
LAND SOUTH OF COOK'S RIVER

The colonial lives of the
Saywell and Roseby families

Mary Saywell



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SAYWELL AND ROSEBY FAMILIES**

Mary Saywell

For Laura Saywell and her grandchildren

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FRONT COVER

(Thomas Saywell's New Brighton Hotel, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

BACK COVER

(Bellambi jetty, image courtesy of the Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)

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Introduction

Sydney 1869.

In 1869, Thomas Saywell was a tobacco merchant with a shop at 4 Park Street, Sydney. He was married to Annie Ellen Fawcett, the daughter of a stone mason from Oldham, Lancashire. They had just moved into 'Ada Terrace', 8 Jane Street, Balmain with their three young children George, Ada and Frederick. The family was friendly with other stone masons from the industrial north of England, in particular the Roseby and Aspinall families. Thomas Saywell had family in Bathurst and Maitland and was involved in mining ventures in the Lithgow area.



(1873 Town Hall Clock Tower View, City of Sydney Archives, 055/055466. In 1873, Sydney photographer Francis W. Robinson undertook a perilous ascent of the clocktower of Sydney Town Hall. Signs on buildings include *Saywell's* - Thomas Saywell, tobacconist, 4 Park St.)

John Aspinall was about the same age as Thomas Saywell. John had married Sarah Ann Dunton in December 1862, just one month after Thomas Saywell married Annie. The Aspinalls had two daughters, Millicent and Annie, and in 1869 their son Herbert John Aspinall was born. John and his brother Albert were stone masons, like their father and uncle. John also carried on business at a general produce store at 789 George Street, Sydney for and on the account of Thomas Saywell. John Aspinall appears to have built 'Ada Terrace' in Balmain for Saywell. Both John Aspinall and his brother Albert worked in the building industry, however their younger brother Arthur was being educated for the ministry at Camden College.

John Roseby was also a friend of Thomas Saywell. He owned Roseby's Monumental Works at 781 George Street, near the Devonshire Street Cemetery on Brickfield Hill (now the site of Central railway station). This masonry business was close to the general produce store that John Aspinall operated at 789 George Street. John Roseby had inherited the business from his father, a stone mason and lay evangelist from County Durham called Thomas Roseby, who died in 1867. Thomas Saywell's eldest daughter, Ada, would marry John Roseby's son Herb in the Petersham Congregational Church in 1886. John had two younger brothers, Samuel and Thomas, and a sister Ann. Samuel was educated at home and from 1867 was a public school teacher at Gunning, near Yass. Thomas Roseby was one of the first students to attend Camden College in 1864, just a few years before Arthur Aspinall. Thomas Roseby was to become a prominent minister, educator and scientist.

Thomas Saywell had arrived in Australia as a young boy. He was from a family of mechanics and tullistes who had fled political upheaval in France in 1848 and arrived in Australia on the *Agincourt*. This family history sets out information about Saywell's early life in Calais, Maitland, the gold fields and Sydney prior to his move to Brighton le Sands in 1887. Saywell's movements in Sydney reflected the suburban expansion of the time, from Balmain to Hyde Park, Enmore, South Kingston, Petersham and Rockdale. From the late 1860s, Saywell was involved with collieries in Lithgow where he established the Vale of Clwydd and Great Western Zig Zag Collieries. He had brickmaking operations and property developments in Sydney, particularly in Alexandria and Marrickville. By the 1880s, he was investing in collieries in Newcastle, Bundanoon and the Illawarra, where he established the new Mount Kembla coal company and the South Bulli Colliery and built a jetty at Bellambi. He also owned the South Clifton Colliery for many years from 1891. These collieries, along with his manufacturing operations and property developments, helped fund his capital investment in his many projects in Rockdale.

The suburb of Brighton le Sands was developed in the 1880s by Thomas Saywell, who built Saywell's Tramway from Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach after recognizing that the new Illawarra Railway line would open up opportunities in land south of Cook's River. The railway enabled the development of new suburbs around Rockdale and other

stations along the route. Saywell's Tramway resulted in an influx of holidaymakers to Lady Robinson's Beach; it also allowed children to travel at no cost to Rockdale Public School.

In 1893, The Scots College was established at Lady Robinson's Beach in Thomas Saywell's New Brighton Hotel. The first principal was Rev. Arthur Aspinall, whose concerted action with Rev. Dr. Archibald Gilchrist and Rev. William Dill Macky, with the support of Rev. Dr. James Smith White, had persuaded the Presbyterian church to approve the first Presbyterian boys' secondary school in New South Wales. Thomas Roseby is likely to have helped Rev. Aspinall to locate these premises, as he had been heavily involved with plans to establish a Congregational boys' grammar school, however the project had insufficient liquid resources and the school was never built.

Thomas Roseby's daughter, Amy Roseby, was headmistress at Ascham under principal Herbert Carter from 1908 and purchased Redlands in 1911. Samuel's daughters, Clara and Minnie, were co-principals of Kambala from 1914 to 1926. John Roseby's granddaughter, Edith Roseby Ball, established Danebank in 1933 with the support of a group of Hurstville parents led by Valerie Crakanthorp, Ada Roseby's daughter. In 1934, Edith acquired the Walker residence on Park Road for Danebank with the help of the Crakanthorp family. Rosemary Crakanthorp was Danebank's first pupil and Thomas Saywell's great-granddaughter.

Chapter 1

John Dunmore Lang in the Illawarra

This story begins with John Dunmore Lang, who arrived in the Colony of New South Wales on 23 May 1823. Lang was the first ordained Presbyterian Minister in New South Wales. He laid the foundation stone for the Scots Church in July 1824 and the church was opened in July 1826. Lang was politically active and involved with both immigration and education. The Scots College was the first Presbyterian boys' secondary school in New South Wales, but it built on work started by Lang.

The British government's decision in the 1820s to provide education through the Church of England was short-sighted.¹ John Dunmore Lang was fearful in 1826 that Presbyterians would not receive fair treatment in a proposed school run by the Colony's Anglican Archdeacon William Grant Broughton.

*"...I was utterly astounded ...at the promulgation of a royal charter appointing a church and school corporation for the religious instruction and for the general education of youth, on the principles of the church of England exclusively... It will scarcely be believed that men could have been found in the nineteenth century to perpetrate so gross an outrage on the best feelings of a numerous body of reputable men."*²



(Rev. John Dunmore Lang 1841, watercolour by William Nicholas, State Library of New South Wales)

Lang founded a primary school called the Caledonian Academy in 1826. The school was not successful and operated for less than a year.³ Its first pupil was John Robertson, who became a leading colonial politician.⁴

On 14 August 1830, Lang went to Britain on the *Australia* to make arrangements for building a secondary school in the Colony. Part of the plan involved arranging for the migration of a group of artisans to help build what was to be called 'The Australian College'. Lang engaged Rev. Henry Carmichael to teach classics and Rev. William Pinkerton to teach English. He also chose Rev. John Anderson to teach commercial subjects, for Lang wished the College instruction to be useful as well as liberal. For mathematics and physics Lang had in mind John McGarvie, then officiating for him in the Scots church in Sydney.⁵

In 1831, Lang and Carmichael sailed to Australia in the *Stirling Castle* with 50 'Scottish mechanics' including carpenters, bricklayers and stone masons and the core teachers who were to staff the new academy.

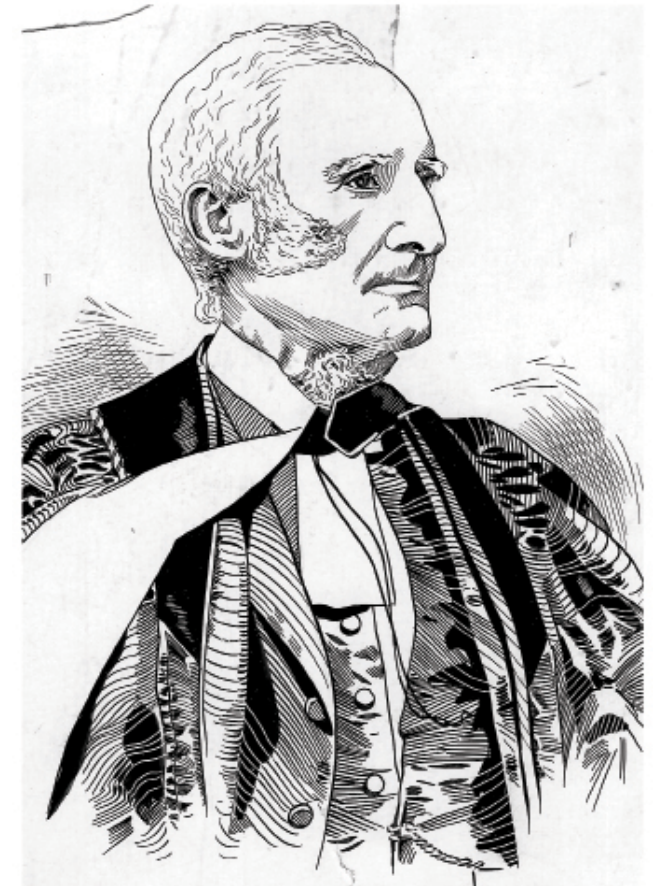
*"...[T]he settlement in the colonies of reputable persons of the class of mechanics was highly desirable...the frequent attempts of individuals to carry out persons of that class in the capacity of indentured servants had uniformly failed because, in great measure, the masters had given themselves no concern to ascertain the previous moral and religious character of their intended servants and because of hiring them at a much lower rate of wages than they could otherwise have obtained in the colony; that this created a spirit of discontent on the part of the servants and held out to them a strong temptation to break through their engagements."*⁶



(Lang's Scots Church, Sydney, 1925, Lionel Lindsay, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne)

The Australian College opened at the beginning of 1832 with 50 pupils. One pupil of The Australian College was James Smith White. He was born in Glasgow and came to the Colony as a child with his father, Andrew White, on the *Mountaineer*, which left from Liverpool and arrived in Sydney on 7 September 1832. Andrew White was a shoemaker who had enlisted as a mounted trooper in the Scots Greys. He was sixteen when he joined up and served for eight years.⁷ Andrew was part of the courageous charge of the Scots Greys at Waterloo, however he sustained serious injuries (13 sabre, gunshot and lance wounds). He was accordingly entitled to a military pension, which he was able to commute to funds for travel to Australia.⁸ Soon after arriving in Australia, James became a pupil at The Australian College. Such was his ability that, after being a pupil for six years, he continued at the school as a teacher in both classics and natural philosophy.

James Smith White was the first candidate for the Presbyterian ministry received by the Synod of Australia and was ordained to the pastoral charge of Singleton and Patrick's Plains in 1847. Further, he was principal of Singleton Grammar School for a period.⁹ He wrote prodigiously on religious and social topics and advocated the cause of Aborigines when few others did. James Smith White's knowledge and love of science led to his delivery of popular lectures on various branches of scientific study in the principal towns of the Hunter River district. At Maitland itself, he was one of four people who founded the School of Arts and he was also instrumental in establishing the Singleton Mechanics' Institute, of which he was president for several years.¹⁰ Rev. Dr. James Smith White would go on to play an important role in the establishment of The Scots College as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.¹¹



(Rev. Dr. James Smith White, image courtesy of Garry Downes and The Scots College Archives)

The Australian College had considerable promise that was not realised due to Lang's lack of administrative ability and considerable financial difficulties relating to the construction of College buildings. In 1836 there had been 116 pupils, but by 1840 The Australian College had only about 30 students.¹² The Australian College was closed from 1841 to 1846 owing to a number of factors including declining enrolments and the subsequent loss of staff; Lang was in England in 1841 attempting to resolve his financial problems. The Australian College re-opened in 1846 and Lang appointed the Englishman Rev. Barzillai Quaipe as professor of mental philosophy and divinity. Quaipe was a Congregationalist who had accepted a temporary appointment to Scots Church while John Dunmore Lang was overseas in 1846 and continued his service to Scots Church until 1847. The Australian College closed in 1854.

Barzillai Quaipe would later tutor Arthur Aspinall. Further, in 1867 Arthur Aspinall studied at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, which was established in 1833 with the backing of Governor Bourke and with Henry Carmichael as its Vice President. Carmichael had some experience with the then-emerging mechanics institutes and schools of arts movements in Britain.¹³ The orthodox aim of the British mechanics institutes was to educate mechanics in the theory behind their practical occupations.¹⁴ In an age when children of working families were forced by economic necessity to leave school with little more basic education than the "three R's" - reading, writing and arithmetic - it was desirable to provide young people with a chance to better themselves in their own time.¹⁵ The permeation of Scottish tertiary education by vocational interests was regarded as a defect by English educationalists, who intended to produce educated gentlemen, not professional men.¹⁶

In 1835, Lang founded a weekly journal, *The Colonist*. Its circulation was soon second only to that of *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The vigour of Lang's polemics was never greater than when he discussed the tangled question of how best to educate the children of New South Wales.¹⁷

Lang's successful migrant voyage set a precedent. "Lang was determined to erase Sydney's convict immorality with a wave of God-fearing migrant tradesmen".¹⁸ John Dunmore Lang thought that New South Wales' corruption had to be purified through free immigration. Returning from a trip to Scotland in 1825, Lang had sailed on the *Medway*, a convict vessel, providing him with an extended and intimate experience of transportation. He worked diligently among the convicts and thought they landed in Hobart with better dispositions. Lang believed that one of the greatest evils of colonial society was its drunkenness. The more Lang thought about the problems of obtaining tradesmen to erect college buildings and of sobering up Sydney workers, the more clearly he came to realize that the solution was the promotion of free immigration.¹⁹

John Dunmore Lang and his brother Andrew were friends with John Dunlop Wyllie,

(The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Pitt Street, 1869, State Library of New South Wales)



who in 1825 owned a property known as 'Shoan Vale', Five Islands on which he grazed Ayrshire cattle. Wyllie encountered financial difficulties in 1826 and Lang arranged for him to be lent money. Wyllie successfully applied for a further grant of land and in 1829 transferred property to Lang in consideration of moneys paid to him. Lang mortgaged the property and attempted to sell it in 1832, without success.²⁰

William Charles Wentworth had purchased land around Port Kembla in 1828 and by the 1830s most of the land grants in the Illawarra were under the control of four families; the Wentworths, Johnstons, Terry/Hughes and Osbornes. Thomas Saywell's second wife, Rebecca, was an Osborne (they married in 1906). By far the largest of these properties was the Wentworth family's 'Peterborough Estate' on the southern shores of Lake Illawarra. In 1837, Lang settled 14 Scottish families on the eastern portion of the Peterborough Estate. These families played a seminal role in the agricultural development of the Illawarra district as they supplied the labour force necessary to bring the district under cultivation.²¹

Lang sold his Illawarra property at auction on 6 September 1838 to his brother, Andrew.²²

*"At that period I had an estate of upward of a thousand acres, in one of the finest parts of the district, along the beautiful Illawarra lake. I was obliged to dispose of it in the pursuit of objects which I deemed of the utmost importance to the colony. My brother was the purchaser at two pounds an acre, which was considered a good price at the time."*²³

One of Lang's missions was to recruit clerics, along with respectable tradesmen and

small farmers from the British Isles. Subsequent trips saw the Australian Scottish community grow steadily. Lang advised the Colonial Secretary that Illawarra was one district in which the resident Presbyterian population earnestly desired the settlement of Presbyterian Ministers. Rev. John Tait arrived in Wollongong in September 1837. Between 1838 and 1841 more families followed including John and Elizabeth Ewing and their sons who arrived on the *Minerva* in January 1838, a difficult journey as some 14 passengers died on the high seas from typhus fever with another 20 dying after the ship was quarantined.²⁴ Thomas Ewing contracted typhus, but recovered. Robert became a Presbyterian Minister and Thomas was ordained a Church of England Minister in 1847 and was a long-serving rector of St Michael's Church in Wollongong, holding office from 1857 until 1892.

Rev. Cunningham Atchison succeeded Rev. John Tait in 1841. Rev. Atchison came out to the Colony with Lang on the *Portland* in 1837 and served as a Minister in Wollongong from 1841 until 1864.²⁵ In 1843 a spire, tower and porch were added to the Wollongong Presbyterian Chapel, to architect James Hume's design but known locally as "Atchison's folly".²⁶ Rev. Atchison married Isabella Osborne in 1846 and had four children including sons James Thomas Atchison and Cunningham Archibald Atchison, who were both surveyors (they named Atchison Street in Wollongong in 1883). On 20 July 1857, the Rev. Cunningham Atchison purchased 179 acres of land near the source of the Cordeaux River, Mount Kembla.

The Atchison brothers were involved with Thomas Saywell's first coal mine south of Sydney, the Ringwood Coal Company, which was established at Bundanoon in 1883 and also his subsequent venture at Mount Kembla, the Victorian Coal-mining Company. James Thomas Atchison was a licensed surveyor with the firm of Atchison & Schleicher. His brother Cunningham Archibald Atchison worked on a number of Saywell's projects, including the New Brighton Estate at Lady Robinson's Beach.

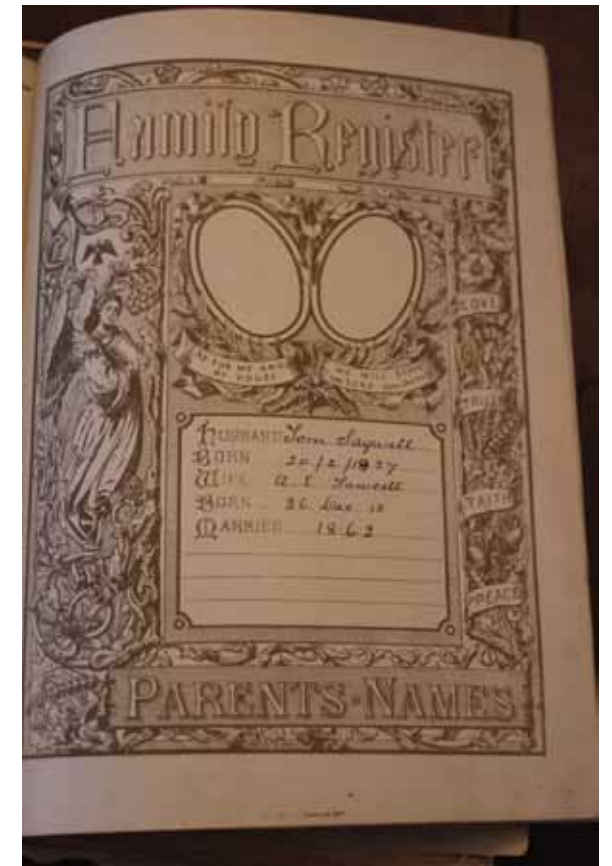
The transportation of convicts to the Colony was to end in 1842. Further, by 1843 government-assisted immigration had almost completely stopped because of a lack of funds from the sale of Crown land.²⁷ John Dunmore Lang would be instrumental in lobbying for the construction of the Illawarra Railway in the 1870s.

Chapter 2

Lacemakers on the *Agincourt*

Thomas Richard Saywell was born at Radford, Nottingham on 20 February 1837, the son of George Saywell and his wife Eliza Ann Nadin.¹ He was baptized at St Peter's in Radford, a Wesleyan Church. The Saywell family came from a long line of lacemakers from France and Flanders who moved to England with fellow Huguenots in 1604; the name was originally Seyuill. Many lacemaker families were Wesleyan, as the Anglican Church reflected the values of the establishment and had missed the challenge of meeting the needs of the working class.

Thomas Saywell's mother died when he was young and his father married Isabella Kisedden on 13 September 1841. George and Isabella had five young children born in England to their former spouses; Mary Elliott and Sarah Anne, Rosanna, Elias and Thomas Saywell. George, William and Isabella would later be born in France.²



(Bible in family's possession)



(St Peter's in Radford, photograph by John Sutton, Wikimedia Commons)

George and his brother Jasper were the sons of William Saywell and Christiana Burley who married in 1807. George was a competent designer and an expert in setting up steam driven mechanical lace making machines. The lace industry also employed many women who embroidered lace net. When the Nottingham lace trade declined, George and his brother Jasper moved with their families to France in 1841.

³ The family did not go directly to Calais when they left England; instead they went to northern France and Flanders. Jasper's wife, Johanna Couvalare, was Flemish. They attempted to settle

in Lille, which was another centre for the machine-lace industry. Lille was a walled medieval city that had not been designed for the industrial era. The workers lived below street level in cellars that were entered through a trapdoor in the footpath and a narrow ladder often led to a single room that accommodated the entire family. Meals and drink were often consumed at corner estaminets where there was light, poetry and comradeship.⁴ Young Thomas Saywell attended an abbey school in Lille.⁵ Thomas may have been taught by the Frères Bon-fils, as the chapel of that order was used by the *église réformée* and the brothers taught young boys to read and write.⁶

The Saywell family's stay in these odious conditions in Lille must have been brief. In 1842 the family moved to the village of Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais (also known as Basse-Ville) where there were no restrictions on lace machines operating day and night. There was a Methodist chapel on rue du Temple.⁷ George and Isabella lived in rue du Temple, Section G, number 257 when George Burleigh Saywell was born on 24 May 1842⁸. The family had some success in a local show in July 1844:

*“Concours de Légumes, Fruit et Fleurs, des 6 et 7 juillet 1844: [Trois ont concouru] pour les fruits seulement: MM. Georges Saywell, mécanicien à St.-Pierre; ... Les autres exposans en dehors du concours étaient...pour les légumes, MM. G. Saywell...et M. Saywell a obtenu la mention honorable pour 15 variétés fort remarquables de groseilles, dites anglaises.”*⁹

That same month a daughter Isabella was born, on 19 July 1844. She was baptized in the Methodist chapel on 29 July 1844 but, sadly, died as an infant.¹⁰ By this time they were living at rue Eustache St-Pierre, Section G, number 584. William was born

on 19 July 1845 and baptized in the Methodist chapel on 4 January 1846.¹¹ His cousin, Fanny, was born to George's brother Jasper and Johanna Saywell a few months later, on 16 October 1845. Fanny and her parents were to travel to Australia with George Saywell's family.

The Saywells were surrounded by extended family in Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais. George and Jasper's cousins, William and Jasper Saywell, settled in Calais at about the same time and had large families. William Saywell and his wife Mary Beardsley lived on rue Quai du Commerce and had a daughter, Henriett, on 10 November 1844. Jasper Saywell and Roseanna Middleton lived on rue du Vauxhall and in addition to their children born in England had a son, Lewis, on 25 September 1844 and a daughter, Emma, on 7 April 1846 when living at rue Neuve. The lace pictured might have been made by any one of a number of family members who were *“ouvriers en tulle”*.



(A production sample dating from 1858, stamped Saywell, image courtesy of the Cité Internationale de la Dentelle et de la Mode, Calais)

In 1841 a law had been passed preventing children under the age of eight from being employed in the factories. Thomas Saywell was five when the family arrived in Saint-Pierre and attended a Roman Catholic school in Calais.¹² Although education was not compulsory in France at the time, it was not uncommon for poor children to attend school. Some background may be helpful in understanding how Thomas Saywell came to attend a Catholic school.

François Guizot was a dominant figure in French politics prior to the revolution of 1848. He was a conservative liberal who worked to sustain a constitutional monarchy following the July Revolution of 1830. Guizot was a Protestant and a member of *La Société pour l'encouragement de l'instruction primaire parmi les protestants de France* founded in 1829, as well as Minister of Education from 1832–37. Guizot's influence was critical in expanding public education, which under his ministry saw the creation of primary schools in every French commune.

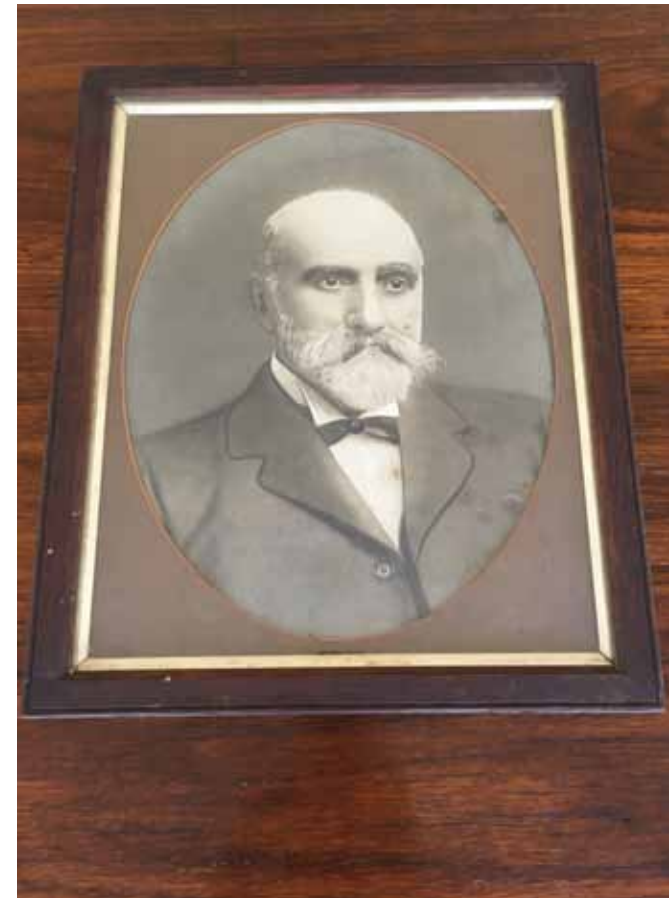
The *loi Guizot* of 1833 stated the principle of the freedom of primary education by the formula 'primary teaching is either public or private', making the state and church systems complementary. Local authorities were required to establish primary schools for boys and poor children were exempt from paying fees. Illiteracy was prevalent among Protestant minorities in communities where the only available schools were Catholic.

*“Dans une foule de localités, trop peu représentés dans les conseils municipaux pour avoir part à la distribution des fonds communs, trop peu nombreux ou trop pauvres pour avoir des écoles séparées, craignant à la fois d'altérer la foi religieuse de leur enfants, en les envoyant dans les écoles catholiques, ou de les priver totalement d'instruction élémentaire, c'est trop souvent ce dernier parti qu'ils ont pris ...”*¹³

When faced with this choice, George and Isabella appear to have decided to send young Thomas to a Catholic school to ensure that he learnt to read and write, despite concerns about religious education. Further, he would have been too young to work and it may have been a form of childcare. The difficulties associated with educating religious minorities in Catholic schools were later to contribute to the secularisation of the French system of public education. Thomas Saywell was fortunate to be educated in France in the 1840s at a time when many children in the Australian colonies did not receive instruction. In 1848, New South Wales established a dual system of church and national schools, under the control of two boards that functioned concurrently: the Board of National Education and the Denominational School Board.¹⁴

Thomas Saywell was fluently bilingual; he treasured his French and would also become an avid reader of Dickens. He spoke to his sister Mary in French throughout their lives.

In 1847, the economic situation in France deteriorated and with most of the population spending what little money they had on food, the ability to purchase industrially produced goods diminished. The political situation also worsened and in February 1848, Louis Phillipe abdicated and fled the country. English families working in Calais and Saint-Pierre were concerned that they would be forced to leave France, although no work was available in their home parishes. On 21 March 1848 a meeting was held at the English church in the rue du Temple and a petition to the English government was drawn up asking for assistance to emigrate to one of the British colonies.



(Thomas Saywell, photograph in family's possession)

The lacemaker families did not come under the description of emigrants to whom a free passage was offered, being mechanics. Despite the precedent set by John Dunmore Lang fifteen years earlier with his successful migration of 'Scottish mechanics',¹⁵ the British and colonial governments did not believe that skilled tradesmen and agricultural labourers were the type of immigrants most required. The emigration commissioners were of the view that the great complaint in the Australian colonies was a deficiency in the quantity rather than the quality of labour. They said that the emigrants who succeeded best were agricultural labourers, shepherds and female domestic servants; that a small number of country mechanics could also find employment but manufacturers such as lacemakers would scarcely find employment at their own trades and

would be of little value to the Colony.¹⁶ However, the British refugees would have had claims on the parishes of Nottingham and Radford and after various meetings they were selected for emigration.

George and Isabella had a second daughter named Isabella on 14 April 1848 when the family was living in rue du Temple, Section G, number 271.¹⁷ By this time, the English lacemakers in Calais were falling further into destitution and English workmen were continuing to arrive in Calais from various towns in the interior of France. George and Jasper Saywell and their families decided to leave France; their cousins William and Jasper stayed. English refugees were taken by steamboat across the Channel. The Saywells migrated on the ship *Agincourt*, which took on some families at Blackwall reach on the Thames and was then towed by steam tug to Gravesend to meet the remainder of her passengers who were settled on board by 9 June 1848. The *Agincourt* reached Sydney on 6 October 1848.

Chapter 3

The lacemaker families were to disprove the theory that manufacturing skills and education were of little value in the Colony, through their involvement in the mining and manufacturing industries and their support for schools where their children could be educated as they had been in France.

Settlers in Maitland

On arrival in Sydney, the *Agincourt's* passengers were sorted into two groups. Twenty-three families were to seek work in Bathurst and twenty-five in Maitland. George and Isabella Saywell went to East Maitland where they were employed as general servants at £26 per year. Their daughters Mary, Sarah Anne and Rosanna were each offered a year's employment with board and lodging at £10. Mary was hired by Edward Salamon, a wine and spirit merchant, Sarah Anne was offered employment by Mr Reuben and Rosanna with a settler, Lieutenant Irwin.¹ Jasper Saywell and his wife Johanna, together with their daughter Frances, went to Bathurst where they worked as a cook and laundress for Laurence Shorthill of the Coach and Horses at Kelso.² Thomas Saywell had family and friends in Bathurst throughout his life and would later develop mining interests in the area with members of his family.

The emigrants on the *Agincourt* were impoverished. George became a haulage contractor with two bullock teams and some horses (together with jinkers, drays and wagons) and carted coal and



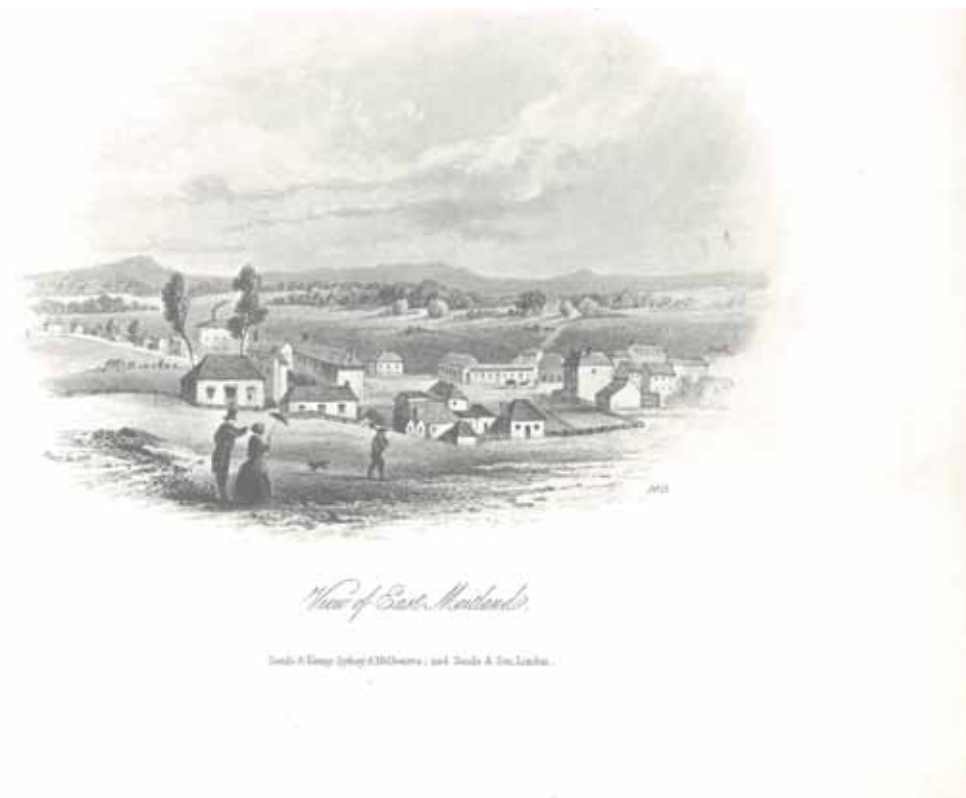
(Frances Eastlake, née Saywell wearing earrings typical of the quartier du Courgain maritime de Calais, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

general merchandise from Newcastle as far as Mudgee. He later received a small parcel of land in the Hunter Valley. In March 1848, a decree had been issued preventing the withdrawal from savings banks in France of any deposits exceeding 100F and orders that the Calais bank release the funds of British workers failed to materialize. George Saywell seems to have received some moneys that were frozen in a bank in France in 1848, but released after the French elections in 1849, and he invested in a small coal mine in Newcastle. Sarah married Thomas Tamsett in 1851. Rosanna married James Pryor in Maitland in 1852; James was a surveyor and they opened up the Blackjack coal mine at Gunnedah.³ William Saywell became an assayer to the mining industry.

Thomas Saywell worked as a tobacco twister. In July 1852, a case under the *Masters and Servants Act* was heard in Maitland against Saywell, who was charged with absenting himself after Charles Saunders Pitt had remonstrated with him for not doing his work properly, “*Saywell having spoilt a quantity of tobacco by bad work, although able to work as well as any other boy in the factory, Saywell did not come to work on Monday, and afterwards sent an impertinent message, refusing to come.*” Saywell was convicted of breach of agreement and sentenced to fourteen days’ imprisonment.⁴ Pitt might not have been the most lenient of employers. Between 1847 and 1853, Pitt charged John Mockie with absconding from service and Charles Fee, Michael Canavan, Robert Winters and James Graham with breaches of the *Masters and Servants Act*, was fined for allowing a savage dog belonging to him to be loose and was also fined for assaulting John Chapman and elderly employee John Williams by shaking him causing ‘*a fit of palpitations*’.⁵

In 1851, payable gold was discovered in the western districts and men left Bathurst for the Turon. It wasn’t long before so many had dashed from Maitland that a corner near the meeting of Meroo and Louisa Creeks became known as Maitland Bar.⁶ From April 1853 until 1854, George Saywell was the publican of the Red Lion Hotel at Banks Street, East Maitland.⁷ Thomas Saywell moved to the goldfields with his uncle Jasper where he operated a private lending library for literate miners who paid him in gold.⁸ In September 1854, a dark iron-grey horse belonging to Jasper Saywell was lost or stolen when he was living at Devil’s Hole Creek and it is likely to have been in this area of the western goldfields that Thomas Saywell lived. Jasper Saywell died on 22 April 1864 at Campbell’s Creek, aged 44 years, and was buried at Windeyer.

Thomas Saywell’s brother, George Burleigh Saywell, would also go to the gold fields at Araluen in the 1860s where he bought a gold mine, which was not a great success.⁹ George would establish a tobacco manufactory with his brothers Thomas and Elias in the 1870s and, in the 1890s, manufactured coke in the Scarborough area. Thomas Saywell’s brothers also appear to have been involved with the Saywell mines and smelting works at Lithgow, although the exact involvement of Elias, George and William in these operations is unknown.



(View of East Maitland, from New South Wales illustrated: the sketches of F.C. Terry published by Lansdowne, Melbourne, 1973, original published in 1855 by Sands and Kenny, image courtesy of Maitland City Council)

On 6 September 1861, 15 year-old Frances Saywell married George Eastlake at Campbell’s Creek, Meroo and lived at ‘Hillview’ on Wombat Road. It was probably from Frances’s home that her young cousin, Isabella Saywell, left for her marriage with George Summerhays on 8 October 1865 in St John’s Church, Young. George and Isabella Summerhays were to remain in the district, where they had 12 children.



(Isabella and George Summerhays and children, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

Chapter 4

Stone masons from the industrial north of England



(The Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Stanhope, Weardale, photograph by Carol Bleasdale, Creative Commons)

Thomas Roseby senior was a humble stone mason from County Durham in England. He was born in about 1808, the son of a ship's carpenter who was lost at sea during the Napoleonic wars. He had to work from the age of seven and the work consisted in part of carrying loads of bricks on his shoulders. He became a stone mason and showed quickness and ability in his work. He once remarked that had he been given an education, "*I could have learned anything when I was young because I was so quick*". In his early manhood he came under the influence of the Methodist preachers and was converted by them. This was undoubtedly a significant event in his life, for he adhered strictly to the teachings of John Wesley to the end.¹ In the early nineteenth century, there was a strong religious revival in the industrial north of England amongst oppressed factory workers and middle-class merchants. This resulted in a simplified form of Evangelicalism from which developed the Wesleyan Methodist and the Congregationalist.²

On his way to do some work at Barnard Castle, Thomas Roseby passed through the village of Stanhope in Weardale and happened to see Ann Lowes walking along a street.³ They married on 1 November 1834 at the Anglican church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Stanhope and his son John was baptized in that same church on 29 November 1835.

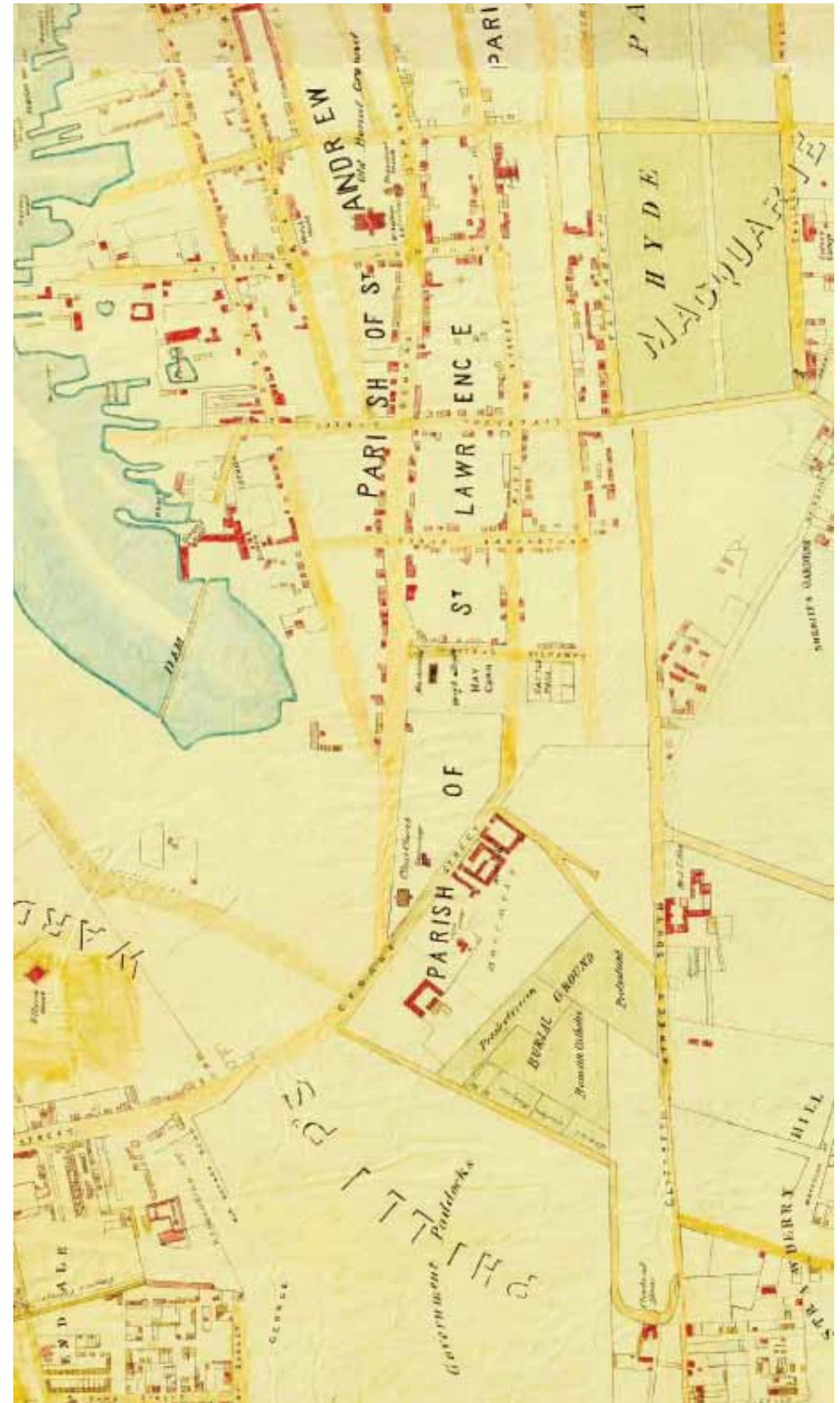
In January 1840, Thomas Roseby advertised his business as follows:

*“Thomas Roseby, Builder, Head & Tombstone Cutter, Monument Maker, Fireplaces, &c. Begs leave to inform the Public, that he has commenced the above business at Shield Field, near Franklin Street; and hopes, by strict Attention, and moderate charges, to merit a Share of the Public Patronage – Newcastle, Jan. 15, 1840”.*⁴

Samuel, his second son, was born on 29 May 1840 at Little Blagdon Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. The family decided to leave Newcastle and emigrated on the *Arab*, leaving Gravesend on 5 June 1841 and arriving at Port Nicholson, Wellington Harbour, New Zealand on 16 October 1841. Most of the settlers on the *Arab* were intended for the Nelson settlement.⁵ After a brief stay in New Zealand, the family moved to Sydney in 1842.⁶ Their third son, Thomas, was born in Australia on 8 April 1844 and Ann was born in 1846 in a stone cottage built by her father near Mark Foy’s on Liverpool Street. Shortly after his arrival, Thomas Roseby joined the Rev. N. Pidgeon in the City Mission Chapel, Sussex Street in the work of street preaching. These two earnest city missionaries were to continue their combined labours for the good of souls for nearly twenty-six years.

Thomas Roseby was an earnest and sincere Christian and temperance advocate. He was a well-known and much beloved local preacher and temperance worker amongst the Wesleyans. His wife, Ann, *“was one of the good old-fashioned Christians who knew her Bible from beginning to end, and could enter into a theological argument with any divine.”*⁷ Thomas Roseby was very courageous in confronting ruffians; at that time the city of Sydney was still a rough place and a chain-gang of convicts used to walk up George Street. Ultimately Thomas Roseby owned his own business, Roseby’s Monumental Works, near the Devonshire Street Cemetery on Brickfield Hill (now the site of Central railway station). When he got older, he handed the business over to his son John and gave himself entirely to the work of a Home Missionary. He made two missionary tours, one up the Hunter District to Murrurundi and the other through the Illawarra. He died in 1867 at Shepherd’s Paddocks, Redfern, leaving his business to John.⁸ His descendants were gifted men and women who devoted their lives to teaching in churches and schools, both independent and State.⁹

(City of Sydney, Historical Atlas of Sydney (Sheilds), 1845)



Chapter 5

John Aspinall and his wife, Sarah Ingham, arrived in Sydney in 1857 on the *Mary Ann* with their seven children including sons John Ingham, Albert Wood and Arthur Ashworth Aspinall. John Aspinall's calling is listed as stone mason and quarryman. The Aspinalls were from Southowram, Yorkshire, but had left Southowram in 1851 and settled in Aston-under-Lynne, Lancashire. The *Mary Ann* left Southampton on 27 November 1856 and arrived in Sydney on 19 March 1857. John Aspinall's brother, Thomas Aspinall of 129 Crown Street, was also a stone mason and had arrived in the Colony with his wife Maria in December 1848 on the *Waverley*.

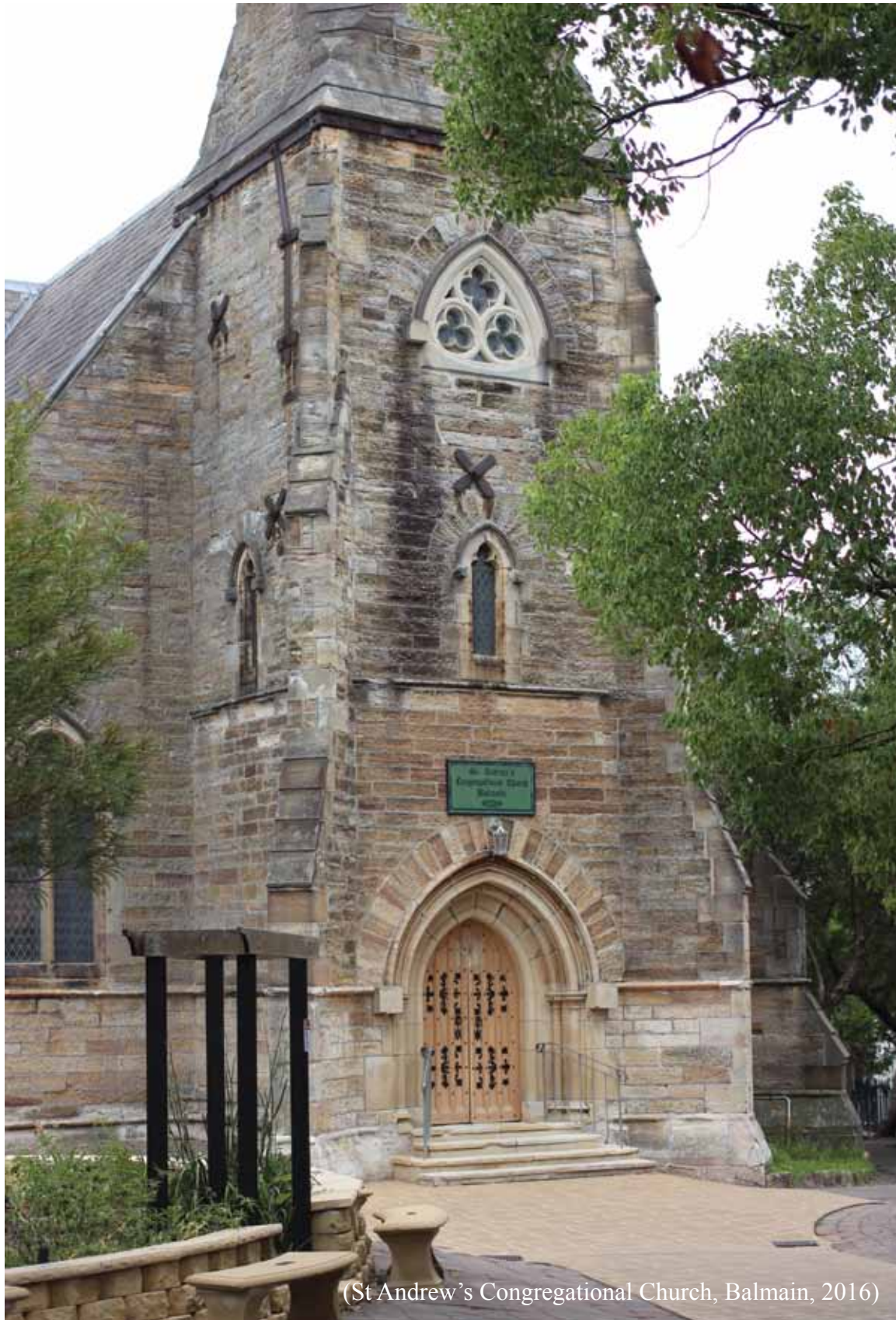
John Aspinall and his family lived at 9 Arundel Terrace, Parramatta Road in Bishopthorpe (Glebe) opposite Sydney University. Sarah reared her family at a time when conditions were far from good in Sydney, "*and brought them up to be God-fearing men*".¹⁰

The 1860s and early 1870s

John Aspinall and Thomas Saywell were both born around 1837 and were just a year or two younger than John Roseby. On 18 July 1860, John Roseby married Ann Hooworth at the bride's home in Glebe according to the rites of the Wesleyan church. In November 1862, Thomas Saywell married red-haired Annie Ellen Fawcett at the home of her mother, Jane Fawcett, in Balmain. They were married according to the forms of the Congregational Church by Rev. Alexander Rea, who lived in Darling Street, Balmain.¹ One month later, John Ingham Aspinall married Sarah Ann Dunton at his father's house 9 Arundel Terrace, Parramatta Road, Bishopthorpe according to the rites of the Wesleyan Church.² John Dunmore Lang married Albert Wood Aspinall and Mary Jane Bennett in the Scots Church in April 1864.

Thomas Saywell opened a tobacconist's shop at 4 Park Street, Sydney in 1863.³ When their first three children were born the family lived above the shop; George Fawcett (21 August 1863), Ada (21 March 1866) and Frederick Wallace (17 March 1868). Annie also lost a son as an infant after the birth of George Fawcett and before the birth of Ada.

Annie's parents had migrated to Australia on the *Elizabeth*, which arrived in Sydney on 23 August 1841. Timothy Fawcett was a Balmain stone mason, who built three stone attached houses at 1 to 5 Fawcett Street.⁴ Timothy Fawcett died in 1862.⁵ He had been building three houses in Jane Street, Balmain when he died. These houses were not far from St Andrew's Congregational Church, which opened on 16 August 1855.



(St Andrew's Congregational Church, Balmain, 2016)

John Ingham Aspinall and Albert Wood Aspinall were stone masons of note, but business could be tough in the building industry. In 1864, John Aspinall had a contract with Isaac Elvin to erect and supply stone work, but he was not paid for the work in accordance with the contract. Isaac Elvin was a Newtown builder who had been declared insolvent in 1847 and was to be insolvent again in 1865. From February to October 1864, John lived with his parents in Arundel Terrace, Glebe. John was declared insolvent on 27 October 1864, by which time his address is given as Frederick Street, Newtown and his personal property was limited to two horses and carts, building materials, household furniture and “*wearing apparel for self, wife and child*”. Both John and Albert Aspinall were to experience the harshness of the insolvency jurisdiction in the nineteenth century.

In July 1868, Thomas Saywell bought the houses at Fawcett Street and Jane Street from the Fawcett family and discharged Fawcett's mortgage to Leopold Jung. He finished the houses at Jane Street by 1869 and called them ‘Ada Terrace’.⁶ It is likely that John Aspinall built these houses at 8 to 12 Jane Street, Balmain for Thomas Saywell.⁷ It is clear from a notice in *The Sydney Morning Herald* that by January 1869, John Aspinall carried on business at a general produce store at 789 George Street, Sydney for and on the account of Thomas Saywell;⁸ this notice may have been intended to protect the business from John Aspinall's creditors. The produce store was close to Roseby's Monumental Works, the masonry business that John Roseby operated at 781 George Street for many years from 1863.

John Aspinall and his family lived near the produce store. In March 1871, there was a landlord and tenant case in the Metropolitan District Court, in which Henry Greig unsuccessfully claimed that a lease “*to one Aspinall*” had been surrendered and that Thomas Saywell had taken the premises as a weekly tenant by paying some rent by his cheques.⁹ Henry Greig ran the Railway Hotel at 778 George Street. The first name of the “Aspinall” referred to in this case is not known but it was probably John Aspinall. Over the years, John Aspinall appears to have worked as both a stone mason and a storekeeper.¹⁰



(10 Jane Street, Balmain, 2016)



(8 Jane Street, Balmain, windows, 2016)

The Saywells moved into 8 Jane Street, one of the ‘Ada Terrace’ houses, where they lived until 1871.¹¹ Rose Annie Saywell was born on 13 January 1870. They then lived in one of three houses owned by the family at Fawcett Street, Balmain. Ross Saywell was born there on 1 December 1872.

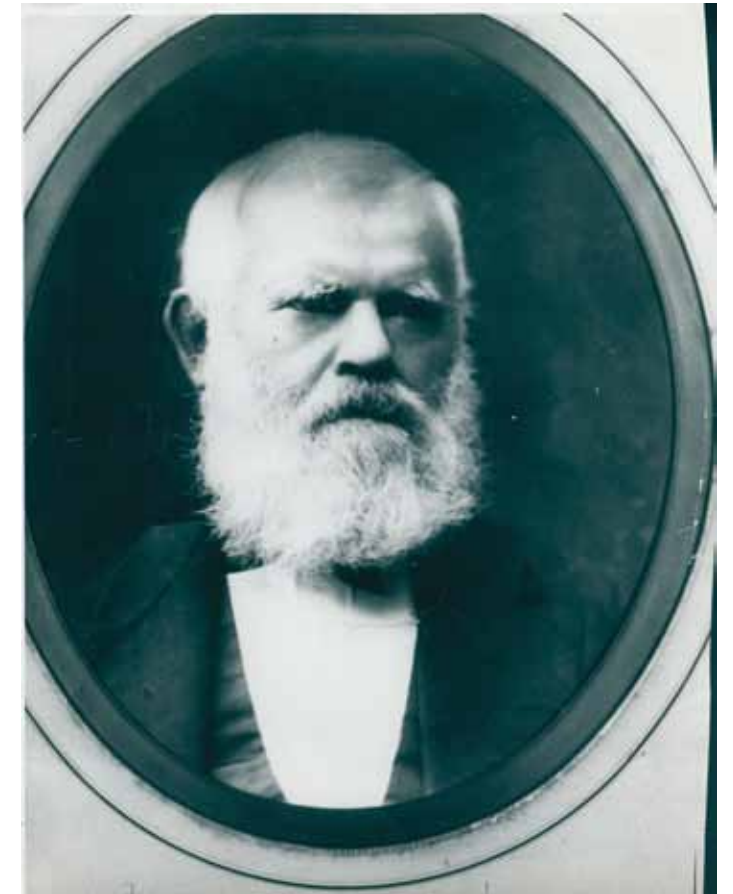
In 1872, William Wilson was the tenant of 12 Jane Street, Balmain; he was to be the colliery manager of the Vale of Clwydd and Zig Zag collieries in Lithgow and the South Bulli and South Clifton collieries in the Illawarra. In 1881, Leonard Robert Huntley was to lease 8 Jane Street, Balmain; his wife Ethel was a daughter of Nicol Drysdale Stenhouse.

Chapter 6

Thomas Holt and ‘Camden Villa’

Thomas Holt was the son of a wealthy wool merchant whose trading interests were divided between Leeds and Berlin. Holt emigrated to the Colony in 1842, after reading John Dunmore Lang’s book *An Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales*.¹ In a letter dated 12 September 1870, Thomas Holt wrote to John Dunmore Lang that:

“I sometimes think, if the Rev. Dr. Lang had never written a book about New South Wales, if that book had never been translated into the German language, and I had not read that book, where should I be at the present time?”



(Thomas Holt, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

In the same letter he commented,

*“However great the religious differences may be, however firmly we may believe in our religious creed, I do delight to see men of every creed meet together, on the most friendly terms.”*²

In 1843, Holt purchased land at Liverpool and named the property ‘Sophienburg’ at the suggestion of his wife. Early in 1853, after the birth of their daughter Alice, Holt and his wife decided to sell ‘Sophienburg’ and move closer to the city. Their young son Edward had died there just before Christmas 1852 from scarlet fever and another son Frederick lost his hearing from the same malady. They found a suitable property, ‘Camden Villa’, set in about ten acres of land to the north-west of the intersection of what are now King and Camden Streets, Newtown. Thomas Holt purchased the property in September 1853 from the Union Bank of Australia (as mortgagees for Robert and Annie Bourne). The name ‘Camden Villa’ was taken from the name of the London Missionary Society’s vessel, Camden, and given to the house by Robert Bourne, a Tahitian missionary who helped to inaugurate the Congregational movement in Sydney in 1828.



Thomas Holt purchased 56 acres to the west of Rocky Point Road in November 1853. He subdivided the land into blocks of six to nineteen acres for farming and sold them from 1854. For a time, Holt leased ‘Rocky Point House’ and changed its name to ‘Sans Souci’. He intended to use it as a residence but “*Mrs Holt was not seized with an overwhelming desire for quietude*”, on the contrary she positively refused to live at Sans Souci.³

Holt was in the first Ministry under Responsible Government in New South Wales in 1856 and was the first Colonial Treasurer.⁴ In contrast, John Dunmore Lang was not included in any ministry by his own clearly expressed wish because he was a free lance supporting “*measures not men*”.⁵ It was while he was living at Camden Villa that Thomas Holt delivered to the Legislative Assembly, on 2 and 12 December 1856, “*Two Speeches on the subject of Education in New South Wales*”, which discuss how the children of the Colony should be educated; by compulsion, or voluntarily? By government assistance, or without it? He states:

*“Let us strive to prevent by instruction, the destructive effects of ignorance; and, until adequate provision be made by the Legislature for the education of every child in this Colony, let us not relax our exertions.”*⁶

Thomas Holt was elected to parliament for the Borough of Newtown in 1861 and was a member of the Newtown Congregational Church under the ministry of the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent. He was close to John Fairfax, David Jones and the deacons of the Pitt Street Congregational Church.⁷

Holt was an important landholder in West Botany and was at a meeting of settlers held in June 1870 with a desire to form a municipality. With the active assistance of Thomas Holt, a formal petition requesting municipal government for the district was presented to the authorities and the Municipality of West Botany was incorporated on 13 January 1871. So great was Thomas Holt’s admiration for historic Botany Bay that he began to popularize it among his wide circle of friends.⁸

(The *John Williams* entering the Bay of Huahine, one of the Society Islands. The London Missionary Society’s former ship *Camden* lies at anchor in the background. Engraved by E Duncan, painted by W J Huggins from a sketch by Capt R J Elliott London [184-], National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa)



(Rockdale Wesleyan Chapel, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Chapter 7

John Andrews's school in the Wesleyan Chapel

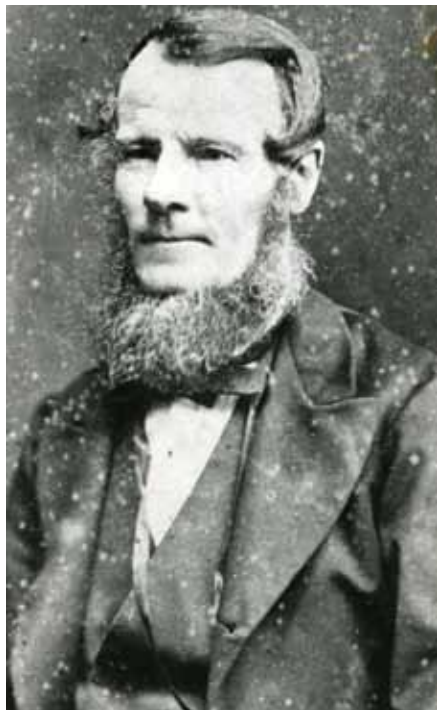
*“Educational facilities were extremely limited south of Cook’s River. In 1860 John Andrews, a lay preacher, started a school. Children living at too great a distance from John Andrews’s school in the Methodist Church, or the tumbledown classroom at Gannon’s Forest, learnt the rudiments from their mothers or from some literate neighbour”.*¹

Two clans within the Gweagal are believed to have occupied the lands along the western shores of Botany Bay, between the Cook’s and Georges Rivers, the Gameygal and the Bidjerigal people.² Descriptions of the country along Cooks River by the early explorers were unflattering about the land’s potential for food production. The water was shallow and there were large swamps, thickly wooded with mangrove trees. The dense forests south of Cook’s River were a favourite escape route for runaway convicts and the great areas of unattended land offered rich pickings for wood gatherers, bark collectors, sawyers and charcoal burners.³

Education in New South Wales prior to about 1850 was restricted even for the upper classes. In 1843, John Dunmore Lang proposed that local authorities be given the power to build schools; this was opposed by William Wentworth, Charles Cowper and other Anglicans who wanted to continue the church-supervised education system.⁴ In 1844, a Select Committee of the NSW Legislative Council reported that the state of education in the Colony was extremely deficient and that less than half the children in New South Wales received any education at all.⁵ In 1848, New South Wales established a dual system of church and national schools, under the control of the Board of National Education and the Denominational School Board.

In Rockdale in the 1850s, educational facilities were practically nil; most children were taught the rudiments of the “three Rs” by their parents, some were totally illiterate and only the fortunate few were able to attend a formal school.⁶ In 1858, James Beehag gave land to erect a Methodist chapel. John Andrews, an early lay preacher, started a day school in the Wesleyan Chapel in 1862 when he moved to the Rockdale area after trying his luck on the Turon goldfields. The school fee was sixpence per pupil per week and so excellent was Mr Andrews’s teaching that many notable men rose from his ranks of scholars. The school flourished for more than twenty years.

There was increasing demand for a public education scheme controlled by a central department of the government. Samuel Roseby was a school teacher, who initially worked in a sabbath school. On 17 October 1861, he applied for a position as a teacher in the National Schools; his application form was endorsed with the recommendations of Rev. Stephen Rabone and Rev. James Bickford, Wesleyan ministers.⁷ His first appointment appears to have been from 1 January 1865.⁸ On 11 July 1866, Samuel married Mary Jane Wilson, the daughter of an Irish farmer, at her family home in Flowerdale, Liverpool, according to the rites of the Wesleyan church.



(John Andrews, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Henry Parkes’s government enacted the *Public Schools Act* in 1866. This established the Council of Education, which replaced the Board of National Education. In 1867, Samuel Roseby was the public school teacher at Gunning, near Yass.⁹ In 1879, he taught at Castlereagh Upper Public School in the Penrith Valley. The local school had previously been in the Wesleyan church, but a new school building was built as a result of the government’s decision to provide public education and a public school opened in March 1879. In 1880, Samuel and Mary moved to Botany Public School.

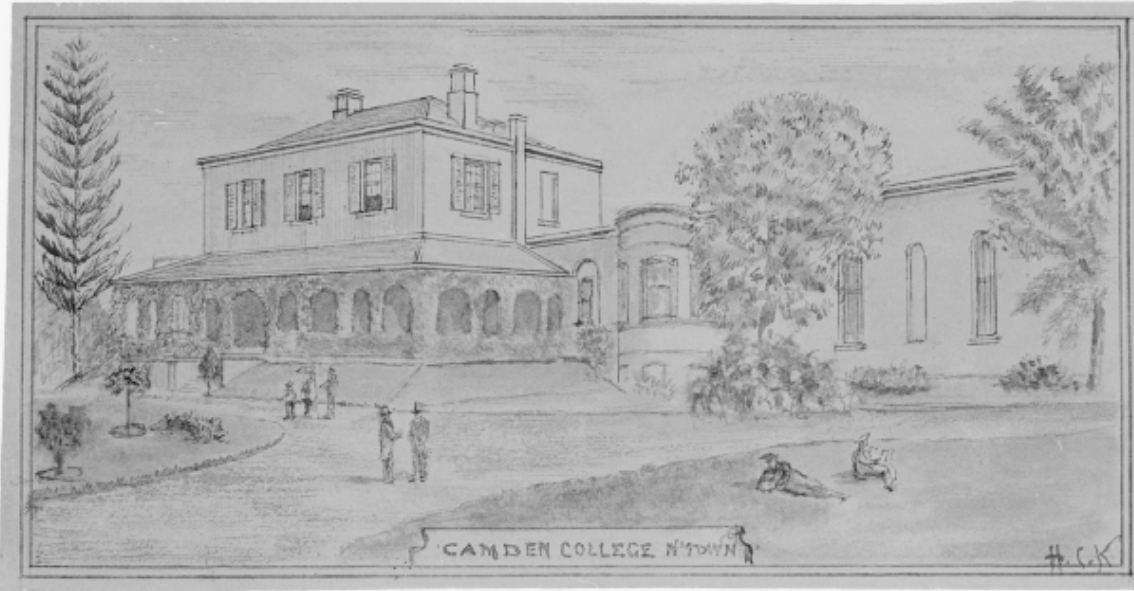


(Castlereagh Upper Public School, Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh, photograph reproduced with permission of Penrith City Library)

Thomas Holt strongly supported the principle of free education for all children and, in 1873, he accepted a seat on the Council of Education.¹⁰ The *Public Schools Act* marked an important stage in the rise of national education and the decline of the earlier denominational system.¹¹ The Council of Education was a voluntary board and Holt was one of those charged with supervision of the newly introduced State supervised primary system.¹² Holt remained on the Council of Education until his resignation in 1876. The Council of Education would cease to exist with the enactment of the *Public Instruction Act* of 1880, which severed connections between the church and the public schools and provided for free, compulsory and non-sectarian schools for all. It placed education under the control of a responsible Minister.¹³ On 1 January 1883, John Andrews’s Rocky Point Wesleyan School was converted into a Public School.¹⁴ This school closed in 1884.¹⁵ It was a fore-runner of the Rockdale Public School, which opened in January 1889.

Chapter 8

Camden College



(Camden College, Newtown, collection of photonegatives of Sydney by Frank Walker, from drawing by H.C. Kent, State Library of New South Wales)

Camden College opened on 29 April 1864, after Thomas Holt gave 'Camden Villa', to the College at half its value for the purposes of ministerial training and higher education. Camden College comprised both Camden Congregational Theological College and a boarding and day school called Camden College School.¹ Up until this time, there had been few secondary schools in New South Wales.

The Principal and Resident Chaplain of the school community, from its establishment until 1872, was the Rev. Samuel Chambers Kent, who was the first minister of the Congregational Church at Newtown and a close friend of the originating group. The Principal's son, Mr Harry Kent, was one of the first pupils of Camden College School. Harry Kent would later become an architect. He was articled to James Barnet, the New South Wales Colonial Architect, and was the architect of the Camden College building erected at Hereford Street, Glebe in 1914 after the commercial crisis of the 1890s prevented his plans for a boys' school at Homebush from going beyond the drawing board.

A general education seemed no longer appropriate for clergymen unless it were supplemented by specific preparation for the exercise of their profession. John Dunmore Lang had made sporadic efforts to educate men for the Presbyterian ministry at The Australian College. In its foundation of Camden College, Congregationalism made one of the first attempts to provide for the professional training of candidates for the ministry. The University of Sydney had opened in 1852 and had a system of affiliated colleges, but the colleges could not act effectively to train men for the colonial ministry. St Andrew's College did make special provision for graduate students whom theological instructors prepared for the Presbyterian ministry, however students did not enter St Andrew's College until 1876.²

Camden Congregational Theological College opened in July 1864. The Theological College initially had six students, including Thomas Roseby. Roseby was an Australian by birth and his academic and ministerial training was Australian throughout. In 1866, Roseby went to the University of Sydney where he pursued an Arts course and held scholarships in three successive years, the last being the Deas Thomson scholarship for Physical Science. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1869 and obtained honours in Logic and in Classics, then graduated in Law in 1873.³

Camden College opened with hopes of financing its ministerial training out of the income from the secondary school. The advent of State education with the enactment of the *Public Schools Act* of 1866, combined with the fact that it was not strictly denominational, prevented its advancement on a profitable basis.⁴ The Congregationalists swore by the voluntary principle in the establishment and running of church schools and colleges and firmly refused State aid.

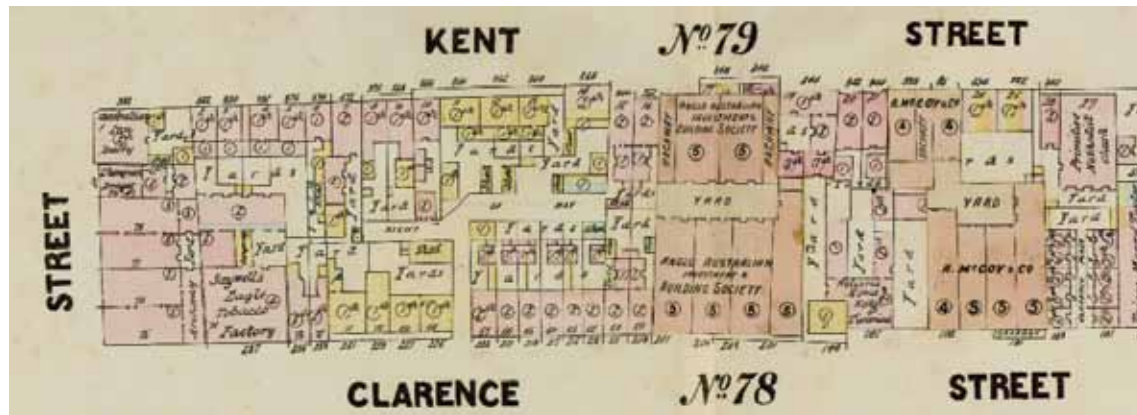
*“The story of the College’s first phase is a record of its inability to remain solvent in the teeth of competition from better financed and staffed rivals set up elsewhere near Sydney”.*⁵



(Photograph of Rev. Dr Roseby, Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago, S16-700a, MS-1309/001)

Chapter 9

Arthur Aspinall's education



(Plans of Sydney (Doves), 1880 Historical Atlas of Sydney, image of courtesy of City of Sydney)

A Primitive Methodist Chapel was located on Kent Street in Sydney from 1856. The land for this chapel was procured in 1853 and funds were raised to construct the building.¹ One of the subscribers was Thomas Aspinall; this might have been Arthur Aspinall's uncle.² On 9 May 1854, John Sharp and William Allen, on behalf of the Primitive Methodist Church, applied to cut away the footway in front of the site for the purpose of erecting a "Chapel & School". The Chapel opened in March 1856, with the Rev. Miles Moss as its minister, and had a schoolroom underneath. Arthur Aspinall attended this school some time between the late 1850s and early 1860s.

Aspinall was coached by tutors including the Rev. Robert Boag, a Presbyterian Minister and former co-pastor of Lang's Scots Church.³ Another of Aspinall's tutors was the Englishman Rev. Barzillai Quaife. Quaife was the professor of mental philosophy and divinity at The Australian College from 1850, then from 1855 to 1863 Quaife taught students at his home in Paddington. In 1863, Quaife was invited by Congregational leaders to train students for the ministry and he devoted himself to the tuition of his students until they were transferred to the newly-founded Camden College in October 1864.⁴

Arthur Aspinall applied for entry to Camden College as a theological student in 1867. Camden College rejected Arthur's initial application to train as a minister because he was softly-spoken, a difficulty he would overcome with training.⁵ So in 1867, Arthur Aspinall attended the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.⁶ By this time, libraries, debating halls and lecture halls had been added to the facilities and it was a largely middle-class institution with a wide range of course offerings. The president at this time was Nicol Drysdale Stenhouse, who in 1839 had packed his books and letters and embarked for the antipodes as a steerage passenger on the *Georgiana*.⁷ He was a devout Presbyterian, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and a practising lawyer. Stenhouse

City Sydney
 15th May 1854
 Sydney May 9th 1854 N^o 445
 Primitive Methodists
 The City Commissioners To cut away pathway in Street
 Gentlemen
 In behalf of the Primitive Methodist
 Church in Sydney we the undersigned, beg to inform
 you, that having purchased a piece of land in Kent
 Street, near King Street, for the purpose of erecting
 a Chapel & School on that locality. Since having
 made the purchase, the street has been excavated to
 the depth of seven feet or more, at our extreme frontage
 this we request permission to cut away the pathway
 in front, to the new level that will be required, for the
 erection of houses since the excavation, as it
 would be extremely difficult, to bring our ground
 to a proper level without removing the pathway also.
 We trust Gentlemen as our buildings are likely to improve
 the street and as the object is a charitable one,
 your sanction will be given.
 We are Gentlemen your most obed^t servants
 John Sharp & William Allen
 William Treasurer

(Letter dated 9 May 1854 from John Sharp and William Allen, City of Sydney Archives, container 71713 item 26/10/445)

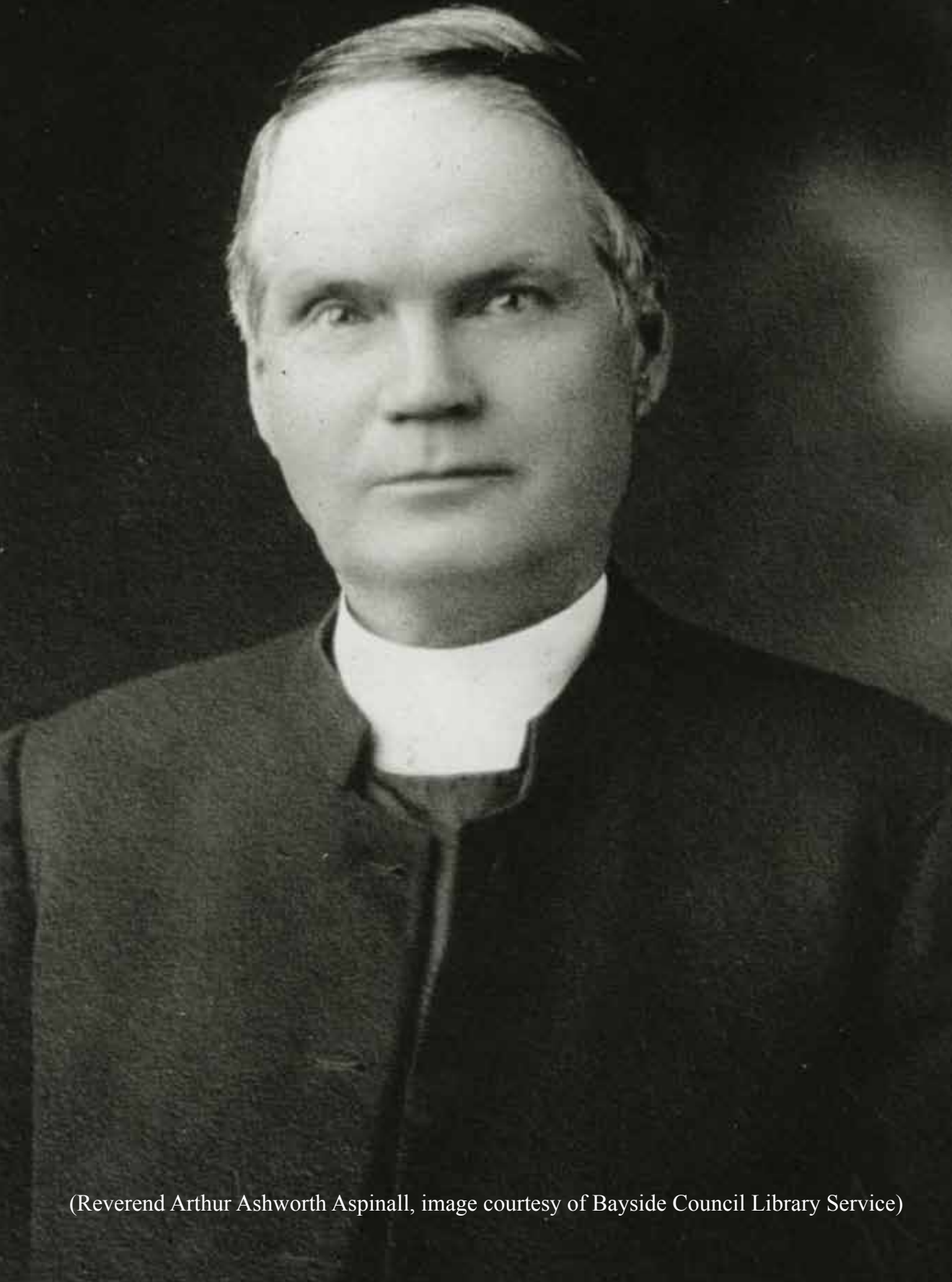
was an important figure in Sydney's literary circles; he was a literary patron to many and the group that congregated around him became known as the 'Stenhouse Circle'.⁸ Stenhouse encouraged the development of the mechanics' schools of arts into centres for literary discussion and tertiary education. As a lawyer, Stenhouse performed many services for Lang; on Stenhouse's death in 1873 John Dunmore Lang was to remark that he had 'often experienced the value of his advice'.

In 1868 Aspinall entered Camden Theological College, where he would study until 1871. He came from the Pitt Street Congregational Church, but was already drawn into the circle of John Dunmore Lang.⁹ It is likely to have been during his time at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts that Arthur Aspinall became part of Lang's circle. Aspinall was to retain a lifelong admiration for John Dunmore Lang.¹⁰

Aspinall entered the University of Sydney in 1870, but had to withdraw after contracting scarlet fever. During his convalescence, he completed his course in divinity at Camden College. He would later resume his studies at the University of Sydney and be awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1889 and a Master's degree in 1912 for his thesis on 'The metaphysical significance of the Renaissance'.¹¹

Chapter 10

Arthur Aspinall's Marrickville congregation



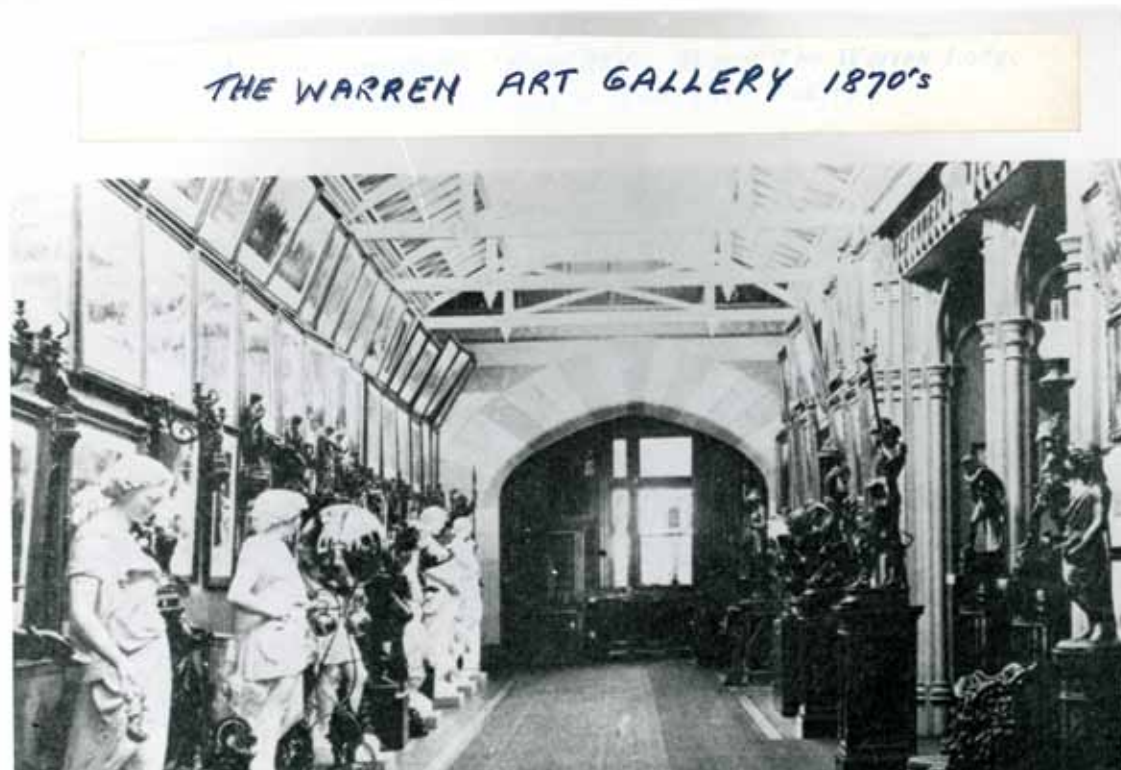
(Reverend Arthur Ashworth Aspinall, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)



(The Warren, Marrickville, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

After giving his residence to Camden College, Thomas Holt built a new home, 'The Warren', that dominated the Tempe Hills of Marrickville and became a famous landmark in the district. It was bordered by Cook's River and Unwins Bridge Road.

In the late 1860s, Thomas Holt constructed a lodge at the entrance gates to ‘The Warren’. The lodge was built in castellated form at the gateway on Illawarra Road and was about a mile from the house, with which it was connected by a driveway through an avenue of trees. In the lodge, he erected a room larger than usual for the students of Camden College to preach in (and for Sunday School classes). Holt did not expect the room in the lodge to be half-filled, but in December 1870 Arthur Aspinall was invited to take an interest in the people of the district and the result was that the ‘Lodge Chapel’ soon became so crowded that it became necessary to build a church nearby.¹



(The Warren Art Gallery, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

In 1871, Marrickville was still sparsely settled and mainly rural and the area around ‘The Warren’ was mostly bush with a few market gardens and stone quarries. When a church was built for the congregation on the Illawarra Road opposite the Warren Gates with the support of Holt, Aspinall (though still a student) was appointed as the first Minister.² The Marrickville Congregational Church was later renamed the Roseby Memorial Church after Thomas Roseby, who was its minister for nearly 23 years from 1888 to 1911.³

The district of this church extended for twenty miles over Cook’s River. Alice Holt laid the foundation-stone on 10 April 1871, after which Arthur Aspinall, a student of Camden College who had been unanimously adopted by the Church as its future pastor, was called on to address the meeting. Mr Aspinall said that the “*congregations from the first were very encouraging*” and “*during the whole twelve months he had not received one unkind word, and that everything had been conducted with the greatest unity and pleasure to them all*”.⁴



(The Warren Lodge and Gates about 1870, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

Chapter 11

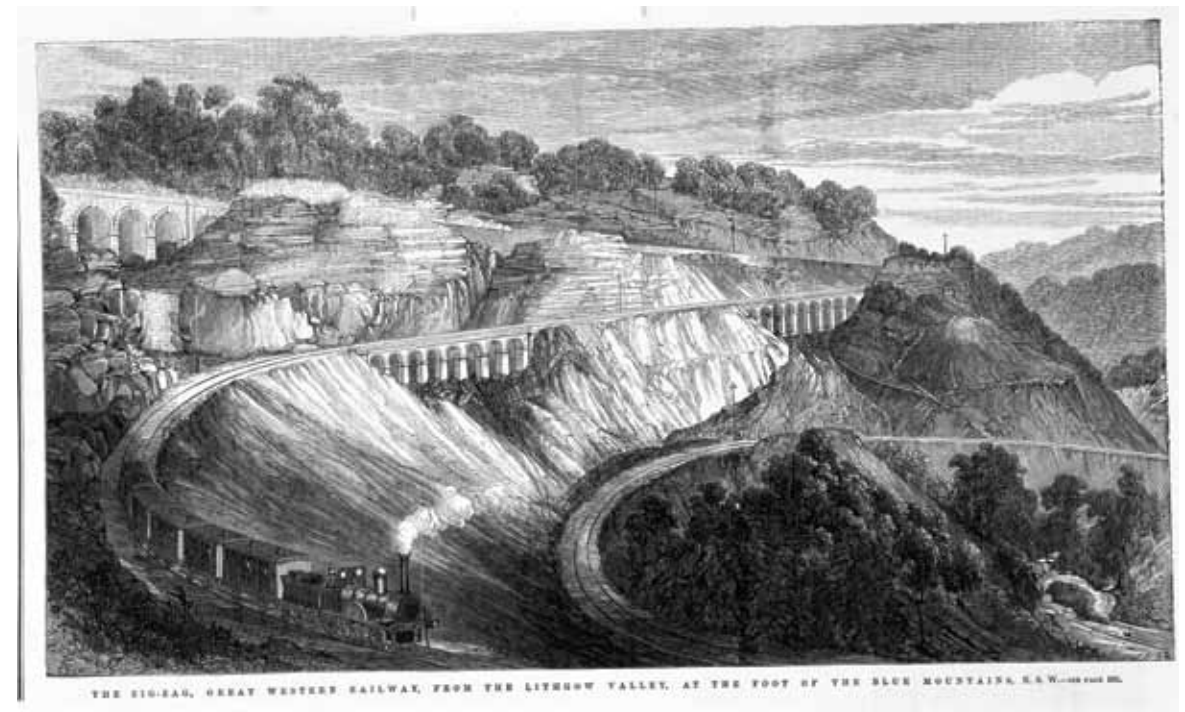
Arthur Aspinall did not complete his Congregational training; he resigned before the course was finished and was asked to repay costs.⁵ Rev. Aspinall was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in 1873. The change of allegiance was undoubtedly influenced by John Dunmore Lang.⁶ It is possible that the failure of Camden College to accept Aspinall's initial application in 1867, combined with his exposure to the Stenhouse Circle at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, contributed to his decision.

Rev. Aspinall was appointed to a Presbyterian ministry at Forbes, a new parish, in 1874. The parish was enormous and consisted mainly of squatter families settled between the Lachlan and Bogan Rivers. At least twice a year, Arthur would make a month-long journey on horseback to visit the many squatters in the district. During these visits services were held, children were baptised, couples were married and prayers were finally said for the dead who had been buried since his last visit.⁷

A new church was soon opened in Forbes with John Dunmore Lang invited as principal speaker for the ceremony. In 1877, with Lang officiating, he married Helen Strahorn on 'Wandoo Wandong', Obley the property of her father, John Strahorn. Rev. Aspinall was committed to encouraging an Australian nativism in the church, so that ministers would become more sympathetic with their locally born parishioners.⁸ Rev. Aspinall's ministry at Forbes was an undoubted success and he was to make many life-long friends, especially members of the Strahorn and Martel families. His time in Forbes impressed upon his mind the need to educate the children of these squatters in Sydney at a price they could afford. Many of the first boys and teachers at The Scots College were to come from the Forbes district.⁹

Vale of Clwydd Colliery

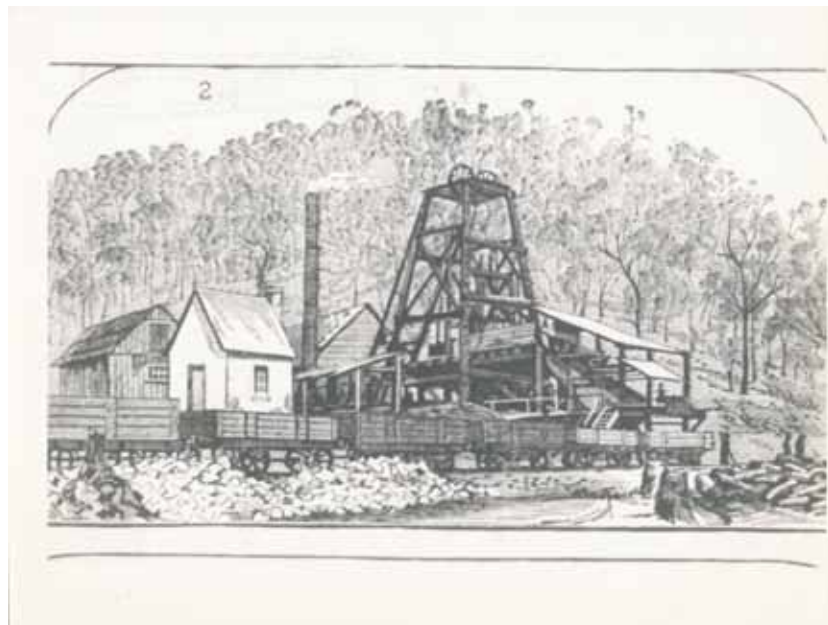
Although Thomas Saywell would continue to live in the suburbs of Sydney, he had extended family in the Bathurst area. Thomas Saywell's first venture into coalmining was in Lithgow. The arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1869 provided the catalyst for large-scale exploitation of the rich sections of the Lithgow coal seam in and around the Lithgow Valley.¹ A prominent local landholder, Andrew Brown, had opposed the building of the Great Zig Zag that brought the railway line down into the Lithgow Valley in the 1860s, however once the decision was made he allowed a camp to be built for railway construction workers on his Coerwull estate. Andrew Brown disliked the development of industrial Lithgow on the doorstep of Coerwull estate in Bowenfels.² He was concerned by the increasing pollution of Farmer's Creek; as a result his relations with men like Thomas Brown of Esk Bank and Thomas Saywell were distinctly cool.



(The Zig-Zag, Great Western Railway, from the Lithgow Valley, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, N.S.W., Bruce Robert, 20 May 1871, Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria)

Andrew Brown assisted with the location of Coerwull Public School when it was founded in 1867.³ In 1873-1874, he built a sandstone school for the railway children and other local children.⁴ Brown was keenly interested in education and was a foundation councillor at St Andrew's College, University of Sydney in 1867.⁵ In 1881, Andrew Brown was to found Coerwull Academy, a boarding school providing a good English, classical and mathematical education particularly, but never exclusively, for Scottish families on country properties. The school was intended to include the post-secondary training of ministers, but the economics of developing a school drove Coerwull to broaden its intake and defer post-secondary training to specialist institutions. Andrew Brown gave Coerwull Academy to St Andrew's College in 1892, which ran it until in 1916 the St Andrew's College Council made the difficult decision to close the school when most of the staff left to serve in World War I.⁶

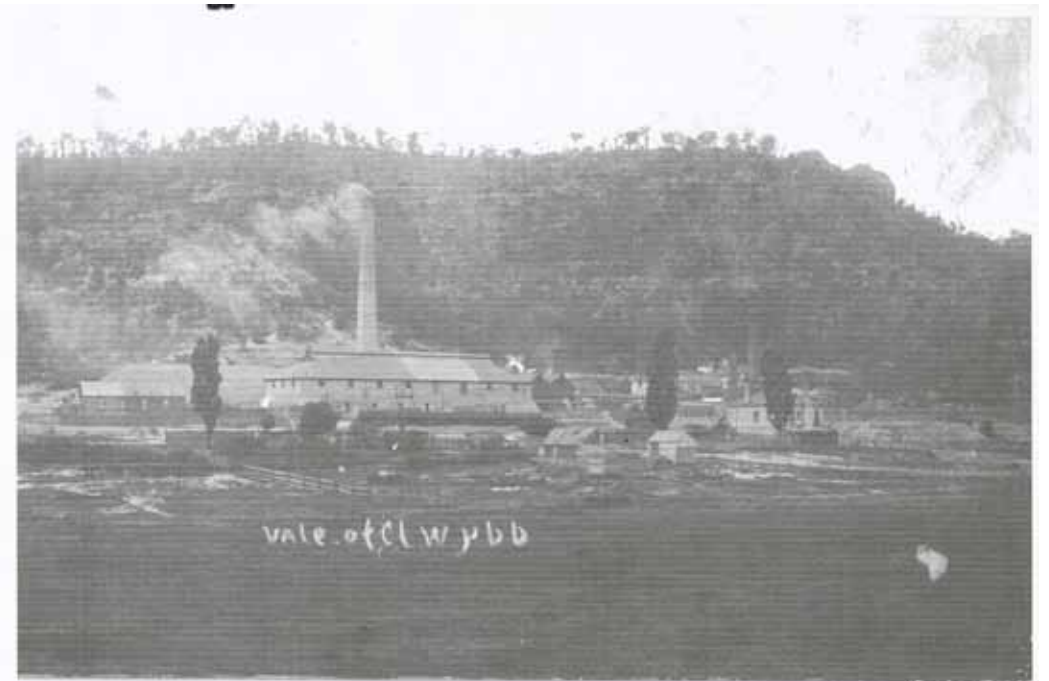
In 1868, in conjunction with John Garsed, Saywell selected 40 acres of land at Brown's Gap and opened an adit from the Hartley Valley side.⁷ Small quantities of coal were delivered to Mount Victoria for testing, but the adit was abandoned in late 1869. Saywell and Garsed briefly turned their attention to a Bowenfels colliery at the back of Hassan's Walls. This mine was opened specifically with the Bathurst market in mind, but failed to flourish. Saywell does not appear to have continued his business association with John Garsed, who was a colourful character. Garsed was first in business in a tobacconist shop on Brickfield Hill and later established a brickworks at Newtown. He was the proprietor of the Newtown Snuff Mills. He subsequently diversified into property development and building. Garsed purchased a substantial portion of the Bexley Estate but sold portions of the estate in subdivisions from 1856 onwards to pay his creditors and was insolvent between 3 July 1858 and 6 May 1875.⁸



(Vale of Clwydd Colliery 1879, image courtesy of Lithgow City Council)

Saywell opened a new mine with John Newlands Wark a mile east of the Esk Bank Colliery and this became the Vale of Clwydd Colliery.⁹ They formed a joint stock company called the Vale of Clwydd and Lithgow Valley Coal Mining and Copper Smelting Company by a deed of settlement dated 7 November 1872, which was prior to the *Companies Act* of 18 June 1874. Legislation was subsequently enacted to clarify certain matters relating to the incorporation of the company and the ownership of property, the *Vale of Clwydd Company's Incorporation Act* of 1881.¹⁰

John Newlands Wark was born in Glasgow in 1819 and was trained as a gas engineer. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1863 to erect and manage a gasworks at Auckland. In 1872 he managed a private venture at the Bathurst Gasworks and lighted the city for the first time with gas. William Wilson was manager of the Vale of Clwydd colliery (and was later to also manage the Zig Zag Colliery in Lithgow and the South Bulli and South Clifton Collieries in the Illawarra). Sinking of the Vale of Clwydd Colliery shaft commenced in 1873. Andrew Brown loaned testing equipment to William Wilson during sinking of the shafts for the Vale of Clwydd mine.¹¹ By 1878 there was also a brick shed with four flues for making house bricks and fire bricks.



(Vale of Clwydd brickworks, image courtesy of Lithgow City Council)

During the late 1870s, the Vale of Clwydd Colliery was the largest colliery in the Lithgow district.¹² In 1875 and 1876, the office of the Vale of Clwydd Coal Mining Company was at King Street, Sydney and its manager was Henry Fairfax, a nephew of John Fairfax who was the owner of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and a prominent Congregationalist.¹³ Henry Fairfax composed very eloquent letters to newspaper editors. For example, when writing to the *Miners' Advocate* to question the veracity of statements in a published letter he wrote:

*“Now, Sir, you will observe from the above facts that your correspondent has been wrongly informed, and I do hope in future he will be more careful before again putting such false statements into print, as it evidently must have originated from some malicious person, whose intention was not so much to injure the mine as the manager, simply because his exorbitant demands were not acceded to, and who ought to be punished by law instead of the pen.”*¹⁴

SOUTH SIDE—16
CORNER OF GEORGE ST.



(Photograph of architectural model of commercial buildings on King St dating from 1860-1890, built by Jack Montgomery during the 1950s for an ABC TV documentary, City of Sydney Archives, 033/033503)

The Vale of Clwydd Company constructed the Eagle Smelting Works, which was leased to copper mining entrepreneur Samuel Levy Bensusan. The company made a considerable quantity of refined copper, the copper ore coming from the Northumberland Copper Mine at Dirty Swamp, near Lock's Platform, and some from the Frogmore Mine in the Southern District. It also erected a lime-kiln near the smelting works and coal pit. The copper smelters in Lithgow were not a great success, largely because there was not sufficient ore to keep them going.¹⁵ In March 1877 these works were offered for sale and were advertised as including a colliery siding that connected with the Great Western Railway and traversed the ore floor, with a substantially erected tramway connecting the colliery shaft with the furnace. Thomas Saywell was also a shareholder in copper mines in Cobar.¹⁶ By 1871, local forces had assumed total responsibility for the defence of New South Wales as British forces had withdrawn. The majority of the New South Wales military were part-time, volunteer forces, organised by the *Volunteer Regulation Act* of 1867, which made provision for land grants in recognition of five years service. In November 1877, Thomas Saywell was granted land under this Act; in March 1888 the land was transferred to the Vale of Clywdd Coal Mining and Copper Smelting Company.

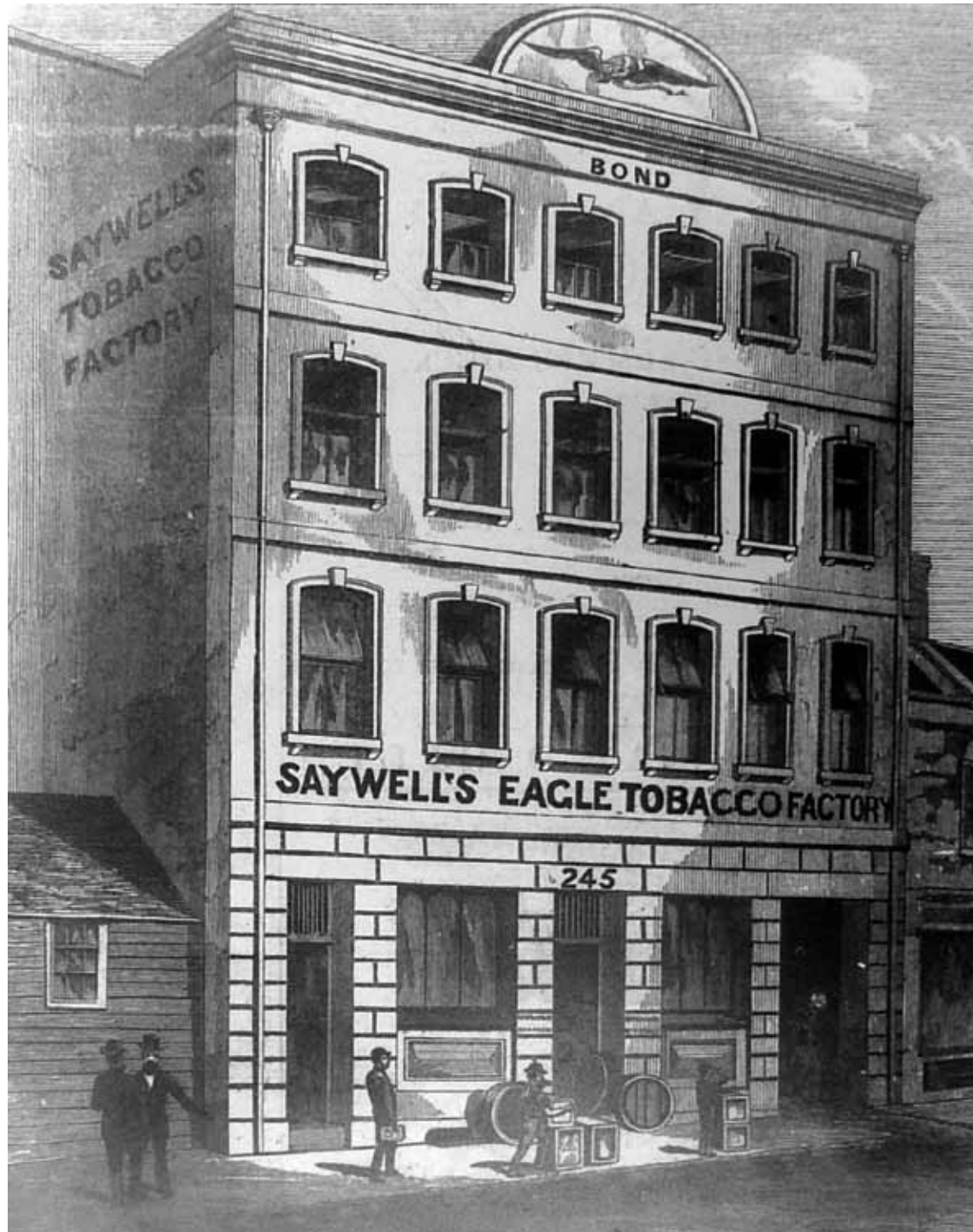
Thomas Saywell purchased the Wallerawang Colliery in 1877 and advertised for contractors to load limestone near the mine. He appears to have sold this mine to John Britty North prior to 1882, when J. B. North & Son established the Wallerawang Coal Company.¹⁷



(Coal Mine, Vale of Clwydd, Charles Potter, 1889, Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria)

Chapter 12

Eagle Tobacco Factory and Scrutton's



(Eagle Tobacco Factory, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

In 1863, Thomas Saywell had opened a tobacconist's shop at 4 Park Street, Sydney. This business expanded in 1870, when he bought plant and machinery from the owners of the Eagle Tobacco Factory and installed it on his premises at 4 Park Street.¹ On 26 February 1873, Saywell bought land on Clarence Street, Sydney from James Curtis, undertaker.²

Edwin Thomas Penfold had arrived in New South Wales in 1853 and, after working on the goldfields, established a successful tobacco business in Sydney at 173 and 175 Clarence Street. In March 1874 Thomas Saywell, together with his brothers Elias and George and also with Hugh Dixson, purchased the tobacco business from Edwin Penfold. Penfold was the father of William Clark Penfold, printer and stationer, who following the sale took his wife and family to England for three years.³

Between 1874 and 1875, Saywell built a tobacco manufactory at 245 Clarence Street that would produce the first machine made cigarette in Australia.⁴ The factory was built by George Raffan, a leading building contractor. The tobacco factory contained "every possible appliance for the machinery connected with the manufacture of tobacco". It was four stories high with a powerful steam lift capable of hoisting four tons. On the top floor, the casing was performed and there was a crushing machine that, like all the machinery on the premises, was worked by steam. There was also a large drying roof. The third floor had the plug makers' room and an area where the tobacco was cut and prepared. It had screw presses and a large tobacco-cutting machine. The second floor

was devoted to the twistings and the finishing and boxing of the tobacco. The floor at street level had hydraulic presses and tramways in all directions, upon which trucks ran for transporting the heavy quantities of tobacco hither and thither as required. The Vale of Clwydd Colliery supplied the fuel for the steam engine and boiler.⁵

Water was supplied by pumping into tanks placed on the roof and no fire was allowed on any but the basement floor, where the furnace for the engine was located. In the rest of the building, heat was supplied by steam pipes. Despite these precautions, a fire broke out in the tobacco factory on 4 October 1876, shortly after midnight. The fire burnt for over an hour and a large quantity of tobacco was destroyed, however comparatively little damage was done to the building.



(Trade mark: Eagle Tobacco Works 1880, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

In 1881, Thomas Saywell floated the tobacco business into a company called Saywell's Tobacco Company Limited. At the time it was the largest manufacturer of tobacco products in the Colony. On 13 February 1883, he transferred the property on which the factory was situated to Saywell's Tobacco Company Limited.⁶ Saywell was to dispose of his shares in this tobacco business due to his extensive interests in collieries. On 8 August 1891, the name of the company was changed to The Eagle Tobacco Company, Limited and the company also resolved to change its Articles of Association to permit a reduction of capital and to increase the number of directors.⁷ It was around this time that Saywell sold out of the business. A fire destroyed the factory in January 1897.⁸ The Eagle Tobacco Company sold the property in April 1898.



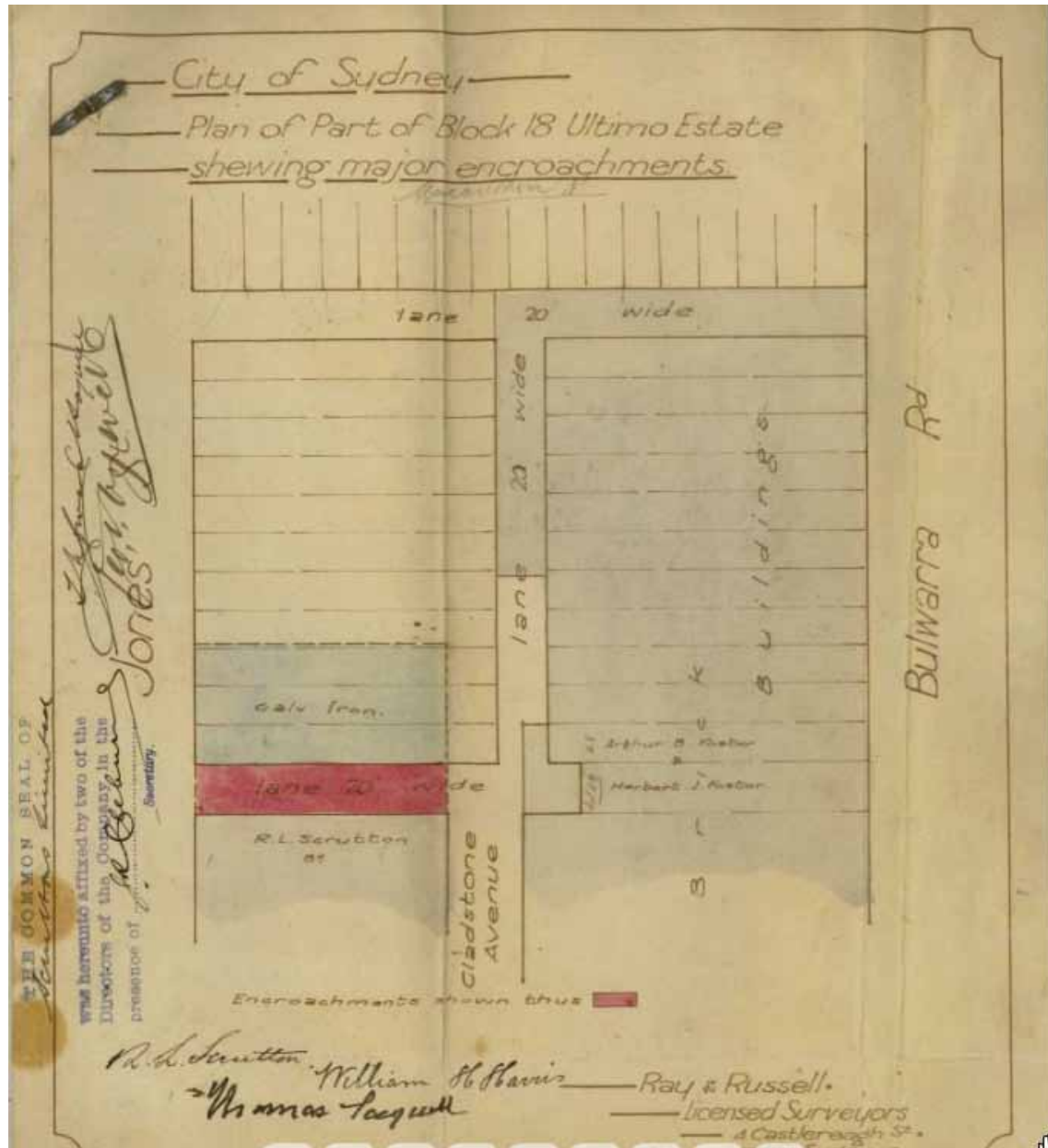
(Trade mark: Mail Coach 1879, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

In 1883, Thomas Saywell set up R. L. Scrutton and Co., Iron Manufacturers and Importers, in partnership with engineer Robert Le Neve Scrutton at 35 Pitt Street, Sydney. It kept in its yards girders and other ironwork required for buildings and bridges in the Colony.⁹ Scrutton and Co. sold portable engines, steam, sluicing and force pumps for pastoral work and engineers' and wood workers' machinery, such as lathes, drills, circular and hand saw benches and fittings. The business included the sale of engineers' and mining steel, steam piping, steel wheels for mining trucks and trollies, steel wire rope, mining engines and brass steam fittings. Scrutton and Co. also fitted steamers with refrigerating apparatus.¹⁰

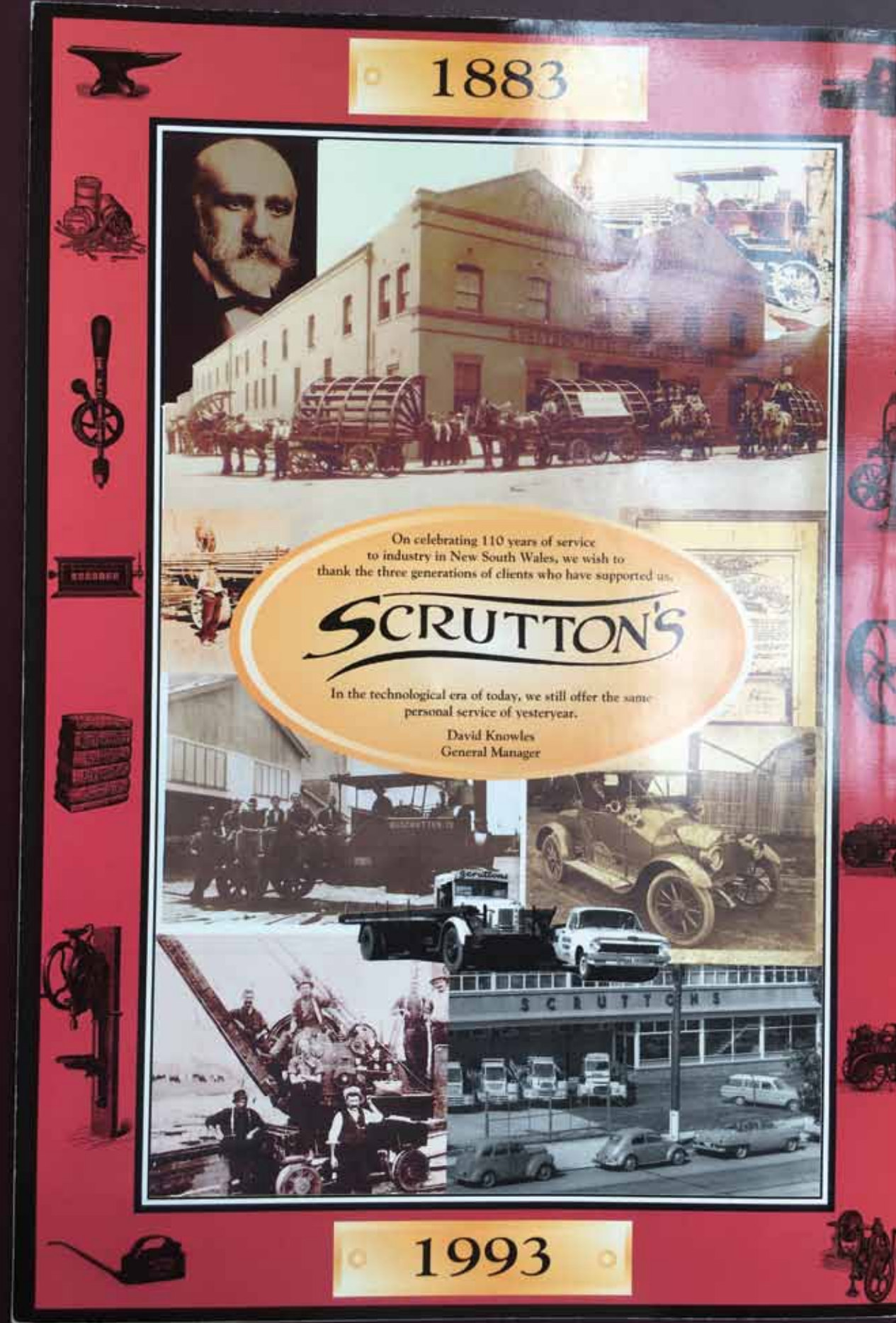
George Fawcett Saywell worked at R. L. Scrutton and Co.¹¹ In the 1890s, the principal place of business of the company was 97 Clarence Street, Sydney (this property went through to Kent Street). In the 1920s, the company had premises at Ultimo, which were in part freehold and in part leased from William Henry Harris. Over the years, Scruttons carried the agencies of many overseas engineering firms, including The Brooklyn

Engineering Company of USA, which built the steel railway bridge across the Hawkesbury River, and Dorman-Long of the United Kingdom, which built the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The trusses for the Sydney Harbour Bridge were assembled at Scruttons Steel Yard at Alexandria.¹²

(Plan of Part of Block 18 Ultimo Estate shewing major encroachments 1923, Harris Family Archive 1867-1936, Powerhouse Museum Collection)



(Scrutton's "The Engineers Depot" catalog, State Library of New South Wales)



Chapter 13

The Argyle School, Arthurleigh



(Sons of Thomas Richard Saywell including Victor Claud, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

The Saywell family lived at 25 Stanley Street, Sydney, when Leah Jane Saywell was born on 10 August 1874. Frank Horace Saywell was born on 25 October 1876 at 44 College Street, Hyde Park, Sydney.

Due to dwindling finances, the boys' school at Camden College was closed in 1876.¹ The theological college left the comfortable first home given to it by Thomas Holt and entered on its "*years in the wilderness*" in down-town Sydney.² By 16 March 1878, when Thomas Stanley Saywell was born, the family had moved to 'Elmaville', Reiby Street, Enmore. This house was close to the site of 'Camden Villa' (south of Station Street, near where Holt and College Streets are now) and the Newtown Public School.

By June 1879, the Saywell family had moved to 'Beaconsfield', Harrow Road, South Kingston in the district of Petersham. South Kingston was part of the Kingston Estate that had been sold to Thomas Holt in December 1854. In 1879, the nearby railway station was named Stanmore. The railway station provided access to the city of Sydney at reasonable cost for those who worked or owned businesses in Sydney and wealthy businessmen and tradespeople lived side by side as Stanmore developed as a desirable residential address.³ Victor Claud Saywell was born on 10 June 1879 and baptised on 16 July 1879 by the Rev. G.H. Moreton of St Peter's Anglican Church, Woolloomooloo.⁴

Thomas Saywell's eldest daughter, Ada, attended Miss Emily Baxter's Argyle School at Arthurleigh, 166-168 Albion Street, Surry Hills. Albion Street was known as Doctors' Row. The Argyle School was a fashionable school for young ladies that opened in 1872.

Subjects such as Latin and Algebra were not optional, but compulsory in a schoolgirl's routine.

*"The weakness and deficiency of ordinary "young ladies' " schools [of the time] ... proved very plainly that while thoroughness was considered necessary in the education of boys, superficiality, narrowness and impracticalness would satisfy most of the parents of pupils attending the so-called young ladies' colleges. To meet this want, Argyle School was established ..."*⁵

Emily Baxter was the daughter of a pharmaceutical chemist who owned a shop on the western side of George Street, on Brickfield Hill. Her father suffered a stroke at an early age, however by that time she was a trained teacher and she realized that she would not be able to help her family unless she opened a school of her own. She attended the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts on Pitt Street. After two years, her teacher was very much impressed by her work and showed it to the famous classical scholar Rev. Badham, who was the Professor of Classics and Logic at the University of Sydney from 1867-1883. When she informed Professor Badham of her intention of establishing her own school, where Latin and Mathematics would be compulsory subjects, he remarked, *"An excellent idea to teach them Latin but don't bother about Mathematics, they can always call in somebody to add up the bills"*.⁶

Miss Baxter lost some prospective pupils in the early days of the school, because their fathers feared that no one would marry their daughters if they learned Mathematics. Some young ladies were fortunate to have fathers who believed in the importance of education. The girls that attended Miss Baxter's school included Ada Saywell (and probably also her sister Rose), John Roseby's daughters Jane, Edith and Emily and George Raffan's daughters Jessie and Lucy. Caroline McManamey, sister of the first headmaster of The Scots College, was an excellent student who won a number of prizes in 1886. Jessie Strahorn, daughter of Hugh Strahorn and Rev. Arthur Aspinall's niece, came from Forbes to attend the school.⁷ Miss Baxter and the boarders attended the Bourke Street Congregational Church.



(Emily Baxter, State Library of New South Wales.)



(The Argyle School, Surry Hills, City of Sydney Archives, 069/069421)

Miss Baxter considered that most girls should be able to pass the Junior Public Examination. In 1882, Ada Saywell passed this examination in History of England, Geography and Arithmetic.⁸ The more ambitious could continue to the Matriculation and Senior Examinations. In 1872, John Fairfax, proprietor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, had established two prizes (Junior Fairfax and Senior Fairfax) to be awarded to the female candidate showing the greatest proficiency in these examinations. The Argyle School had won the greatest number of Fairfax prizes when it closed in 1912.

Miss Baxter was a pioneer of the higher education of women in New South Wales and the first to give girls the same education that boys were receiving. In 1881, the University of Sydney Senate unanimously decided to allow the admission of women and the *University Extension Act* of 1884 extended the benefits and advantages of the University in all respects to women equally with men. Male students were first admitted in 1852, thirty years previously. When the University opened its doors to women, the greater percentage of its students was from Miss Baxter's school.⁹

Thomas Saywell moved to 'Tarana', Wardell Street, Petersham in 1881. This was shortly before the birth of Annie Ellen (Nellie) Saywell on 8 September 1881 and in April 1882 an advertisement appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*: *"WANTED, a NURSEGIRL wages 10s. Mrs Saywell, opposite Petersham Station."*¹⁰ Bruce Wilson Saywell was born at 'Tarana' on 16 December 1883 and his sister Zilla Minna Saywell on 28 February 1886.

Chapter 14

Suburban development

(Plan of Macquarie Fields Township, Macquarie Fields subdivision plans, State Library of New South Wales)

Macquarie Fields.

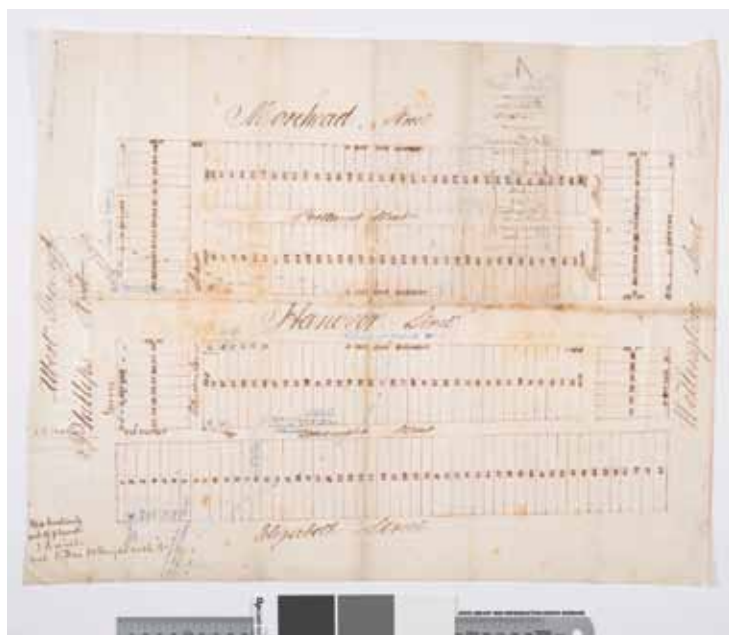
On 3 June 1881, Thomas Saywell purchased 1558 acres on the Georges River from Richard Rouse Terry and George Rattray, the trustees of Martha Hosking's estate.¹ Martha and her husband John Hosking, the first mayor of Sydney, had lived at Macquarie Field House. During the land boom of the 1880s, Martha Hosking's estate was broken up, with speculators buying and subdividing land east of the railway.² Saywell was attracted by proposals for a railway from St Peters to Liverpool. In purchasing at Macquarie Fields he hoped to profit from subdivisions at both ends of the railway. Saywell subdivided the land and The Universal Land and Deposit Bank Limited of 301 Pitt Street sold it in allotments as a township.

In September 1883, William Phillips purchased about half of Saywell's land, from Saywell Road north to Harrow Road and from Atchison Road east to the George's River, covering most of modern Macquarie Fields. Apart from Saywell Road, little remains of Saywell's Macquarie Fields subdivision and the unsold portions were transferred to Saywell's Tramway and Estates Limited in 1906.³

Albert Ground.

Saywell was involved with the development of the site of the old Albert Cricket Ground into housing. This cricket ground was located to the east of Redfern Park in the block now roughly bounded by Elizabeth, Redfern, Kettle and Moorehead Streets. The Albert Ground opened in Redfern in October 1864. Redfern at the

time was swampy; the pitch was made of a matted couch grass and was very spongy and soft. It was a slow pitch that favoured the bowlers. The ground was the home of the Albert Club and the greatest bowler of the day 'The Demon' Fred Spofforth. In 1878, the Albert Ground company was wound up and the ground closed. The NSW Cricket Association began using the Garrison Ground at Moore Park, later to be renamed the Sydney Cricket Ground.



On 4 July 1878, property that had formerly been known as the Albert Cricket Ground was leased to James Richard Jones, Emanuel Saber, Abraham Levy and Thomas Wild Crawley. By an Indenture dated 1 October 1878 they then agreed, together with Moss Saber, David Wild Crawley and Maurice Coleman Davies, to form themselves into a company for the purpose of taking over the leasehold and building houses on the land. The Albert Ground Company Limited was incorporated on 21 October 1878. On 18 January 1882, Hardie and Gorman auctioneers sold to Thomas Saywell, at their rooms by auction, 1500 shares in the company held by the estate of the late J. R. Jones.⁴ Thomas Saywell appears on the list of mem-

(Albert Ground, Waterloo subdivision plans, Z/SP/W4/36, State Library of New South Wales.)

bers and shareholders as at 8 July 1883 as a director and shareholder. By 8 July 1886, the Saywell family had increased its investment in the company and Ada, Frederick and Annie Ellen were also shareholders.⁵

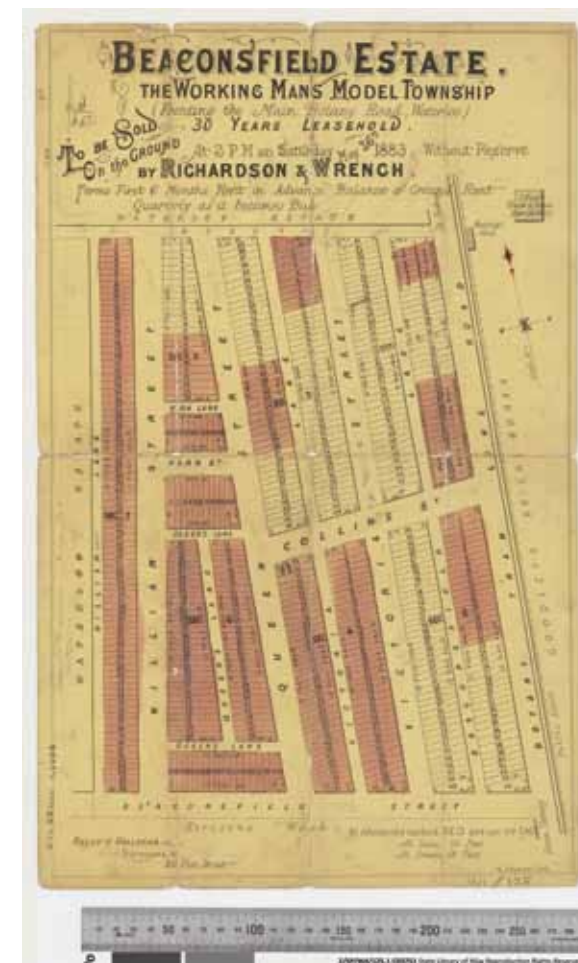
Beaconsfield Estate - 'The Working Man's Model Township'.

Thomas Saywell had substantial investments in property at Alexandria. The Beaconsfield Estate had been part of a land grant in 1823 to William Hutchinson, which covered 1,400 acres. In 1825, Hutchinson sold the land to Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey and, together with the land they purchased from I. J. Campbell, it became known as the Waterloo Estate.⁶ Almost all the area now known as Alexandria, Waterloo, Zetland and Rosebery was in the ownership of Daniel Cooper (or his estate) for most of the nineteenth century.

The Beaconsfield Estate was bounded by Botany Road, Beaconsfield and Reserve Streets and William Lane.

⁷ By an Indenture of Lease dated 14 December 1881, the Cooper estate leased the land to Moss Saber, Emanuel Saber and others. The Beaconsfield Estate Company Limited was incorporated on 2 June 1883 for the purpose of acquiring the leasehold interest in the land.⁸ The Beaconsfield Estate was subdivided in 1884 and promoted as 'The Working Man's Model Township'. Most of the allotments had a depth of 100 feet and a frontage of 20 feet. At first properties were for sale on a 30-year lease basis. Saywell was a director and shareholder of the Beaconsfield Estate Company Limited from 1886.⁹

(Beaconsfield Estate, Waterloo subdivision plans, 26 May 1883, State Library of New South Wales)

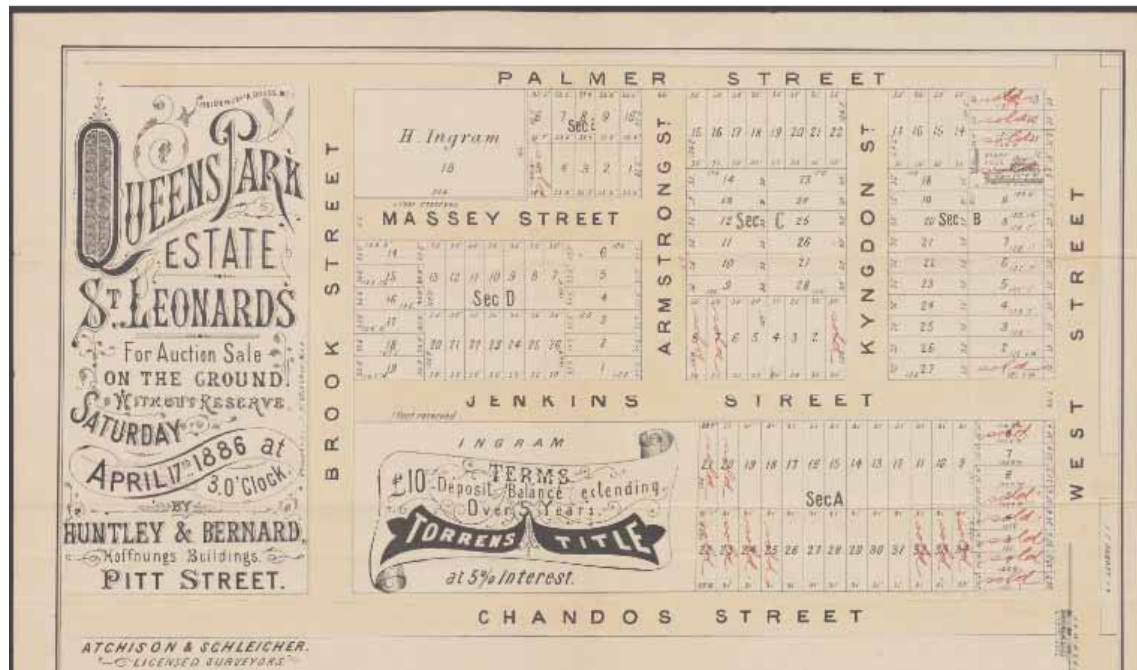


Chapter 15

John Roseby

Queen's Park Estate.

Thomas Saywell was an owner of the Queen's Park Estate in the St Leonards District, which was auctioned on 17 April 1886. The licensed surveyors for this estate were Atchison & Schleicher. In 1887, Saywell dedicated his interest in roads in the Queen's Park Estate to the council and residents of the Queen's Park Estate requested that the council take over the streets.



(Queen's Park Estate, St Leonards, 17 April 1886, image courtesy of Willoughby City Library Services)

In 1886, Thomas Saywell was also a director of the Haymarket Permanent Land, Building, and Investment Company Limited, which had been incorporated on 30 August 1880 to acquire and sell property in the Colony. This company sold blocks of land in the suburbs of Rockdale, Petersham, Kingsgrove, Sandringham, San Souci and Manly; "*Magnificent Farms, wonderfully fertile soil, permanently watered, and near railway...*"



(John Roseby, reproduced courtesy of the Parliament of NSW. All rights reserved.)

John Roseby carried on business as a monumental mason in George Street, Sydney. John was an alderman for Cook Ward in the Sydney Municipal Council from 1870 to 1872 and represented Shoalhaven in the Legislative Assembly from 1877 to 1882. He took an active interest in philanthropic movements and was a member of the Public School League in 1874 and later supported the Bible in Schools League. John was active in the temperance cause and in charitable agencies. His wife, Ann Hooworth, was the first president of the Australasian Woman's Christian Temperance Union. John Roseby was a director of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales and the Destitute Children's Asylum, Randwick, as well as a trustee and custodian of the City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen.¹ Thomas Saywell was a friend of John Roseby until his death in April 1898.²

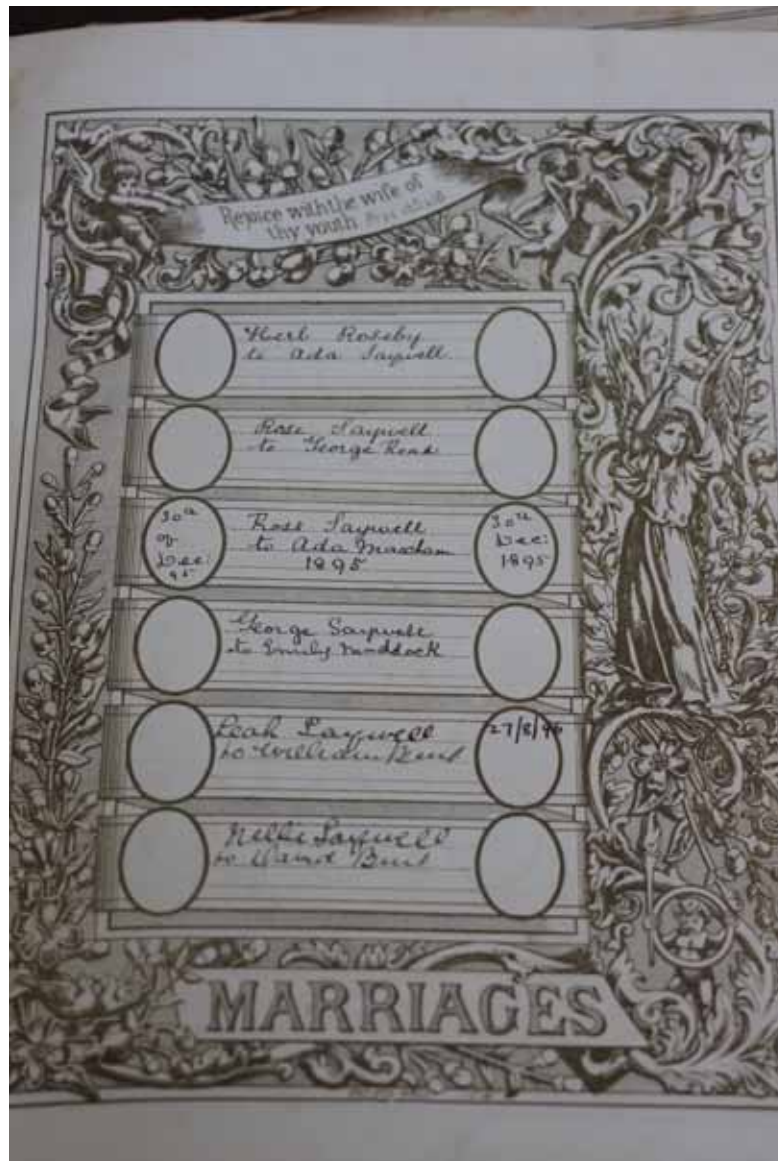
In December 1886, Thomas Saywell's eldest daughter, Ada, married Herbert Edward Roseby in the Petersham Congregational Church.³ Herb Roseby was born on 22 October 1862 and was the eldest son of John and Ann Roseby. As Ada was not yet 21 when she married, the consent of her father to the union was required and noted on her marriage certificate. Herb was educated at Sydney Grammar School and was to work for forty years in the Public Works Department of NSW. Herb's cousin, Thomas J. Roseby, was the first secretary of Sydney's Water and Sewerage Board.

Chapter 16

Thomas Roseby

In 1888, Herb and Ada Roseby lived at 1 Clayton Terrace, Wood Street, Glebe. George Fawcett Saywell, Ada's brother and an engineer, also lived in these terraces. By 1889 Herb and Ada had moved to Carlton Terrace on Hegarty Street and they then lived at 'Locksley' on Warren Road in Marrickville, not far from Rev. Dr. Thomas Roseby. They moved to Princess Street, Rockdale prior to 1893.

By 1896 they were living at 'Povensey' on Harrow Road in Hurstville. They had eight children; Gladys, Doris, Saywell, Norma, Myee, Herbert Clifton, Valerie and Neil. Their sons Saywell and Clifton would later serve at Gallipoli in World War I; sadly Clifton was killed in service on 7 February 1919 aged only 25. In 1926, their daughter Valerie married Dr John Crakanthorp. Valerie Crakanthorp was to be instrumental in the establishment of Danebank.



(Bible in family's possession)

Roseby was ordained on 3 October 1867 in Petersham Congregational Church and was its first minister from 1867 to 1871. On 11 April 1871 he married Sarah Hooworth, who was the younger sister of his brother John's wife.

In 1872, Rev. Roseby became minister of the Moray Place Congregational Church in Dunedin, New Zealand, where he exercised an influential ministry for thirteen years.¹ His eight eldest children were born in Dunedin. During his time in New Zealand, Thomas Roseby is likely to have met Alexander Burt. Originally from Scotland, Burt owned the Otago Lead, Copper, Brass and Engineering Works with his brother. Childhood deprivation had made Alexander Burt an enthusiast for education. He was active in support of the Caledonian Society's evening classes, and was made a life director. He served on the committee of the Arthur Street School for 33 years, and in 1888 was one of the founders of the Dunedin Technical School. Two of Thomas Saywell's daughters, Leah and Nellie, were to marry two of Burt's sons.

In 1876, Roseby declared that the Christian Church would have to reconcile itself to modern science and he preached a sermon that, at the time, was held to be not irreconcilable with the then novel theory of evolution.² Astronomy and botany were Thomas Roseby's favourite scientific studies. He lectured in New Zealand and contributed a paper, "The Transit of Venus, Dunedin" to the New Zealand Journal of Science.³ He even gave a lecture to prisoners in gaol on "Comets", with the permission of the Minister of Justice, in April 1883.

Keenly interested in education, Roseby was a member of the Senate of the University of New Zealand in 1878-85. In 1884 he helped form the Congregational Union of New Zealand and was chairman-elect when he accepted a call to the Dawson Street Congregational Church in Ballarat, Victoria. It prospered under his care from 6 December 1885, but he and his wife found the climate disagreeable and he tendered his resignation on 15 August 1888.



(Roseby Memorial Church, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

In October 1888, Thomas Roseby returned to Sydney and the Marrickville Congregational Church. In this year, he delivered the first of the Livingstone Lectures instituted by Camden College on *'The Genetic Unity of Nature Viewed in a Theistic and Christian Light'*. Roseby installed an observatory in the yard of his Marrickville manse. With his observatory at Marrickville, and later at Mosman, he often gave educational evenings to church groups and students.

Thomas Roseby is remembered in Marrickville as one who loved and worked for children. His daughter Amy Roseby, who was later to be a Headmistress of Ascham school and Principal of Redlands, recalled what church life was like in the late 19th century:

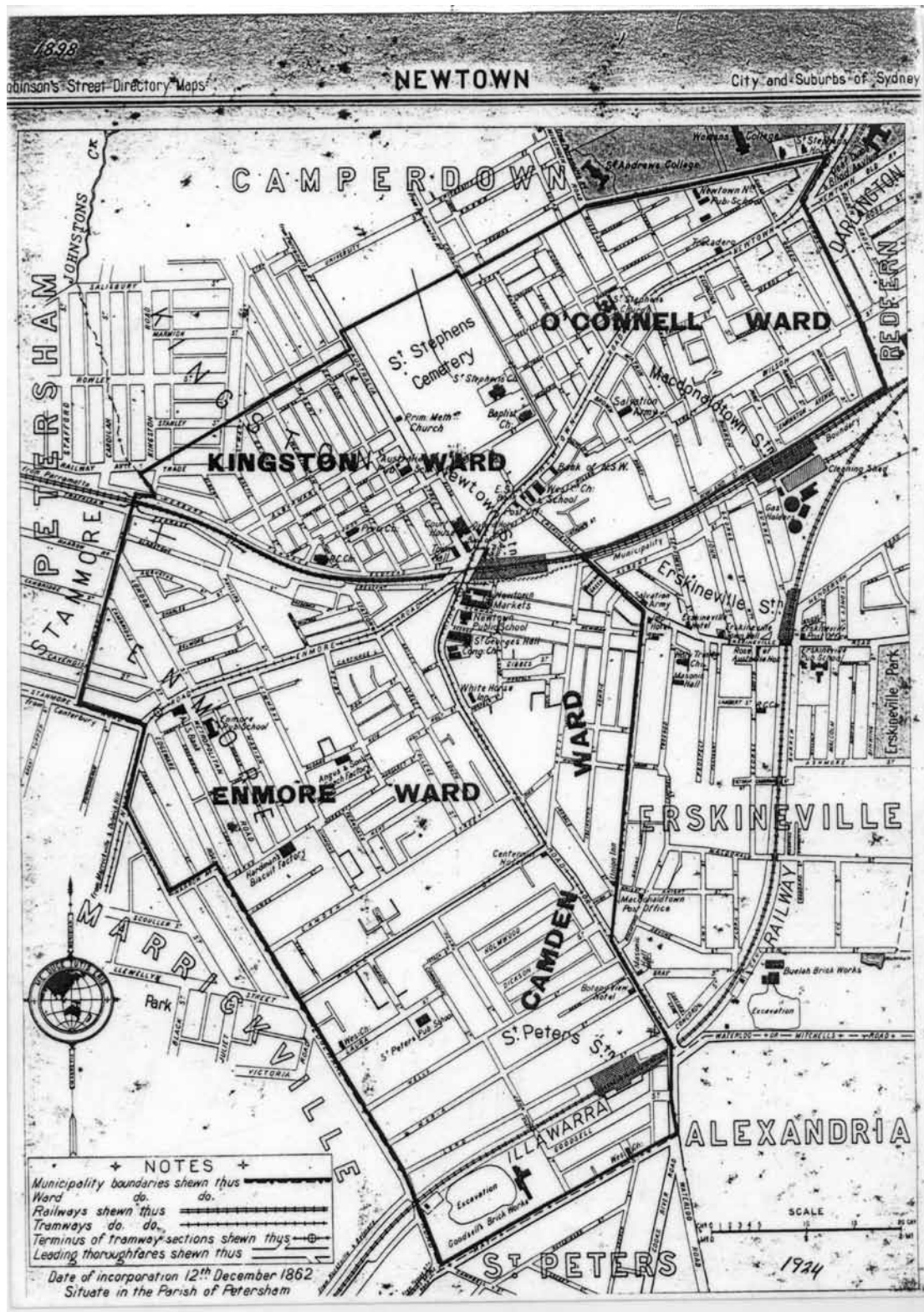
*"I remember it when there were no motor cars, or telephones, or aeroplanes, and it was prosperous and well-filled on Sundays. People then went to church as a matter of course ... As we and our cousins numbered 20, we naturally exercised some leadership in our church affairs... Beyond the church my father had a regular class in the nearby public school and so was well known to every child in the neighbourhood. He tried with Scripture teaching to combine a love for native flowers, of which there were plenty within easy reach... My father was a scientist as well as a Christian minister – a rare combination. His telescope was well known to church folk, and my mother everybody's friend."*⁴



(Miss Amy Roseby at Redlands circa 1915, image courtesy of Redlands Archives)

Chapter 17

Brickmaking



(Newtown Council Area, Robinson's street directory of Sydney & suburbs, 1924, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

Many brickmaking operations were set up to feed Sydney's suburban building boom and the demand for bricks from a growing and increasingly affluent middle class. The southern part of Marrickville was ideal for brickmaking, particularly the areas of St Peters and Tempe.¹ Marrickville in the late 1860s had been a rural suburb and such parts of it as were not enclosed and under cultivation were well timbered. Initially, the process of brick production was small in size and simple in operation. By the late 1880s, the loamy clay soil of Marrickville once used to grow vegetables to feed the population had been converted to bricks to house it.² A range of brickworks developed from Camdensville south towards Tempe, along the lines of Cook's River Road and the adjacent Unwins Bridge Road and extending east towards Shea's Creek.³ The name Camdensville originated from Thomas Holt's 'Camden Villa'.

From the early 1860s the brick and tile industry took advantage of steam-powered machinery, so that within 20 years brickmaking had progressed from being a cottage industry to a sophisticated and highly capitalised enterprise. The Marrickville area contained many brick and pottery works, but Frederick Goodsell's Newtown brickyard and pit, established from 1869, was the leading producer of its period. It was Sydney's first full steam-powered brickworks and the processes introduced by Goodsell in this yard revolutionized Sydney brickmaking. Goodsell's machine-produced red bricks were much admired and other brickyards were quick to adopt the new technology.⁴

Albert Wood Aspinall was a mason and builder who was an expert in constructing round towers and buildings.⁵ For a year in 1865 he built in the Maitland district. By 1866 he was back in Sydney and did some brickwork for Thomas Phelps of Arthur Street, Surry Hills. In 1867 he rented premises from George Harkey at 6 James Street, Sydney. In 1868 Albert lived at 8 Botany Street and in 1870 he worked on a house at Manly Beach. In April 1875, he advertised for persons to cart bricks from his yard at Dowling Street, Darlinghurst, near the Sacred Heart Church.



(Old Penrith Courthouse, photograph reproduced with permission of Penrith City Library)

Albert Aspinall moved his family to Liverpool for about five years from 1876 while he constructed stone buildings in the vicinity. He built the Court House and Lock Up at Penrith with George Raffan of Redfern. The first Court House, a weatherboard, had burned down in 1834. Another was built in 1835, but heavy rains and floods were a major problem at Penrith; the shingle roof needed replacing with iron-bark shingles, papers were soaked and floor boards rotten. The Colonial Architect, James Barnet, designed a new Court House in 1878 and tenders were called for October 1880. Albert Wood Aspinall won the contract and furnishing was complete by 1881. The Lock Up was constructed after the Court House and was in use until 1978.⁶

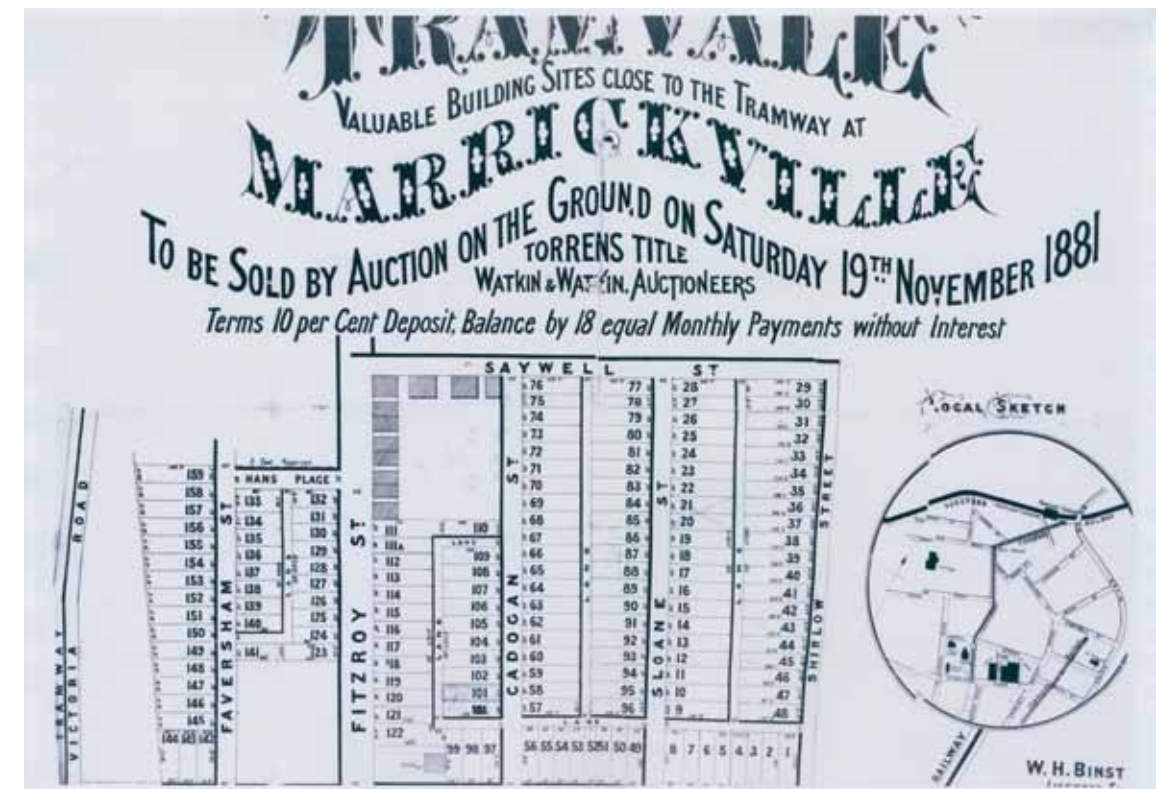
Albert Aspinall purchased a property in the North Annandale Estate in January 1883. In 1884, he had a work yard in Sebastopol Street, Marrickville; in 1885 his yard was at Camden Street, Newtown. In the mid-1880s, Albert Aspinall constructed the brick-firing kilns of the St Peters brickworks (these kilns have now been demolished). Some of these kilns were located beside the quarry next to the Illawarra Railway line, which has been transformed into Camdensville Oval. It is possible that the historic brick kilns at the north-west corner of Sydney Park may also have been his construction.⁷

The State government resumed a corridor of land running through the Goodsell property that was directly in the path of the Illawarra railway; the brickyard originally extended to Lord Street. In 1884, the St Peters Railway Station was constructed. In May 1885 John Wesley's wife, Harriet Elizabeth Goodsell, from whom he had been living apart for 20 years, applied for alimony and the case refers to the fact that he had recently received a large sum of money as his share of compensation from the government for the sev-

erance of a portion of a brickyard at St Peters. John Aspinall must have had business dealings with Goodsell as, in April 1887, Aspinall's property was sequestrated by John Wesley Goodsell, brick maker, of Lord Street, Newtown, to whom he owed £96 secured by promissory notes.⁸

In 1878, Thomas Saywell built a large plant for the manufacture of steam bricks (called the Eagle Brick Works) at Fitzroy Street in Marrickville, not far from Goodsell's Steam Brick Factory and near Abel Harber's brickyard.⁹ In 1878, Saywell advertised regularly for bricklayers and teams to cart bricks. At this time, Thomas Saywell was living in Reiby Street, not far from the brickworks.

It was in July of 1878 that Rev. John Dunmore Lang married John Taylor and Isabella Saywell (Thomas's mother) at the Scots Church.



(Tramvale subdivision, Marrickville Image Library M9/227, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

In 1881, Saywell subdivided and sold land in Marrickville as part of the 'Tramvale' development.¹⁰ John S. Martin lived on Fitzroy Street and was an engineer and manager of Saywell's Pottery Works at Marrickville from 1879 to 1885.¹¹ These brickworks adjoined other brickworks then worked by Leslie Johnston. William Stuntz was granted a patent for "*Stuntz's stop-motion brick-moulding machine*" on 26 May 1883.¹² In 1885, Saywell offered to sell his brickworks to William Stuntz and Leslie Johnston, who had

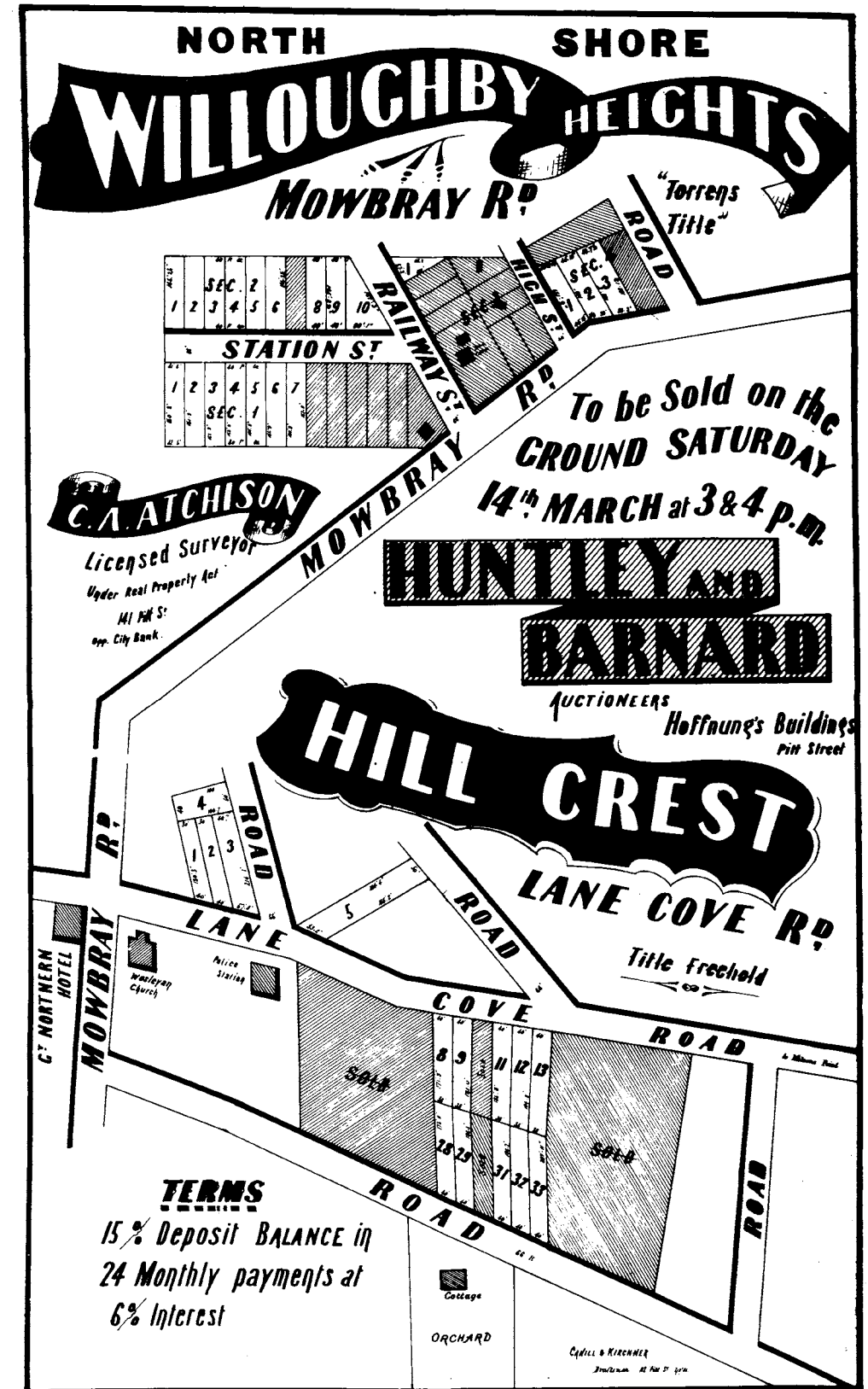
formed a partnership for the purpose of working the brickworks, with Stuntz contributing the patent and Johnston contributing a cash deposit. The partnership was dissolved in August 1887 and the residue of the purchase money paid to Saywell on 10 July 1889, when the brickworks were conveyed to Leslie Johnston who operated the works as the Johnston Brothers Patent Steam Brick Works.¹³ By 1888, Johnston Brothers was producing up to 300,000 bricks a week in Marrickville.¹⁴

In 1880 Saywell bought Blayney's brickyards at Dulwich Grove in Petersham. With the growth of large-scale production facilities, discontent over pay and conditions became an increasing source of friction between brick workers and their employers.

¹⁵ In November 1881, some of the workmen at Saywell's Brickyard and Pottery Works in Petersham demanded an hour for breakfast instead of three-quarters, but the contractor declined to accede and the men left off work alleging that they had been working an hour and a half per week more than those at any other steam brickworks in the Colony.¹⁶ In 1883, Saywell's Standard steam brick and pottery works were located on Canterbury New Road in Alexandria. By 1888, the Eagle Brick company and the Standard Brick company were described as two of the largest concerns in the Colony.¹⁷

In North Willoughby, George Janes had a large allotment with an orchard and brickyard from 1874, which Saywell purchased from him on 25 May 1883. On the same day, he purchased additional land from Richard Hayes Harnett, Alexander Stuart and George Janes within the Willoughby Park Estate.¹⁸ By 1884, John Aspinall and his family lived at Orchard Road, North Willoughby and John was a "foreman brickmaker" at the local brickworks. If John Aspinall was working at a brickyard near Orchard Road in 1884 it was almost certainly at Thomas Saywell's brickyard, as the other brickyards in operation at that time were in what is now Artarmon.

The brickfield in North Willoughby that Thomas Saywell purchased from George Janes was on a street called Station Street, because at one time a branch railway line was planned in the area. On 14 March 1885, Huntley and Barnard sold by auction building sites that were part of the Willoughby Heights Estate. The branch railway line was never built and the name of Station Street was changed to Saywell Street in 1891. Saywell was to operate the brickyard until 1895.



(Willoughby Heights estate plan 1885, image courtesy of Willoughby City Library Services)

Chapter 18

The Metropolitan and Illawarra Railway

Around 1884, John Aspinall built an attractive house of cream, sandstone blocks on the highest point of a property in Woolwich.¹⁹ This house is 'Arden Lea' at 1a Werrambie Street, Woolwich, and is on land that was sold by Richard Hayes Harnett to Didier Joubert in 1876 and subsequently transferred to Edward Butcher in 1881. In April 1892 John's daughters, Millicent and Annie, were married at 'Arden Lea' in a double wedding. Their brother, Herbert John Aspinall, was a solicitor and Mayor of Hunter's Hill in 1903, 1904 and 1916. Following the death of Edward Butcher in 1894, the property was transferred to Herbert's wife, Amy Margaret Aspinall, on 23 November 1896.²⁰ Aspinall family members would live in 'Arden Lea' until 1968.²¹

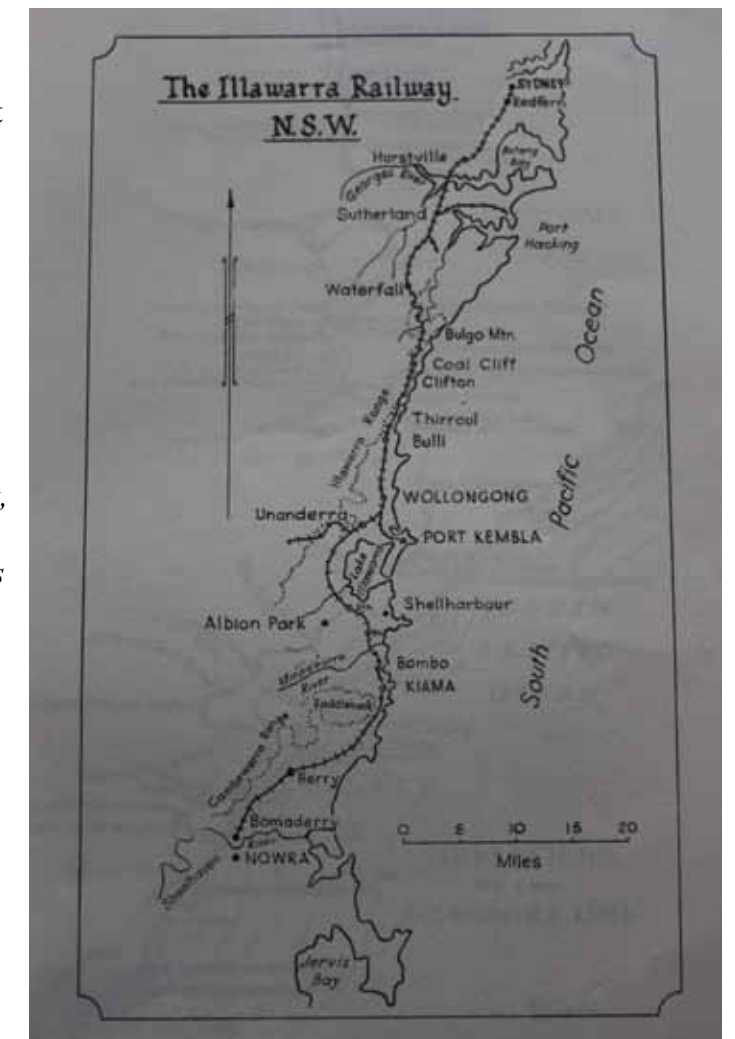


('Arden Lea' circa 1893, photo courtesy of Hunters Hill Historical Society and City of Ryde)

In May 1836, John Dunmore Lang went to the Illawarra with his brother Andrew, who had not been in that part of the Colony before:

*"It was nearly dark before we reached the summit of the Illawarra mountain, but we attempted the descent in the darkness. After going down a little way, we found it too hazardous to proceed and were obliged to spend the remainder of the night, which was extremely cold, on the mountain, sitting at the roots of trees for nearly twelve hours, with the bridles of the horses in our hands..."*¹

(The Illawarra Railway, N.S.W. from Railway History in Illawarra by C. C. Singleton 1964, image courtesy of Illawarra Historical Society)



By the early 1870s, it had become apparent to many that a railway from Sydney to the Illawarra was an urgent necessity. A prime consideration was the necessity for trucking coal from the south coastal mines to a point where suitable harbor facilities were available for its shipment.

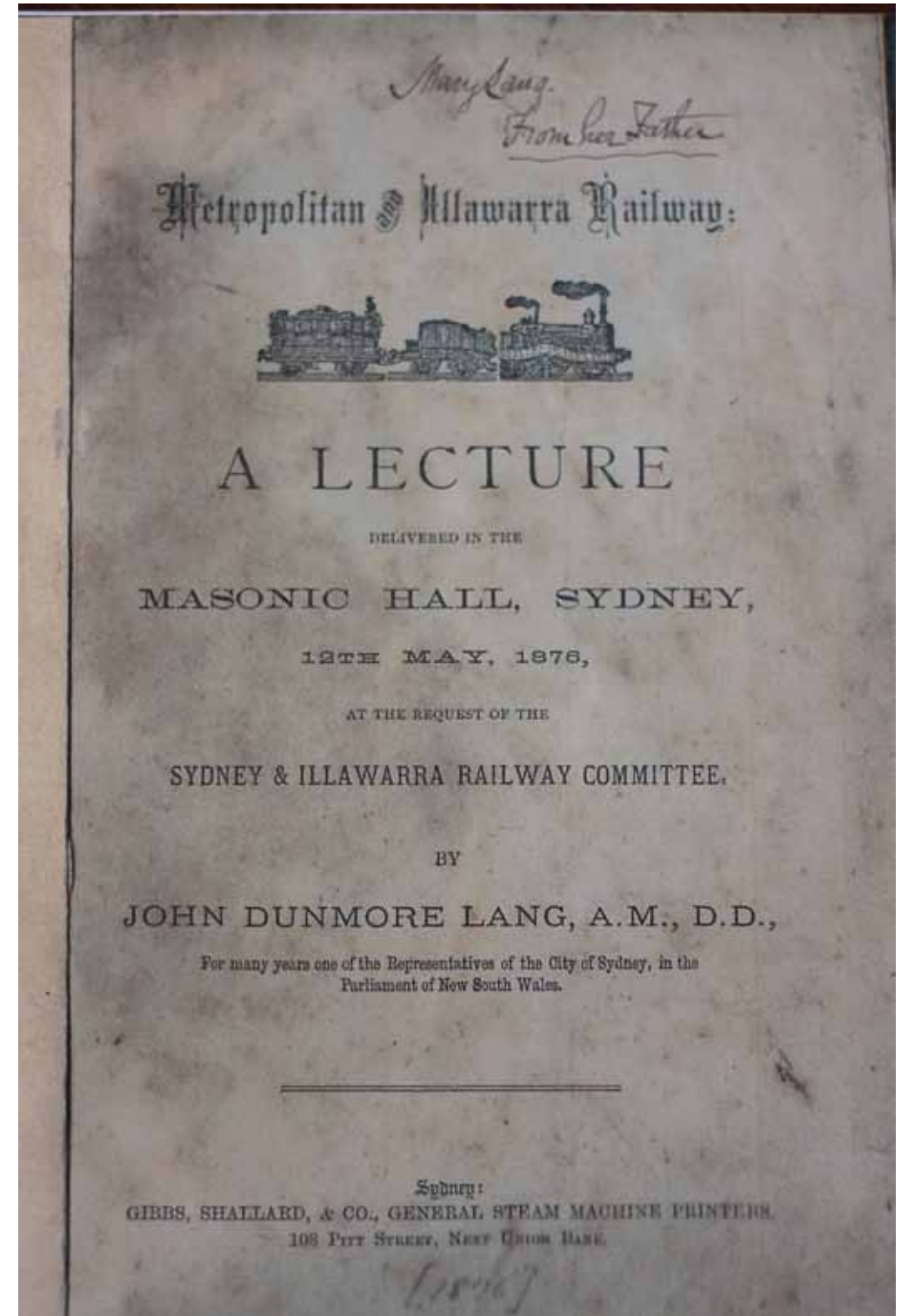
*“Several private railways were operating in the Illawarra well before the government line from Sydney was built. These were owned by local collieries and conveyed coal from various mines to nearby jetties for shipment. There is no doubt that their presence and successful operation stirred the local people in their agitation for a railway from Sydney.”*²

Thomas Holt and other local landholders were strong proponents of the scheme, and there were proposals for the formation of a private company to construct the railway, however the estimated cost of the Illawarra Railway line discouraged any hopes of financing the venture by private enterprise. By September 1873, a public meeting was called in Wollongong requesting support for the project. The Sydney-Wollongong railway became a major public policy issue.

The Hon. John Sutherland MLA, Minister for Public Works, indicated an area south of Sydney where railway development was obvious to link Sydney with the coalmining Bulli-Wollongong district and the Shoalhaven farming areas. A trial survey was begun in 1873 and John Whitton, Engineer-in-Chief for Railways, was instructed to locate a suitable route for the railway between Sydney and Kiama. Since authorities seemed unable to decide the exact location of the line, residents formed committees to bring their local enthusiasms to the notice of government. Bulli and Wollongong formed railway construction committees and deputations became regular until their objects had been achieved.³ John Sutherland became the unhappy target of a barrage of deputations, memorials and pleas.⁴

In March 1875 the Premier, John Robertson, who had been the first pupil at Lang’s Caledonian Academy, met a large and influential deputation that included Thomas Holt. It reflected a growing circle of support evidenced by the presence of a number of people including John Dunmore Lang, a veteran of colonial politics who had taken a leading role in many public issues. In a bid to rally public and Parliamentary opinion behind the Illawarra Railway, its supporters organized a public meeting, to be addressed by Lang.

*“The choice of Lang as a figurehead for the Illawarra Railway movement was a sound one. At 77 years of age he was nearing the end of a long and distinguished, if at times controversial, career as a leading Presbyterian clergyman, radical politician and newspaper proprietor, who had been prominent in the public affairs of New South Wales for over 50 years. His statesmanlike reputation was untarnished by any personal interest in the Illawarra Railway.”*⁵



(Metropolitan & Illawarra Railway, a lecture delivered by John Dunmore Lang on 12 May 1876, inscribed to Mary Lang from her father, original held by The Scots College Archives)

The meeting was held on 12 May 1876 in the Masonic Hall. Lang's address was a detailed defence of the Illawarra Railway scheme, and the benefits it would bring to Sydney and the Colony. To continue the momentum, Lang's address was published as a pamphlet.

John Dunmore Lang passed away on 8 August 1878. It was not until 1881 that public works legislation authorized the raising of moneys for the construction of a railway from Sydney to Wollongong and Kiama.⁶ By 1882, the location of the stations had been determined and included Rockdale, Clifton and Bulli. The Illawarra Railway opened to Hurstville in 1884. Sydney and Wollongong were not linked by rail until 1888, a measure of the construction difficulties involved.

When a statue of Dr. Lang was unveiled on 26 January 1891 in the presence of the governor, Lord Jersey, and "*a distinguished and numerous assemblage of the citizens of Sydney*", Thomas Roseby was present.

Chapter 19

Lady Robinson's Beach

The original inhabitants of the western shore of Botany Bay were members of the Gweagal clan.¹ By the 1870s it had just a few scattered farmlets and market gardens in the vicinity and was accessible only on horseback.² The rocky ridges were noted for their growth of wild flowers.³

By 1870, Thomas Holt had purchased 300 acres adjoining Botany Bay, which he subdivided in an attempt to form a new township named Scarborough. Some of the streets were named after his birthplace, Horbury, and his children Frederick, Alfred, Walter, Alice, Annie, Florence and Emmeline.



(Vice Regal visit to Lady Robinson's Beach, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

In 1874, Thomas Holt entertained the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Hercules Robinson, and his wife to a picnic at Seven Mile Beach. Lady Robinson was captivated by the site and Holt, “never one to miss an opportunity to ingratiate himself into the halls of power”, took the initiative to have Seven Mile Beach renamed Lady Robinson’s Beach.⁴

Samuel Cook was a friend of Thomas Holt, a prominent member of the Congregational Church and a founder of Camden College. Samuel Cook headed a deputation to the Minister for Lands to make provision for a public park. This the Minister did, on the condition that Holt donated some of his land. Samuel Cook was also instrumental in having the long strip of land adjoining Lady Robinson’s Beach proclaimed as a public park.⁵ Samuel Cook, Chairman of the Cook Park Trust, would be present at the opening of The Scots College in 1893.



(Lady Nea Robinson, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

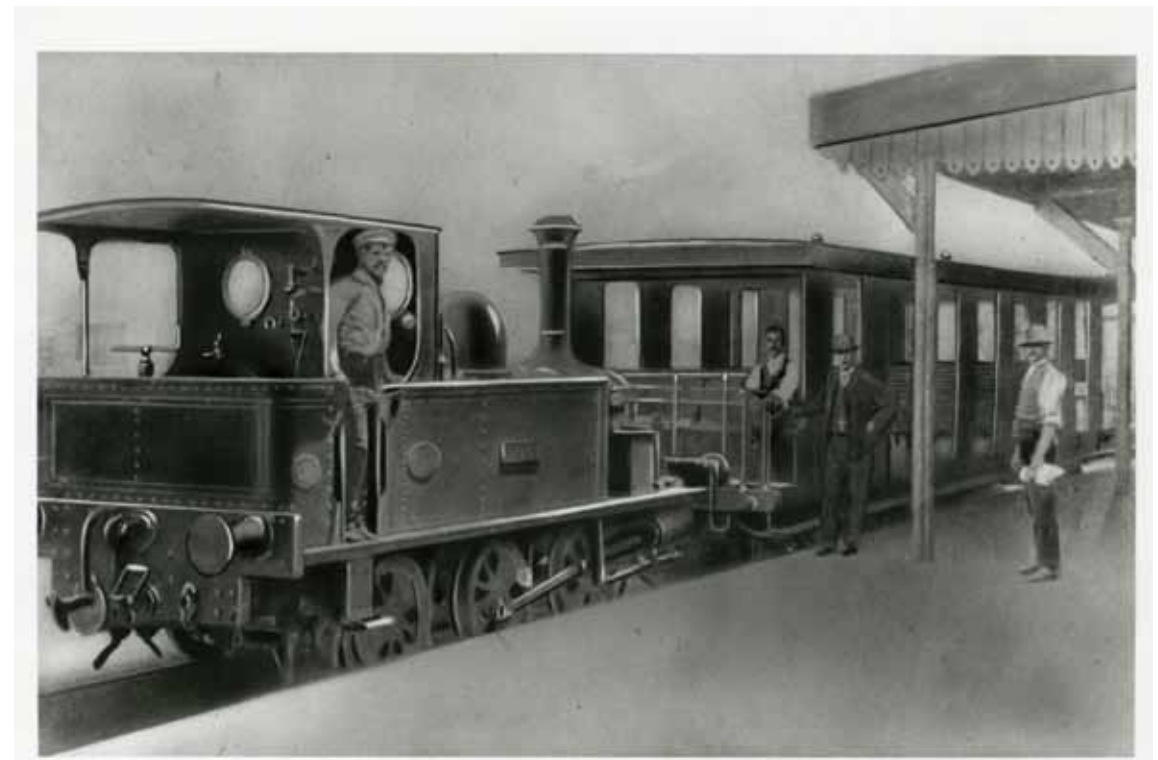
Thomas Saywell saw that the construction of the Illawarra Railway would create new suburbs in the sparsely settled area south of Cook’s River.⁶ Between October 1882 and April 1883, he purchased three allotments of land at Lady Robinson’s Beach totalling about a hundred acres.⁷ The chosen land was covered with a dense forest of age-old gum trees and lay between the beach and the market gardens that ranged along the eastern banks of Black Creek and drained into Cook’s River. Access to the area was by means of a primitive bush track, but on the representations of T. S. Huntley, the local agent for Thomas Saywell, a westerly extension to link up with the main Rocky Point Road was built which opened early in 1883 under the name of Bestic Street. The construction of this roadway permitted the use of horse drawn drags to take picnic parties from Sydney to Lady Robinson’s Beach.⁸ Saywell was not planning an exclusive retreat for the wealthy, rather an idyllic spot where men of modest means could bring their families for a day’s excursion or a week’s holiday, according to their purses. He believed that wealth created an obligation to help

those less fortunate.⁹

“[Saywell] had apparently never heard of the old Sunday School hymn, ‘Build on the Rock and not upon the Sand’, for his activities at Brighton le Sands over the next thirty years were to defy all its sentiments.”¹⁰

By 1879 a new mode of transport had appeared on the scene – tramways. The Garden Palace Exhibition of September 1879 required improved transport from the railway terminus at Redfern to the Domain. The construction of a temporary line from Devonshire Street to Hunter Street proved such a success that the government decided on a system of tramways to the Sydney suburbs. The parliamentarians still considered that railways to the interior had priority over suburban lines and tramways were an effective method to overcome an objection to city railways.¹¹

It was necessary for Saywell’s scheme at Lady Robinson’s Beach to arrange cheap transport from the proposed West Botany station on the Illawarra Railway.¹² By this time, Thomas Saywell had experience with tramways from his manufacturing and mining operations. T.S. Huntley, on behalf of Thomas Saywell, approached the local council for permission to build a steam tramway in April 1883. Application was then made to Parliament for a Bill sanctioning the construction of a steam tramway from Rockdale to Lady Robinson’s Beach; it was passed on 6 March 1884.



(One of Thomas Saywell’s trams, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Saywell's Tramway Act granted him a thirty-year franchise for a private tramway from Lady Robinson's Beach to Rockdale railway station along Bay Street.¹³ The tramway commenced at Rockdale station on land that had formed part of the old Bexley Estate and was purchased by Thomas Saywell from Johanna Walz.¹⁴ This land was next to the Geeves family's property. Messrs Kenwood and Kerle, architects and consulting engineers, were responsible for planning the tramway (and also the New Brighton Hotel and swimming baths and Bellambi jetty). By April 1884, they had their surveyors out in the field. The major engineering feature on the route was the driving of a deep cutting through the ridge adjacent to and east of Frog Hollow. Rockdale train station opened on 15 October 1884. The rock cutting was completed about April 1885 and Saywell's Tramway opened for traffic in November 1885.¹⁵

The opening of Rockdale train station and Saywell's Tramway resulted in an influx of people to the area and subdivisions and land sales at Rockdale and Lady Robinson's Beach. On 18 October 1884, three days after the railway opened, a vast pilgrimage of home-seekers flocked to the new suburbs, with free rail travel and afternoon tea provided by the auctioneers. There was also an auction sale of the Rockdale Township opposite the train station and with a large frontage to Rocky Point Road on Boxing Day, 26 December 1884. Over the next few years there would be many land sales in the district.

The New Brighton Estate was auctioned in January 1886 by the Metropolitan Mutual Permanent Building and Investment Association, of which Saywell was a major shareholder and T. S. Huntley the principal. Saywell had offices at 139 York Street, Sydney, out of which he managed a number of companies including the Beaconsfield Estate Co. Limited, Albert Ground Co. Ltd and Queens Park Estate St Leonards, as well as the Rockdale Township Estate and Rockdale Park Estate.¹⁶

NEW BRIGHTON ESTATE
Lady Robinson's Beach
For Sale on the Ground SAT,
9th JANUARY 1886 at 3pm.

HUNTLEY AND BARNARD Auctioneers
 161 Hoffmann's Buildings Pitt St

Unsubdivided Portion of the Estate

1st SUBDIVISION
TERMS
 10% Deposit Balance by
 36 Monthly payments Int. 5%
 or 60 Monthly payments with 6%
 any period over 5 years Int. 8%
 with liberty to pay off at any time.

TITLE: TORRENS ACT

VENDORS
 Metropolitan Mutual
 Permanent Building &
 Investment Association
 LIMITED.
 ROBERT W. CONWAY
 Manager

C. AATCHISON
 Licensed Surveyor
 Under the Real Prop. Act
 141 Pitt St opp. City Bank

ROCKDALE STATION

HOTEL SITE

Wharf Baths

BOTANY BAY

Scale: 0 100 200 300

(New Brighton Estate, Lady Robinson's Beach, State Library of New South Wales)

Chapter 20

Great Western Zig Zag Colliery

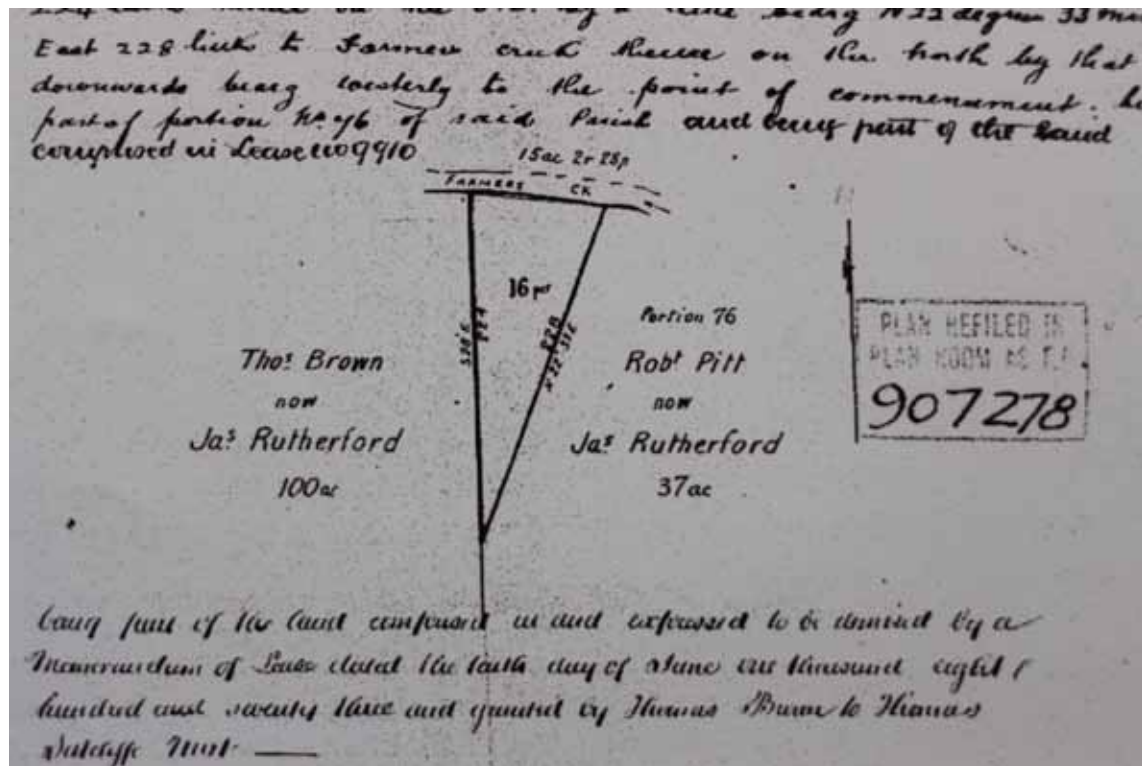


(The NSW Fresh Food and Ice Company was established by Thomas Mort in 1875. It had a slaughtering and chilling works at Bowenfels. This image is of the ice making room at Mort's meat-preserving establishment near Darling Harbour, 1876, State Library of Victoria)

At the same time that Thomas Saywell was undertaking residential development around Rockdale, he was developing collieries. He was involved with the establishment of two collieries in Newcastle. The Stockton Coal Company Limited was incorporated in Newcastle on 3 January 1883 and Saywell was one of its directors.¹ The Wickham and Bullock Island Coal Company Limited was incorporated on 26 June 1883.²

Saywell developed the Zig Zag Colliery in partnership with William Wilson in July 1883. The colliery was about a mile to the north of the Vale of Clwydd Colliery. Thomas Sellwood Huntley attended the opening ceremony in December 1883 on behalf of Thomas Saywell, who was unable to be present. T.S. Huntley was a long-term business associate of Saywell and the future lessee of the New Brighton Hotel.

The land on which this colliery was situated was land that had been leased by Thomas Brown to T. S. Mort. The New South Wales Fresh Food and Ice Company Limited (a Mort company) sub-leased the land to Thomas Saywell for a term of 21 years from 1 July 1883. Farmer's Creek separated the mine from the location of the Fresh Food and Ice Company, where trucks filled with fresh meat used to be sent along a siding to the trunk railway line before the operations of the company ceased. T.S. Mort had been involved in experiments in refrigeration, as it was considered of national importance that an outlet be found for surplus Australian meat on European markets. T.S. Mort died on 9 May 1878 without seeing his project succeed due to technical difficulties.³ Thomas Holt and others were to pursue the aim and the first shipment of refrigerated meat from Australia to Europe was made in February 1880.⁴ The Zig Zag Colliery lease was renewed for a further term of 21 years from 1 January 1900. The assets of the colliery would be transferred to Saywell's Collieries Limited in June 1900.

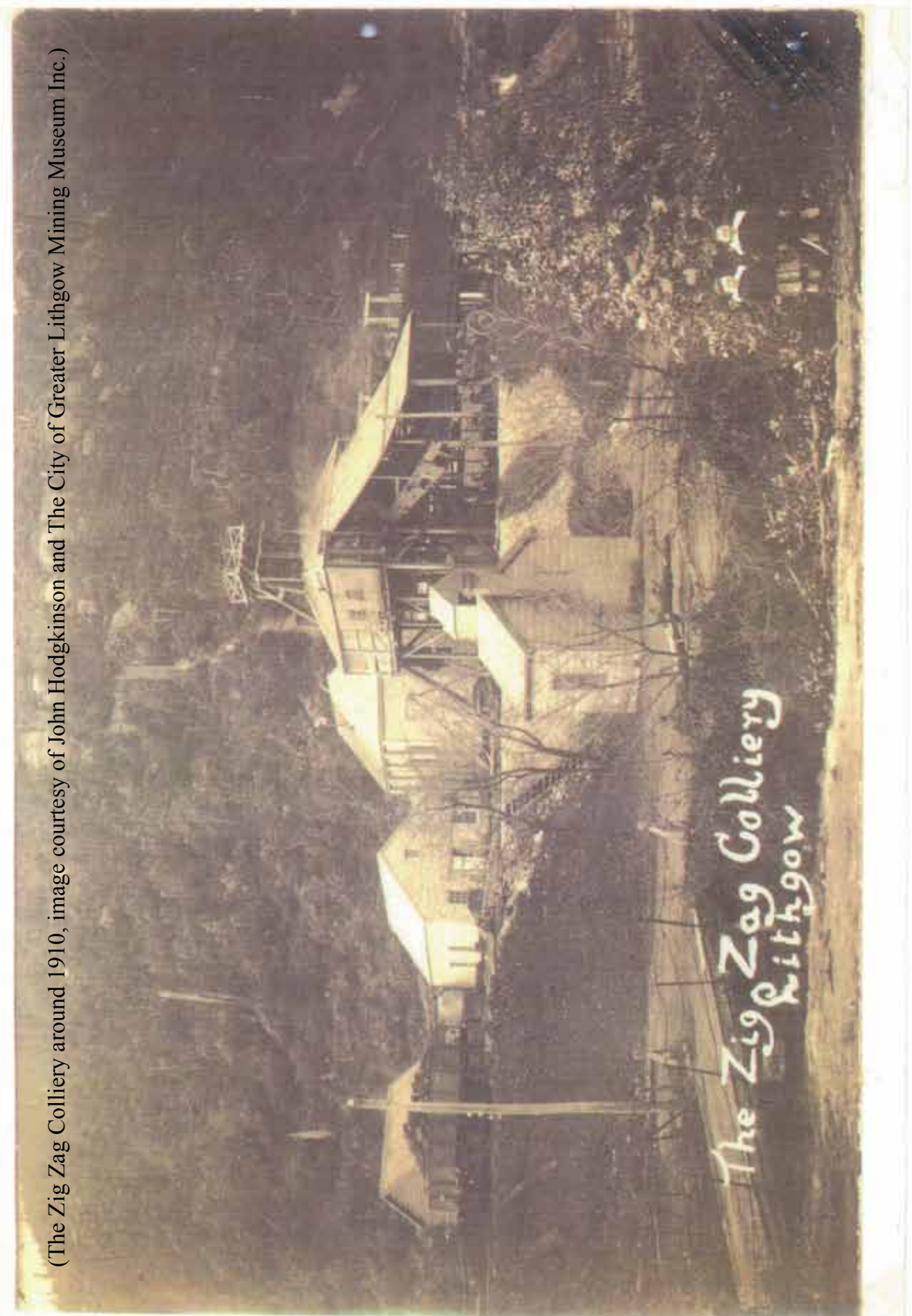


(Memorandum of Lease, Land and Property Information dealing number 77706)

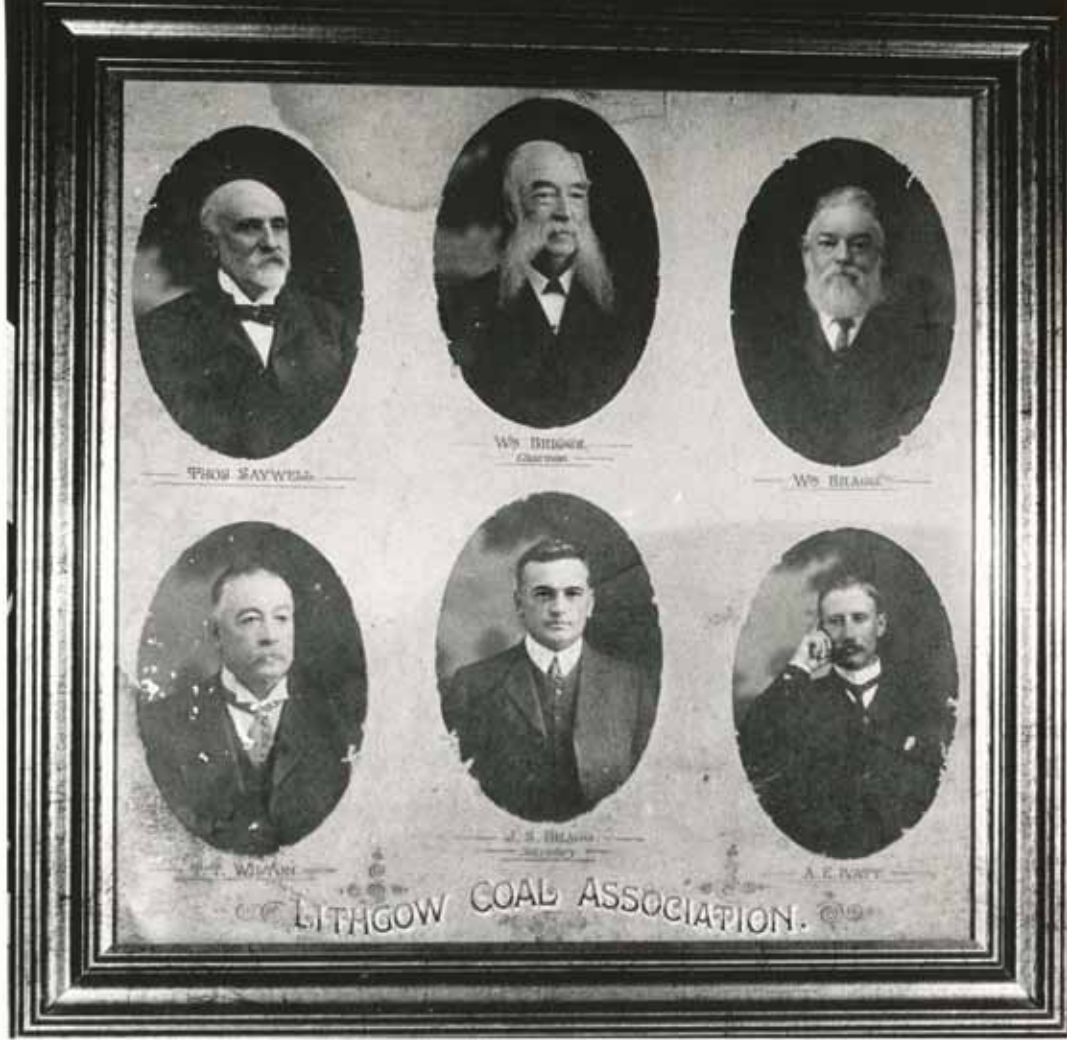
As it was relatively high in ash, Lithgow coal was supplied at lower cost than Newcastle coal and was only considered suitable for use in goods locomotives fitted with shaker grates. During the 1870s and 1880s, the Vale of Clwydd Colliery contracted with the Department of Railways for the supply of locomotive coal (some of the coal was supplied by other Lithgow collieries under collaborative arrangements).⁵

In September 1884, various colliery proprietors formed the Associated Lithgow Collieries to conduct their business through a central office at 488 George Street, Sydney. Thomas Saywell was a member of the foundation board. The arrangement established a single price for coal marketed by the Eskbank, Zig Zag, Vale of Clwydd, Hermitage and Lithgow Valley collieries. The arrangement was challenged by some shareholders of Vale of Clwydd Coal Company in the Supreme Court before Justice Windeyer in 1885.

⁶ The shareholders claimed that certain vend arrangements made between the directors and other colliery proprietors were ultra vires because they had not been ratified in general meeting by the members of the company. The proprietors of the other vend member collieries had initially supported the Vale of Clwydd Colliery in the case, but formally withdrew from the hearing. Justice Windeyer ruled that the company should submit the vend arrangement to its shareholders for approval, but was reluctant to make a ruling as to whether the vend arrangement represented a restraint of trade.⁷



(The Zig Zag Colliery around 1910, image courtesy of John Hodgkinson and The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc.)



(Lithgow Coal Association, image courtesy of Lithgow City Council)

By 1890, the Associated Lithgow Collieries had disbanded and the Vale of Clwydd and Zig Zag collieries had established their own collaborative structure, the Vale of Clwydd and Zig Zag Coal Association.

A cartel of all Lithgow collieries was re-established in July 1892 when the Lithgow Coal Association was formed with its offices at 114a Pitt Street, Sydney. In 1900 members included the Vale of Clwydd, Zig Zag, Esk Bank, Hermitage, Lithgow Valley and Oakey Park collieries. The Lithgow Coal Association entered into contracts on behalf of its members and controlled the five collieries to ensure that the output of each mine was equal.⁸

Chapter 21

Ringwood Coal Company and the new Mount Kembla mine

Saywell's attention had also turned to collieries south of Sydney, in particular the Ringwood Colliery at Bundanoon. The Ringwood Coal Company Limited was incorporated on 7 September 1883 by Thomas Saywell with T. S. Huntley and George Carter. The other subscribers to the company were William Cope, George Fawcett Saywell and also James Atchison and Cunningham Archibald Atchison, both surveyors and the sons of Rev. Cunningham Atchison of Wollongong who had been a protégé of John Dunmore Lang.

In September 1883, tenders were invited by the Ringwood Coal-mining Company for the construction of about 14 miles of colliery tramway at Bundanoon, near Moss Vale, on the Southern Railway. The Ringwood Coal Company Limited's solicitor was John A. Aitken. In October 1884, the Ringwood Colliery was opened with T.S. Huntley as business manager. An adit in the Wongawilli seam was established some 280 below the cliff line. The platform, which came out from the cliff top and was fitted with winding gear to the adit below, was designed and built by mining engineer Thomas Bertram, who arrived in Australia in 1883 (and was to also lay out the new Mount Kembla colliery).¹ Significant capital was expended on machinery, ancillaries and an associated tramway, but in 1883 to 1884 the mine produced only 70 tons by 22 miners. After the collapse of the first section of a lengthy log trestle before the last section had been erected, Saywell stopped further activities in the area.² In 1885, the mine was abandoned and the plant was sold to Saywell, who was to use it at the South Bulli colliery.³

On 21 September 1883, the Illawarra Mercury reported that several gentlemen had inspected and surveyed the property known as Atchison's.

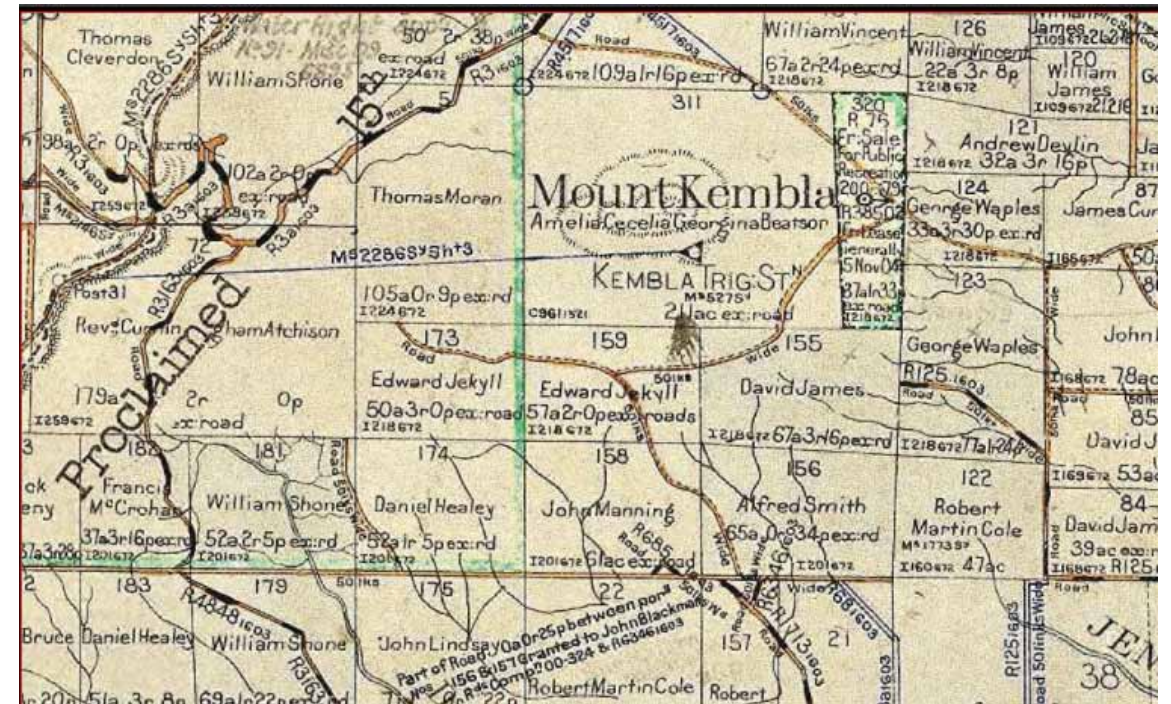
*“We understand that, within the past few days, several gentlemen inspected and surveyed the property at Mount Kembla known as Atchison's, in connection with which a company is about to be floated for the purpose of mining for coal. It is contemplated to run the line of railway between the proposed new colliery and Port Kembla parallel with and contiguous to the Mount Kembla Company's railway, using their fence as a boundary on one side. A new jetty will be erected on the beach side of the present structure, which will act as a breakwater to the inner jetty.”*⁴

On 30 November 1883, Benjamin Lipscomb and Francis Woodward, solicitors of Crown Street, Wollongong, gave notice that an application was intended to be made to the Parliament of NSW to bring a Bill to authorize Thomas Saywell to construct a railway line from certain coal mines leased at Mount Kembla through a number of properties to Red Point, Port Kembla.⁵ The *Victorian Coal-mining Company's Bill* was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 30 April 1884 and received royal assent on 29 August 1884. The Act granted Thomas Saywell the right to construct a railway from the New Mount Kembla mine to Red Point. As the Act recited:

“WHEREAS Thomas Saywell merchant of Sydney New South Wales his heirs and assigns trading as the Victorian Coal-mining Company ... is about to open coal-mines on land situate near Mount Kembla in the County of Camden and is desirous of constructing a railway from the said coal-mines to the sea-coast at Red Point through certain private lands... but such railway cannot be made without Legislative authority...”

The description of the railway in the First Schedule states that the railway would commence on the south boundary of Cunningham Atchison's grant. Rev. Atchison's son, James Atchison, would be heavily involved with the development of the mine.

There was substantial opposition and a number of objections to the legislation. D'Arcy Wentworth and Fitzwilliam Wentworth, owners of the Five Islands Estate, raised one of the objections. The Wentworths withdrew their opposition after entering into an agreement for lease dated 29 April 1884 with Thomas Saywell, which made provision for the payment of royalties in consideration of the grant of a lease by the Wentworths of the relevant land in connection with the shipping of coal at the proposed new jetty.⁶ The Wentworths had previously entered into a similar agreement with the Mount Kembla Coal & Oil Company on 6 January 1881. William Burrall, the engineer in charge of construction of that mine, had been unable to float a company in the Colony. The company was registered in England under the *Imperial Companies Act* and 90 per cent of its capital was raised in England. This marked a new phase for the Wollongong coal trade, as up



(Historical Parish Map, Parish of Kembla, Historical Land Records Viewer, NSW Land and Property Information)

until then mining activity had rested on local capital.⁷ The new colliery also intended to raise capital in England, but it would be a number of years before this was achieved. The new Mount Kembla coal company was established by Thomas Saywell, trading as the Victorian Coal-mining Company. T.S. Huntley was the manager and the office was located at 130 Pitt Street, Sydney. The colliery was below the summit of Mount Kembla, on its southern slopes in the vicinity of Unanderra. The mouth of the mine was on George Waples's farm, directly facing the main road and ocean, in the face of a perpendicular cliff and 800 feet below the top of it. Thomas Bertram was the mining engineer and would lay out all the works except the jetty. The works were constructed so that the coal was hoisted up at the face of the cliff; all the lowering and hoisting in connection with the colliery, including the men, was done down and up the face of the cliff. Significant capital was expended to develop the mine. Surveys were prepared, levels taken for engineering purposes, fencing done and part of the jetty was erected. Arrangements were made to raise capital in England, however owing to the depressed state of the money market it was not expedient or practicable to float a coal mining company and the mine was idle for a number of years.⁸

On 5 November 1884, John A. Aitken, solicitor, of 164 King Street, Sydney, gave notice that application was intended to be made to the Parliament of NSW for leave to bring a Bill to amend the Act, to acquire certain parts of Messrs Waples Brothers land for working the railway and to drive, construct and maintain a tunnel under land belonging

to David James. It is not clear why Benjamin Lipscomb and Francis Woodward were no longer Saywell's solicitors in respect of this matter. The property on which the mine was situated seems to have consisted of about half freehold and half leasehold property (government and private). The private leasehold included the cone of Mount Kembla, which was owned by the Beatson family. On 4 August 1883, Amelia Beatson had sold her land to Francis Woodward. No lease of this property was registered until 24 March 1888, after The Southern Coal Company of New South Wales (Limited) had been floated in England. There may have been disagreement as to the terms on which this property was to be used by the mine. Francis Woodward was also a politician and the Member in the Legislative Assembly for Illawarra for two terms from 1887 to 1891; a highlight of his first term was the official opening of the Illawarra Railway from Wollongong to Clifton on 20 June 1887. Woodward was involved in land speculation and misappropriated client funds to speculate; the bank smash of 1893 spelt ruin for Woodward and he was made bankrupt, convicted of misappropriation and sentenced to three years' penal servitude.⁹

By an Indenture dated 19 February 1887, D'Arcy Wentworth and Fitzwilliam Wentworth agreed to release Thomas Saywell from the lease of land on the Five Islands Estate in consideration of the payment of the sum of £750. The *Victorian Coal-mining Company's Act* had required the railway to be constructed within 3 years. Thomas Saywell asked parliament to renew the original powers so that the railway could be constructed as originally intended, because there were prospects of a company being floated in England in a short period of time:

*"I cleared and fenced and surveyed, and such like, but I found out that it was coming to a very great deal more money than I wished to expend upon the thing, and money has been rather tight these last three years in this market, so I thought to see if I could not do anything in the English market, in which I have very great hopes of succeeding, with extension of time."*¹⁰

The Southern Coal Company of New South Wales (Limited) was registered with the Stock Exchange in England on 3 December 1887. The company was formed to purchase the land and rights known as the Victorian Coal Property in Kembla less than 6 miles from the port of shipment, between which and the property it was intended to construct a railway under the powers of the *Victorian Coal-mining Company's Act*. On 5 December 1887, the company entered into a contract with James Atchison and Adelbert Schleicher to acquire the Victorian Coal Property; Thomas Saywell must have agreed to assign his interest in the property to Atchison and Schleicher prior to this date. A prospectus was issued on 14 December 1887. The company had both English directors and local directors in New South Wales. James Atchison was one of the local directors.¹¹

IMAGE RIGHT

(The Southern Coal Company of New South Wales Limited, Loan and Company Prospectus 1887, Jacket number 538, Guildhall Library)

The subscription list will close on or before Monday, the 19th instant.

The Trust and Agency Company of Australasia Limited, 147, Cannon Street, London, invite applications for the balance of the capital of

THE
Southern Coal Company of New South Wales,
LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies' Acts, 1862 to 1883, whereby the liability of each Shareholder is limited to the amount of his Shares.

CAPITAL £160,000 in 160,000 Shares of £1 each,

Whereof 44,000 Shares will be issued to the Vendors as fully paid up, 32,500 Shares have been applied for by the Shareholders of the Trust and Agency Company of Australasia Limited (which will be allotted in full), and 83,500 Shares, the balance, are offered for public subscription,

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:—

Five Shillings per Share on Application and Five Shillings per Share on Allotment, and the balance as and when called for, in sums not exceeding Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share, and at intervals of not less than three months. Dividends will be paid on the Shares in proportion to the amount called up thereon.

Allottees desiring at once to extinguish their liability may on Allotment pay up the remaining Ten Shillings per Share, receiving thereon until called interest at 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on the first day of January, and the first day of July, free of Income Tax.

Directors.

Rt. Hon. LORD KINNAIRD (Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie & Co.), 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.,
Director of the Trust and Agency Company of Australasia Limited.

EMERSON BAINBRIDGE, Esq., Managing Director of The Blackwell Colliery Company Limited, Alfreton, Derby.

HENRY A. BARCLAY, Esq., Underhills, Bletchingley.

JAMES HORA, Esq., Director of the Trust and Agency Company of Australasia Limited.

G. BLAKE WALKER, Esq., Tankersley Grange, Barnsley, Managing Director of the Wharfedale Silkstone Colliery Company, Limited.

Local Directors in New South Wales.

A. G. BLOMFIELD, Esq. (Messrs. Blomfield and Dickson), Sydney.

J. T. ATCHISON, Esq. (Messrs. Atchison and Schleicher), Sydney.

Bankers.

MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN & CO., 54, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

MESSRS. RANSOM, BOUVERIE & CO., 1, PALL MALL EAST, S.W.

Brokers.

MESSRS. CAVELL, STRACHAN & LARDELLI, 50, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Solicitors.

MESSRS. VALPY, CHAPLIN & PECKHAM, 19, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Consulting Engineers.

MESSRS. BAINBRIDGE, SEYMOUR & RATHBONE, 2, Great George Street, Westminster.

Secretary and Offices (*pro tem.*)

WALTER NASSAU SENIOR, Esq., 147, CANNON STREET, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to purchase the valuable land and rights known as the *Victorian Coal Property*, in the parish of Kembla and County of Camden, in the Colony of New South Wales, distant 60 miles from Sydney, and less than 6 miles from the point of shipment, between which

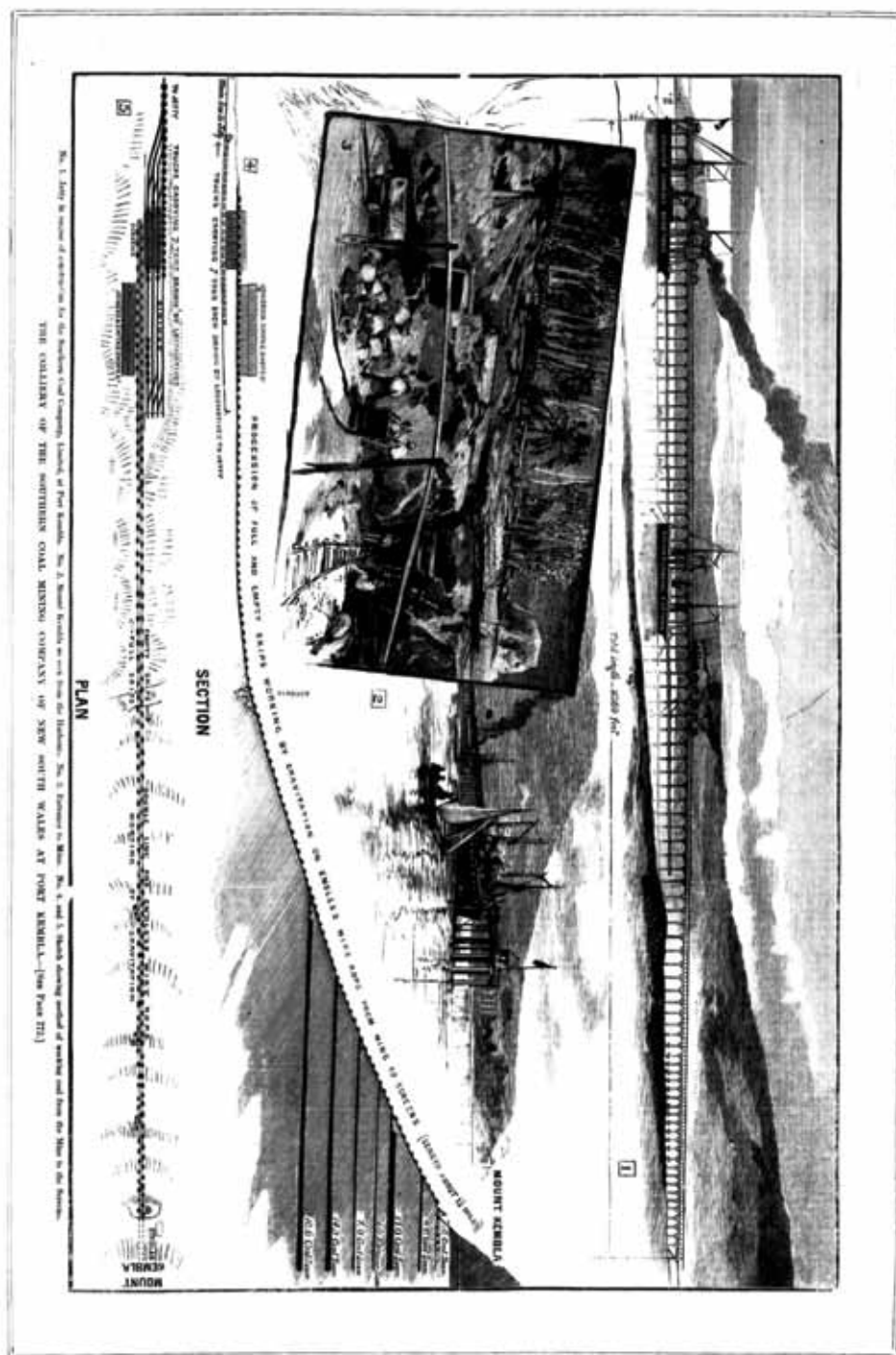
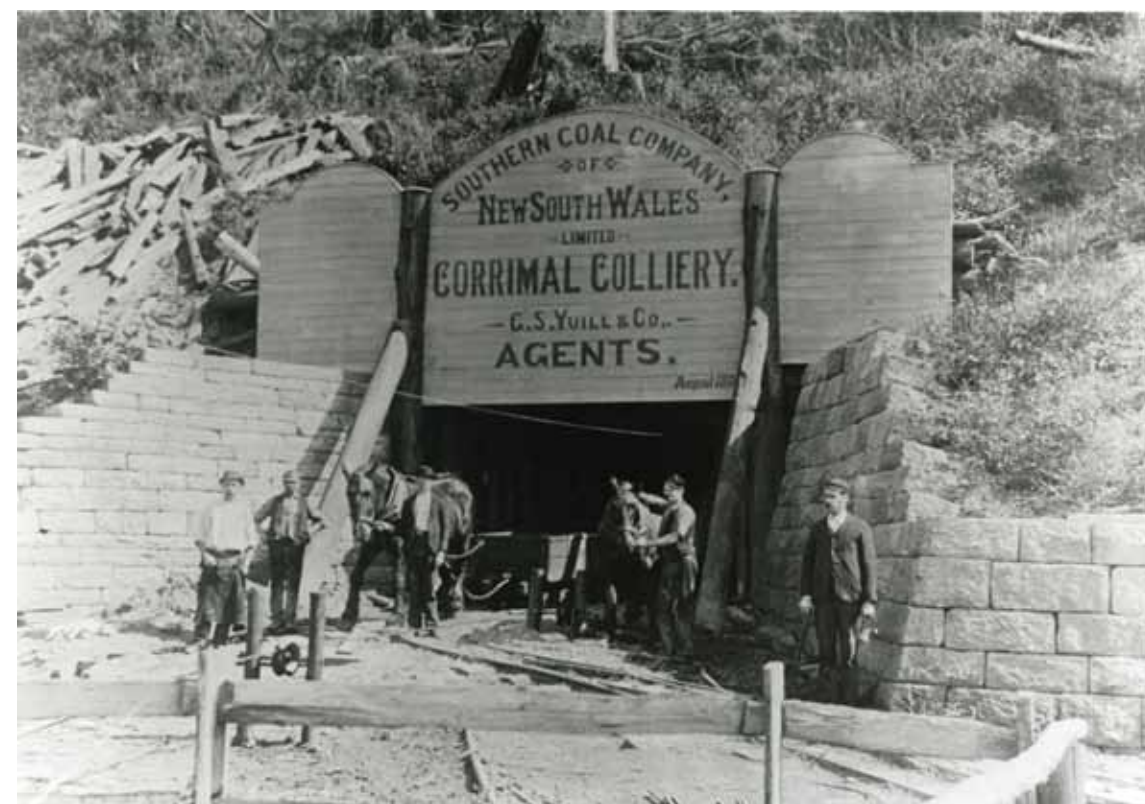


IMAGE LEFT (The Colliery of the Southern Coal Mining Company of New South Wales at Port Kembla, The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, 13 October 1888, p. 770, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/161890890>)

On 27 April 1888, the *Victorian Coal-mining Company's Extension Act* granted a three-year extension of time within which to construct the railway.¹² On 7 May 1888, James Atchison and Adelbert Schleicher transferred to the Southern Coal Company of New South Wales Limited their interest as lessees under a Memorandum of Lease from Francis Woodward.¹³ Also on 7 May 1888, D'Arcy Wentworth and Fitzwilliam Wentworth entered into a lease of the land in the Five Islands Estate with James Atchison and Adelbert Schleicher in connection with the construction of the railway, in consideration of the payment of half yearly royalties based on the coal, shale or other goods carried over the railway line. The Southern Coal Company constructed its jetty, the second private coal jetty at Port Kembla. It was just over 300 metres long and to the north of the Mount Kembla Coal Company's jetty.¹⁴ The railway was built under the supervision of Kenwood and Kerle, civil engineers, and coal was shipped on 4 July 1889.



(Corrimal Colliery, image courtesy of the Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)

In November 1889 Mr Pringle, representing the Southern Coal Company, took over the

leases and appurtenances of the Corrimal Coal Company with a view to carrying out large-scale operations using the deep-sea shipping jetty at Port Kembla and the Southern Coal Company's railway. A local inspector of mines had reported in 1889 that at the New Mount Kembla mine only 10 men were at work, driving headings to further improve the coal. The New Mount Kembla mine was closed in 1890 because of the poor quality of the coal.

Chapter 22

Bellambi



(South Bulli mine, image courtesy of the Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)

In December 1885, Saywell and Wilson commenced construction of a mine at Russell Vale, nearly midway between Bulli and Wollongong. The mine had been known as Taylor and Walker's mine. It was successfully worked for several years by Thomas Hale, who was the first person in the district to erect a jetty, however a chapter of misfortunes overtook that enterprising gentleman and the mine was closed for many years.

The valuable plant was allowed to go to ruin and the jetty rotted from disuse and finally succumbed to the never-ceasing roll of the ocean and decay.¹

Thomas Saywell leased the land from the Osborne family by an Indenture of Lease dated 1 December 1885 between Henry Hill Osborne, Pat Hill Osborne, Alick Osborne, and Ben Marshall Osborne.² (Saywell was to marry Rebecca Osborne in 1906 following the death of his first wife, Annie, from diabetes. Rebecca's father, George Osborne, was a builder and hotelier who constructed the Wesley Church on Crown Street and the School of Arts on Smith Street, Wollongong.) Saywell reopened the mine as the South Bulli colliery and re-constructed the line of railway to Bellambi Bay. A strip of land was also secured in order to lay a tramway between the mine workings and a proposed coal shipping jetty at Port Bellambi.³ A new jetty was constructed at Bellambi Bay. A Lease for Special Purposes for the jetty from Bellambi Point, near the easterly corner of South Bulli Coal Company's leasehold land, was granted by the government to Thomas Saywell in October 1889. The jetty was 2,065 feet in length, two-thirds of which was over water.⁴

The concern was floated into a public company. In October 1887, the South Bulli Coal Company Limited was formed. Its property consisted of 700 acres of land leased from the Osbornes for 50 years, as well as a railway and jetty for shipping coal. It offered a dividend of 10% per annum for three years, guaranteed by Saywell. The company had a contract with Messrs. Woollcott-Waley and Mitchell (guaranteed by Messrs. Philp and Forsyth of Burns, Philp, and Co.), to take all the output of the colliery for five years, at six shillings and sixpence per ton, delivered aboard the steamer at the jetty. Further, once the Illawarra railway line was opened to Wollongong, the mine would be connected by rail with Sydney and Wollongong.⁵

(South Bulli Colliery, image courtesy of the Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)



Locomotive No.1 of the South Bulli Company was originally ordered by Saywell from Messrs. John Fowler of Leeds and used from 1886 on Saywell's Tramway at Brighton le Sands; it was later shipped from Lady Robinson's Beach to Wollongong Harbour where it was transferred to work the coal traffic.⁶ Locomotive No. 2 was originally imported from Hudswell, Clark and Company for service at the Ringwood Colliery at Bundanoon. Upon the abandonment of this enterprise, Saywell sent all the winding engines, tramway skips and other colliery items, including the new locomotive, overland to the South Bulli Colliery. The negotiation of the steep passes down the Illawarra Coal Range must have been a nightmare for the teamsters.⁷

(Bellambi coal, image courtesy of the Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)

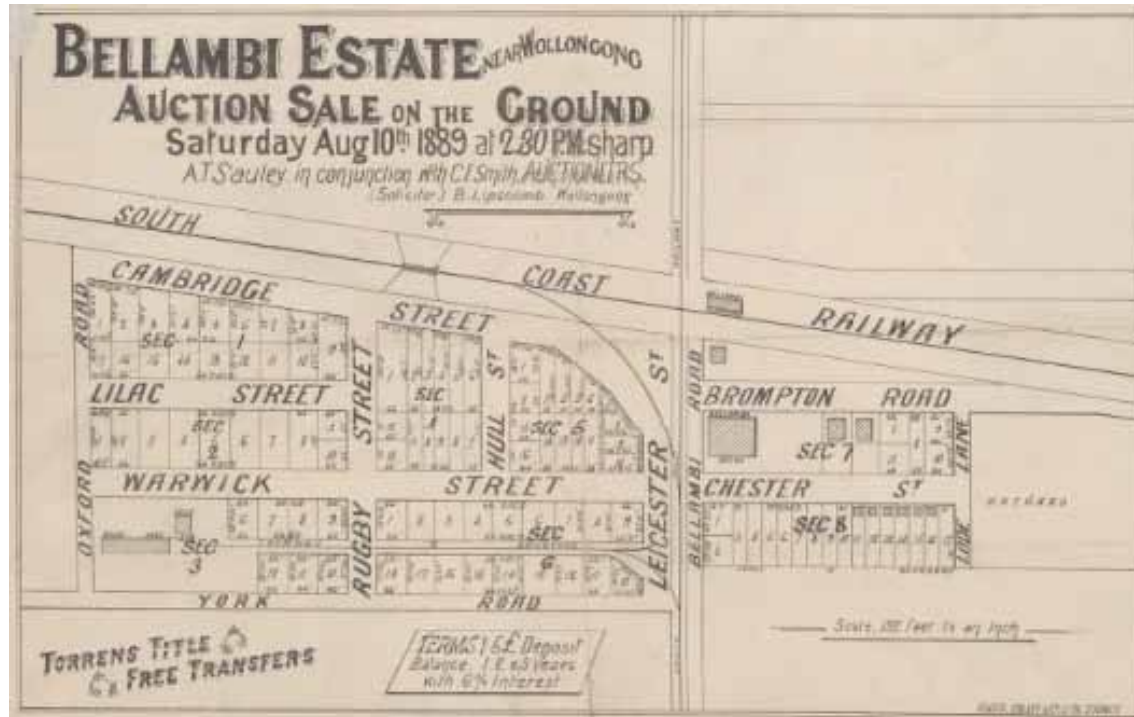


The first shipment from the new Bellambi jetty was made in November 1887.⁸ At the formal opening, three steamers brought a large number of selected visitors from Sydney to participate in the festivities. The event was celebrated by a bullock roasted whole and casks of ale provided by local hotels.

On 9 July 1886, Thomas Saywell purchased 20 acres of land in the Bellambi Estate to the west of the South Coast Railway line from Patrick Farragher of Woonona, farmer. The following day, the land was mortgaged back to Patrick Farragher for three years until 10 July 1889, on which date the mortgage was discharged. Saywell subdivided this land adjoining the Bellambi railway station and auctioned "Saywell's Subdivision" on 10 August 1889 as 100 building sites suitable for villa residences, miners' homes or market gardens.⁹

Chapter 23

South Clifton



(Bellambi Estate, near Wollongong: auction sale on the ground, Saturday Aug. 10th 1889, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-232426686/view>)

On 21 August 1890, Ebenezer Vickery purchased the South Bulli colliery from Saywell and Wilson.¹⁰ Following the sale, William Wilson was entertained at a banquet at Bellambi Hall by a number of surface hands employed at the colliery and friends. Mr. J. Hurley, M.L.A. for Hartley, occupied the chair, and there were between 60 and 70 gentlemen present. Speeches complimentary to Mr. Wilson were made by all the speakers, his late employees characterising him as a good boss and fair and honest in his dealings at all times with his men. William Wilson then built the residence 'Wilgedene' and operated the Bellambi Hotel.

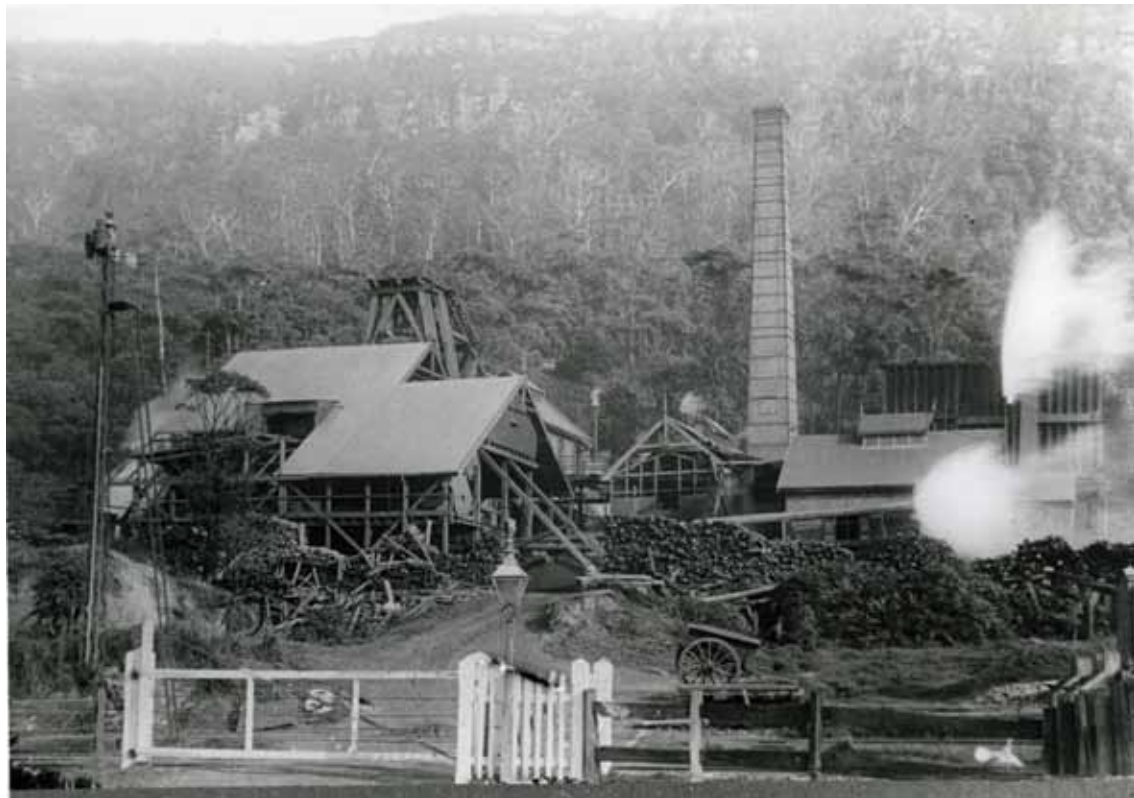


(Copper printer's stereotype or cliché for letterheading, engraved for Thomas Saywell of South Clifton Coal Mining Company, from David Jones & Compy., in family's possession)

The opening of the Illawarra railway, linking the coastal villages and townships and connecting all with Sydney, opened a new era of life in the northern Illawarra. The South Coast railway officially opened between Wollongong and South Clifton on 23 June 1887. Shortly after the railway opened, a platform was erected at Clifton. The Scarbor-

ough Hotel opened in July 1887 and a Clifton mine was operated by the North Illawarra Coal Mining Company; however by June 1891 trade had been so slack at the Clifton mine that the men there had barely eked out an existence for some time past, and the men received a fortnight's notice for all hands to quit. The stoppage of the colliery had a serious effect upon the trade of the township. In 1891, Saywell and Wilson acquired the mine from the North Illawarra Coal Mining Company.

“Were it not for the fact that the development of the South Clifton coal property is being rapidly proceeded with business must necessarily become almost entirely suspended, as coal-mining is now the only resource of the place... Messrs. Saywell and Wilson are, however, making such satisfactory progress with their new venture that it is expected before long a large field of labour will be opened up at the South Clifton colliery.”¹



(South Clifton Colliery, image courtesy of Wollongong City Libraries and the Illawarra Historical Society)

A series of surface works were undertaken which included the construction of a portal entrance and the erection of a large boiler house, steam engine and sawmill. They sank a shaft for coal on the west side of the railway, in close proximity to the Scarborough Hotel and immediately adjoining the railway line. They only had to sink about 150 feet to reach the coal which, when raised to the surface, could be tipped almost right into trucks on the railway itself. In August 1891, the steamer *Platypus* called in for bunker coal on

her way to Shellharbour, and was supplied by the South Clifton Coal Company; that was the first trade by sea and the crane worked rather stiffly having been idle for many years. Most of the coal raised was initially sent to Sydney and loaded at Darling Harbour. Saywell and Wilson had a five-year contract with the Railway Commissioners for the carriage of 500,000 tons of coal from the mine at South Clifton to Darling Harbour.

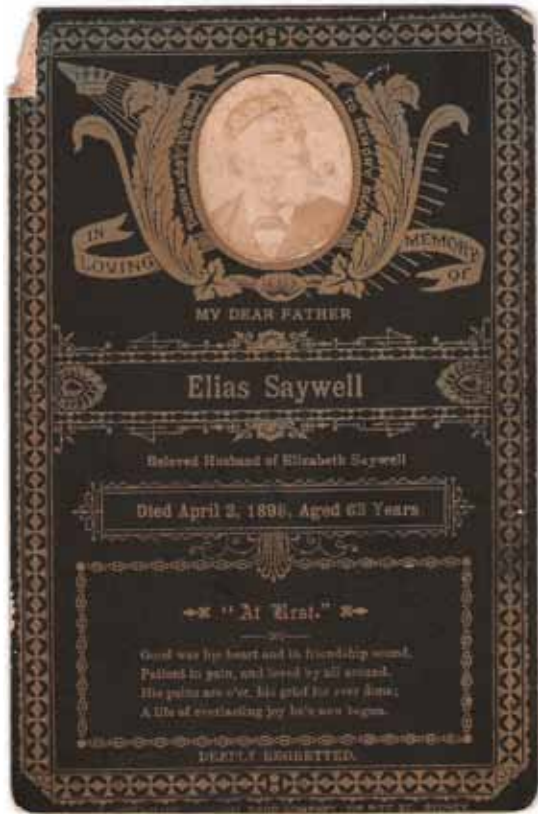
When the Illawarra Railway was sanctioned in 1881, it was on the understanding that Sydney Harbour would become Wollongong's deepwater port. However, once the Sydney-Wollongong section was completed, Wollongong's businessmen decided that a new port should be created in the district. Almost 40 per cent of all the coal mined in the Illawarra was shipped through the two private jetties at Port Kembla, but the port had only limited natural protection. The mine owners and their parliamentary allies secured the passage of the *Port Kembla Harbour Act* in 1898. The Act authorized the construction of a deep-water harbor at Port Kembla with an eastern breakwater (at the southern side of the port), and the resumption of two private jetties and land belonging to the Wentworth estate, which covered much of the land surrounding the port. The rival ports of Wollongong and Bellambi were considered more costly and less suitable than Port Kembla.² The shipping business at Wollongong fell away in favour of the deep sea facilities provided at Port Kembla.

The South Clifton Coal Property does not appear to have been floated; on 30 June 1902 Thomas Saywell transferred assets of this colliery into Saywell's Collieries Limited, together with certain assets relating to his collieries in Lithgow.³ The South Clifton colliery was to operate until 1920.

(George Burleigh Saywell, Thomas's brother, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)



A Clifton Presbyterian Church Building Fund was established by 1902 and tea-meetings, concerts and a bazaar were held to raise funds. George Burleigh Saywell's grand-daughter, Laurie Saywell, was on the confectionary stall at the bazaar. George had moved to the area after the Eagle Tobacco Factory on Clarence Street was destroyed by fire in 1897 and lived at 'Linford Vale'. He became a manufacturer of hard smelting coke with a string of coke ovens at Scarborough.⁴ Thomas's brother, Elias, passed away in 1898.



(Elias Saywell memorial, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

Thomas Saywell gave a freehold allotment and £20 for the establishment of the Presbyterian church in Clifton, which opened in May 1904.⁵ On the same day, a Presbyterian church was opened on a freehold site in Robertson Street, Helensburgh given by Thomas Saywell.⁶ The first settlement at Camp Creek, which became Helensburgh, had been a tent town of railway construction workers among which the Clifton clergy preached on Sundays. The Presbyterians held church services in the Helensburgh School of Arts from 1901 until the church was built in 1904.

Chapter 24

The New Brighton Hotel and Rockdale

At Lady Robinson's Beach, a large bath enclosure was built out from the foreshore, enclosing a sizeable area of the then unpolluted waters of Botany Bay, which opened on 2 October 1886.¹ Among the amenities provided were hot sea water showers. The first lessee of the baths was a noted swimming instructor of the day, Lieutenant Fritz A. von Hammer. Athletes and swimmers who patronized the baths helped to build the popularity of the suburb.² Against the southern wall of the baths an extensive promenade pier was constructed from which boat excursions were run to Kurnell and Sans Souci. An area of land was set aside on the southern side of Bay Street as a picnic reserve known as 'Shady Nook'. It featured a fine expanse of grass, ornamental trees, bandstand, children's playground and a merry-go-round.³

(The tram stop in front of Shady Nook, Brighton le Sands, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)



In 1887, Thomas Saywell's family moved from Petersham to 'Nevada', 8 The Grand Parade, Lady Robinson's Beach.⁴ Saywell set his contractors to work on the nucleus of his vision – the New Brighton Hotel.⁵ The hotel was built in 1887 and was located at the corner of The Grand Parade and Bay Street.⁶ It was three storeys high with a fine portico over the main entrance and wide verandahs and balconies.⁷ The New Brighton Hotel contained sixty magnificently furnished rooms, and the lower verandah was artistically laid out with tiles. From the tower there was a magnificent view of Botany Bay, the hotel facing the very spot where Captain Cook landed.⁸ The hotel boasted an ice rink as well as a hot water service and electric lighting years before most of its Sydney rivals.⁹

A huge dancing pavilion was built at the rear of the hotel to encourage traffic over the tramway in September 1887 and opened by the Hon. James Inglis, Minister for Education and a business associate of Thomas Saywell. Its architecture was a curious mixture of Russian, Indian and Western influences, replete with towers and minarets. Saywell also collaborated with Samuel Cook to plant groves of Norfolk Island pine trees along The Grand Parade as a windbreak and a deterrent to drift-sand.¹⁰ New Brighton quickly emerged as the most popular seaside resort in Sydney.¹¹ Thomas Saywell's youngest child was born on 9 April 1888 and, in a public display of affection for Brighton, was named Vera Brighton Saywell.

On 4 March 1887, a deputation met with the Minister for Public Instruction, Mr J. Inglis, in relation to the resumption of land at Rockdale township for the purposes of a public school. The Department of Public Instruction purchased land from Messrs Mills and Pile (Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents) and also resumed land for the school from a number of people in the local area, including Thomas Saywell.¹²

Rockdale Public School opened in January 1889. Children travelled to school from Lady Robinson's Beach, without payment, on Saywell's private tramway. In 1898, a deputation which included T.S. Huntley asked the Minister for Education to establish a school at Lady Robinson's Beach. At this time over 100 children in the locality had to travel to Rockdale Public School by steam tram (including four of Thomas Saywell's children), however a public school was not opened at Brighton le Sands until 1917.¹³

The beginnings of the Congregational Church in the Rockdale area dated back to services held by the Rev. Samuel Chambers Kent of Newtown in the Favell family home at Arncliffe from 1859.¹⁴ Following the opening of the Illawarra Railway, attempts were made to start a Congregational Church in Rockdale. The first services were held in March 1889 in the Rockdale Town Hall. In September, the Church took part in a week long Horticultural and Wild Flower Show in Saywell's Hall at Lady Robinson's Beach and the Governor, Lord Carrington, attended. The Rockdale Congregational Church was built at the corner of Watkin and Frederick Streets in 1892. From 1897 to 1903, there was a Congregational Sunday School at Lady Robinson's Beach in a building made available by Thomas Saywell. On her death in 1905, Annie Saywell left a legacy to the



(The New Brighton Hotel and Sea Baths at Lady Robinson's Beach, West Botany, Australian Town and Country Journal dated 31 December 1887)



(Rockdale Congregational Church, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Thomas Roseby was one of the special preachers at the opening of the Rockdale Congregational Church and was involved with the church over the years. He was a formidable intellect and radical force in Australian Congregationalism.¹⁶ Roseby attained the highest offices in his church and was Chairman of the New South Wales Union in 1891 and 1903 and of the Australasian Congregational Union from 1913 to 1916.¹⁷ Although Roseby was “*a pronounced Congregationalist*”, he was also an advocate of Protestant Church union who would go on to seek the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in Australia.¹⁸

Thomas Roseby was a particular friend of the Rockdale Congregational Church, which supported his proposal to seek the Union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in Australia by the staggering majority of 110 to 1.¹⁹

Chapter 25

Rev. Aspinall's return to Marrickville

In 1887, Rev. Aspinall made the decision to leave Forbes and was inducted into St Luke's Presbyterian Church, Redfern. Over a period of five years the congregation steadily increased and over one hundred scholars were added to the Sunday school.¹ The Aspinall family lived at 'Dandaloo', Great Buckingham Street, Redfern initially, but by 1889 had moved to 31 Pitt Street, Redfern. In 1889 and 1890, Rev. Aspinall was on the Council of Presbyterian Ladies' College.² In 1889, the second year of its operation, Presbyterian Ladies' College was located in 'Fernlea', rented premises in Ashfield. From the very beginning, the College looked for larger, permanent premises. Locating and securing permanent premises would have been an important task for the College Council in the two years that Rev. Aspinall was a member.³ At a meeting Rev. Aspinall attended on 3 July 1889, the Council received a letter from Richardson & Wrench about a new site for Presbyterian Ladies' College. In 1891 the College relocated to Croydon, having purchased 'Shubra Hall'. Thomas Saywell's two youngest daughters, Zilla and Vera, would attend Presbyterian Ladies' College in 1900.⁴

Rev. Aspinall was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales in 1891.⁵ The Presbyterian Assembly had been looking at establishing a Presbyterian boys' secondary school in Sydney for some time. Rev. Aspinall's city ministry was less fruitful than his time in the bush. There was dispute at St Luke's with a former minister returning and luring away part of his congregation. Becoming a school principal was a traditional path for many Presbyterian and other Protestant clergy in the nineteenth century.⁶ A committee on the "Boys' College" was established in 1892, but as a sufficient number of guarantors to cover the initial expenses of the proposed college could not be found, a new committee was appointed.⁷ Rev. Aspinall supported plans to establish the school and became a guarantor.⁸ At the time, economic circumstances were so unfavourable that even the already-established Coerwull Academy was beginning to falter.⁹

The boys' college proposal became entangled in factionalism within the Assembly. Despite opposition within the Assembly, Rev. Aspinall helped to draw up a constitution for the school with Rev. Archibald Gilchrist of Paddington and Rev. W. Dill Macky of Scots Church, Sydney. It was the concerted action of Gilchrist, Aspinall and Macky, supported by Rev. Dr. James Smith White of Singleton, which led to a successful outcome.¹⁰ The circumstances surrounding those events is excellently described by Sherington and Prentis in their 1993 work, *Scots to the Fore: A History of The Scots College Sydney 1893-1993*.

Rev. Aspinall had purchased Nelson Lodge at 125 Unwins Bridge Road in the Tempe Hills on 23 August 1889. Aspinall had fond memories of Marrickville from his time there in the 1870s.¹¹ It is thought that the original intention was to start the school at Nelson Lodge.

Nelson Lodge was built in about 1858 for William Wells, a publican who operated the Lord Nelson Hotel at Millers Point. Nelson Lodge was an exemplary villa estate, next to the Holt estate and 'The Warren' which were on the other side of Gumbramorra Creek. The property had formed part of a grant to Sergeant Thomas Smyth, who arrived with Governor Phillip in the First Fleet, and was later acquired by Robert Campbell who sold it to Henry Mace in 1837. William Wells purchased the property in May 1857 and lived there until about 1861-63 before returning to live at the Wynyard Hotel in Sydney.¹² By the time Aspinall was a minister in Marrickville in 1871, William Wells had passed away and his wife, Ann Wells, and her children owned the property.¹³



Moderator Presbyterian General Assembly, New South Wales.

THE REV. JAMES S. WHITE.

(See letterpress on this page.)

(The Rev. James S. White, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 12 March 1892, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71235278>)

In Marrickville, the construction of a tramway in 1881 along Victoria Street on the western side of Gumbramorra Swamp promoted settlement in the district at a time of large-scale suburban expansion. Plans for the Illawarra Railway concentrated on the eastern side of the swampland, adjacent to Unwins Bridge Road. In 1881, Thomas Saywell subdivided land near Fitzroy Street for Tramvale, a suburb on low-lying land close to Marrickville Station (now called Sydenham Station). In 1882, while Mrs Catherine Birrell held the title, part of the Nelson Lodge estate was purchased by the Railway Commission to make way for the Illawarra Railway. The size of the Nelson Lodge estate was reduced from about 10 acres to 4 acres, and its focus on and access to Gumbramorra Creek was also reduced.¹⁴

Thomas Holt returned to England in 1883 and 'The Warren' was subdivided. In May 1889, there was a great flood in Marrickville and the area known as Tramvale was transformed into a huge lake. When Rev. Aspinall purchased Nelson Lodge in August 1889, the name of the house was "Leinster Hall" and it was bounded on the east by Unwins Bridge Road and on the west by the Illawarra Railway Line.¹⁵



(Nelson Lodge, image courtesy of Day & Hodgson Real Estate)



(Historical Parish Map, Parish of Petersham, Historical Land Records Viewer, NSW Land and Property Information)

Chapter 26

Locating premises for a boys' grammar school



(Thomas Saywell's New Brighton Hotel, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

The establishment of The Scots College was a significant financial undertaking for Rev. Aspinall, its guarantor, and locating and securing suitable premises for the school was of great importance. In August 1892, the New Brighton Hotel's liquor licence was revoked. This was due to a licence condition that the licensee had to accept responsibility for the good conduct of its patrons.¹ At the time, the lessee of the New Brighton Hotel was Thomas Saywell's local agent, T.S. Huntley, who was "*well known in Sydney as a genial and obliging host*".² However, the depression of the 1890s meant that many unemployed workers lived in the district and frequented the hotel, leading to a crisis for the locality (the area several kilometres north of the hotel was used during the depression as one of many shanty sites that spread across Sydney).³ The loss of the liquor licence was a serious setback for Thomas Saywell's financial arrangements, as well as a major impediment to the quality of the suburb he was trying to create, a gap that could be filled by the school.⁴

Thomas Roseby had returned to Sydney in 1888 and been appointed minister of the Marrickville Congregational Church where he was happy to find himself surrounded by many old friends from his early manhood and youth, including Rev. Aspinall. In 1888, Thomas Roseby was of the view that the Congregational church should secure for itself a place in the sisterhood of colleges grouped around Sydney University and he was gratified at the large success that had been won for the proposal of a Congregational Boys' Grammar School.⁵



(Camden College, Newtown ca. 1881-1882, SPF / 703, State Library of New South Wales. The lady with the parasol is Miss Maria Deacon and the girl beside her is Charlotte Bertha Graham Smith, daughter of Charles Graham Smith, Police Magistrate, Dungog. The girl in the right foreground is Alice Reay of Newcastle, later a nurse and missionary in China. Standing near her is Agnes Wood of Jesmond House, Newcastle. The standing figure at left is Annie Crawford Graham Smith.)

In the early 1880s, Miss Maria Deacon and her sister Mrs W. E. Hilliard moved Camden Ladies College from 'Reiby House', Station Street, Newtown to 'Camden Villa', until a new proposal for the erection of a Congregational Boys' Grammar School was mooted in 1886. The Congregational Union of New South Wales sought a conference with a view to launching a school. Other denominations were coming forward with fee-supported "Great Public Schools". The new school was to be set up at Homebush and final approval for sale of the Newtown property was given for this purpose in 1887.⁶ The architect Harry Kent drew up plans and elevations for a grandiose and comfortable building in the neo-Gothic manner. In 1888, 'Camden Villa' was demolished to make way for terraced housing.

In 1890 all had seemed ready to move forward, and an appeal was launched to the churches and a wider public, but then the financial crash came. The second school project, like the first, was begun at the wrong time and had insufficient liquid resources. The land at Homebush was sold from 1893 in separate lots.

The descendants of prominent Congregationalists would attend other schools. Three grandsons of Thomas Holt attended Coowerwull Academy in the 1890s; Alfred's son Claud A.W. Holt in 1891 and 1892, and Frederick's sons Owen Howard Holt and Thomas Samuel Holt in 1898.

Thomas Roseby was a delegate to an International Congregational Conference in London in 1891.⁷ One of the issues discussed at this conference was the necessity of a highly educated ministry. Rev. Dr. Roseby spoke on this topic, in order that Australia might not be altogether unrepresented in the discussion, and said that the same feeling was prevalent among the members of the churches in Australia as to the absolute necessity of having thoroughly educated ministers. He believed that it was necessary to the efficient learning of the principles of theology that a man shall, in the first instance, have some pretty wide general culture. He went on to state:

*"And if it be the case that other churches win greater success among the uneducated classes, ours will be no mean service to the Church of God if it furnishes, in coming time, men of light and learning."*⁸

Despite the difficulties encountered by the Congregational Union of New South Wales in launching its own school, Rev. Dr. Roseby supported Rev. Aspinall's plans to establish a Presbyterian Boys' Grammar School.

Chapter 27

The Scots College

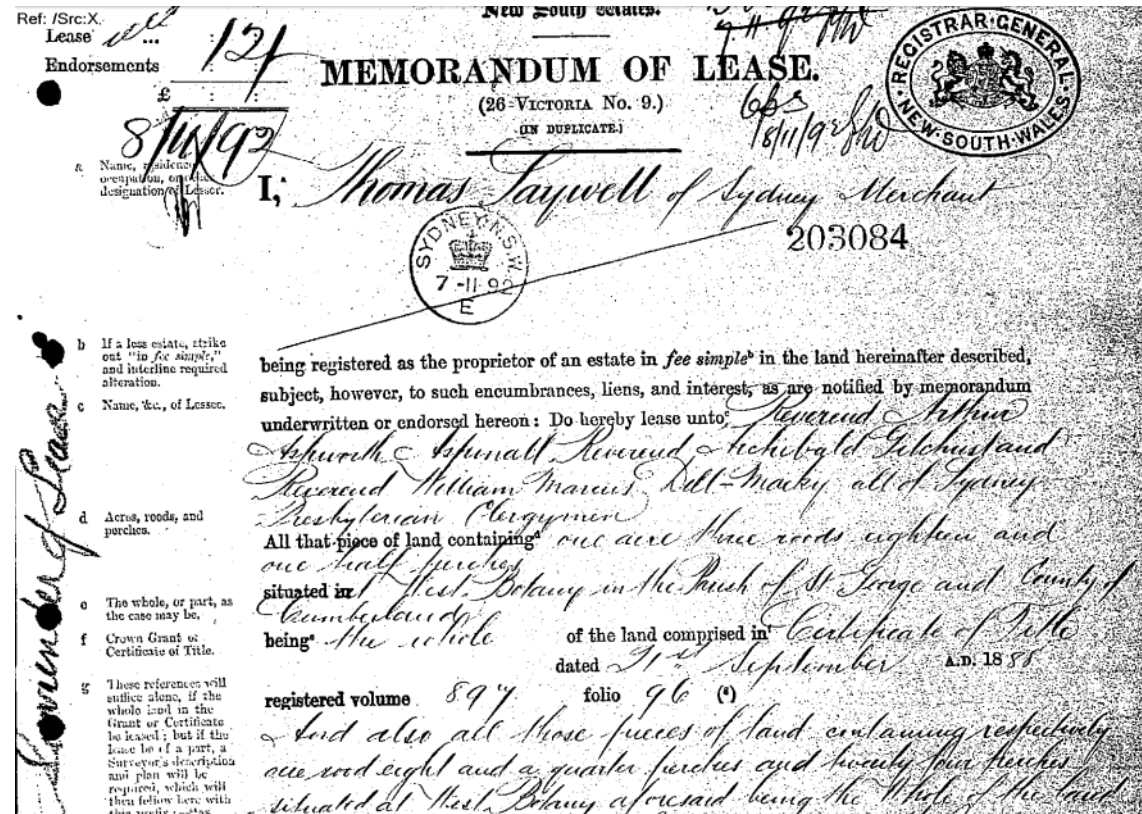


(Scots College 1893, detail from Illuminated Address. Original document held by Bayside Council, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Thomas Saywell leased the New Brighton Hotel to Rev. Aspinall, Rev. Archibald Gilchrist and Rev. W. Dill Macky from 1 January 1893 for “*the establishing and carrying on of a Boys Grammar School or College in connection with the Presbyterian Church*”.¹ Under the Memorandum of Lease dated 4 November 1892, the term of the lease was eight years and there was an option to purchase the New Brighton Hotel during the first three years of the term for the sum of £12,000. On leasing the premises, the College carried out renovations to cater for their scholars,² and what had been the public bar of the hotel was transformed into the chapel.³ Albert Aspinall made these renovations to the hotel.

Rev. Aspinall’s wife was Helen Strahorn, daughter of pastoralist John Strahorn of ‘Wandoo Wandong’, Obley. Helen was from a large family that included her brother, Hugh Strahorn, and her sister, Jessie, who married Florant John Martel in 1877. The Martel family was French and had settled at their property ‘Dandaloo’ near the Bogan River in 1857. Rev. Aspinall saw a need to provide an education in Sydney for country children including those of Forbes pastoralists and his wife’s family and the hotel at Lady Robinson’s Beach would provide good accommodation for boarders.⁴ Rev. Aspinall was guarantor of the school and Hugh Strahorn and Florant John Martel supported Rev. Aspinall financially. On 24 October 1892, Nelson Lodge was mortgaged to Hugh Strahorn and F.J. Martel in connection with these financial arrangements.

(Lease dated 4 November 1892 between Thomas Saywell and Reverends Aspinall, Gilchrist and Dill-Macky, NSW Land and Property Information, dealing number 203084)



(Illuminated Address of Welcome presented to the Earl of Jersey at the opening of The Scots College. Original document held by Bayside Council, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

The opening took place in the great hall. The Moderator, Rev. Dr James Smith White, stressed the importance of the Presbyterian Church having a secondary boys' school to compete with secondary schools established by other churches in the Colony and the need for a school that would reflect the needs of colonial Australians and encourage individual growth, initiative and achievement.⁶

At the time, the site of the school at Lady Robinson's Beach seemed ideal as the building was large and handsome, it faced Botany Bay and was opposite a wharf and Gentlemen's Swimming Baths. Advertisements promoting the school in 1894 stated:

*"Besides providing a first-class mental and moral training, this College, by its situation on the beach facing the ocean, its sea baths, its large gymnasium, its farm ensuring abundance of pure milk and fresh vegetables, and its sports ground of six acres, affords unrivalled facilities for health."*⁷

The establishment of the school was a significant undertaking for Rev. Aspinall and the culmination of a successful career as a clergyman. The Governor of the Colony, the Earl of Jersey, opened the school on 28 January 1893. His Excellency travelled to Rockdale by train, where the railway station was decorated for the occasion and pupils of the school provided a guard of honour. A cadet band, the Rockdale Fire Brigade Band and the St George's Brass Band were all in attendance together with crowds of residents, the Mayor of Rockdale and the entire Council. The Volunteer Fire Brigade put on a demonstration. The Mayor presented the Governor with an Address of Welcome in folio form decorated with floral designs representing various native flowers, the Governor's crest and views of the Town Hall, the College and Botany Heads. The Governor gave an appropriate response then boarded a specially prepared tram to the College.⁵

There was a lucrative trade in "five corners," the sweet, succulent fruit of *Styphelia*, which for centuries had been an aboriginal delicacy and was a welcome source of income for the boys who picked astronomical numbers of the fruit and had them taken to market by gardeners. They also trapped bandicoots and raised Blue Rock pigeons for the Brighton Gun Club.⁸

The nearest Presbyterian church to The Scots College at Lady Robinson's Beach was on the heights of Bexley, and *"thither the pupils were marched every Sunday morning. Saywell's tramway, which ran between the Beach and Rockdale Station, would have saved the lads half the two miles' trudge but the Principal insisted upon full Sabbath observance"*.⁹

The Dill Macky family sometimes stayed with the Aspinalls at Brighton le Sands.¹⁰ The surrounding country was nearly all bush and it was a wild spot at times with:

*"... terrific winds blowing in from the sea, and the sand being banked sometimes to the top of the College fence ... [the tram rails] were constantly covered by the everblowing sand. One of the tasks that the boys really enjoyed was digging Saywell's tram out when it became bogged in the sand."*¹¹

In 1893, the tram service into The Grand Parade was discontinued and the service terminated at the end of Bay Street owing to persistent derailment of the engines caused by sand blocking the tracks.¹²

(An early postcard of Brighton le Sands, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)



(The Scots College staff 1894, image courtesy of The Scots College Archives)



The first headmaster of the school was John McManamey. During his time in Forbes, Rev. Aspinall was friendly with the McManamey family. Sergeant William McManamey

was a policeman stationed in the Bathurst/Forbes area for most of his working life who had six children. John McManamey was born in Hartley in 1864 and educated at All Saints College in Bathurst and then at St Andrew's College, University of Sydney from which he graduated as a brilliant classics scholar. In 1890 he taught at Miss Julie Badham's School at "Disley", Darling Point.

John McManamey married Henrietta Nielsen in 1892 in Forbes. His first daughter, Jessie, was born during his time as Headmaster of The Scots College. His second daughter, Gertrude, would later publish a book of some of the poems written by her father, including the following:

Scots College

*Let countless bards with polished line
Praise older halls of knowledge,
My single pen is always thine
My well-beloved Scots College*

*I'll praise the old historic bay
That rolls so broad before us,
Where Cook's bold crew that far-off day
Sang free their startling chorus.*

*I'll praise the circling silver strand
That gleams in Austral glory;
The lady who along its sand
Rode gaily, so's the story.*

*I'll praise the walls that stoutly rise
To face the Southwind blowing;
Long may they stand while storm-wrack flies
Through winters, coming, going!*

*I'll praise whate'er thy sons may do
In walks of state or knowledge:
I'll praise thee with a pen most true,
My well-beloved Scots College.*

John McManamey was rector of Coerwull Academy, Bowenfels, from 1903 to 1906 before opening his own school, Woodford Academy, in 1907. His brother, Jim McManamey, was a Mathematics Master in 1903 at The Scots College in Bellevue Hill. He was a barrister who played rugby in the first interstate match between New South Wales and

Queensland in 1882; for many years after retiring from play he officiated as a referee. McManamey was the first officer of his battalion to be tragically killed at Gallipoli, three weeks after they landed.

The first speech day of The Scots College was held in November 1893. The Guest of Honour was the State Premier, Sir Henry Parkes. The speech day was held in the large hall which used to be the skating rink, but which had been divided by a partition to form a chapel at one end in which service was held on Sunday nights and was attended by neighbours, the remainder being used as a school hall and a gymnasium.¹³



(The Scots College 1893, image courtesy of The Scots College Archives)

Thomas Saywell, as a merchant and colliery owner, had substantial experience with participating in exhibitions including the International Exhibition in Sydney in 1879 and the 1887 Centennial Exhibition in Melbourne. In April 1893, he went abroad to America where he was a successful commercial exhibitor at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, an exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of America.¹⁴ The Mayor of Rockdale, William Taylor, organized a dinner in his honour prior to his departure at the Rockdale Town Hall. Rev. Aspinall was at this dinner, which was attended by a large gathering of residents of the district and city businessmen. John Roseby also went to Chicago, as the representative of the New South Wales Commission for the Exposition. Further, in July 1893, Rev. Dr Roseby was appointed a member of the advisory committee of the Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago.¹⁵ This parliament was a congress held in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition. It ran from 11 to 27 September 1893 and was an attempt to create a global dialogue of faiths.

The establishment of The Scots College coincided with difficult economic times. The severe economic depression in Australia between 1890 and 1893 led to an apprehended deterioration in the moral atmosphere of the area. By the end of 1891, two banks had failed and within months there was a run on the Savings Bank of New South Wales. A

string of bank collapses followed over the next two years, taking the economy with it.¹⁶ Building and construction in the city faltered, unemployment spread, mortgagees could not keep up their payments and there was widespread industrial unrest with strikes and lockouts disrupting Sydney's waterfront and closing down factories.¹⁷ The economic situation had a bad effect on enrolments in most Sydney boys' schools.¹⁸

On returning to Sydney, Saywell resolved to electrify his tramway.¹⁹ The Brighton le Sands township became less select as train and tram services opened up the district. There were many diversions for the schoolboys:

*"The voices of picnickers and revellers drifted into the school through the open windows. The bay, where fishing and boating parties could always be seen, was a constant invitation to those not always 'gainfully employed' and altogether it was becoming more than obvious that a holiday resort was undesirable as a permanent site for a school."*²⁰

Rev. Aspinall needed to decide whether to exercise the option to purchase the New Brighton Hotel by the end of 1895 and was conscious of the need to secure a suitable permanent site for the school.

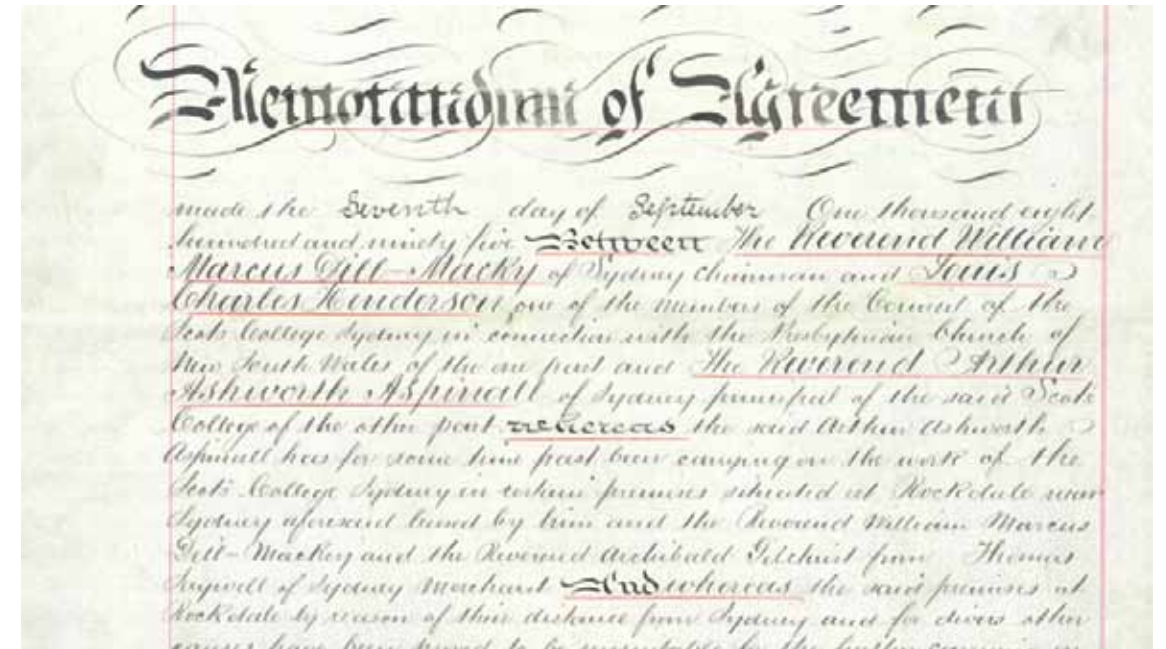
*"The position, as far as Reverend Aspinall was concerned, was fraught with all kinds of difficulties, chief among them being 'the unexpired lease of several years with an increasing rental' carrying with it obligations amounting to nearly £3000."*²¹

In 1894, Thomas Saywell told Rev. Aspinall that he planned to build a race course on the grounds adjacent to the College, at Napper's Bush.²² The proposed establishment of the race course was of concern to the school authorities, as was the development of a sewage farm in the area and an outbreak of diphtheria. Further, Rev. Aspinall considered that the waters of Botany Bay were unsuited to rowing for the boys, being too shallow and often treacherous, and that the site of the College was bleak and windy.²³

March 1894 was a difficult month for the Saywell family. Annie's mother Jane Fawcett passed away and their son Frederick died of tuberculosis aged only 26; he had been married to his young wife Maud for just over a year. Frederick had been his father's right-hand man and had passed the annual examination of the Sydney Technical College in 1886.

Thomas Saywell was present in December 1894 at the hall of The Scots College, Lady Robinson's Beach, for the annual presentation with Principal Aspinall, Rev. Dill Macky, Dr Gilchrist and others, where prizes were presented by Sir Robert Duff, Governor of New South Wales.²⁴ The following year, Rev. Aspinall arranged to lease 'St Killian's' at Bellevue Hill from the estate of Daniel Cooper. At a meeting of The Scots College Council held on 5 July 1895, the Council confirmed a settlement effected with respect to the lease.²⁵ Thomas Saywell agreed to surrender the lease for the sum of £700 and to rent furniture for the sum of £500. At the same meeting, the Council confirmed the arrangements for the lease of 'St Killian's', Bellevue Hill.

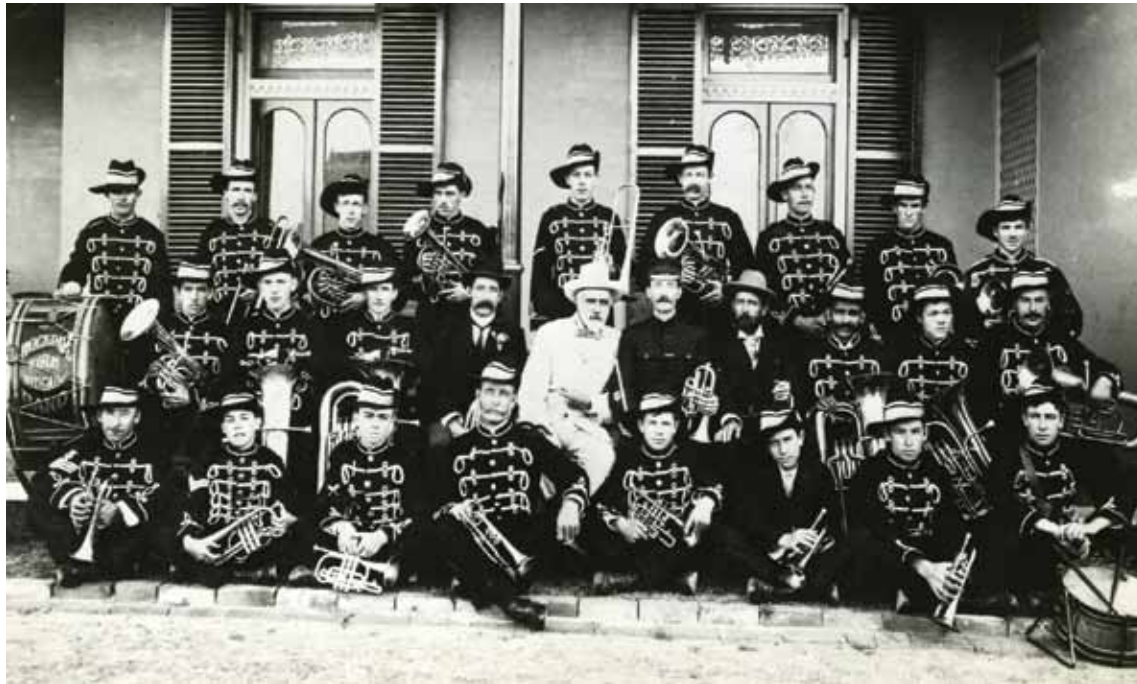
(Memorandum of Agreement dated 7 September 1895 between Rev. Aspinall, Rev. Dill Macky and Mr Louis Charles Henderson in The Scots College Archives)



By comparison to the many diversions of Lady Robinson's Beach, "school life must have been very dull at the new location".²⁶

Chapter 28

Brighton le Sands



(Rockdale Fire Brigade Band, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)



(Thomas Saywell's New Brighton Hotel, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

The licence of the New Brighton Hotel was eventually restored in 1896 and the hotel reopened with Mr Harry Figg as the licensee. Between 1898 and 1901 Mr Charles Lincke, who had managed the Baths since 1896, became the licensee.¹ Lincke had previously managed the Prince of Wales Hotel at Sandringham in 1890-2 and would return to that hotel for a second time, between 1902 and 1916, and then work at Scarborough House.²

In 1902, Annette Kellerman gave a series of swimming lessons at Lady Robinson's Beach, which were a great success.³ In 1903, at Thomas Saywell's suggestion, the name of the post office was changed from Lady Robinson's Beach to Brighton le Sands. The Brighton Race Course continued to attract the city's "*larrikin element*"; there were frequent complaints about the jockeys exercising their horses in the streets adjoining the

course and along the beach and betting on the streets on race days was another source of complaint.⁴ The race course closed in 1911 and the land was sub-divided. In 1912, Thomas Saywell offered the Anglican church a block of land on Gordon Street and a fund was established to build an Anglican church at Brighton le Sands (the land in Gordon Street was sold and a more convenient site was purchased in Trafalgar Street).⁵

Thomas Saywell was always approachable and liked to be part of the community in which he lived. During his years at Brighton le Sands, he was a generous supporter of many worthy causes. He was a colourful character, who often appeared in light coloured suits and sported a wide-brimmed American Texan-style hat.⁶

On 27 August 1896, Leah Saywell married William Burt at her parents house at Lady Robinson's Beach. The Brighton Racecourse pavilion, Brighton Bowling Club premises, the baths, and hotel had all their available bunting flying, while the residence of the bride's parents, 'Nevada', presented a very attractive sight, so gaily was it bedecked with flags and floral arrangements. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C.J. Byng of Christ Church, Bexley, who was noted far and wide for his eloquence and rare gifts as an orator. Nellie married David Burt in the Rockdale Congregational Church in 1905, with Thomas Roseby performing the ceremony. Both the Burt families were to live for a time in Dunedin.



(The wedding carriage of one of Thomas Saywell's daughters [Leah], The Grand Parade, Brighton le Sands, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)



(Thomas Saywell and his family gathered for the wedding of Leah Saywell at the New Brighton Hotel, 1896, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

Thomas Saywell resided at Brighton le Sands from 1887 until a few years before his death in 1928. He lived simply in his terrace 'Osborne House', 12 The Grand Parade. When family reasons persuaded him to move to Mosman he sorely missed the happy informality of his beloved Brighton and complained to his daughter, "*nobody passes by at Mosman: there's no one to raise my hat to*".⁷ He died at the Mosman residence named after his birthplace, 'Nottingham', on 23 November 1928.⁸ The New Brighton Hotel was demolished in 1984.

Chapter 29

Saywell descendants



(The Grand Parade and Thomas Saywell's Brighton Baths, Brighton le Sands, circa 1910, image courtesy of Bayside Council Library Service)

Thomas and Annie Saywell had 13 children and 38 grandchildren. Their children were George Fawcett, Ada, Frederick, Rose, Ross, Leah, Frank, Thomas Stanley (Stanley), Victor Claud (Claude), Annie Ellen (Nellie), Bruce, Zilla and Vera. Descendants of Thomas Saywell have attended The Scots College for many years.

(Bible in family's possession with children's ages circa 1895)

One notable old boy of The Scots College was Lawrence Phillip Saywell. George Fawcett Saywell married Emily Maddock in the Petersham Congregational Church in 1885. They had two sons, Reginald and Thomas Garfield. In 1902, George married his second wife, Rebecca Mendelson née Phillips, and her children from her first marriage to Philip Mendelson, Montague and Norman, changed their name to Saywell. Monte and his wife Gertrude lived in Rose Bay with Lawrence and his younger twin brothers, George and Preston. The boys attended The Scots College.





(Lawrence Phillip Saywell circa 1941, Moosburg, Germany, image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial)

Lawrence was tragically the last Australian to be killed in Europe in the Second World War. In January 1943, he escaped from Kommando E7010, a prison camp in Bohemia, with three other POWs during a route march. They were sheltered by local villagers and in return offered to assist the Czech partisans in their sabotage operations. Private Saywell was murdered, shot in the head by a German SS Patrol on 8 May 1945 (VE Day) and he is buried in the Evangelical Cemetery in Miretin, Czechoslovakia. Five months

after his death, the grateful inhabitants of the village of Miretin erected a memorial in his honour. In November 1945, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic awarded Private Saywell the Czechoslovak Military Cross for his *“brave and eminent services to our State in the battle for liberation”*.



(Thomas Saywell’s sons at the New Brighton Hotel, image courtesy of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.)

Thomas Stanley attended The King’s School, Parramatta from 1890-93 and King’s College, Goulburn from 1894-1895. He passed the University of Sydney Greater Public Examination in November 1895 and was one of the first ten in French out of nearly 200 candidates, perhaps not surprising given his father’s large bilingual family.

(University of Sydney, Senior Public Examination certificate of Thomas Stanley Saywell dated 12 December 1895)



Stanley obtained a Bachelor of Laws in 1902. He married Jessie Ramsay Berriman in 1904. Stanley’s son, Tom Alan Ramsay Saywell, was born at Brighton le Sands in 1905. By 1919, Stanley was working with his brother Claude as a solicitor at *“Saywell and Saywell”* on Pitt Street and lived with his family near Centennial Park.

Alan attended Scots from 1919 to 1923. He started school together with his younger brother, Mervyn, in 1919. In *The Scotsman* from June 1919, Alan is listed as an “arrival”, and the “Form Notes” contain the following:

“Another of the newcomers is Saywell, whom it is necessary to keep an eye on, as the following incident shows. At the end of a lesson, one day, each boy was asked by the master how many marks he had obtained during the lesson, five being the maximum number. The roll was called, and when Saywell’s name was reached, that worthy replied, “Ten!” Of course, it might have been absent-mindedness; but, on the other hand, it might not!”

Alan obtained a Bachelor of Laws from Sydney University and was President of the Old Boys’ Union from 1941 to 1946, including on the occasion of the Jubilee Dinner (1893-1943) on 20 September 1946. The actual year of the Jubilee was 1943, but on account of the Second World War the celebration was postponed until peace had come. Alan’s son, Thomas Ramsay Saywell, attended Scots from 1945 to 1955 and went on to study Medicine and become an Anaesthetist. Alan was elected to the College Council in June 1946 and remained on the Council until his death in 1968. At the end of 1968, the first Preparatory School Alan Saywell Memorial Scholarship for the Dux of Fifth Class was awarded.

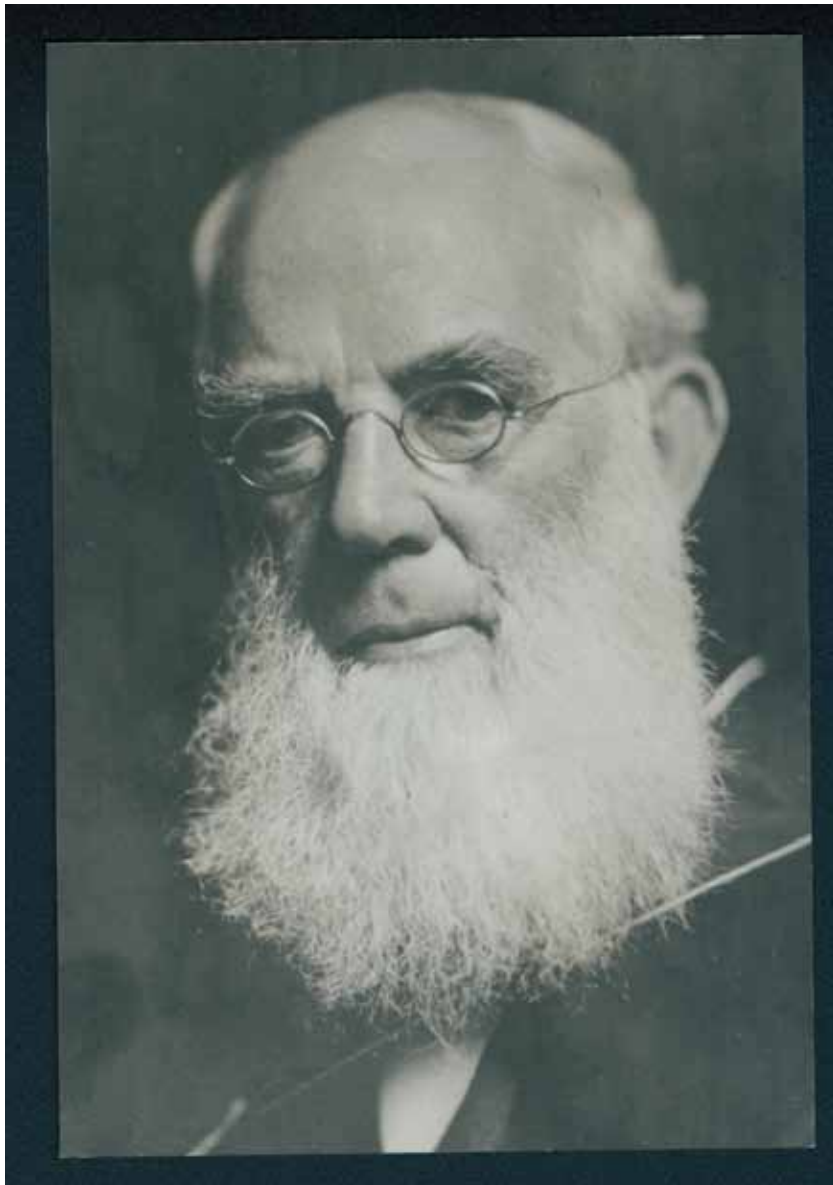
(Alan Saywell, The Scots College Archives)



T.A.R. Saywell, Esq., LL.B.

Chapter 30

The Roseby educational legacy



(Reverend Thomas Roseby, image courtesy of Inner West Council Library Services)

Thomas Roseby took a deep interest in scientific, social and educational matters throughout his life.¹ Recognized as a leading churchman, Thomas Roseby remained active in religious affairs until well after his retirement from the active ministry in 1911.² He was endowed with a most generous spirit, keen insight, strong faith and wide sympathies. His sermons showed independence of thought and fearless advocacy of truth. Roseby was a member of the Camden College Council. For nine years he was the editor of the Congregational paper "*The New South Wales Independent*".

Roseby's principal work in astronomy was the computation and publication in 1896 of "*Elliptical Elements of Gale's Comet*". No elliptical comet elements had been computed in Australia since Rumker's computations in 1822 and 1825.³ He was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on 11 January 1895.⁴ Roseby's observational work in astronomy was limited by the many calls upon his time and was principally devoted to such double stars as were within the range of his 4-inch refractor. His store of knowledge was very great and he was always available to aid students. As a member of the New South Wales branch of the British Astronomical Association, and its president in 1901 and 1902, he was ever ready to forward the interests of astronomy and by means of monthly notanda kept the members informed of the latest progress.

Thomas Roseby's spirit of liberal inquiry and Christian devotion lived on in his daughters' work. His eldest daughter, Gertrude Amy Roseby, was born in Dunedin on 20 April 1872. After graduating from Sydney University, Amy taught at the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School and then went to London University where she gained a Diploma in the Theory and Practice of Teaching. In 1906-7 she was assistant mistress at the Wyggeston High School for Girls in Leicester.⁵ Amy was headmistress at Ascham under principal Herbert Carter from 1908. In 1911, she bought Redlands from one of the

school's founders, Clara Arnold. Her younger sister, Sarah Mabel (May) Roseby, was her deputy for the entire time the Rosebys owned the school from 1911 to 1945 and initially their other two sisters, Mary and Beatrice, also worked on staff. There is a Latin prize at Redlands named for Thomas Roseby that was endowed in 1918 after his death from pneumonia. The Redlands' girls before and during World War I were familiar with Rev. Dr. Roseby, as he would take astronomy classes.

Samuel Roseby was a school teacher. He was trained at home and initially worked in a sabbath school. In 1861, he applied for a position as a teacher in the National Schools and worked at Gunning, Castlereagh Upper Public School, Botany Public School and Lane Cove Public School. Two of Samuel's daughters, Clara and Minnie, were educated at Sydney Girls' High and the University of Sydney. Clara and Minnie were co-principals of Kambala from 1914 to 1926.⁶ Samuel retired from teaching on 7 July 1901 and died in 1913.

Edith Roseby Ball was a granddaughter of John Roseby. Her mother, also called Edith, was Herb Roseby's sister and attended Miss Baxter's Argyle School; Edith married Samuel Ball. Edith Roseby Ball and her sister Clarice went to Redlands in Neutral Bay, the school owned and managed by their mother's cousins. Redlands had a modern practicing kindergarten and she discovered her life's calling, kindergarten and preparatory education with young children. Edith Roseby Ball entered the Sydney Kindergarten and Preparatory Teachers' College at 44 Henrietta Street, Waverley. In the 1920s, Edith Roseby Ball became a director of the Moore Park Playground, which had opened on 25 July 1917. The playground included equipment and a shelter and the use of the facility was granted to the Kindergarten Union.

The groundswell of reform for the kindergarten movement began during the depression of the 1890s. At that time, great concern was held about the many young children living with their families in very

(Clara and Minnie Roseby, image courtesy of Kambala Archives, P497)

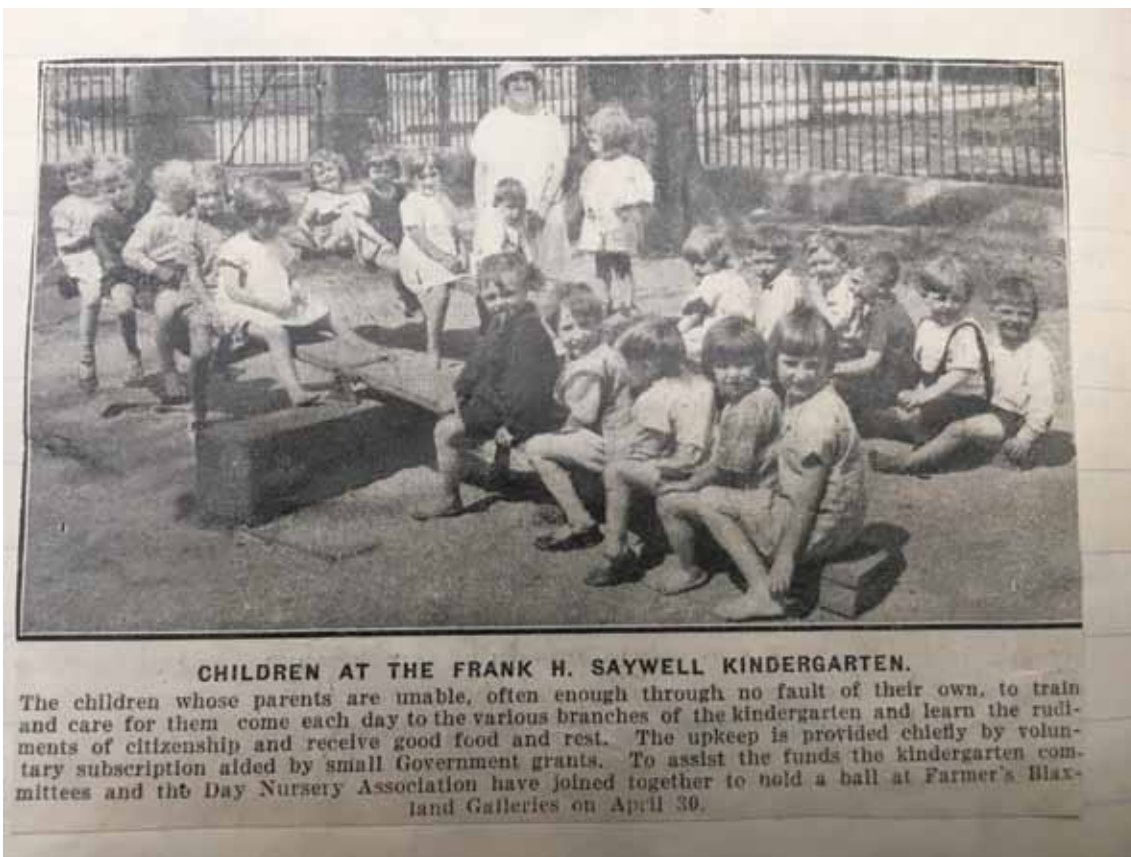


poor conditions, who were often neglected and had no access to appropriate education. The Kindergarten Union was established in 1895, led by the well-known feminist and educator Maybanke Anderson. The Kindergarten Union was able to benefit financially from its association with Moore Park, as the Council granted it the right to supply teas to golfers using the nearby golf course, *“as the profit made from this undertaking will be expended on children's welfare in the city.”*⁷



(Frank H Saywell Moore Park Free Kindergarten, sign at the entrance to KU Centennial Parklands Children's Centre, 2016)

In 1929, the premises had become too small and Frank H Saywell (Ada Roseby's brother) contributed funds to construct a new building designed in the office of prominent interwar architect Henry White, which was officially opened by Lady Game on 29 August 1930. Herb Roseby was a vice-president of the Frank H Saywell Moore Park Free Kindergarten in 1931.⁸ In July 1998, following the construction of the Eastern Distributor, the kindergarten was relocated and became the KU Centennial Parklands Children's Centre.



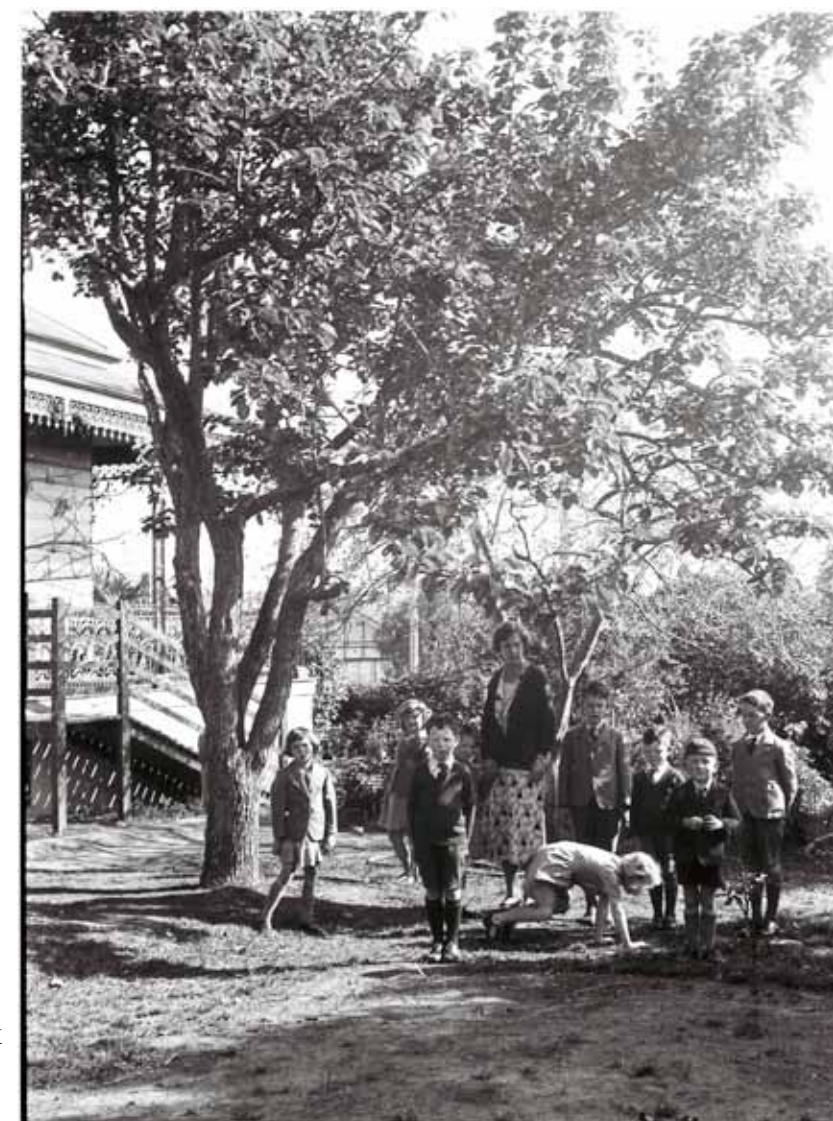
(Newspaper clipping in the records of the Frank H Saywell Kindergarten, State Library of New South Wales)

In June 1931, a Kindergarten Holiday Home was opened in Thirroul. This property was donated by Frank's sister, Ada Roseby, who attended meetings of the Kindergarten Union and was active in its affairs.⁹ The Kindergarten Union used the cottage for much-needed holidays for children from the poorest parts of the city. Children from the Frank H Saywell Moore Park Free Kindergarten holidayed at the Kindergarten Holiday Home in Thirroul.

Edith Roseby Ball left Sydney to teach at a mission in Fiji and then worked at Meriden Girls' School.¹⁰ In 1933 Edith Roseby Ball started her school, Danebank, in Hurstville. Edith had the support of a group of Hurstville parents led by Dr Crakanthorp and his wife Valerie, who was Ada Roseby's daughter and Edith Roseby Ball's cousin. In 1934, with the help of the Crakanthorp family, Edith acquired the Walker residence on Park Road East for the school, near what had been Gannon's Forest. Valerie's daughters Rosemary and Philippa Crakanthorp attended Danebank.¹¹ Rosemary Crakanthorp was Danebank's first pupil and Thomas Saywell's great-granddaughter.



(Valerie Crakanthorp and dog Thrifty at 14 MacMahon Street, Hurstville, image courtesy of Hurstville Museum and Gallery)



(Edith Roseby Ball and children, image courtesy of Danebank Anglican School for Girls, Hurstville)

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