

QUEANBEYAN

Volume 4, Number 3,
December, 2011



Members of the Slow Food Canberra Convivium with Graeme Adler, fiddler, in front of the mural by Margaret Hadfield at the Museum open day to celebrate History Week 2011.

*The Journal of
The Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society Inc*

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

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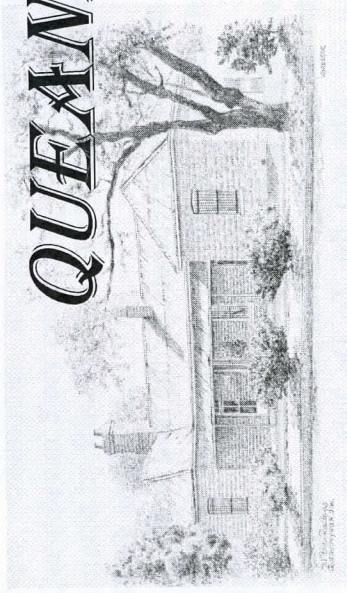
THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We again celebrate a year full of achievements for the hard working QDHMS and QCC team:

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This year we have successfully completed the Museum Galleries NSW Standards Program. This is a huge achievement and we have received very positive feedback from the reviewers and some insights into future planning for the Museum.

We have kept the Museum open all year thank you to our volunteer co-coordinator Ana Tudor and all the weekend openers.

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Three members attended Working Spaces 5 in October, a Small Museum Volunteers Conference at Galong Monastery, which is organised by the Lachlan Chapter of Museums Australia.

Tasks in front of us in 2012 include the 150th anniversary of the NSW Police in March; further development of the inside and outside areas and displays; continuation of the cataloging project; launching the new garden and extension in April; recruitment of more volunteers and implementing our plans for our program for Queanbeyan's 175th birthday celebrations.

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Crawford Street Precinct is taking shape and its use will change dramatically. This seems to be an appropriate time to consider just what that one small block has offered in times gone by.

Crawford Street was undeservedly named after Robert Crawford, a small-time clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office who outrageously used a flaw in the claim of John Cullen to the property named 'Thuralilly on the Molonglo, just out of Queanbeyan. Crawford, claimed the land, evicted the rightful owner, and still had an important thoroughfare named after him.

But let us celebrate what it became and who it sheltered and fed. The Royal Hotel has dominated the corner since it was Byrnes Hotel way back in 1860 – and now attractive changes are being made that will modernise it but maintain the 1920s character. In times past this side of the street has hosted a skating rink, the Triumph theatre, Daniel Jordan's cottage, Hawes' blacksmith shop.

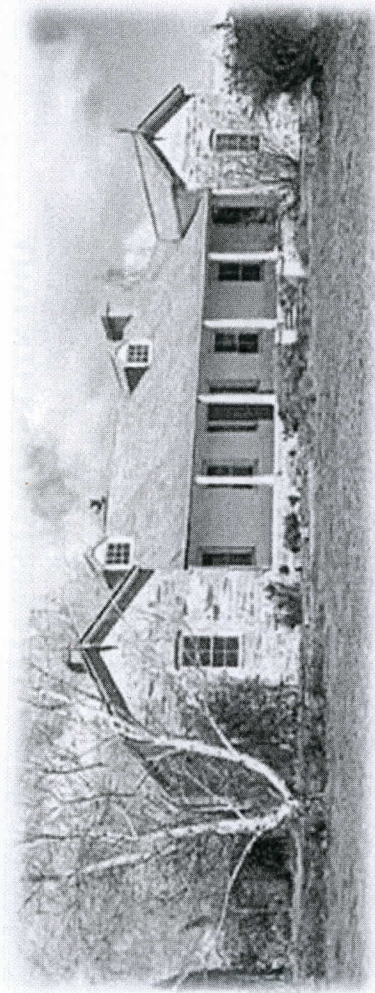
The northern side has had an equally varying array of businesses including a jeweller's store, a fancy goods shop, Byrnes' building that had housed at various stages, an hotel, a school, and the Bank of NSW. Next to today's Woolworth's petrol station there still stands an icon from the earliest days - Wright's building and in this issue of *Quinbean*, Brendan O'Keefe tells its story.

QDHMS would like to tell the story of this single block and we invite everyone who has a story to tell, even a snippet of a story, to add to our corporate knowledge!

Gillian Kelly

ONE MAN'S ADVENTURE

James Demarr



QUEANBEYAN 1839

In 1836 Robert Campbell extended Duntroon by buying land that was just north of the unsurveyed settlement of Queanbeyan. On this acreage he built an elegant house that was to be the home of relatives coming from Scotland. They didn't arrive, and in 1838 Campbell leased the property to early Queanbeyan settlers Hunt and Kaye who used it to establish the inn they named Elmsall. By 1839 it had an adjoining store and a cemetery nearby.

On July 27, 1839 the good ship *Heber* landed a would be immigrant James Demarr on the shores of Sydney town. His objective was to see the colony and gain colonial experience. He was a man of independent means but in order to get a feel for Australia he was determined to see it as a working man One of Demarr's ambitions

was to record his experiences in Australia through his diaries and in 1893 his book was published:

ADVENTURES IN AUSTRALIA

FIFTY YEARS AGO

BEING A RECORD OF AN EMIGRANT'S WANDERINGS
THROUGH THE COLONIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
VICTORIA AND QUEENSLAND DURING THE YEARS

1839 - 1844

After three months in Sydney James Demarr was offered a position as storekeeper in a general store at Queanbeyan on the Limestone Plains - none other than the store belonging to the Hunt & Kaye at the Elmsall Inn. In his records of his adventures he records some of his Queanbeyan experiences:

The day after we made the agreement, I began my journey into the Interior, going by coach to Campbell Town, where I stayed the night at an Inn. I am not quite sure, but I think, I paid some three or four pounds for this coach journey. The next morning, being Sunday, I walked to the Cow Pasture river, where was a store, I having a letter of introduction to the person who kept it. The proprietor of the store, was a gentlemanly man, and his wife was a most ladylike woman; and they treated me most kindly; he was an "old hand" that is, had been transported, but had been a free man some years.

I may as well state here the meaning of some colonial phrases, at all times in use by the convict population. A man who had been transported, was said to have been "lagged," and a transport was an "old lag." None were ever called convicts, but "prisoners of the Crown," or Government men, and no one who valued his own comfort would call them anything else.

From this place I was to start, with a dray load of goods, to the store I was bound for; the following morning, soon after daylight, the bullock driver drove up with his team, a two-wheeled dray, and six bullocks; my box of clothes and sundries were placed on the dray, a flock mattress, two pairs of blankets, and a small cask of ship's biscuits; then we proceeded on our journey.....

... We arrived at the store, Queanbeyan, Limestone Plains, in about three weeks after leaving Sydney. Our store joined an Inn, both being under the same management, and about a mile from the township. The Inn was a substantial stone built residence, formerly the house of a well-to-do settler. The store was, as is customary in the bush, built of timber slabs and roofed with sheets of bark. There was also another store, of a similar description, in the township, kept by a Mr. Black.

Whilst I was living here, a gang of bushrangers paid Mr. Black a visit, but never troubled our store. And this is how they proceed when they pay their visits. They ride up, always in broad daylight, some of them dismount, enter the door, and presenting their guns at the occupants, order them to stand with their faces to the wall, until others of the gang have searched the place and seized all they wish to take away; then they depart. In this case, Mrs. Black turned her face from the wall and looked at the men, who asked her at once what she was doing that for. Her answer was: "So that I may know you again." A bold answer; which, had it come from a man, might have been the cause of his receiving a bullet from one of their guns. But they spared Mrs. Black.

These stores have generally everything that is required in the bush. The duty in the one I had charge of was very light. Sometimes we would be two or three days and not have a customer. At other times

we might have two or three who would lay out at one time from ten to fifty pounds.

Keeping a store was not like keeping a shop in England. Unless a customer came, the store was kept locked up. I could have a whole day in which to rove about, or pay visits, almost as often as I wished; and yet the profits of a general store were not to be despised. It was not unusual to hear of storekeepers in these thinly inhabited wild regions clearing one, two or three thousand pounds in one year.

Limestone Plains, like Goulburn Plains, are a considerable height above the sea level; they consist of one large plain, and three or four small ones. The Queanbeyan river runs through the whole and soon after joins the Murrumbidgee. The township of Queanbeyan is situated on a small plain on the banks of the river. Like all the townships in this quarter, there were but three or four houses in it, and those wooden ones. The country round was what was termed "within the boundaries," owing to that most of the land on the river was purchased, and several farms were scattered here and there, but at considerable distances from one another.

The boundary of the colony only extended a short distance south of Queanbeyan. Beyond that, was an extensive territory unsurveyed, and occupied in some parts by "squatters," the colonial term for the large stock holders beyond the boundary.

If I remember rightly, we had a mail from Sydney once a week, which mail was carried on horseback, and from this further south to Maneroo Plains. All letters were sent to Sydney unpaid.

An extensive emigration had set into the colony about this time, and numbers of emigrants began to distribute themselves over the country. Nevertheless, their position was not at all to be envied. They

were numerically inferior to the "old hands," who, as a rule, hated them, and of course the dislike was mutual. The immigrants prided themselves on being immigrants, and assumed, sometimes, a superiority over the "old hands," to which, in some cases, they were not entitled.

I have known some, formerly convicts, I could place greater confidence in than in some immigrants. The "old hands" used to say that the only difference between themselves and the "jimmigrants" as they always called themwas, that they had been found out, whilst the "jimmigrants" had emigrated before they were found out — they emigrated to escape being "lagged." Every man who was transported was not necessarily a bad man. We have instances, even now, in the year 1889, of men being sentenced to penal servitude, and afterwards proved innocent. If that is the case now, what must it have been fifty years ago, and more than fifty years ago? How many innocent persons have been transported to Botany Bay?

Fifty years ago men were sent there for offences which would now be punished by a fine, or two or three weeks in jail — I shall not go into particulars of the emigrants' position at this period of time, that would require more space than I care to occupy, but it was, at times, a most unpleasant one, and often disastrous to his well-being.

The nearest church or chapel to Queanbeyan was Goulburn, about one hundred miles distant. Schools, there were none. An enclosed piece of ground, adjoining our Inn, was the principal burying ground, in which, at this time, seven or eight corpses were buried. There was no public cemetery, such as we are accustomed to. Some person dies and his friends select a place in which to bury his remains. As others died the friends usually selected the same place, otherwise burial was not restricted to any place. There was no consecrated ground then, nor, apparently, was such a thing thought of.

There was no burial service read, not in my experience, no costly tombstone, or that other absurdity, a polished oak coffin, there seldom being any kind of coffin. There was no conventional mourning, no black crape, none of those convenient shams for simulating sorrow when it is not felt. There were none of those things. One, two, or more graves were frequently to be seen at most stock stations.

Even at Queanbeyan a coffin was seldom made for the dead, and in the more remote parts scarcely ever. A sheet of bark was placed at the bottom of the grave, and another over the body, and then it was covered over with earth, without further ceremony. Occasionally solitary graves on the roadside were to be met with. Rough and uncultivated as the men generally were, these interments were, as a rule, conducted with decorous propriety, but not always.

In this part of the country I spent my first Christmas Day since leaving England. If eating and drinking might be regarded as a proper observance of that day, New South Wales might, with propriety, be called a most Christian country. But with all the eating and drinking I could not help calling to mind the happy Christmas Days I had spent at home, and my thoughts wandered far away from Limestone Plains. Nothing brings so forcibly to the mind of the emigrant, home, and its associations, as the recurrence of this day. And yet it is in other respects difficult to realize that it is Christmas Day, being, as it is, one of the hottest days of the year. The plum pudding and roast beef being eaten with open doors and windows; and at this time the totally different state of society to which one has been accustomed.

During my stay of nine months at Queanbeyan, I gained a considerable insight into colonial customs and pursuits. I had plenty of spare time, and devoted it to making rambles into the surrounding

country, and visiting the different stock stations. Store keeping was not like being behind the counter in England.

At this time Port Phillip was the absorbing topic in the conversation of traveller; and stock-holders, with their live stock, were migrating in that direction from all parts of the older colony. The Southern colony, at that time, had no other name than Port Phillip, on which Port was Melbourne, the newly-formed capital.

The name Victoria was unknown. Australia Felix, Major Mitchel, the Surveyor General, had named it), and I think it is a pity it has not retained that name, for in fertility of soil, abundantly watered, no part of Australia can compare with it.

So to Port Phillip I decided to go. Closed my engagement at the store, and arranging so that all my stock of clothing and sundries should be sent on to Sydney.

I had long since learned that coats and waistcoats were not suitable wearing apparel (except on the breezy Table Lands in winter), for bush travelling.

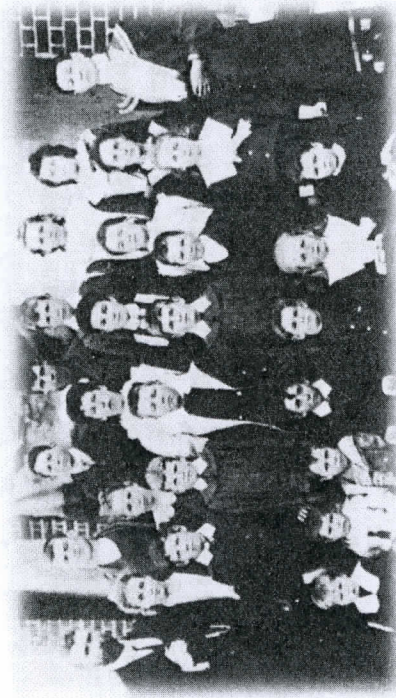
I was to be a bushman now for some time, so donned the bushman's dress; trousers and shirt, and over the shirt, a loose blue flannel shirt or blouse, exactly the form of the garibaldi shirt, brown leather shoes, and a cabbage tree hat, also a soft felt hat for bad weather when it came. These cabbage tree hats were very comfortable wear, much like the broad-brimmed straw hats at home, but lighter, and more elastic. They were made of the cabbage tree palm, and were worn by everyone in Australia. Let it also be remembered, that the climate we had to contend with, was (with the exception of that on the Table Lands), almost a perpetual spring and summer. There is no winter in Australia as we experience it in England!

MRS J MONK'S BABY BOY

Nancy Monk

In his story *The Old Tharwa Bridge*¹ John Cope reports that the seven month old baby of Mrs J Monk was the prize baby from the east bank of the river.

The baby boy was Willfred Monk and his parents Jack (John Edward) Monk and Sarah nee Cook.²



Tuggeranong Public School, 1908. Errol Lea-Scarlett

Will and his sisters went to Tuggeranong School and he is in the back row, left end. His sister Iris is the fair haired girl, second row on right. Willfred grew up in the years leading to WWI. When war was declared in August 1914, the 4th Battalion was raised and Willfred joined up and within two months had embarked for Egypt.

¹ Quinbean, September 2011, p10

² See Tuggeranong and the Railway, Now & Then Fred Monk, Quinbeyan Dec 2010, p 21



Willfred Monk 1914

The Battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. At ANZAC, it took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. Willfred was injured and repatriated in 1915.

Iris Monk went on to do nursing "staying with Auntie Cooke in Balcombe Street when she first started"³ The youngest sister Daisy (not in the photo) is one of the signatories on the letter:

To District Surveyor Canberra from Tuggeranong Public School 11-2-18

"Dear Sir

*We, the undersigned Pupils Beg to draw your attention to the fact that the trees are being ringbarked along the Tharwa Road. We regret this very much, for we regard those trees as our friends.....we humbly pray that you will use your influence towards preventing any further destruction...." A notation reads "... he will take all steps to prevent a recurrence"*⁴

Undoubtedly there are more stories to tell of the children of Jack and Sarah Monk of Tuggeranong.

³ Letter from Iris to Nancy Monk when Nancy first began nursing.

⁴ Ann Gugler, The Builders of Canberra 1909 - 1929 1994

THE BROTHERS GALE



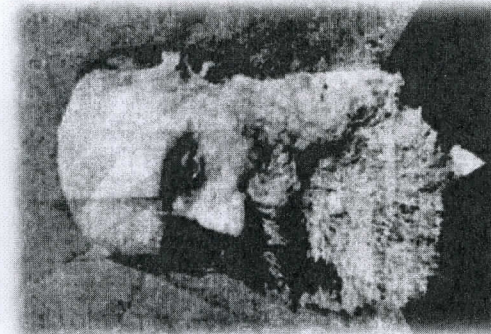
Francis 1824 - 1892



Christopher 1826 - 1875



John 1831 - 1927



Albert 1834 - 1922

Francis Gale, excise officer, and Mary Hamlyn had a family of thirteen of which John Gale, of Queanbeyan fame, was the second youngest. John's story in this district is well recorded, however three of his brothers, Christopher Parrah, Francis Peter and Albert also migrated to Australia, each eventually following a different career path.

All four boys were educated at Monmouth Grammar School. Francis was the eldest and after leaving school at fourteen he became compositor and printer. By 1841 he was a printer in Bristol and in 1848 married his cousin Jane Hamlyn. Francis was carrying on a business as a printer at Newport in Monmouthshire in February 1849 when he was charged with having stolen 29 sovereigns. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months hard labour. Having borne his punishment he settled into family life with Jane raising five daughters.

Christopher Parrah, the next brother, is described in 1841 as living at home with his parents and siblings in York Street, Bristol and employed as a hatter.⁵ Jane, his sister, was a straw bonnet maker, so this is quite probable. In 1852 he married Mary Clarke in Manchester where they lived for the next three years, raising two daughters.

Albert, the youngest, also learned the art of printing, and was taught shorthand by Mr. Isaac Pitman the inventor of phonography. Subsequently he married Emma, daughter of Mr. Wm Maggs, a well known horticulturist and nurseryman.

John, at the age of fourteen, was also apprenticed to the printing trade at Newport in Monmouthshire – an apprenticeship that could have taken him seven years. By 1854 John had trained as a Wesleyan Methodist Missionary and as such he arrived in NSW on the

⁵ Census England 1841

American Lass with several others. His posting was to the Gunning circuit where he met Loanna Wheatley.

John's reports home must have been favourable, because in 1855 Christopher Parrah Gale reached Australian waters on the *Golden Era*, bringing his family with him. Christopher came as a carpenter and joiner and spent his first few years in the Taree area and then several in Braidwood.⁶ By 1859 he had secured two blocks of land within a mile of Grafton which by 1861 he had already sold on.⁷

Meantime, John's friendship with Loanna Wheatley had grown to love, and in 1857 they were married. The Wesleyan church was not happy with this arrangement and so John left the ministry and with the help of his Grammar School education was offered a tutoring position with Steel Caldwell on *Moonbucca* near Young. A schoolhouse and residence were provided and this is where the Gale family lived for the next three years during which time he made plans to return to his old trade of printing.

By 1860 he was ready to move. Queanbeyan was his chosen site and he wrote to his brother Francis Peter asking that he come to assist in the development of a rural newspaper and that he purchase, for this purpose, a small but suitable printing press. On July 13, 1860 the *Chance* reached Sydney with Francis and his family. At the same time the *Damascus* arrived with twenty packages for the Rev J Gale. They contained the printing press and its equipment along with Francis' photographic equipment.

⁶ NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

⁷ Sale notice for the Property of Estate of Mr Joseph Sharp June 17 & 18 1861 notes that C P Gale formerly owned blocks 29 & 30, Section 13 & 14 within a mile of Grafton in the Parish of Marlowe

The first edition of the *Golden Age* appeared September 15th, 1860. The entire operation of compiling, writing, editing, printing and distributing was carried out by the two brothers.

In December of the same year Francis opened the first permanent photographic studio in Queanbeyan. The following year he exhibited group photographs of Queanbeyan Aborigines in Sydney. When forwarded to the 1862 London International Exhibition, these were awarded an honourable mention.⁸

In the June of 1862 Francis advertised the sale of one of his two complete sets of photographic apparatus with the promise of lessons on its use, and suggesting it was an ideal lady's occupation with the potential to bring in an income of some £6 – £10 per year. He left the town and headed north to the Clarence River area where brother Christopher had already taken up residence on a selection he had made that year.⁹

In July of that year Francis applied for a Free Selection grant described as: *Woodford Island, 40 acres, county of Clarence, parish of Woodford; on Woodford Island commencing at Alexander M'Donald's fence on, the creek, at the back of that farm - the creek to the side and back boundary. Area selected, 83 acres; deposit paid, £20 15s*¹⁰

Soon after his arrival in June 1867, he applied for a further selection described as *Woodford Island, 74 acres, County of Clarence, parish*

⁸ No known examples of Francis' work has survived.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald, 25 April, 1874

¹⁰ *Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) Tuesday 17 July 1866* p 2

of Woodford, portions Nos 161 and 162, adjoining his purchased portion, No. 67.¹¹

In 1866 Albert, the youngest of the four Gales, arrived with his wife Emma Maggs and a daughter. By 1867 Albert was living in Queanbeyan and took over managing the *Queanbeyan Age* while John took the press and his family to Braidwood from where he would print the *Age* and also a Braidwood paper.

Albert's printing career ended that year when he undertook teacher training at Forst St Training School. He joined Christopher and Francis when in 1863 he was appointed to Chatworth Island, also on the Clarence, as the school's first teacher. He had an enrolment of 32 pupils and ran a night class for sixteen older students. In three years the enrolment had risen to 71 pupils - this involved an extra 10 hours weekly in rowing around the islands to collect some 25 of them. On Chatworth Island his Australian experience in agriculture began; and his English practical knowledge became useful. During his leisure hours he planted shade and fruit trees, with flowers, in the school grounds. When the subject of sugarcane cultivation was introduced¹², Mr. Gale took a lively interest in the subject, and by watching the operations of the planters gained much information.¹³

He moved to South Grafton taking charge there in 1872, but resigning in 1873, moving to Goulburn then Cooma and finally joined up with the Sydney Technical College. Like his brothers, Albert Gale was also a keen theological student - and also a great lover of nature. Several of his books were standard works of the Education Department.

¹¹ *Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) Tuesday 11 June 1867* p 2

¹² His brother Christopher is said to be amongst the first to plant sugar cane

¹³ Obituary

Meantime all was not well between the brothers Christopher and Francis on Woodford Island. Francis called his property *Franklands* and it adjoined property occupied by Christopher.

In 1872 Christopher had Frank arrested and charged with "inflicting grievous bodily harm" following an incident relating to one of Frank's bullocks straying onto the land occupied by Christopher. Christopher and Frank had not been on good terms for some three years and during that time Christopher had not been on *Franklands* and in court he declared that he believed Francis was going to throw him and his family out of his home.

Francis was acquitted by the jury and Christopher then took his real grievance that involved land ownership to the Supreme Court in Sydney. He took out a Bill of Complaint in Equity requesting that Francis retransfer to him (Christopher) the moiety of fifty four acres selected on Woodford Island by Christopher in 1862. This suggests that Christopher had transferred the ownership of the land to Francis. In 1875 Christopher was on his way to Sydney to pursue this cause when he drowned at the mouth of the Clarence River in the wreck of the *Helen McGregor* and his body was never found.

The "Landholders Census of 1885" shows Francis as owning 101 acres at Woodford Island on which he had 17 horses and 44 head of cattle. His career as a farmer blossomed and *Franklands* was noted as an exemplary farm with high productivity.¹⁴ Francis attested that his success was due to continuous fertilisation of the soil. He died in 1892, leaving a large family behind and was buried in the Wesleyan section of the McLean cemetery.

¹⁴ *Clarence and Richmond Examiner, August 1891*

LOST : THE WEDDING GOWN OF MARGARET COURTNEY MOORE

George Gribble was born at Gininderra in 1868 and was the son of Thomas and Catherine. He grew up to be one of the best known sportsmen in the district – a leading cricketer, a steel quoits player and a member of the Gininderra Detachment of the Mounted Infantry.

Margaret Courtenay Moore was the daughter of William and Catherine Moore of *Fairvale*, Bulga Creek near the Cotter. George Gribble became a frequent visitor to the area and was a welcome member of the Bulga Creek cricket team. Here he met and courted Margaret – a courtship that seems to have taken a long time to develop as George was best man at the marriage of Margaret's younger sister Sarah to William Oldfield in 1900! George and Margaret married on May 4th at Fairvale. Neither was young – George was 40 and Margaret 38 – but the wedding was truly a traditional one and was described in the *Queanbeyan Age*:

A PRETTY wedding was solemnised at "Fair Vale" on May 4th last, the contracting parties being George, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gribble, of Gininderra, and Maggie, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore, of "Fair Vale," Bulga Creek. The Rev. A. H. Champion, rector of St. John the Baptist's Church, Canberra, performed the ceremony.

The bride who was given away by her father, was gowned in a robe of cream Louise silk made semi-Empire style, and beautifully trimmed with Malines lace tucked and vandyked with bebe ribbon, and cream hat to match trimmed with white roses and orange blossoms.

John Gale was quite an astonishing man – journalist, printer, preacher, alderman, magistrate, horticulturalist, fisherman – he involved himself in all facets of community life and his absolute belief in a free press committed him to a middle road in politics, but a narrow one when it came to morality and social justice. He shared his brothers' passion for horticulture and developed magnificent garden at his home Elm Grove.

The commonality of Francis, John and Albert Gale includes their literary ability which undoubtedly evolved from their upbringing and their education, their connection to the Wesleyan movement, their commitment to their communities and their love of nature and passion for gardening. Christopher seems to have been different. He twice held and lost extremely rich land on the Clarence, he fought viciously with his brother Francis and his determination to vindicate himself led to his drowning. These are generalities and there is much more to be said about the brothers Gale and their contributions to their communities.

Gillian Kelly

Ancestry.com, descendants of Francis Gale & Mary Hamlyn, esp contributions of Gary Selman

Cross, Rex & Sheedy, Bert Queanbeyan Pioneers, First StudyQbn Publishin Co, 1983

Scarlett, Errol Lea Queanbeyan District & People, Queanbeyan Council 1968

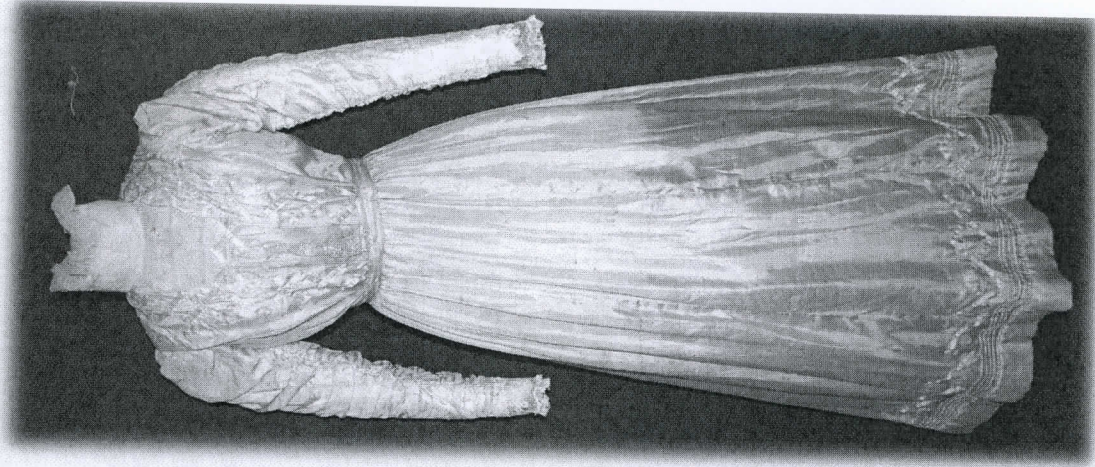
Withycombe, Susan, Gale Force. Qbn & District Centenary of Federation Committee, 2001 *Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser Grafton*, NSW : 1859 - 1889

The bride also carried a shower bouquet of white roses, orange blossoms and maiden-hair ferns.

Miss Emily Moore, sister, was brides-maid and wore white muslin and insertion, pink sash, white hat and pink roses, and a gold brooch the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. J. C. Moore, brother, acted as best man.

After the ceremony the assemblage adjourned to the dining room where the wedding breakfast was partaken of and the usual toasts honored. Shortly after the happy couple left by mail train for Sydney where the honeymoon was spent. The bride's going away dress, was navy silk trimmed with oriental lace, ribbon velvet, and velvet hat to match.

The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a pair of gold sleeve links and the bridegroom's gift to the bride was a gold chain and pendant. The wedding presents were numerous and costly.



Upon their return to Queanbeyan the couple set up their home in Surveyor Street where they lived all their married lives. George ran a carrying business using horse teams and was amongst the first to convert to the motor lorry. He maintained his passion for cricket, playing with and coaching the Queanbeyan team for many years.

Margaret died in 1942 and is buried in St John's cemetery. George died in 1947 and was buried in the Queanbeyan Riverside. George and Margaret had a son Courtney and he too developed the Gribble passion for cricket. In turn Courtney married Irene Mavis Capel – known as Mavis.

Mavis had treasured her mother-in-law's wedding gown and at some time – probably in the 1980s - had donated it to the Queanbeyan Museum. The gown became a much loved and treasured object but over time its provenance was lost.

Earlier in 2011 the museum had a visitor – Mrs Robyn Scollen, a Capel descendant, enquiring about the wedding gown which she knew Mavis had donated. While the Museum volunteers were able to identify the gowns we hold, there was no way of knowing which was the Gribble gown. This naturally caused a great deal of concern and a flurry of research took place – first the wedding date on the Births Deaths and Marriages website, and then a search of the Queanbeyan Age for around that date – and there it was a glorious description of the gown which immediately identified which of the Museum's belonged to Margaret Courtenay Moore.

The gown, with description is now on display and the Society is extremely grateful to Robyn for helping us identify this treasure. Come along and view it!

A SNAPSHOT OF QUEANBEYAN IN 1848

Rosemary Curry

In the 1800s, William Henry Wells, at age 35, set himself up as a surveyor and Real estate Agent, in the young Colony of NSW. Having arrived in the Colony in 1837 or 38, and been bankrupt twice, he moved about to various addresses, and decided to advertise his services thus:

"Newly arrived Emmigrants in search of farms or allotments, would do well to consult W. H. Wells, having maps, and plans of every estate in the Colony, carefully compiled and collected from the office of the Surveyor General and the Government Gazette."

He then published a book, *Wells Geographical Dictionary of the Australian Colonies 1848*. Here is his description of Queanbeyan and the Queanbeyan police district of NSW:

QUEANBEYAN. A town of N.S.W., situated in the county of Murray; it is beautifully seated on the banks of the River Queanbeyan, and contains 208 inhabitants; viz:-128 males and 80 females. The number of houses in this town is 54. QUEANBEYAN, a police district of N.S.W., embraces the greater portion of the county of Murray; bounded on the N. from Wolowolar mountain, by a line bearing W.N.W. to Alianoyiga, and from thence by a line bearing S. to Kenny's grant, thence by the eastern and western margins of Lake George, and by the crest of the Cullerin range to the source of the Gundaroo creek, and by this creek to its junction with the Yass river, from thence bearing S.W. to the range connected with One-tree-hill, and by this range to One-tree-hill, thence by a line bearing westerly to the Murrumbidgee river to Nickleage; on the S. by a creek and a line bearing E. to Tinderry mountains, thence by

the western source, and again by the eastern source of the Queanbeyan river, and thence by a line bearing south-easterly to Tumonwong; and on the E. by the Gourock range to the Wolowolar aforesaid. It contains 1700 inhabitants, and 217 houses.

Wells, Henry Wells Geographical
Dictionary of the Australian Colonies 1848
p351

CRAWFORD STREET OPEN TO TRAFFIC

The reconstruction of Crawford-st. Queanbeyan, was completed on Christmas Eve, and the road was opened to the entire relief of the local residents and the joy of tourists.

The reconstruction in bitumen penetration was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Evans (municipal engineer), and the result is a solid highway which is assured of catering for the extremely heavy traffic passing through the town. The work has been done by local unemployed, and has been financed by a loan from the Local Government Department of New South Wales, together with the usual subsidy of the Main Roads Board of N. S. W.

It is the intention of the municipal Council to re-construct McQuoid Street in similar manner, and with the completion of this stretch of road the town will have the finest approaches of any in the state.

Canberra Times, February 27th, 1929

THE WRIGHT BUILDING

A 19TH CENTURY SURVIVOR IN THE QUEANBEYAN CBD

Brendan O'Keefe

Hidden away unrecognised beneath layers of render and paint in Crawford Street stands one of Queanbeyan's oldest surviving buildings. This is the so-called 'Wright Building' at 200 Crawford Street.

It takes its name from Mary Ann Wright, wife of the cantankerous John James Wright, Queanbeyan's first mayor and first parliamentary representative. Despite being named for Mary Ann Wright, however, it is uncertain whether she or her husband was responsible for erecting the building.

The Wright Building stands on part of the large original Lot 18 of Section 8 of the Town of Queanbeyan, which occupied the corner of Crawford and Morisset Streets. The lot was first purchased by the partnership of Hughes and Hosking, but by 1862 was in the hands of Martin Byrne of later Byrne's Mill fame. At that time (1862), no structures had been erected on the allotment.¹⁵

By the time Queanbeyan was incorporated as a municipality in 1885, Mary Ann Wright was the owner of the allotment, and the current building now stood on it. Whether she was the owner of the allotment when the building was erected or whether she had purchased the lot from someone else who was responsible for its construction is simply not known at this point. Mary Ann Wright was reputedly a shrewd businesswoman in her own account and may

¹⁵ 'Plan of the Town of Queanbeyan', 1887; George Briand, 'Plan of Queanbeyan, County of Murray', 1862.

have erected the building as a business proposition. In 1885, the building was occupied by William John Cane who became the licensee of the Globe Hotel – now Walsh's Hotel – in 1890.¹⁶

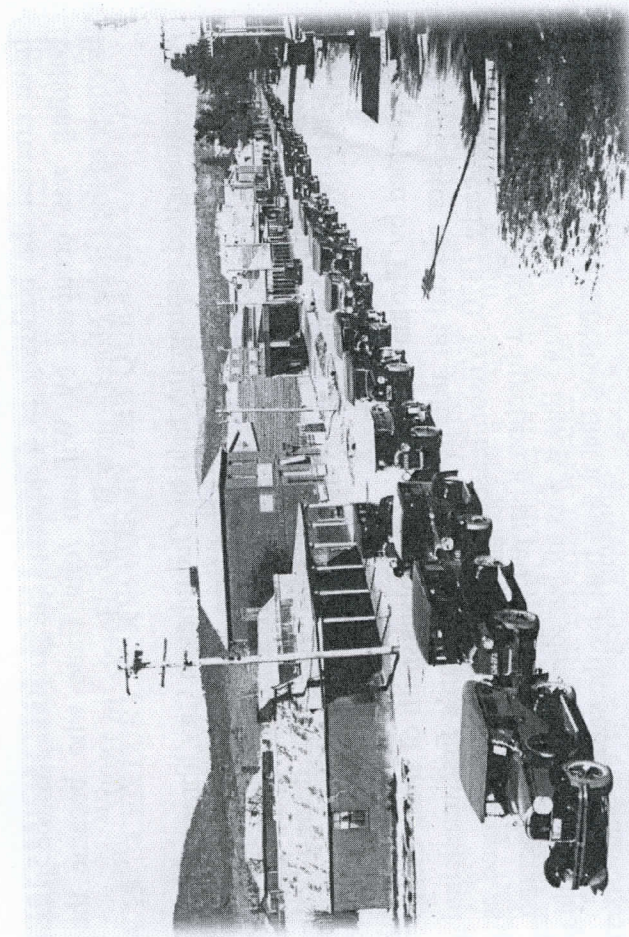
An uncatalogued photograph held by Queanbeyan City library shows the building in the early 1920s. At that time, the exterior brickwork had not been covered with render. The unrendered condition of the building allows it be compared to another building, now demolished, that was erected in Monaro Street in 1869.

It was owned by Thomas Wilson, a local blacksmith of some means who was later elected an alderman of Queanbeyan's first municipal council. In early 1870, Wilson leased out the building to be used as the town's post office, a function it served until 1880. A photograph of Wilson's building shows that it was all but identical to the Wright Building, strongly suggesting that it was built by the same builder.¹⁷

The similarity of the two buildings also suggests that they were built around the same time. Thus, the Wright Building very probably dates to the period of the late 1860s – early 1870s. As its construction predates the formation of Queanbeyan Council, the identity of the property's owner when the building was erected and the approximate date of its construction could possibly be ascertained by an examination of Old System title deeds at the Land Titles Office in Sydney.

¹⁶ Rex L. Cross, *Bygone Queanbeyan*, Queanbeyan, revised edition, 1985, pp. 23, 55; Errol Lea-Scarlett, 'Some women who helped to shape local history', in Rex Cross and Bert Sheedy, *Queanbeyan Pioneers – First Study*, Queanbeyan, 1983, p. 201.

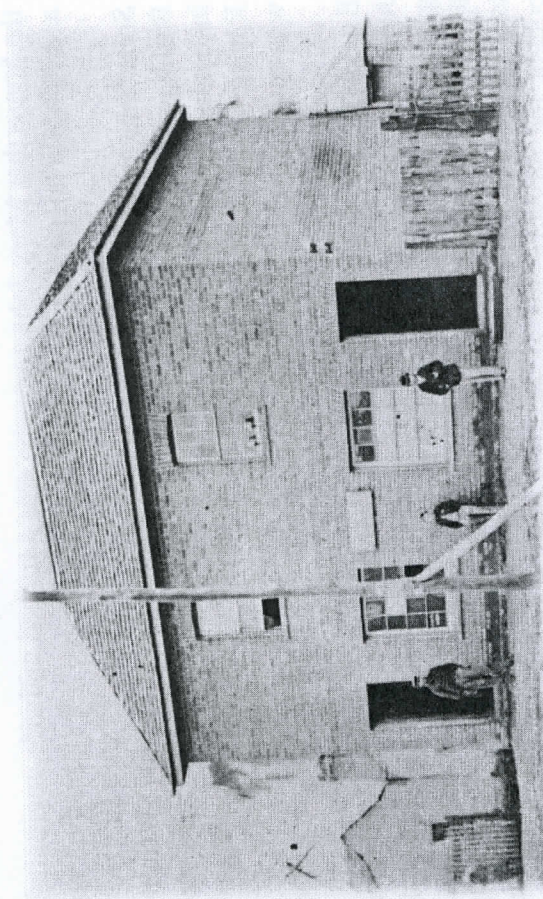
¹⁷ Errol Lea-Scarlett and Tim Robinson, *First Light on the Limestone Plains: Historic Photographs of Canberra and Queanbeyan*, Sydney, 1986, pp. 70-1; Errol Lea-Scarlett, *Queanbeyan District and People*, Queanbeyan, 1968, pp. 103-4; Cross, *Bygone Queanbeyan*, revised edition, p. 23.



Crawford Street with Wright Building second from left in the early 1920s (Queanbeyan City Library)

As to the identity of the builders, it is likely that, if they were local contractors, it was either James Hutchison and his son John or Thomas Samuel Jordan, son of the builder Daniel Jordan who had died in 1863. Of these James and John Hutchison are the more likely. They were well-established in the area and were able to take on large projects, including notably the Severne Mill which James Hutchison built in 1855. Interestingly, it was purchased by John James Wright in 1861.¹⁸

¹⁸ Lea-Scarlett, *Queanbeyan District and People*, p. 48.



Thomas Wilson's Building, Monaro Street, erected in 1869 and functioned as Queanbeyan's Post and Telegraph Office 1870-1880 (From Errol Lea-Scarlett and Tim Robinson, *First Light on the Limestone Plains*, p. 71)

Mary Ann Wright moved to Sydney in about 1891, but retained ownership of the Wright Building until at least 1907. During the long period that she owned the premises, she leased it to a series of tenants, apparently as a residence.¹⁹

By 1911, the property had been purchased by Nurse Mary Johnston (*née* Eva), wife of John Johnston and mother of Ancel Kildmore Johnston, who later became a very prominent citizen of Queanbeyan. John and Mary Johnston and their son moved to Queanbeyan from Williamsdale in March 1908 and took up residence at the house that is still standing at 75 Campbell Street. Known as 'Yvonne', this was

¹⁹ Peter Procter, *Biographical Register of Canberra and Queanbeyan: from the district to the Australian Capital Territory 1820-1930*, Canberra, 2001, p. 50; Borough of Queanbeyan [Valuation Book] 1905-1907, assessment nos. 188 and 189.

the house that Mary Johnston, who was a trained midwife, registered as a lying-in hospital in May 1910.²⁰

Sometime before 1943, Mary Johnston disposed of the Wright Building. During her long ownership of it, she had used it as an investment property, leasing it out to tenants.²¹ Her grandson, Peter Johnston, has no knowledge of what purposes the building served or who resided in it while Mary Johnston owned it.

By 1943, the building was owned by a plumber named William Joseph Heffernan. He sold the property to Esmond Motors Limited, garage proprietors, in March 1947. Esmond Motors was the company founded by John Esmond, Mayor of Queanbeyan in the period 1935 to 1939. In July 1947, less than four months after Esmond Motors bought the property, the company subdivided it into Lot A and a larger Lot B. The Wright Building occupied Lot A, while a service station development occupied Lot B. In December 1947, Esmond Motors sold both lots on to Leonard Roy Corey, a retired grazier.²²

Corey sold Lot A containing the Wright Building to Satiri and Jon Kitsoi, farmers, in January 1952. By that time, the building had been divided up into a series of flats. Satiri and Jon Kitsoi later moved to the Murwillumbah area and, in April 1958, they sold the property to George Fajka, a hairdresser. This may have marked the point at which a hairdressing salon first occupied the building, a function that

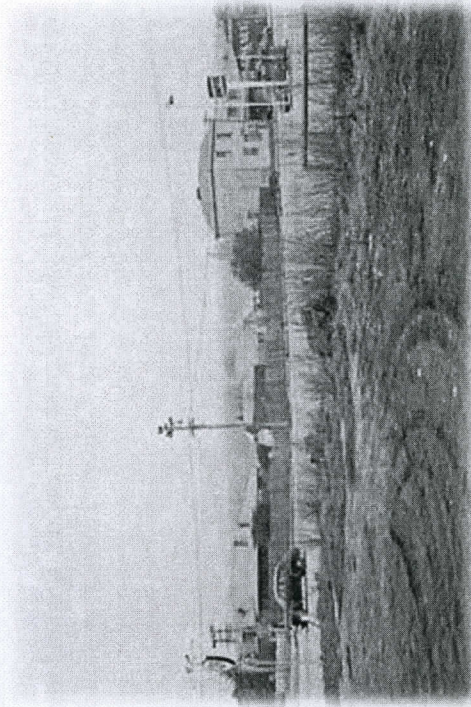
²⁰ Municipality of Queanbeyan Rate Book 1911-12-13, p. 9, assessment nos. 170 and 171; Ancell Kildmore Johnston, *Ancell Johnston: Townsman, Queanbeyan, 1981*, pp. 2, 8, 9; Procter, *Biographical Register of Canberra and Queanbeyan*, p. 94.

²¹ Old Queanbeyan rate books confirm that Mary Johnston leased out the buildings to tenants. See Municipality of Queanbeyan Valuation Book 1920-1922, pp. 12-13, assessment nos. 194 and 195.

²² Municipality of Queanbeyan Valuations 1943 to 1948, p. 12, assessment no. 166.

continues to this day. In any event, the lower storey of the building was converted for commercial as opposed to residential uses from about this time onward.²³

Given the development pressure that has long existed in the centre of Queanbeyan, it is remarkable that the Wright Building has survived to the present day – and that it is so little recognised for what it is. In fact, it is the oldest commercial building in the Queanbeyan CBD, older than such better known 19th century business premises as Byrne's mill (1883) and Walsh's Hotel (originally the 'Edinburgh House' millinery and drapery store, 1875). With the current development of the Queanbeyan Lifestyle Precinct in Crawford Street, the potential exists for conservation and interpretation of the Wright Building to make a positive contribution to the appearance and interest of the precinct



Wrights Building, photographed from what is now Bill Lilley's forecourt, 1955. National Archives

²³ Municipality of Queanbeyan Valuation Book 1949-54, p. 13, assessment no. 173; Department of the Valuer General, N.S.W. – Valuation List, Queanbeyan, 1954, valuation no. 928.

THE CUSTOMS OF CHRISTMAS



The first real Christmas card, was designed in London, England and went on sale in 1843. The designer was John Callcott Horsley, a well known British painter and member of the Royal Academy.

He designed the card at the suggestion of his friend Sir Henry Cole, who was the first director of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Horsley produced 1,000 cards and offered them for sale at 1/- (10 cents) each. They were printed on stiff card and coloured by hand, with the greeting: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You".

The card shows three pictures: in the centre, a family party; to one side the hungry receiving food; to the other side the poor being clothed. Puritans immediately denounced the card, since it showed people drinking in the family party. But with most people the idea was a great success and the Christmas card quickly became very popular.

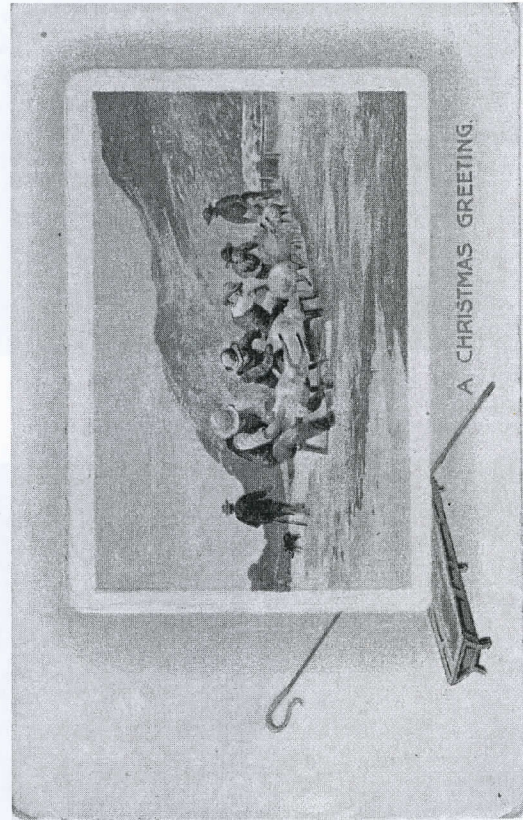
Today's cards are mass produced in their millions and are far more complex than the cards of even a hundred years ago, but as Marilyn Folger says

Christmas time whether 1911 or 2011 is about home and sending greetings to family and friends. My Aunt, May Ball, kept many of her beautiful cards, sent to or from Barracks Flat, Googong, Ginninderra, Gundaroo, Goulburn, Sydney or simply "Queanbeyan".

Although they reflect different styles over the years and were printed in London, New York, France, Germany or Australia, they all reflect the same good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO AUNT MAY BALL

1. From Gladys Norman, Araluen
2. Interesting patriotic theme after WWI, from friend Elsie
3. Pre WWI, from Lilly McInnes when she was a little girl
4. From Cissy Dec 21, 1912
5. Un dated but may be a portrait



JOHN JAMES WRIGHT

(1821 – 1904)

Mayor of Queanbeyan 1885 – 1888

John James Wright was born 20 February 1821 at Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland. At 16 he made his first journey to Australia, travelling with relatives. The colonies impressed him because he returned in 1842, and came straight to Queanbeyan – a very small town with a population of less than 100. He was employed as the pound keeper and immediately immersed himself in community affairs.



By 1850 he had opened his Post Office store where the Riverside Plaza is today. In that year he married Mary Anne Clarke.

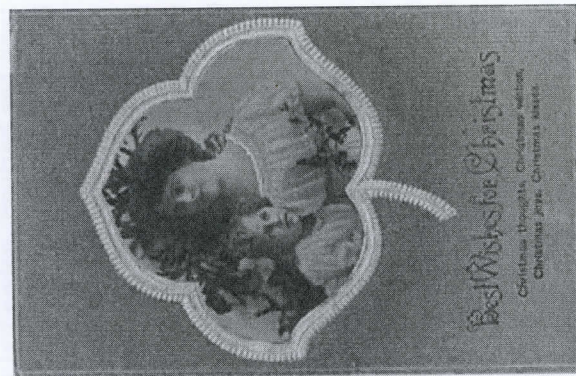
His community involvement included pushing for a permanent bridge, warden of Christ Church, steward of the Oddfellows Lodge, committeeman for the School of Arts, promoter of the building of a Methodist Church, member of the Telegraph Committee, Magistrate, owner of the Severne Mill.

His spirit led him to politics in 1874 when he successfully contested the seat for Queanbeyan in the Legislative Assembly. In 1885 Queanbeyan's first Council elections were held. Again John Wright was successful and he was nominated for the role of Mayor by fellow alderman, W H O'Malley.

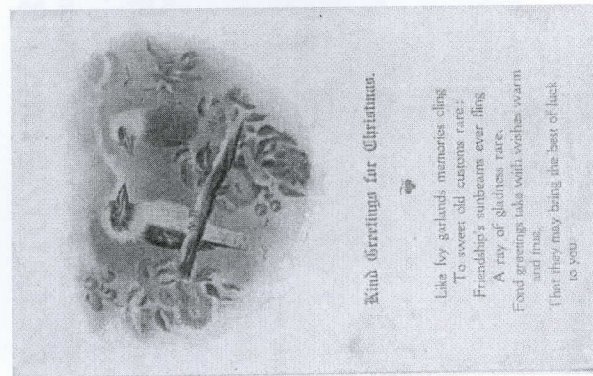
He held the role of Mayor from 1885 to 1888.



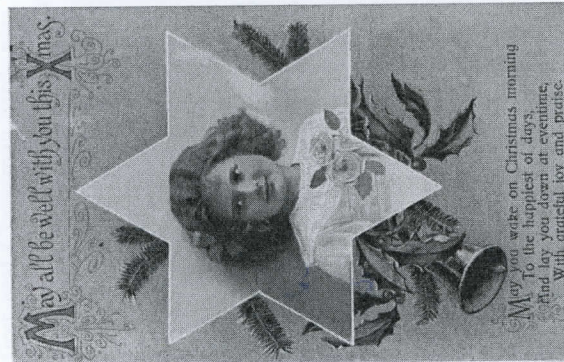
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2



4

POPULAR SPORTS

You place a ball on a little pile,
You hit it away about half-a-mile;
The further it goes the more you smile,
Then you wander after it-single file
That's Golf.

You hurl a ball with all your might,
The batsman hits it out of sight,
Then he with cudgel showeth fight
You keep this up from morn till night.
That's Cricket.

You kick about a bag of air,
Then after it you madly tear;
Someone kicks you, which is not fair,
Then the referee shouts, "Foul there"!
That's Football.

Two gents and two ladies hit a tiny ball,
And over a net shout, "Thirty all!"
Away flies the ball o'er a garden wall;
Then you go and look for-it, one and all
That's Tennis.

You roll a bowl on a grassy track,
And smile as you see it touch the jack,
Your opponent then hits it a merry whack;
Says. "See, old Billy, got. my own back,"
That's Bowls

You got a cue and chalk it o'er,
Strike a dignified air o'er a matted floor;
Say, "Boys, I'll run up a heavy score,"
But bang goes the slot outside the door
That's Billiards!