

QUINTANA

Volume 4, Number 2,
September 2011



Tharwa Bridge restored.

The Journal of

QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

QDHMS is a local history society aiming at preserving the history of the city and its wider district and sharing this, with the strong support of the Queanbeyan City Council, through the context of the Museum of Queanbeyan.

Find us on the net at www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au

Contact us:

by phone at 6299 7449 or

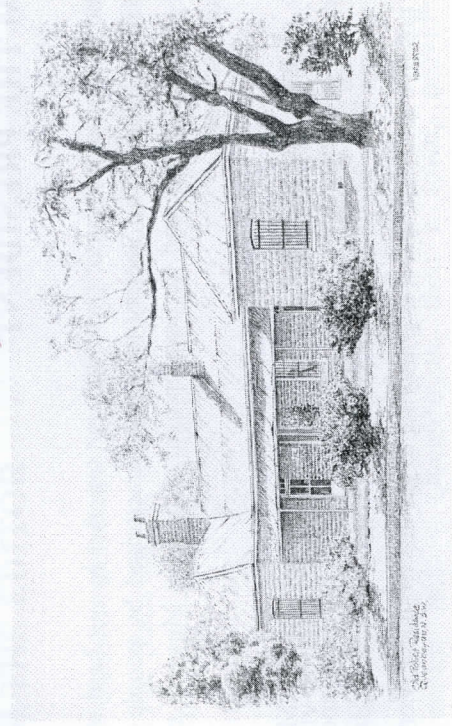
email qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au

THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

The Museum is open from 1pm to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays or by arrangement.

It is found at 10 Farrer Place Queanbeyan, next to the Police Complex and opposite the State Office Building.

QUINBEAN



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to another edition of *Quinbean*, put together by our hard working Editor Gillian Kelly. The Society team is characterised by people with a passion for local history and for development of the best Museum we can, given our resources.

We are pleased that this year we have almost completed the Museum Galleries NSW Standards Program. We have received our first report and field visit from Kent Mayo and Ellie McFayden. The reviewers have given us very positive feedback and it is gratifying to get this from our peers.

Since the last *Quinbean* we have seen some more achievements for the hard working QDHMS and QCC Museum team. The builder should be starting work on the Volunteers Work Room in mid August and our fantastic new historic mural will be launched on Saturday September 10 at 11am as part of our History Week Event - Eat History.

The Museum is delighted to have our History Week event this year chosen as a feature event by the History Council of NSW. To quote them: "Feature events are given a priority listing in the program and are considered by the Council to illuminate the theme in an interesting way and **reflect excellence in the practice and presentation of history.**"

Come along to enjoy our mural, themed music and tasty heritage food from Slow Food Canberra Convivium and see our display of cook books in the new Kitchen display that has been revamped by CIT Museum studies students.

Kerrie Ruth, President

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FROM THE EDITOR

In 2013 Canberra celebrates its 100th birthday, and Queanbeyan will be 175! The plans for the Canberra celebrations are well under way, and with quite a healthy budget, that fair city is able to offer some spectacular events.

Not only does Queanbeyan have its own birthday to celebrate, but it also needs to celebrate the huge part the people of this fair city played in the building of the nation's capital. Let us not underestimate this – Queanbeyan, then a town, provided the infrastructure that allowed the enormous undertaking of building a purpose designed city from scratch. It provided shelter, food, education, religion and a community for those involved in all facets of the transformation of part of the Limestone Plains into Burley Griffin's dream that was to become Canberra.

So how can we celebrate our part in building one of the world's few purpose built cities? Are people interested in doing this? How do we celebrate 175 years on the Limestone Plains? Do you have ideas?

In October the Heritage Advisory Group will have the opportunity to speak with Robyn Archer who is directing Canberra's celebrations. QDHMS is represented on this committee. Please share your ideas with us by contacting the Society by letter or email.

Gillian Kelly, Editor

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THE OLD THARWA BRIDGE

John Cope

As the \$14 million up-grade of the old Tharwa Bridge nears completion in April 2011, it is interesting to trace the developments that led to its construction starting back in 1894. A reading of the *Queanbeyan Observer* and the *Queanbeyan Age* newspapers from 1894-95 has thrown up the following information

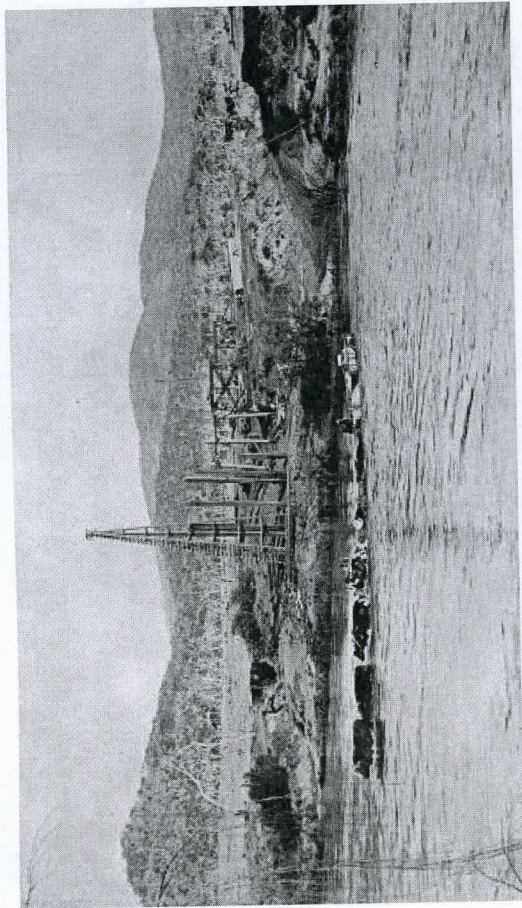
For some 20 years, pressure had been increasing from residents west of the Murrumbidgee River to build a bridge over the river. Local member E.W.O'Sullivan heard the complaints about the increasing dangers associated with crossing the river and took up the cause. He made representations to the Department of Public Works. In August 1891 he received a letter from Mr. J.Barling, the Under-Secretary of the Public Works to the effect that the Government was not prepared to provide finance for a bridge either at Uriarra or at Tharwa on the grounds that the suggested places were unsuitable and didn't carry enough traffic to warrant the significant expenditure.

Gradually the situation changed for the better for the local residents. The *Queanbeyan Age* of 6 January 1892 stated that the Public Works

Department now looked favourably on constructing a bridge at Tharwa at a cost of about £4,000 rather than at Freshford where the cost would be close to £7,000.

A week later, Charles McKeahnie of *Booroomba* wrote a letter to the editor saying that as a resident of the western side of the river for 32 years, he urged the people on that side of the river to be united in supporting the bridge being built at Tharwa. For him personally, a bridge at Freshford would be more convenient as it might be for others, but he did not want to say one word to take away support for the Tharwa decision. He thus urged O'Sullivan to accept the Minister's offer of the Tharwa site. "I think in all conscience the bridge has been talked about long enough and it is quite time we had something more substantial than talk to cross the river on," he wrote.

Even better news was to follow: O'Sullivan was successful in getting a pledge from the Minister for Works to place £5,000 on the Estimates for a bridge. By January 1894 plans for the bridge at Tharwa were being prepared and in February those plans were made available in the *Queanbeyan* and *Goulburn* court houses. Tenders were invited by Government Gazette with a closing date of 14 March. Christopher McClure of Croydon was the successful tenderer with the lowest quote of £4,469/14/10. The only local tenderer was E.O'Grady with the third lowest tender of £6,183/16/6. The contract was signed on 29 March 1894 with the work to be completed in 18 months. The first pile couldn't be driven in until 22 May, because a spell of wet weather had made the road from Tuggeranong railway station impassable for the heavy loads of timber and iron.



Piles being driven into the bank of the Murrumbidgee at Tharwa, 1894. Photo: Hanlon

The bridge was to be a wooden Allan truss type construction with timber brought from the Manning River area. It was to have four principal spans of 90 feet, five minor ones of 35 feet and two smaller ones of 30 feet. The total length would be 595 feet, compared to the Queanbeyan Bridge's 360 feet.

By February 1895, the construction was almost complete and people were thinking about an official opening ceremony. The "Queanbeyan Observer" even suggested on 15 February that Mrs. Charles McKeahnie would be the most suitable person to open the bridge, as she was the oldest resident and first settler on the western side. On Saturday 19 February a well attended public meeting was held at the bridge site. As the people were gathering, a horse team became bogged in the dangerous ford that had been the means of crossing for

so many years; it took a delay of one hour to bring enough horses to extract the team from its difficulties. The meeting elected a committee of 29 men, including Mayor Land, Christopher McClure and Mr. Armstrong the Government engineer on the project, to plan for the opening. John Gale announced that Captain Dixie had indicated that he would seek permission from the military authorities for the Queanbeyan Mounted Rifles to parade at the opening.

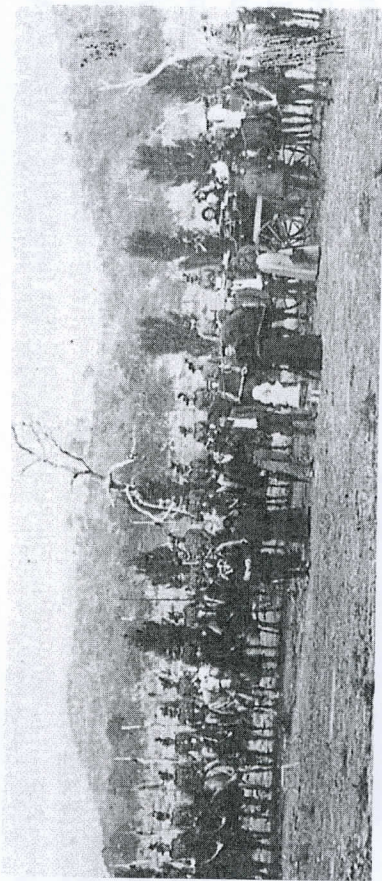
The committee met on 2 March and decided that the opening would be held on Saturday 27 March at noon. O'Sullivan would be invited to open the bridge and Mrs. McKeahnie would be invited to name the bridge "The Tharwa Bridge". It also decided that there would be a procession in the following order: Queanbeyan Town Band, Queanbeyan Mounted Rifles, member for the district, magistrates and other prominent visitors, Mrs. Charles McKeahnie, contractor and staff, Government engineer and staff, Mayor and aldermen of Queanbeyan, general public in vehicles and on horseback.

In conjunction with the opening there would be a baby show; William Farrer had donated one guinea for the prize for the best baby, 12 months and under, from the west side, and Hayes and Russell's Store donated a similar prize for the east side. Further to that there would be a cricket match between Tharwa and Bulga Creek (which Bulga Creek won outright by just one run thanks to a total of 13 wickets taken over two innings by De Smet for Bulga Creek) and an athletics program.

Finally the big day dawned and there was considerable excitement in the district. The "Queanbeyan Observer" of 29 March 1895 described the morning scene: "From almost dawn on Wednesday till the morning was well advanced, an almost continuous line of vehicles... and of horsemen and horsewomen wended their way along the dusty road leading to Tharwa." Interestingly, the men of the Queanbeyan Mounted Rifles actually marched there.

By noon there was a crowd variously estimated of between 1,000 and 1,5000 as the official parade gathered on the western side of the river rather than at "Lanyon" as planned, because the road was by now far too dusty. On reaching the centre of the bridge, the parade stopped and Mrs. McKeahnie was presented with a Moroccan silk-lined case which contained a pair of gold-plated scissors and she was also given a bottle of champagne with a blue ribbon attached.

After cutting the tape and smashing the champagne bottle on the side of the bridge, she announced, "I name this structure the Tharwa Bridge". The parade then moved to the eastern end of the bridge where the specially invited people, including aboriginal Queen Nellie, were photographed. Formalities then continued from a carriage provided by F. C. Campbell, with George Fane De Salis as the chairman. He gave an opening address in which he referred to the benefits which would follow for people living on the western side, to the difficulties they had experienced in crossing the river for so many years and to the boat accommodation provided by the *Cuppacumbalong* establishment over those years.



The Opening: March 27, 1895. EW O'Sullivan and Queen Nellie are centre in front of the dead tree. The Queanbeyan Mounted Infantry are at the rear and Mrs Elizabeth McKeahnie is in the buggy. Photograph Edna Helman.

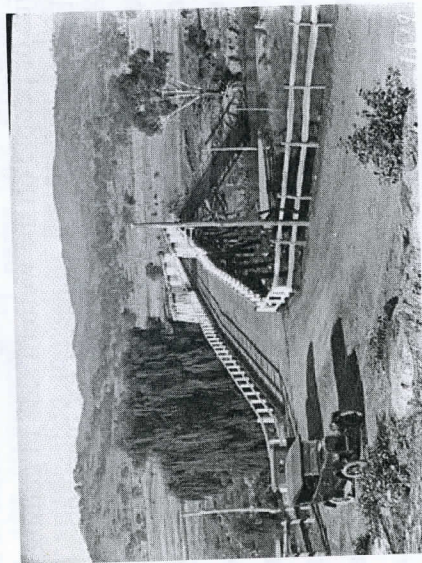
He also acknowledged the role of E.W. O'Sullivan in gaining approval for the bridge. O'Sullivan began his speech by calling upon Mrs. McKeahnie's granddaughter, who recited "Advance Australia", dressed in her Scottish Highland costume. He went on to state that he had been motivated to fight for the bridge as a result of hearing of the great hardships of people on the western side in getting their stock to markets and buying necessary provisions for their sustenance.

He complimented McClure on completing the contract six months ahead of time and promised to do all that he could to provide good roads on the western side in order to encourage more people to settle there. Other speeches were made by Austin Chapman and Christopher McClure and after the formalities, luncheon parties were hosted by McClure on the eastern side and Mrs McKeahnie on the western.

Members of the public spread their own picnics around the area.

The Baby Show was judged by Drs Richardson and Blackall and Andrew Cunningham was appointed referee, but his services were not required. The prize baby on the west was Mrs. P.Hardy's three month old boy, and on the east Mrs J Monk's seven month old boy. There was much cheering when the babies were held aloft on the bridge. The Queanbeyan Mounted Rifles later gave an exhibition of tent-pegging, but the athletics program did not take place.

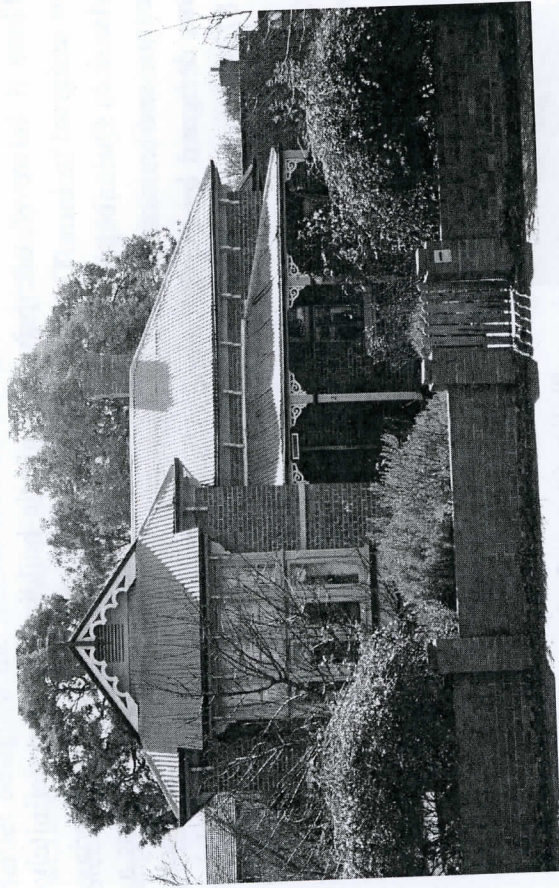
The *Queanbeyan Observer* of 9 April described an interesting irony a week or so after the opening. The manager at *Cuppacumbalong* told his bullock driver to yoke up his team and go across the river for some purpose. Having got on to the beginning of the bridge, the team stopped, refusing to go any further. Additional "off-side" helpers were enlisted but to no avail. The animals refused to cross the bridge. Finally they were willing to cross the river by the old, now replaced, ford!



The Bridge 1926

A PRIVATE DOMESTIC BUILDING BY JAMES BARNET, NSW COLONIAL ARCHITECT

Brendan O'Keefe



The Manse, St Stephens, 2011

The work of James Barnett, New South Wales Colonial Architect from 1865 to 1890, is well represented in the general Canberra region. He designed the Court Houses at Tumut (1875-76), Yass (1880), Young (1884), Goulburn (1887 or 1888), Cooma (1888) and Junee (1890), as well as the Post Offices at Goulburn (1881) and

Yass (1884).¹ The buildings he is known to have designed are almost all public structures or, in other words, government buildings; his known corpus of works includes no surviving private domestic structures.

There is, however, one private domestic building that can definitely be assigned to him. This is the handsome St Stephen's Presbyterian Manse in Queanbeyan. It stands in Morisset Street, where it forms a unique and harmonious combination with St Stephen's Church which was designed by the Reverend Alberto Dias Soares and erected in 1872-74.



James Barnett c 1900

The manse is one of very few private or non-government buildings that Barnett designed during his long career in NSW. Before he entered government service, he was the architect for a couple of houses in Phillip Street, Sydney, some shops in Sussex Street and the Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Chalmers Street, Surry Hills. Of these, only the

¹ Peter Bridges and Don McDonald, *James Barnett Colonial Architect*, Sydney, Hale and Iremonger, 1988, p. 132; Chris Johnson, Patrick Bingham-Hall and Peter Kohane, *James Barnett: The Universal Value of Civic Existence*, Balmain, Pesaro, 2000, p. 42.

church now survives. Known today as the Welsh Presbyterian Church, it and St Stephen's Manse are the only remaining examples of Barnett's work as an architect of private buildings.²

Barnet designed the manse free of charge for the Reverend Robert Alexander Steel, MA, his wife Amy and their family in 1881. Amy Steel was Barnett's eldest daughter. When the Reverend Steel was appointed to the Queanbeyan charge in May 1881, there was no manse in the whole charge nor even any other suitable premises in the town for him and his family to occupy. They were forced to put up in Bungendore until a manse was provided for them in

Barnet produced plans and specifications for the manse by September 1881. It comprised a six-room brick cottage on a stone foundation, with an attached kitchen and 'Servant's Room'. No early Queanbeyan. For this purpose, the church formed a Manse Building Committee soon after Steel's appointment.³ A start was made on construction, however, because the Building Committee was unable to raise sufficient funds. Probably in a bid to cut the costs of construction, the committee approved some unspecified

² Johnson et al., *James Barnett*, p. 26; Bridges and McDonald, *James Barnett Colonial Architect*, pp. 28, 29.

³ *Queanbeyan Age* [hereafter QA], 27 March 1883, p. 2; *The Presbyterian and Australian Witness* [hereafter P&AW], 4 June 1881, p. 5; *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* [hereafter GEPP], 24 May 1881, p. 4.

modifications to the plans. In the end, it was to be more than twelve months before the committee members felt that they had just enough money in hand to call for tenders. Inevitably, of those contractors who submitted tenders, the committee chose the cheapest.⁴

It was not a wise option. Within three months, it became clear that the successful tenderer, a builder from Woodhouselee near Goulburn, was unable to fulfil the contract. In fact, he had not even made a start. At this impasse, the committee turned to a trusted local contractor, John Kealman. Although his final price of £650 was well above the £509 quoted by the failed Woodhouselee tenderer, Kealman and his work were well known to church members. Not only was he a member of the church's congregation, but in the 1870s he had carried out the carpentry for St Stephen's and had even designed, built and donated the pulpit to the church.⁵

Kealman was well credentialled and equipped to perform the work. After working as a carpenter on George Campbell's Duntroon property in the 1860s, he had learned how to make good quality bricks and moved into the building trade as a contractor in his own right. In 1875, he built the original St John's Presbyterian Church in

⁴ GEPP, 29 September 1881, p. 4; 1 November 1881, p. 4; QA, 26 September 1882, p. 2; 17 October 1882, p. 3; 14 November 1882, p. 2.

⁵ QA, 30 January 1883, p. 2; 27 March 1883, p. 2; P&AW, 31 March 1883, p. 5; Jan Armour, *And This Stone: The Story of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Queanbeyan*, Queanbeyan, 1974, p. 27.

Bungendore and, in 1876-78, rebuilt the spire of St John's Church in Canberra. A string of government contracts soon followed. He constructed additions to the Queanbeyan Court House and Gaol in 1877 and 1878 respectively, and erected the Bungendore Public School in 1879, the Queanbeyan Post Office in 1879-80, the Gundaroo Court House in 1882-83 and the Sutton Public School in 1882-83.

To enhance his business and the quality of his work, Kealman had established an imported brickmaking machine on the Garryowen Estate in Queanbeyan in 1879. This enterprise, the first of its kind in southern New South Wales, produced 4,000 high-quality bricks per day. Kealman would have used these bricks in the construction of the manse.⁶

It was distinctly in Kealman's favour, too – and a reassurance to the Manse Building Committee – that Barnet was familiar with and approved of his work. During a visit to Queanbeyan in October 1881, Barnet had carried out a careful inspection of the construction of further additions to the Court House, for which Kealman was the contractor. On completing the inspection, Barnet expressed complete satisfaction with the standard of workmanship.⁷ Indeed, Barnet probably had previous acquaintance with Kealman's work. Kealman

⁶ QA, 9 August 1878 & 18 June 1879 [check references].

⁷ GEPP, 13 October 1881, p. 4.

had erected the Queanbeyan Police Barracks or Police Sergeant's Residence – now the Queanbeyan Historical Museum – in 1875-76 and the town's Post Office in 1879-80, both of which Barnett may have designed or at least would have been closely associated with.

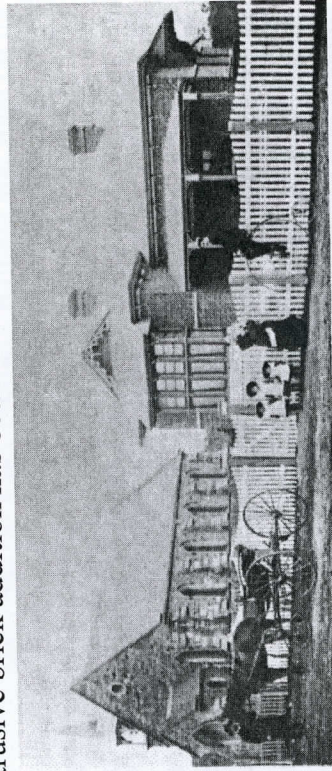
Kealman signed the contract to build the manse in January 1883 after 'certain deviations from the plans' had been agreed upon.⁸ It is likely that the purpose of these 'deviations' was to lower costs. One such deviation may have comprised the laying of Kealman's bricks in colonial bond on the western side and rear of the building, in contrast to the use of English bond on the front and eastern sides. This strategy would have reduced the number of bricks and hence the cost of the construction.

The work of construction commenced in February 1883 and proceeded rapidly. The foundation stone of the building was laid at a ceremony on 22 March 1883 and, in May, work had advanced to the point where Kealman was able to roof in both the main building and the kitchen attachment. But a shortage of funds threatened the completion of work. At the end of June, the Building Committee remained £200 shy of the figure required. Steel, thereupon, decided to launch an appeal for funds from the wider Presbyterian community. Through weekly advertisements in *The Presbyterian and Australian Witness*, he entreated Presbyterians in Sydney and other parts of the colony to make gifts of work or money so that a fund-

⁸ QA, 27 March 1883, p. 2.

raising 'Sale of Work' could be held in late September. The appeal was evidently successful. The manse was completed in November, enabling Steel and his family to take up residence from their temporary refuge in Bungendore.⁹

A photograph dating from *circa* 1886 shows the manse just a few years after its completion. Apart from the white picket fence which has been replaced by a brick fence, the front aspect of the building is unchanged. The roofline, chimneys, bay window, verandah, unrendered brickwork, hood over the windows on the eastern side and even the bargeboards remain today exactly as they were when the building was erected. The original roof has probably been replaced by a CGI roof, while at the rear of the building a small and unobtrusive brick addition has been made.



St Stephens & Manse c 1886 with the Rev Steel & family. Photo C Tizzard

⁹ QA, 6 February 1883, p. 2; 27 March 1883, p. 2; 8 May 1883, p. 2; P&AW, 5 May 1883, p. 5; 30 June 1883, pp. 5, 6; 3 November 1883, p. 5; *Goulburn Herald*, 29 November 1883, p. 2.

buildings embody the sober and solemn quality that Barnet intended for official structures, the manse exhibits a rather more homely, genial and welcoming character while still retaining an air of dignity and respectability. This Barnet achieved without resorting to the use of Picturesque and other new-fangled architectural ornamentation to which, by temperament and professional inclination, he was in any case vehemently opposed.¹⁰

The manse is unique as the lone surviving example of the very few private residences that James Barnet ever designed in New South Wales. With the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Sydney, it is one of only two extant private architectural commissions that he executed. The position of the manse next to the Soares-designed St Stephen's Church, moreover, is a unique architectural association. For all that, the manse is all but unrecognised as a Barnet work. The local LEP bundles it together with the church and the church hall and makes no mention of Barnet at all. The manse and, for that matter, the Welsh Presbyterian Church deserve greater recognition as rare representatives of Barnet's work in the private domain, displaying his abilities in a sphere outside the government structures he usually designed.

¹⁰ Bridges and McDonald, *James Barnet Colonial Architect*, pp. 13, 51-2, 54-5.

HERITAGE AT ALLWOOD in 2010

Judy Roberts

In 1981 our family moved from inner city Sydney to the property known as *Allwood*. What we actually purchased was a derelict farmhouse and an old slab cottage. After many years renovating the house we live in we have now turned our attention to the "cottage".

We have reason to believe that this dwelling was built in the 1870's by David Rule. In 1999 the Canberra Times published an article called *Canberra's Pioneer Families* in which the following was written. "David Rule was a native of Brent, Herfordshire, England. He came to Australia with his parents James and Mary (nee Hammond) Rule, and his elder brothers William and John on the ship Herald which arrived at Sydney on August 22, 1856. He eventually took up land and followed pastoral pursuits at Allwood near Hall. David married Agnes Munday, daughter of James and Ann (nee Trow) at Parkwood Wesleyan Church in August 1871. They had nine children one of whom died at birth."

Their youngest son was Edward Arthur Rule born in December 1888 at Allwood. He in turn married Catherine Rochford and together they had seven children. On 7th January 1921 Edward Gregory (GREG) Rule, well known resident of Hall was born.

In September this year we had the pleasure of having afternoon tea at Allwood with Greg and his wife Marge. It was very exciting to have one of David Rule's grandsons visiting the "old house " and it

certainly makes this history come alive. There are many other descendants of David and Agnes still living in and around the Hall district.

We have recently been successful in obtaining a small dollar for dollar Heritage Grant from the Yass Valley Council in association with the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning and are currently undertaking some repair and restoration work on the cottage and its surrounds. Eventually we are hoping to open the old house to the public, but if you have an interest in the history of our district and its early settlers you are most welcome to arrange a visit to the property, preferably with hammer in hand as we can use all the help we can get.

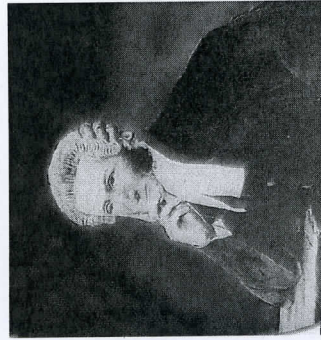


Greg Rule, grandson of David Rule outside slab cottage

Judy Roberts can be contacted by mail at 633 Wallaroo Road, Hall or by phone on 6230 2436

A LOST HOUSE OF QUEANBEYAN

JUDGE THOMAS CALLAGHAN



Judge Thomas Callaghan,
collection R Curry

Judge Thomas Callaghan, one of our early Colonial judges, built a sturdy brick cottage in Queanbeyan in 1862. It stood for 100 years, but sadly stands no longer.

Thomas Callaghan was born September 18, 1815, in Dublin, and on graduating in his legal studies, he was called to the Irish Bar. Coming to New South Wales in 1839, on the ship *Arkwright*, (sea-sickness most of the trip, according to his journal), he was admitted to the Bar in Sydney, February 14, 1840. One of eleven Colonial Barristers for the whole Colony, he wrote legal reports for the Sydney Morning Herald while awaiting work. It was not uncommon for legal officers to be in the Colony for at least three years before making any money.

In 1841, he was appointed Commissioner for reporting on claims for Land Grants, and three years later he published two legal volumes entitled 'Acts and Ordinances of the Governor and Council of NSW and Acts of Parliament enacted for and applied to the Colony.' Later known as "Callaghan's Acts", Callaghan was awarded a bronze medal at the London Exhibition in 1851 for the publications.

Travelling to Courts throughout the Colony, he was required to stay in less than ideal accommodation. He noted in his journal "bugs, rats and mice", and in public houses he preferred to sleep on a table in the sitting room,

much to the consternation of other guests. Roads were not always in the best order, and he often "walked for miles knee-deep in mud". Coaches were occasionally used, and should they be upset, the judge might appear in Court on crutches.

In 1848 Thomas married Eliza Milford, and was now, since 1845, a permanent Crown Prosecutor. The Colony had realised it needed more Circuit Courts, Chairmen and Crown Prosecutors, and Callaghan was offered one of these positions.

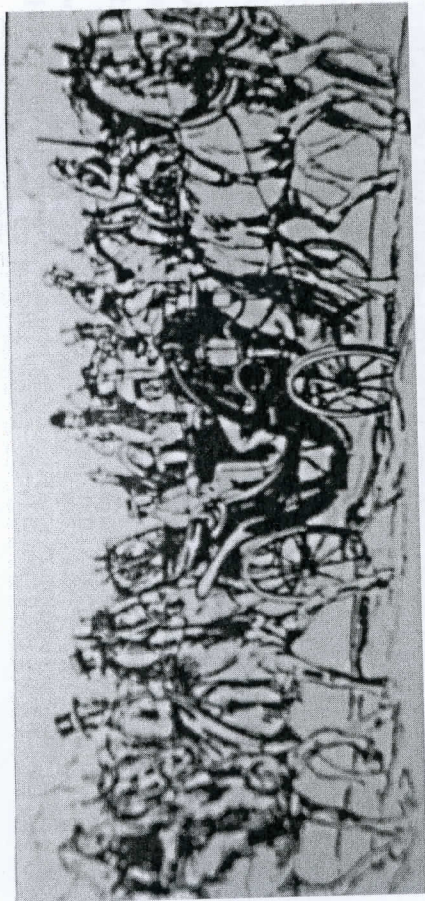
As he travelled between Courts, he, observed in horror four men being flogged. "My blood fevered when I saw the first man bound to the post ... "he wrote in his journal. He also noted that he was feeling more experienced in his job: "I spoke for half an hour fluentlyhow much I am improved in my address."

In fact, his addresses to the Court became known for being generally tedious, except on the odd occasion when he would say, "Gentlemen of the Jury, in leaving the case with you, I have nothing to say." One case he defended, a man called Bright, was lost. Bright was convicted on circumstantial evidence, while later, Curran, a bushranger, confessed on the scaffold.

Callaghan enjoyed horse-riding fortunately, since most of his travelling to various Courts was on horse-back. He sometimes travelled with a local sheriff as a guard, or on his own (risking attack), but many times in groups with other legal members. Some judges used bicycles, and crossing flooded creeks was a regular hazard.

For two years he travelled with Mr Justice James Sheen Dowling, in "a sort of buggy throughout the Colony". Dowling wrote of him later in his

reminders, "Judge Callaghan was a good criminal lawyer, and had a high appreciation of the duties of a judge which he performed strictly and conscientiously "



A legal group travelling on circuit in the 19th century. Reproduced from Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, 15th Anniversary 1947

During the Gold Rush era (1850s), the time consumed for the prosecutors and witnesses to travel immense "distances, sometimes influenced the prosecutors to decide not to prosecute at all. At about this time, horse and cattle stealing was becoming a major problem, and the local barber became a regular part of Court Proceedings. He would be called to shave the area on the animal where a brand was said to be. The jury would then be called to the yard "to have a view."

CALLAGHAN'S COTTAGE

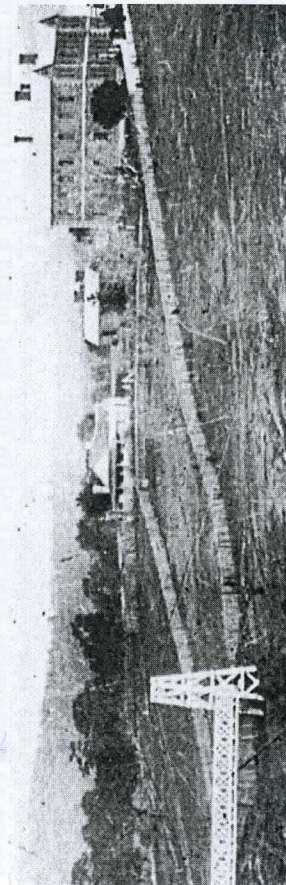
Appointed District Court Judge, in 1859, with his first Court at Yass, his circuit stretched to Braidwood, and he and his wife decided to build a home in Queanbeyan. In the Queanbeyan area, he certainly had his hands full.

He remarked that "the lockup was often crowded with prisoners," and "the area in Jinger Mountains settlements were haunts." His comments were reported in The Golden Age, November 27, 1862.

He was also greatly concerned about the poor conditions of Yass gaol, with "only a small hole in each cell through which air and light could penetrate." To help alleviate this situation, he spoke publicly and often about the subject. It was through his untiring efforts that finally the gaol in Yass was replaced.

On November 1860, Judge Callaghan opened the Queanbeyan District Court, temporarily housed in the two story premises of William Hunt, on the corner of Macquoid Street and Trinculo Place. The ground floor became the lockup. Queanbeyan's Quarter Sessions were opened by Callaghan 26 November, 1861, with the first case of the day involving the wounding of a bullock belonging to John Casey by Samuel Spalding.

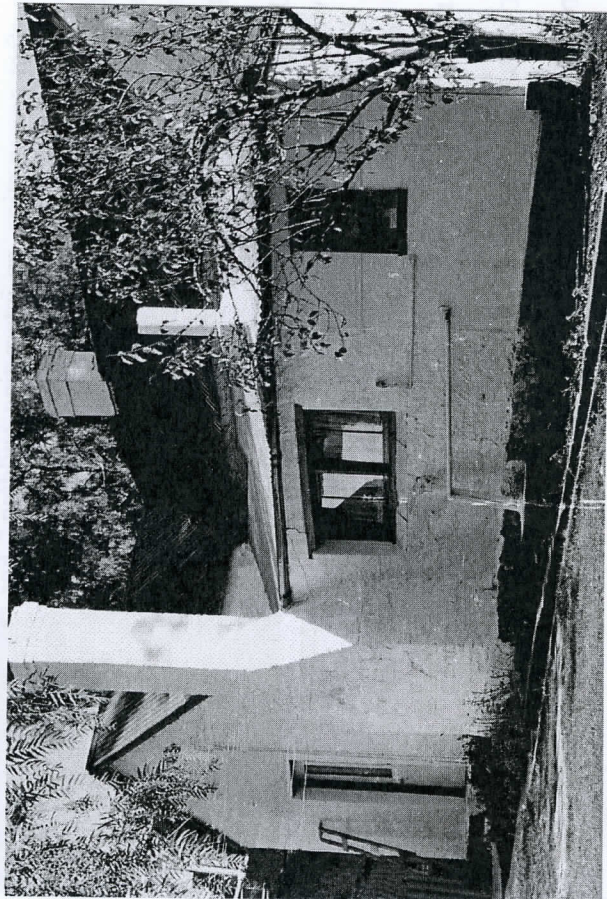
The following year, Thomas purchased from Captain A T Faunce's Dodsworth Estate, a parcel of land in Isabella Street, Queanbeyan. It extended from the river to what is now Thorpe avenue, and measured three acres, one road and sixteen perches. A cottage was constructed of hand made bricks, with one central room and a smaller room at the back, and a verandah around three sides.



Thomas and his wife ran a small farm on their land, also building a stockyard and bark hut. The property was surrounded by a strong four-rail fence for security. Sadly, their Queanbeyan residency was not to last.

Only in his mid forties, Thomas was fatally injured on November 28th 1863, at the Braidwood horse sales. A horse he had just bought ran him against a fence. He is buried in Braidwood cemetery.

A TRAGIC END FOR CALLAGHAN'S COTTAGE



After Thomas Callaghan's death, his cottage remained empty until purchased by the Government for a Telegraph Station. The first Telegraph Service from Sydney to Queanbeyan was connected there in 1864, and continued operating as a Telegraph Station for five years. By 1870, the

STROMLO FIRES UP

Peter Proctor



Frederick Campbell (1846-1928) knew Mt Stromlo well.

He should.

He gave it that name.

Campbell has a well-deserved reputation amongst the pastoralists and community of the Queanbeyan district. He was a keen innovator and a respected member of local

Frederick Campbell c 1895

societies such as the Pastoral and Agricultural Association and church warden for years. His obituary in the *Queanbeyan Age* of 21st August 1928 sets out some of his details.

As manager of his uncle George Campbell's Duntroon estate in the 1870s Frederick introduced new pastoral practices. Before Fred, local shepherds watched the flocks. He reorganized things. Paddocks were subdivided with post and wire fences.

In 1882 he purchased Yarralumla. According to Newman, Campbell carried out similar improvements on that property. He re-built the

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cottage was again vacant when the Telegraph office was combined with the Post Office in Monaro Street, in Wilson's Buildings (now the ANZ Bank).

In 1872, Martin Byrne purchased the land and cottage, and seven years later gave the estate to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan to start a convent. Callaghan's cottage became the Sisters' first convent, until St Benedicts, their two-story building was erected.

Errol Lea-Scarlett described the solid little cottage in 1968, as being "in perfect preservation, an interesting building." For several years the house was leased privately to various tenants, the last being Mrs Eileen Wall. The cottage remained empty then until the mid 1970s, when one bright day, as residents of the town set out for their early morning jogs, they were shocked to see the cottage simply a heap of bricks. Developers had been permitted to bulldoze the cottage under cover of night!

Judge Callaghan's iconic home, and Queanbeyan's first Telegraph Station was gone!

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boundary fences, divided the paddocks into more manageable ones using post and wire fences, and took control of the livestock breeding program. The previous owners had managed their estates differently.

Fred chose to name each fenced paddock. Campbell called some paddocks after the original owners, and some for other features. Any pastoralist today would confirm this approach, but few paddock names become well-known to the public.

In the early maps of the Queanbeyan and Canberra district there is no mention of Mount Stromlo. It is not even marked on the second edition of the Yarralumla Parish Map published in 1904. However, the name was recorded by Fred Campbell in directions he gave to his manager Vest in 1899.

Next, the trig on the hill in Fred's Yarralumla estate is certainly used in the surveyor's Field Books of 1909 and 1910 when Scrivener was mapping the Federal Capital Territory. These books are still available for inspection. In the map called 'Australian Federal Territory' (40 chains to the inch) and dated 12 May 1909, it is clear that Mount Stromlo has a new and significant purpose. It became the local azimuth. That can be seen in the newly aligned grid lines across the map. On the special Federal Territory Feature Map

(hachured version), Sheet 7, dated about 1915, is the detailed summary of names. One of Fred's blocks is recorded as 'Mount Stromlo Paddock'. It is Block 174 (Parish of Yarralumla). A few years before, in 1911, Fred Campbell leased that exact paddock to the Federal Government for two years for 26 pounds 15 shillings per annum. It was the agreed site for the Federal observatory.

The surveyors did not name Mount Stromlo themselves. It already existed in New South Wales. It is still between fifteen and sixteen miles north-west of Oberon, off to the west of the road from Oberon to O'Connell (or Bathurst). What is more, this name is listed in the 'Trigonometrical Survey of NSW Register of Stations' published by the NSW Lands Department in 1895.

The trig station there is named 'Stromlo'. Scrivener would have known this because of his professional work in NSW. So, when it came to the locally named feature on Fred Campbell's property Yarralumla, they did not record the trig station name in exactly the format that we might expect today. Instead, they called it 'Strom', which was a suitable compromise. A Federal Capital Territory map dated circa 1912-13 has these words, 'Asimuth: Meridian of Strom Observatory'. It locates the site and its purpose, but the official name of the observatory was not quite settled.

Fred Campbell can only have found the name in one source. The mountain named Stromlo is straight from a classic about Scottish Highlands legends. It first appears in the 1765 book called 'Poems of Ossian'. Actually, the poems were fakes. They were composed in slightly inaccurate Gaelic by James Macpherson (1736-1796). The book became an international best seller by 1 800 despite the vehement dispute about the origin of the legends, mentioned in Hugh Trevor-Roper's 1983 expose. Macpherson wanted his poems to be epics as are those of Finn McCool (Fionn mac Cumhail) in Ireland or Homer's Odyssey. Highland folk-lore is mainly about fairies. Unfortunately, Macpherson's work is a fairy story of another kind.

Three well-known localities are named directly from the 'Poems of Ossian'. Felix Mendelssohn caught the era's well-documented Romantic fever for Ossian. He wrote an overture after visiting a cave on Staffa. It was once called the 'musical cave'. Now it is known as Fingal's Cave. Macpherson's vision forged that link. If you ever tour from Oban to Iona by ship, they play Mendelssohn's music over and over as you take in the sight and sounds.

Using the same book, in 1848 a Scots settler called his farm 'Temora' and later that name was taken over by the nearby town in NSW. They liked it though there was initially the usual confusion

about it being either Irish or Scottish. The third place to use an Ossian-inspired fake Scottish name is Mount Stromlo.

Mount Stromlo burnt to cinders in the 2003 firestorm that raged across the Brindabellas. A century earlier Fred Campbell had a full view of the hill from his Yarralumla homestead. Did he also see 'Stromlo's rolling smoke' rising from it just as it does in the 'Poems of Ossian'?

From Sul-Malla of Lumon

The battle ceased in I-Thorno.

The strangers met in peace:

Cathmor from Atha of Streams

And Ossian King of Harps.

We placed the dead in Earth.

Our steps were by Runar's Bay.

With the bounding boat afar

Advanced a ridgy wave.

Dark was the rider of the seas,

But a beam of light was there

Like the ray of sun

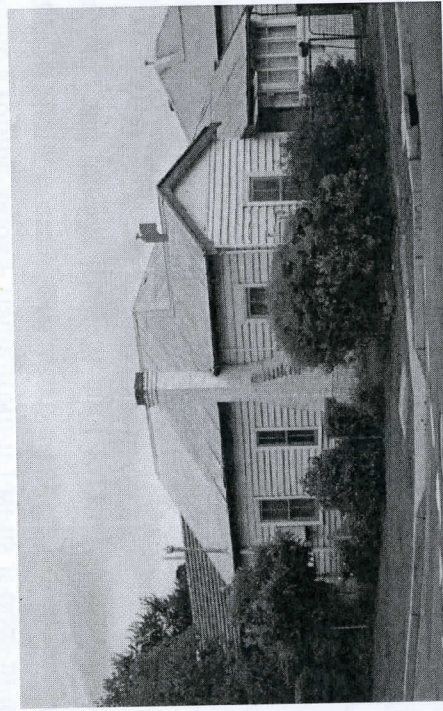
In Stromlo's rolling smoke.

Acknowledgements and References: Thank you to survey staff at the Dickson Shopfront of ACT Planning & Land Authority. Peter Proctor's full and comprehensive reference list is enclosed, for your convenience, as a loose leaf.

MISS SMITH

Marilyn Folger

No 61 Campbell Street still stands looking pretty much as it did in 1952 when Miss Smith died and as I remember it from childhood.



61 Campbell Street in 2011. Photograph M Folger

My grandmother and Miss Smith were unlikely friends in one way. Jane Gertrude Smith was born at the Parsonage, Acton, Canberra in 1865, the daughter of a Minister, the Rev. Pierce Galliard Smith¹¹

¹¹ Parson Smith faithfully served the Parish of St John's for over 50 years. The distances he travelled both to preach and visit the sick were remarkable, especially as he was on horseback. He carried seeds in his saddle bag and planted many of the trees that remain in Glebe Park in Civic.

and Emily Phillipa Davis. My grandmother Sarah Jane Maitland was born at Ginninderra in 1868, the daughter of a local farm worker, Duncan McInnes and Eliza Jane Crinigan.

Parson Smith, his wife and two unmarried daughters came to live in Queanbeyan after he retired in 1905 – first at 'Kyneton' in Rutledge Street and in 1906 at 'Park View' in Lowe Street where he died in 1908. In 1912 Mrs Smith and her daughters moved to Bowral. Gertrude's mother, Emily Phillipa Smith died in 1917 aged 84 and her sister Emily died in 1918 aged 59¹². Gertrude came back to live in Queanbeyan in the early 1920s and by 1925 was in Campbell Street.¹³

Sarah Maitland came to live at 6 Morton Street in 1936 from Goulburn. Their shopping trips to Goulburn (in the 1940s and 1950s the place to shop) were legendary in our family. The journey started with separate trips to the Queanbeyan railway station, Miss Smith in Foster Lawrie's taxi and Nan in Billie Fowlie's shiny black taxi. The Fireside Inn features in one story where Miss Smith insisted on sitting children and all down to full afternoon tea then "sailing off" when the bill arrived, leaving the two young housewives, Kit and Lil, to pool their small change and pay!

¹² Jean Salisbury *Canberra: St John's Churchyard 1844-1998*, The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, 2000.

¹³ Electoral Rolls Eden-Monaro 1921 and 1925

The Railway journey was not uneventful and slow enough for the guard to offer them a cup of tea when he'd boiled the billy as they waited at the Tarago Siding. This treat was never the same after a bag of cauliflower, leaning against the carriage door, toppled out on top of the jaunty young guard. (They travelled in the old "dog box" carriages, separate compartments with doors opening either side.)

Sarah's younger brother Sid McInnes was a great tease and loved to tell us he saw Sarah 'weaving her way home after calling in for a small sherry on the way back from Mr Kallas'. The wine merchant L.D.V. Hunt was on the Goulburn shopping list and I remember the box of lemonade that stood in the hall for thirsty little girls. Adrienne Bradley remembers visiting her great aunt in Campbell Street and being served proper afternoon tea.

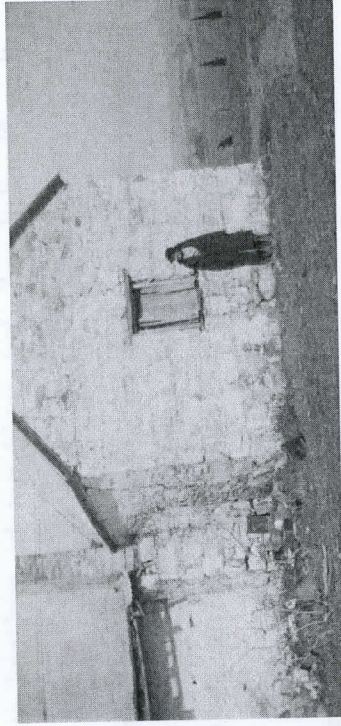
John Cope¹⁴ mentions that Parson Smith's diaries refer to his worries about the women in his family spending money. He did however buy ribbons and thread etc as well as his essential gaiters at Wright's Monaro Street Store.¹⁵

Gertrude and Sarah shared a common heritage in early Canberra and on one trip (by taxi) visited the old School house at St John's where

¹⁴ *Pioneer Parson of Early Canberra: Rev Pierce Galliard Smith Minister of St John the Baptist Church, Reid 1855-1905.* Ginninderra Press, 2006

¹⁵ JJ Wright Store Journal 19 May 1868-11 November 1869 p715 held at Queanbeyan Historical Museum

Sarah had gone to school. Gertrude had been the organist at St John's until her father's retirement, sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. She had attended Mrs Barker's Clergy Daughters' School in Sydney¹⁶.



Sarah Jane outside St John's School House well before it was restored.

The drought and depression of the 1890s left its mark on Gertrude as her Will¹⁷ shows. The second and third bequests read:

2. I bequeath half the Groceries stored in my Shed to SARAH MAITLAND of Queanbeyan.

3. I BEQUEATH the other half of the said Groceries to my nieces CHARLOTTE, MARY, NINA and EMILY de Salis of Michelago.

¹⁶ Personal communication Adrienne Bradley

¹⁷ Transcript from Adrienne Bradley

I remember going with my mother to 61 Campbell Street to find that the tins of flour so carefully saved were full of weevils! The list of articles she gave to specific people included: "My Bed and Hair Mattress, etc to Mrs S J Maitland" – the horse hair mattress was kept by Sarah then "handed on" – but could not be replaced quickly enough by the younger generation.

We remember her as a tall straight backed woman (often wearing a fox fur collar) and a self appointed guardian of the park she lived opposite. Although she had very poor sight in her old age she could always see those boys up to mischief in the park!

Although Miss Smith did not leave immediate family she left a wider family. Her sister Mary married George Arthur Charles Fane De Salis and they settled at Soglio near Michelago. They had eight children although their first son sadly died as a baby and their last son Charles Eric was killed in the First World War. Mary died in 1927 and George in 1932 leaving Soglio to his four daughter to run. Her nieces were close to her. She was a good friend to Sarah Maitland and her family and a respected citizen of Queanbeyan.

