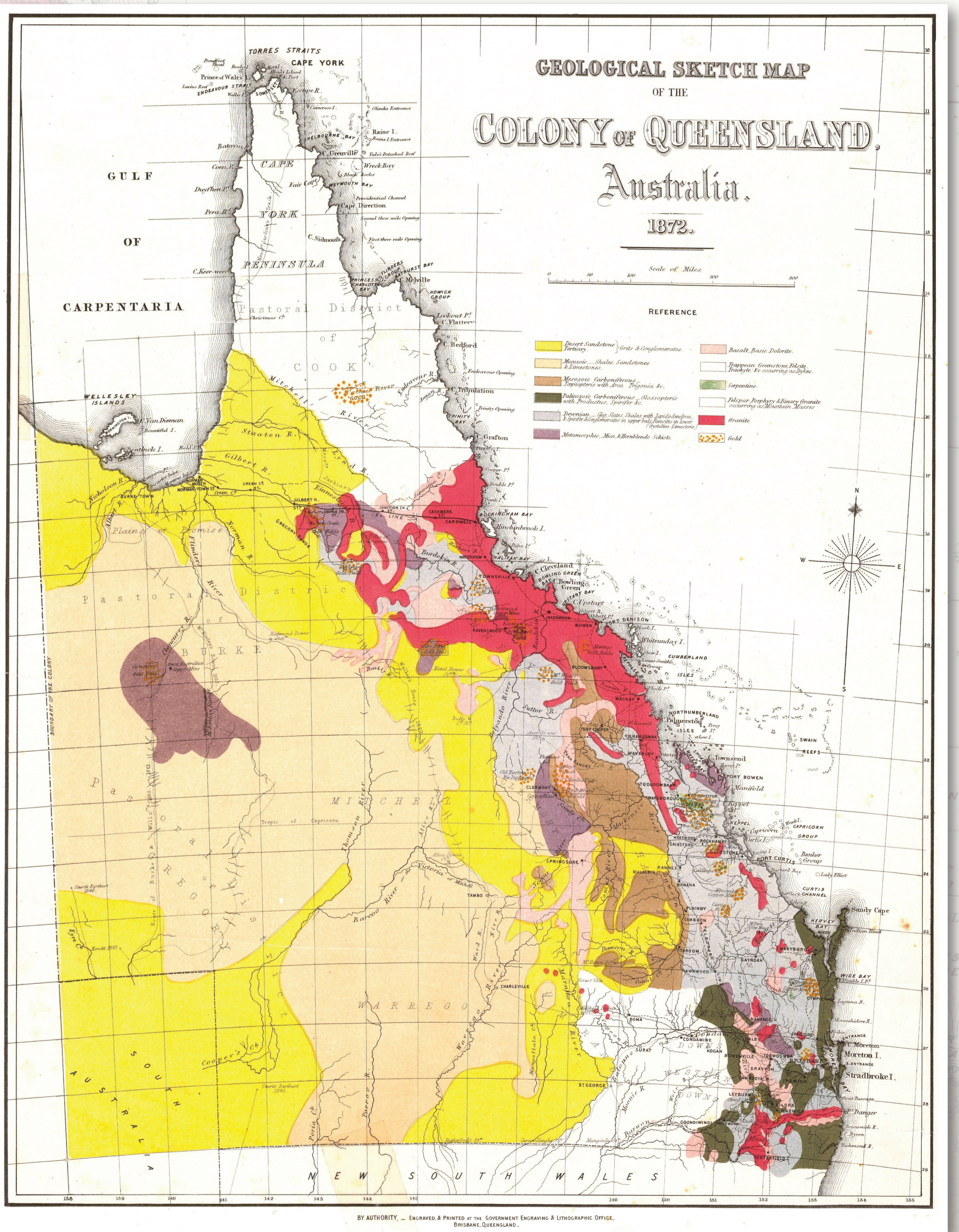
The Reverend W.B. Clarke of Sydney undertook geological reconnaissance of the Moreton Bay district, including the Ipswich Coal Measures and the Darling Downs in the 1850s.



Samuel Stutchbury, who was appointed Government Geologist for New South Wales in 1850, mapped as far north as Keppel Bay in 1853–1855.



The appointment of Christopher D'Oyley Aplin on April 14, 1868, as Government Geologist for the southern portion of the Colony of Queensland, and Richard Daintree to a similar position in the north in June, 1868, marked the beginning of the Geological Survey of Queensland, although their appointments were short-lived.



Daintree, having previously discovered gold on the Cape River in 1867, was immediately able to produce a map and report. His map of the Cape River area was the first government-authorized geological map published for any part of Queensland. Its accuracy, even when compared with modern maps, is remarkable. In 1869, he discovered gold on the Gilbert and Etheridge Rivers. He also found copper at Einasleigh.



Aplin was followed in 1875 by A.C. Gregory. Previously he led the Northern Australian Expedition in 1855–1856, a very successful traverse across the whole of northern Australia, that made numerous geological observations on its Queensland leg.

Daintree was appointed Queensland's Agent General in London in 1872. To illustrate a lecture to the Geological Society of London, he compiled a Geological Sketch Map of the Colony of Queensland that incorporated his own observations and those of his predecessors.

