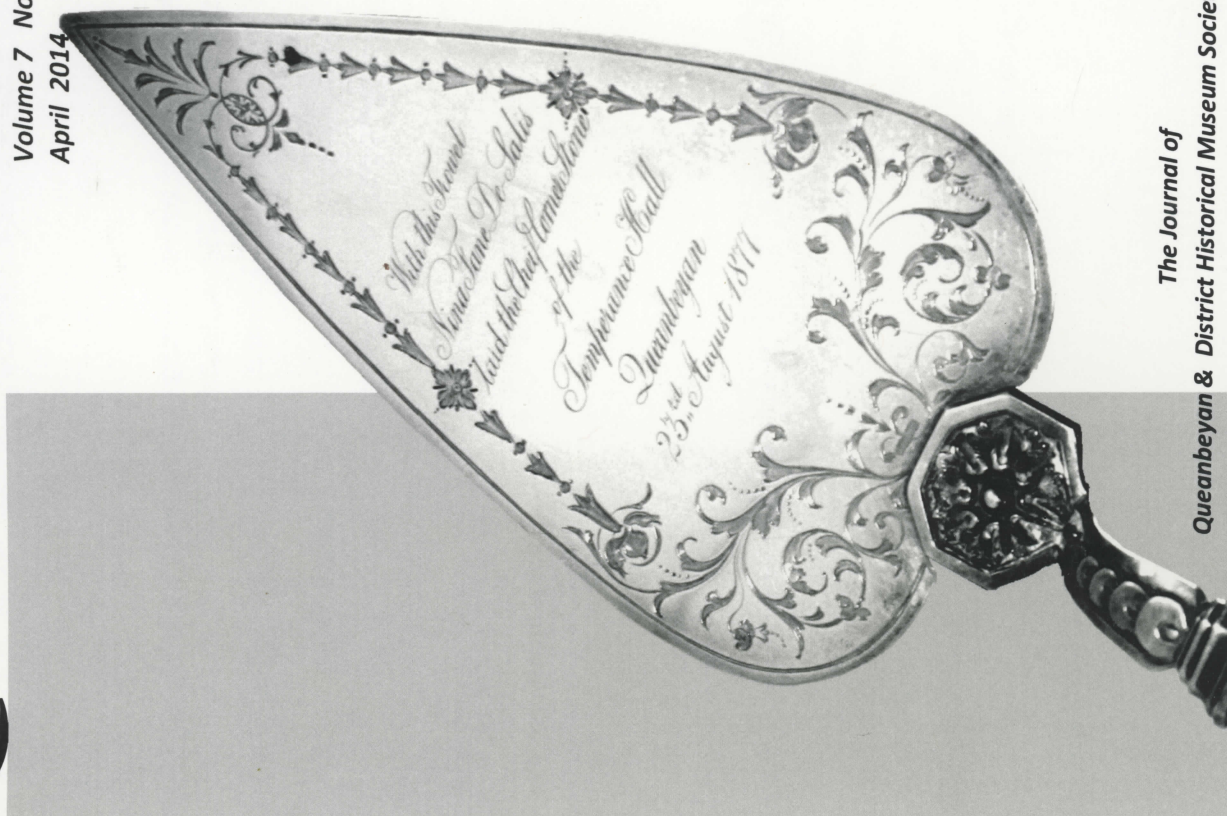


Quinbean

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10 Farrer Place
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The Journal of
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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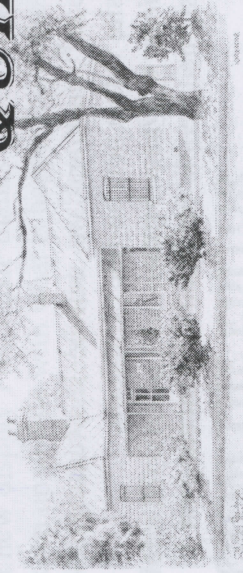
THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

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.

QUEANBEYAN

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April 2014



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is the Society's 45th year and we will be showcasing 45 collection items on the website with a new on-line exhibition,

45 Pieces of Queanbeyan.

We are so grateful the far-sighted people held that first meeting on 11 August 1969.

As usual, our small group of active members and Ximena, the Council's Museum Assistant, have been incredibly busy. We have just had a Collection Management meeting, which brought this home to me.

Members are busy cataloguing objects on display, new acquisitions, items for coming displays and items in store. We have set up a new group for accession and de-accession. We continued the practice of taking photos of the collection.

The list of current projects was impressive: Laundry display; Kitchen room display; Foyer improvements; Post Haste exhibition; Googong display; Isabella St School display; Taxi phone box; web, Facebook and blog; Oral History; Book catalogue, Red Cross Display. As well, we are planning to purchase a new computer to aid in the management of the collection.

The Oral History Project is coming to its official end with the acquittal to the Federal funding body, the Department of the Environment, but in fact it is barely starting.

We have purchased a new recorder to make it easier to organise the number of interviews. Several interviews, including one of an Aboriginal elder, are planned for the immediate future.

Preparations for Heritage Week are well under way, with a great program out together by the Society and Council. We will be launching a new display *Post Haste* thanks to our Curator, Gillian Kelly. You can keep up to date with what is happening at the museum on-line, thanks to Karen and Kerrie's work on the website, Facebook and blog.

John McGlynn, President

FROM THE EDITOR

Once again it is time to celebrate our heritage with events that cover the first two weeks of April. It is with some interest that this editor notes that there is a great resurgence of interest in our local history, and with this there is recognition of Queanbeyan's important position in the history of this entire area.

The theme nationally for 2014 is *Journeys*, and QDHMS is celebrating this by investigating the development of our postal and communications from the time a single man and a horse delivered letters down a precarious bush track. The track came from Bong Bong and followed the trails of the Aboriginal people. It came through places that could have become town sites of great importance, but over the last 178 years better pathways south have been found, and those sites have faded to dots on the map. And yes, it is 178 years since the first mails were delivered to Queanbeyan – several years before the town was developed!

Each of us who lives here has a connection to a journey that brought us here – whether it was our own, or those of our forebears. Some journeys involved months at sea, and some long hours in a plane; some of us were born here and some came from other parts of Australia, but everyone has a story to tell. Think about your journey, and think about recording it, at least for your family and friends – in times to come YOUR story will be history too!

Gillian Kelly, Editor

POST HASTE

By definition:

A post was a place or a destination, especially in military terms, and haste means just that – hurry! In early days when messages were relayed between posts, the sender would often write Post Haste on the outside of it to indicate it was urgent, and not to dally on the way.

From the slow beginnings of communication in the colonies, we have moved to a world of instant messaging or speaking to those far away – a world that relies on Post Haste! But the getting there was a much slower process.

Before Victoria was developed the main track south from Sydney was via Bungonia-Larbert and Ballalaba to the Monaro Plains. Access to the Queanbeyan district was by this track to Larbert,¹ thence turning westward, proceeding through a gap in the range via Bungendore² to the Limestone Plains.

Governor Macquarie had chosen a ford on the Wingecarribee River on the tracks leading south for a township to be called Bong Bong. By 1829 it had a Post Office and by the early 1830s another had been established at Inverary, with weekly mail from Bong Bong. Inverary

¹ Kurrudubidgee

² Bungendow

became the postal address for the district of Queanbeyan and the Limestone Plains.

The next two settlements down the line were Bungonia, and then Larbert. Queanbeyan was not a town: it was a district with a small store and a blacksmith on the river; but it was the pathway to the south. On January 1, 1836 Queanbeyan, without a town, got its own Post Office. The mails came from Sydney to Bong Bong to Bungonia to Larbert and finally to Queanbeyan.

The Post Office was established in Monaro Street near the Queanbeyan River on the site owned by William Hunt and Henry Buckley with Charles Gerrard as its first Post Master. The site was later identified as allotments 6 and 7, section 8 when Surveyor James Larmer designed the town in April 1838. Owen O'Neill was the first contractor to bring the mail to Queanbeyan.

About the same time both Abraham Moses and John Gray established a Subscription Mail Service from Queanbeyan to Reid's Flats (Bunyan) to provide a service to settlers in outlying areas who, in some cases, had to travel up to 100 miles to collect their mail. Subscribers were required to pay £4 per annum for this service. In those hard times these services lapsed for a period but were re-established in 1840 but again foundered a few years later.

In 1838, Hunt and Buckley sold their interests in Monaro Street where they had the store, the post office, dwelling and outhouses³ to John Gray, local business man and property owner. Gray soon re-established the post office⁴ in Crawford Street. By 1844 he was insolvent and his estate was auctioned in Sydney on September 23. It included the allotment in Crawford Street 166 frontage by 132 feet depth, on which

³ Lots 6,7 Section 8

⁴ Lot 19, Section 8

was erected a four bedroom brick cottage let at 9/- per week as the Post Office, neatly fenced in, being Lot 19, section 8.

By February 1844 John J Wright had already taken over as Post Master. Wright's Post Office was initially established on MacQuoid Street⁵, Queanbeyan's fourth post office. The mail then came to Queanbeyan three times a week, and the postage of a letter from Sydney was 11d!

It is unclear who succeeded J J Wright, but by 1853 Abraham Levy was the Post Master, operating out of his Monaro Street Store. In 1855 it moved again – this time back to MacQuoid Street (now No 9) with Hayward Lever as Post Master.



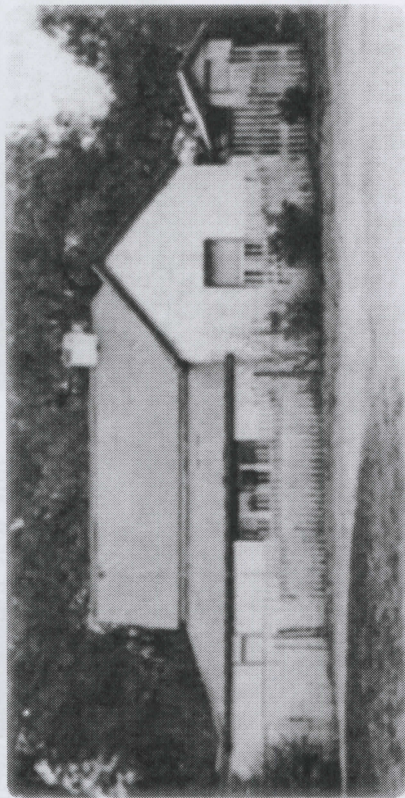
the Post Office was in MacQuoid Street. Woodger's house is on the left with a bulk storage and chaff business to the rear.

The next in line was Gualter Soares who resigned in 1876 to attend a Theological college and he was followed by James Kinsella. When Kinsella accepted the position he was given to understand that it was intended that the Telegraph Office would be amalgamated with the Post Office, and the Telegraph Master would be in charge.

⁵ Lot 8 Section 3, Rex Cross

In 1864 the much appreciated telegraph system arrived, linking Queanbeyan with the rest of the colonies, and indeed, the world. The office was established in Callaghan's Cottage behind St Benedict's Convent and the line was brought from Braidwood.

The first message was sent by the operator James Woodward on August 19 at 5.15pm, shortly after which Dr Hayley forwarded a private telegram. A message was sent from The Age Office to Messrs Greville and Bird, telegraphic agents for the publication in the daily papers. The office then closed for the day. The tariff for telegrams was 3/6 for ten words, and 3d. for each additional word.



Callaghan's Cottage – to become the town's first Telegraph Office

By 1869 Mr de Salis MP complained that the telegraphic office was too far out of town. As a result it was combined with the Post Office and Thomas Wilson's two-storeyed building in Monaro St was rented.

The work of the Post Office expanded with arrangements being made for the distribution of mails over a large tract of surrounding country. On the main roads coaches were used, but mails were sent by horseback

sometimes by private contractor and even by utilising the services of the Mounted Police in the area.

The route of mail to Queanbeyan was changed and by 1848 it was arriving via Bungendore from Goulburn on a two horse cart three times a week. About 1855 a Queanbeyan - Yass link was formed, followed by one to Gundaroo via Ginninderra in 1859. The next link was to Lanyon (Tharwa).

By 1861 there was a route from Goulburn to Collector, Gundaroo, Ginninderra and Queanbeyan and another with a two horse cart between Boro, Bungendore, Queanbeyan and Cooma.

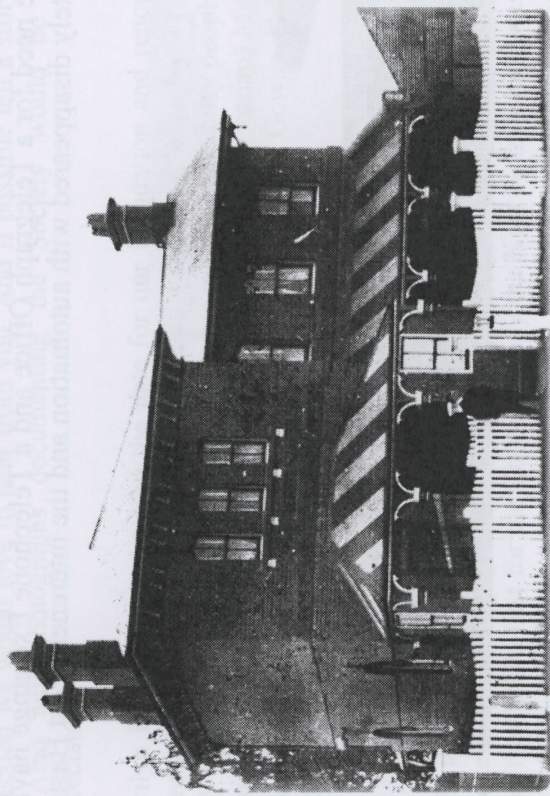
In 1876 the Post Master General was persuaded that a Government Post Office Building be erected in the town. It was approved but there was hesitation in choosing a site that was not to be south of Crawford Street.

However, the asking prices for available land were too high - a sum of £400 was attached to a block with a 66foot frontage to Monaro St, there was a title problem to a block close to the river and eventually the block on the corner of Lowe and Monaro Streets was purchased from William Beatty.

Tenders were called for the building's construction and in 1879 John Kealman commenced building. The postmaster, who had a large

family, pointed out that there was not enough space for them all in the proposed new building so extra rooms were provided. The postmaster moved into the new premises on December 24, 1880.

By 1881 the growth of the town was such that the citizens applied for letter delivery to their homes. The request was granted and on January 2nd, 1882 William John Nugent commenced the daily letter delivery with an annual salary of £50.



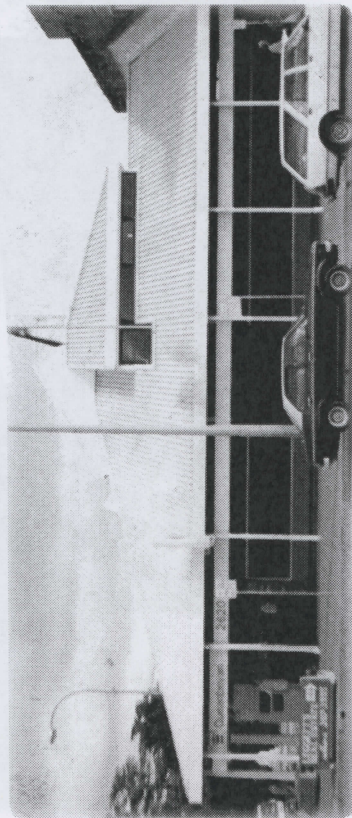
Queanbeyan Post and Telegraph Office with residence

In 1906 the final traditional service was attached to the Queanbeyan Post and Telegraph Office - the Telephone Exchange with the first subscriber being Patrick J Ryan of what is now Walsh's Hotel. To this day Walsh's carries the original Queanbeyan 1 at the end of its telephone number.

The Post Office and Telegraph Office was completed and opened for business as the first building actually owned by the Post Master General

on December 24, 1880. There were modifications aplenty as the ability to provide modern communication changed. This gracious Victorian building survived until the early 1970s when it was replaced by a building that was once described as a wool shed.

Even the woolshed had its day as the centre of business of the town moved, so did the Post Office, but back into rented premises. The first was the awkward corner of the building that now houses KMart, and then to the premises on the corner of Morisset and Crawford Streets, with the need for a Telegraph Office and a Telephone Exchange having completely disappeared with automation and the internet! Post Haste!



The Woolshed Post Office c 1980

Notes from

Cross, Rex Queanbeyan's Early Post Offices, Queanbeyan Age, February 2, 1986
Dale, M History of Queanbeyan Post Office, PMG April 9, 1954

QDHMS Celebrates 45 years

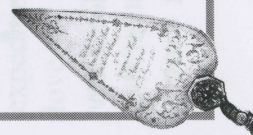
On the 11 August 1969 a group of far sighted Queanbeyan people met to set up an Historical Museum Society. We are celebrating our 45th Birthday with an event in August to which all those involved in the Society over the years are invited. We are also featuring an On Line exhibition on the new Museum website showcasing 45 objects from the collection. We have put two objects on line and 43 are to come over the year! If you have a favourite object in our collection we would love to hear from you. And if possible tell a story about it. Also any photographs documenting the Society would be greatly appreciated.

Marilyn Folger checked up on the date for our foundation and reports: the inaugural meeting was held in the Council Chambers, Monday 11 August 1969 at 10p.m. and closed at 11.15pm. A late meeting – all busy people! Present were Dr Fitzharding (Prof Laurie F at ANU and historian) Mesdames Roach, Hunt, Tapscott, Messrs Harradine, Woods, Beaver, Gowan, Deane and Lambert (He was a Councillor).

The bicentenary of Cooke's landing in 1970 seems to have been the impetus for it all – the Committee quick smart (21 Aug) wrote to the Q Council to apply for a \$20,000 BI-Centenary grant to buy or build a museum. They were knocked back but did get \$5,000 and later the Caretaker's House in the Town Park (they asked first for the Council to buy the Kent Hotel which was up for sale). **Kerrie Ruth Secretary**

Our Cover: Nina Fane de Salis was to become the wife of William Farrer, and lived her married life on Lambrigg on the Murrumbidgee. The 'trowel' is actually a silver cake server, with bone handle.

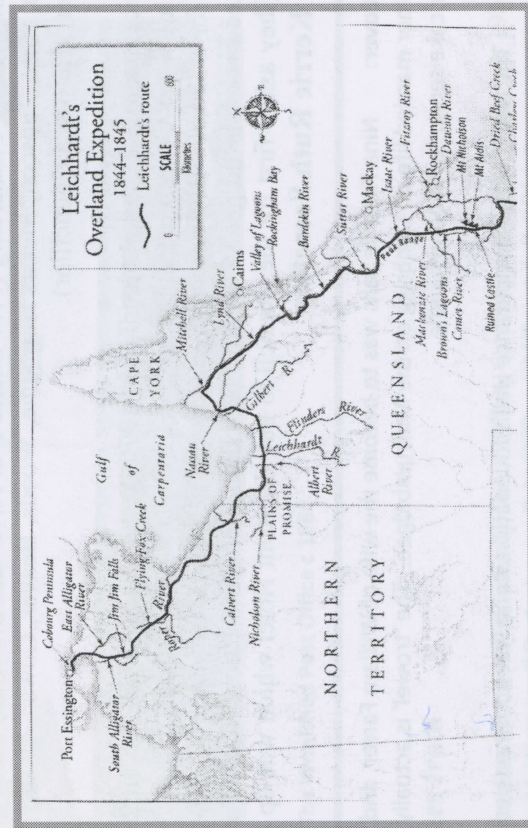
The laying of the Temperance Hall's foundation stone was accompanied by a small scandal. A bottle containing, for some unknown reason, a copy of the *Goulburn Penny Post*, was laid under the stone, and later that night an unknown villain scratched out the mortar and pulled up the stone in order to remove the bottle containing the paper. The culprit remained unknown, but there were deep suspicions amongst the townsfolk.



WILLIAM PHILLIPS OF QUEANBEYAN

Many convicts who helped grow the Colony in its early days have been left unnamed, but it is worth noting that one convicted person, a Queanbeyan citizen, played a major part in a significant journey of discovery in the 1800s.

William Phillips, a convicted felon, transported for life to New South Wales in 1838, on the ship *Earl Grey*, ultimately would assist Dr Ludwig Leichhardt on his difficult and successful journey from the Darling Downs to Port Essington in 1844/45.



William Phillips had been sent to work in Queanbeyan under John Lambie, the much respected Commissioner for Crown lands of the Colony in the 1840s. A proclamation of 1839 had stated that Crown

Lands of the Colony were to be divided into 9 districts, and Lambie was Commissioner of no 8 Monaro District.

Phillips was a defrocked lawyer, and a failed stage-coach proprietor, who had been found guilty of forgery at the Old Bailey in 1838. Once in Australia, he was also found guilty of petty theft, and worked for twelve months in irons. However, at age 44, he had achieved his Ticket of Leave, (requiring him to be restricted to a particular location where he could freely live and work, while under threat of imprisonment should he re-offend).

Travelling up to Sydney, William approached Leichhardt to join his Port Essington expedition, hoping to gain his complete Pardon . . . Convicts on such expeditions could hope to gain their freedom in this way.

The trip was not expected to take longer than six months, its main purpose being as a scientific venture, and a hunt for stock routes and pastoral lands. Port Essington was the third attempt at a settlement the British had made to defend the continent with a military base, with a view to it becoming a trading post, should an explorer find a way there overland from Sydney and Brisbane .



Ludwig Leichhardt

William Phillips the explorer:

Leichhardt accepted Phillips on the eve of the commencement of his expedition, persuaded by William's insistence that he had "a habitual love of enterprise and adventure, and would be an asset to the venture." The Crown prisoner, kept a rough field-journal of his experiences, and published his observations later in the 1850s.

All in all, there were 10 members of the original expedition, including John Gould's protegee, ornithologist John Gilbert. William was the only convict. Their days consisted of exhaustive travel, and Leichhardt noted that William trudged along "silent, solemn and unobtrusive" on his life's bargain for freedom. He "preferred to erect his tent away from the others."

In line with Leichhardt's interest in the sciences, Phillips experimented with plant substitutes to make a drinkable tea for the group. However, most decided it did not compare with the real thing. At Newmans Creek, William buried some peach stones in hopes of fruit trees shooting for future travellers, and also found a wild bean which when roasted and pounded, produced "excellent coffee, and affords much refreshment." Sprod (2006) suggests this may have been CANAVALIA PAPUANA.

Not all the natural food interested him, and William was less than happy when Leichhardt compelled everyone to "eat emu or starve." Dried beef was preferred by all, and the men including Phillips sometimes stole extra rations of it.

William was present and injured when natives attacked the camp, soon after dark one night, killing ornithologist Gilbert. Phillips was speared in the leg, and woke to see Gilbert "leaping from his tent with a spear in his breast." He heard him call out "here is my gun. I'm done for!" The other expeditioners fired at the attackers who promptly fled.

A memorial commemorates this incident in St James church, Sydney) Phillips recorded that he and another man marked a nearby tree with Gilbert's name, but the grave has never been located.

57 however remained to be told - Mr. Gilbert (who accompanied the party as a Naturalist) on hearing the alarm sprang out of his tent with his gun in his hand and received a spear in the breast, which must have entered some vital part, as he fell immediately, saying to one of the black fellows who was near him "Here, Charley, is my gun, I am done for," and immediately expired. Four guns were discharged by us at the Natives, and by the traces of blood found the following morning, and the track of some one having been dragged along through the grass, there is little doubt one or more of them were either killed or severely wounded, and which confirms this supposition, that the Natives were heard in the morning very near our camping

William, with his fellow explorers and their leader Leichhardt, knew they had arrived at their destination fourteen and a half months after starting out, when they discovered cottages, and eventually uniformed soldiers.



Port Essington c 1847

The Commandant of the isolated outpost, Capt. John McArthur R M stated that he thought they'd long since been murdered by natives. "I was shocked to see before me the German doctor and three companions, young men and one Crown prisoner and two Aborigines!"

Phillips gains his freedom:

William Phillips had indeed assisted Leichhardt to blaze a path to the north, unveiling pastoral land to the Colony, and Leichhardt set about writing Phillip's testimonial for the Colonial Secretary as follows:

"I testify that Mr Phillipps (sic) accompanied me on my overland expedition from Mor. Bay to Pt Essington from 13 Aug '44 to 17 Decbr. '45, that he proved himself very useful to me on several occasions, and that he behaved in general as well as could be expected under the trying circumstances in which we were placed, particularly during the latter part of our journey. "

In May 1846, the Governor recommended William Phillips for a Conditional Pardon.

Following the end of the journey, Governor Gipps advised that the expeditioners be paid according to the British Rule for "Significant Military Victories."

Thus, the Commander's share was four to five times that of the officers, and nominal amounts for the lesser. Other party members received 125 pounds. A 16 year old member (John Murphy) was paid 70 pounds, and two Aborigines, Charles Fisher and Harry Brown, 50 pounds between them. William Phillips received 30 pounds and his Pardon.

Phillips did not return to Queanbeyan, but made his way to Victoria, where, being unskilled, he became a shepherd. William Phillips was known to have a wife in England, and his convict record noted "mother and wife on their way to colony-free ." Since 1789, Governors had been authorised to request certain convicts' families be sent to them, but some chose not to come, with the stigma of 'convictism.' There is no traceable record indicating if the Phillips family ever did reunite, and no record exists of the later period of the life of this one-time Queanbeyan resident.

Rosemary Curry

DEVASTATING BUSHFIRES IN THE CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT

Peter Procter, 2014

This is a calendar of bushfires in the local region. It solves a spectacular difficulty. It provides a view that memory will never reveal, that is, fires have been a very long-term phenomenon in our district. This very brief chronology and the associated contemporary observations makes it quite clear.

YEAR, QUOTE & SOURCE

1820 'Wild saw fires of the natives who appear numerous'. (Flood, 1996, p9)

1822 'In February 1822 ... much country north of the Queanbeyan has been burnt'. (Gibbney, 1978, p3, in Gammage, 2012, p279)

1824 'These interesting downs [Tuggeranong valley] had been burnt in patches about two months since [ie, ago]'. (Flood, 1996, p9)

1858 'The first bushfire I saw was in the autumn of 1858 ... It started west of the Murrumbidgee'. (Shumack, 1967, p8)
'The first bush fire in my remembrance was that of 1858 ... It swept all the country'. (Gale, 1927, p113)
'We have been surrounded for the last fortnight with bushfires'. (*Empire*, 02 February 1858, p3)

1863 [The old Wright homestead was] '...partly destroyed by fire in 1863'. (Moore, 1999, p126)

1865 'Another extensive and destructive fire took place'. (Gale, 1927, p113)

'The bush is ablaze on every side...'. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 October 1865, p4)

1869 'There was another serious outbreak of fire in the neighbourhood of Duntroon'. (Gale, 1927, p113)

'The fire was on the west of the range ... a wall of flame ... we had an anxious time'. (Shumack, 1967, p51)

1888 'Extensive fires caused great losses'. (Gale, 1927, p113)

'A dangerous bushfire is raging...'. (*Queanbeyan Age*, 17 March 1888, p2)

1904-1905. 'The worst fire experienced in the district broke out'. (Gale, 1927, p113)

'The year 1905 began with a disastrous bushfire in the Ginninderra district'. (Gillespie, 1992, p141)

'Widespread bushfires caused considerable damage'. (Lewis, 2012, p136)

1918 'Another disastrous fire in the vicinity of Uriarra and the Cotter'. (Lewis, 2012, p136)

'The fire jumped the Murrumbidgee about four o'clock in the afternoon'. (*Queanbeyan Age*, 10 December 1918, p2)

1939 'Bushfires had a significant impact'. (Lewis, 2012, p137)

'The combined intensity of heat and fire ... have made the last few weeks so memorable and tragic'. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 1939, p10)

1952 'It was a tragedy ... The fire devastated 200 square miles that day'. (Douglas, 1996, p37)

'It was the worst bushfire season most people could remember.

Queanbeyan was nearly destroyed'. (Withycombe, 1985, p56)

'Fire destroys priceless Stromlo equipment'. (*The Argus*, 6 Feb 1952, p1)

1954 Fire control 'has been effective'. (Rodger & Jacobs, 1954, p195)

1984-1985 'Fires are raging ... in the summer of 1984-5'. (Withycombe, 1985, p121)

'Fires on the north and around Queanbeyan'. (Lewis, 2012, p136)

'Ring of flame surrounds Canberra'. (*Canberra Times*, 3 March 1985, p1)

2003 'The January 2003 firestorm swept through the pine forests and destroyed six telescopes'. (Horsfield, 2005, p219)

'The firestorm swept into the suburbs and unleashed a barrage of flaming embers that turned house after house into crimson fireballs'. (Clack, 2003, p51)

'How did the fire know we lived here?' (Matthews, 2003, p192)

Discussion

The purpose of this calendar of bushfires is to counter the appalling deficiency of information about them in the public realm. Several district histories, such as Lea-Scarlett (1968), Watson (1927), Wilson (1968), and Moore (1982) make no mention of bushfires. As well, living memory of bushfire seasons is far too fragile. If 'vox pop' is taken as evidence we see that it is useless on this matter because of the necessary lengthy time-frame. For example, usually Gale is reliable

about local history. He said that the first fire he remembered was in 1858. This is not surprising. He only arrived in the district in 1854. His last contribution was in 1927.

Fires are certainly a feature of this region, but their nature changed (Kabaila, 1997). In 1858, the fires were really grass fires which spread across the open countryside. Shumack mentioned that the farmers made a back-burn along a road line. This helped counter the flames which approached them from the west. After that time, the fires appear to be different. They became bushfires.

From its beginnings as the national capital, tree planting in the Federal Capital Territory was encouraged. There was always discussion about the type of trees to be used and their distribution. In a discussion on the Estimates in 1930, the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Arthur Blakeley observed that the pine trees around Mt Stromlo were neither successful nor commercial (*House Hansard*, 31 July 1930). No one seems to have raised any other concerns. They did not imagine the appalling fire events in 1952 and 2003.

It appears that devastating bushfires happen on a regular basis in this district. Never-the-less, there are variables in the mix that are distinct from this chronology, such as weather and fuel. Certainly the observation made in 1954 by forestry professionals Rodger and Jacobs that 'fire control has been effective' is hard to fathom. Their article was published not long after an earlier devastating fire had engulfed Mt Stromlo in 1952. Different viewpoints by conservation and forestry may be another issue, but the chronology itself is independent of these. It should be obvious that more is known about bushfires in the Canberra and Queanbeyan region (see Ling, 2013). Clack (2003) refers to other sources about bushfires in general.

Though this list of comments is straightforward and condensed, there should be no doubt that bushfires swept this district before anyone can remember. They have continued on a regular basis. Given our suburban and semi-urban preference for trees rather than grass plains, what are our prospects?



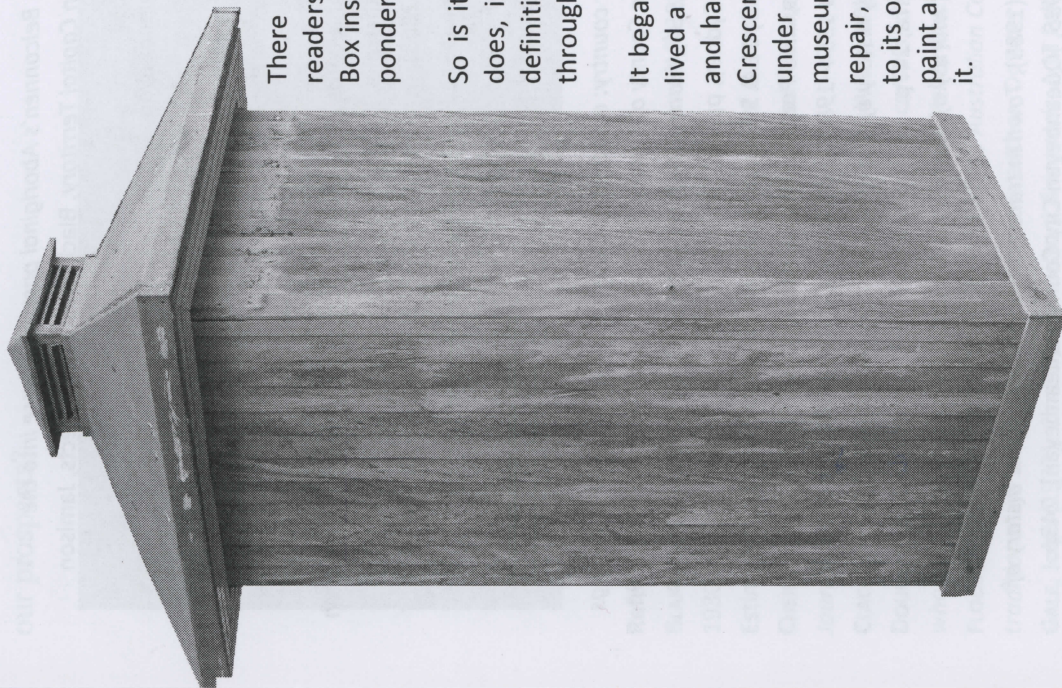
Canberra Bushfires 2003. ABC.net.au

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THE BOX



There are some among our readers who will recognize The Box instantly, but others will ponder...

So is it our very own Tardis? It does, in its own way, meet the definition of Tardis – a traveller through Time and Space.

It began life in Monaro Street, it lived a long while in Cooma Road and had a briefer stay in Pindari Crescent, lived ignominiously under the Hulm oak at the museum for a brief period of repair, and has now been moved to its own slab awaiting a coat of paint and some stories to explain it.

Queanbeyan, since the motor vehicle became an accepted form of transport, has had motorised vehicles for hire, to become known as taxis.

Early in 1926 the Council debated at length the correct site for a designated parking area that would be convenient to both the drivers and the customers. They settled upon the space in Monaro Street between one set of electric light poles on each side of the Boer War monument that graced the centre of the Crawford Street intersection. And so began Queanbeyan's first taxi rank.

Roll onto the 1940s when telephones were coming into vogue and being able to ring for a taxi was an economic step forward for the Taxi rank that had by then decreased to the southern side of the intersection. The PMG⁶ provided the telephone, but not a shelter in which to house it, it not being a public phone.

Some where in this town The Box was built of hard wood, with a gabled roof, and ventilation. It stood beside the lamp pole, requests for a taxi were accepted by the next cab off the rank, and there it stayed until the late 1950s.

At this stage the airways had increased to allow two-way radio and about 1959 the taxi company established its radio base in Ross Road in Colin Monck's house, and The Box was no longer needed.

But there was a second life! When Jill and John Warner arrived home from their 1960 honeymoon, there, in their backyard sat The Box. It was sitting on its own slab, had a door, and a new title – Thunder Box!

This was in the days when the town ended at the corner of Cooma and Fergus Roads, and the extremity of Cooma Road was not sewered.

⁶ Post Master General

These parts of town still needed the services of a night carter and pan service.

Jill was a girl from Canberra with all mod cons and this change of affairs didn't impress. But still, she covered it with a rose and used a candle in a jar to get to the convenience at night, and the walls were covered with pencilled telephone numbers for reading material. Then along came the sewers and The Box needed a change of status – perhaps as a garden shed.

The years rolled along, and eventually daughter Kerrie became the owner of the house and The Box and when her family decided upon a move, The Box went too, with yet another change of role – this time to support a swimming pool.

Time passed and it again became time for the family to move, but this time The Box could not go – so the Museum was given the opportunity to adopt it.

It took more than a few good men to move it, being solidly built and very heavy, but now QDHMS is delighted to include it in its collection – it has been restored and is now awaiting your visit and your story if you knew it in any of its past lives!



Gillian Kelly, with notes from Jill Warner, Kerrie Warner, Sue Warner & Clem Phillips

National Trust (ACT)

THREE CORNERSTONES

WALKING TOUR OF OAKS ESTATE & THE ROBERTSON'S HOUSE

When: Saturday 19 April 2014, 10.30 to 12pm

Where: Meet at Gillespie Park, corner of River and Railway Streets, Oaks Estate.

And if you are staying to look at Robertson's House, or just doing this part, 12:30-1:15pm. At 9 Hazel Street Oaks Estate

Cost: Gold coin donation

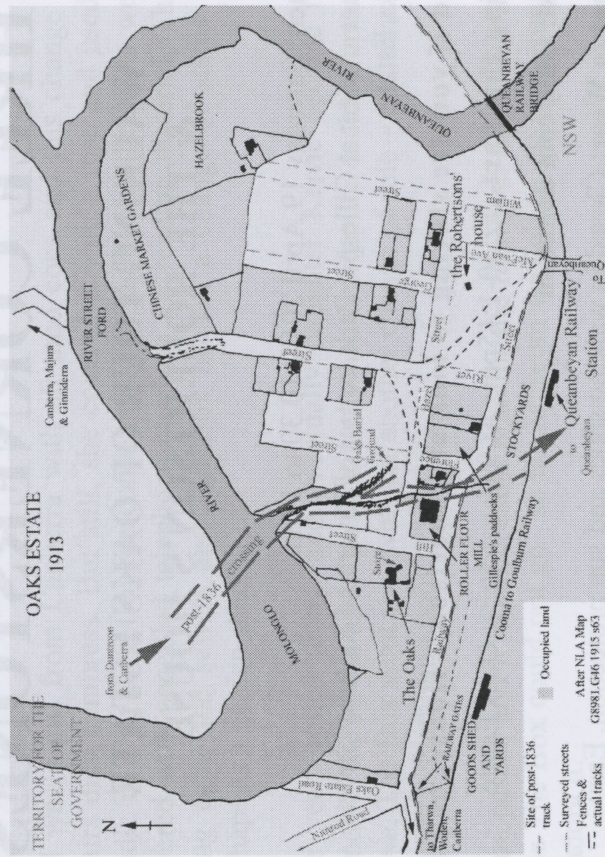
What to Wear: Closed in walking shoes and sun protection. Easy walking on uneven ground along the river track (however, we will also be traversing the moderately steep bank of a usually dry-creek in one part of the walk, after we leave the streets.)

What to Bring: Something to eat and drink if you are staying through the break between each session of the walk (there is now a working toilet on site).

THREE CORNERSTONES WALKING TOUR OF OAKS ESTATE

The Oaks (1836), Queanbeyan Railway Station (1887) and the Robertsons' House (1912/13) provide three cornerstones marking the developmental history of Oaks Estate. Viewed in its present day context, as a cross-border precinct at the junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers, they provide insight into the transition between

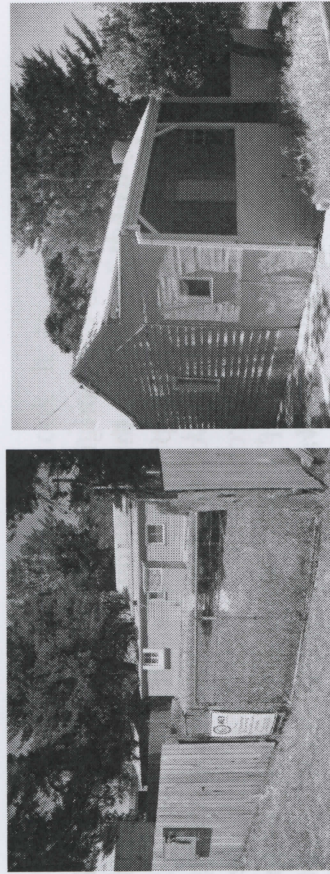
the region's colonial and federal eras and the links between Canberra and Queanbeyan in that transition.



Walk with Dr Karen Williams as she tells a story of the earliest tracks and river crossings leading south from Duntroon to Michelago and the Monaro plains, the journey of change brought by the arrival of colonial settlement, the construction of the Goulburn-Cooma railway line, the drawing of the new federal territory boundary and the shift in the region's focus from rural agriculture to the building of Canberra.



THE ROBERTSON'S HOUSE



The Robertson's House is the only known construction workers' 'humpy' in the ACT. The house, classified by the National Trust (ACT), was built in 1912/13, in stages, using a type of construction governed by the availability of money and materials.

The Robertsons used bush poles, opened out tar, oil and kerosene tins, packing case boards, weatherboards and later, fibro; because, at the time, money and building materials were short. As supply improved so did the standard of makeshift houses.

Makeshift structures were common during the early construction era of Canberra, but because the Territory administration deemed such houses temporary, they were later demolished. However, 100 years on, the Robertsons' house still stands.

Join Dr Karen Williams as she walks through the house and grounds providing insights into the changing lives of the Robertson family and this rare remnant of the lifestyle of the early builders of Canberra.

THE VILLAGE OF CANBERRA

The name of Canberra is of Aboriginal origin. They probably called it Caanbr-r-y. with the accent on the long vowel of aan, with a strong burr on the R. The Aborigines probably called it Caanbr-r-y, with the accent on the long vowel of "Caan," and a strong burr on the R. We should pronounce it Cann-bra, with the accent on the short vowel of Cann. Why the change? In brief, because it grew that way in English, and it is no good trying to fight a natural tendency of any particular language. But we can and should refuse to change it still more by accenting the "berra," or moistening it into "beera!"

As to the application of the name by the Aborigines, here is the most probable conclusion. Behind the trees on the low Acton ridge, and between it and Black Mountain, there is an enclosed basin, watered by a creek which Moore, in definitely calls "Canburry."

He wanted his estate to be bounded by this creek on the west, but the surveyor in 1832 decided otherwise, and, while Moore kept the ridge and the name Canberry or "burry" for his land, he had to share the basin with John MacPherson, who received a grant there in 1829, for his services (it is said) in helping capture bushrangers. He called his 640 acres by the name Springbank, which it still keeps. Now this well defined spot, a basin enclosed by a ridge, a river and a mountain was, I think, the Canburry of the Aborigines. What they meant by the name is not known, and the wild guesses made or remembered in recent years only confuse.

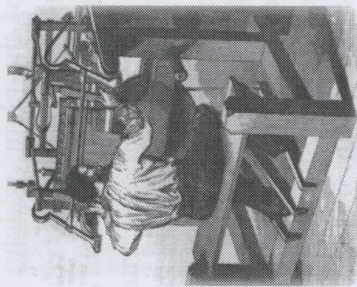
The successive stage in the use of the name by the white man are as follows:

From the creek-basin Moore took it to the ridge and the western part of the open plain which his house was facing. But the boundary separating him from the rest of the plain, which belonged to Pialaga, alias Duntroon was a purely artificial one, and the whole area soon came to be called Canberry plains.

Seven years later, when Robert Campbell began to build his family church, he put it right on the west side of Duntroon so that it might serve the whole neighborhood, including his nephew's and son's estates at Palmerville or Gininderra. to the north. It was called, not Duntroon Church, but Canberry Church, on Limestone Plain. Next came the Canberry School, about 1847 and eleven years later the Village smithy under the old acacias near the Church Crossing Road. In 1863 this became also the Post Office (and polling booth). Add to this the now burnt-out Church, Glebe farm-house, which was also used at times as a village store, and later as a bakery; add finally the red-brick Rectory in the trees built in 1873, and you have complete the Canberra of pre-Federal days - just a small peaceful hamlet, with outlying farms. The old surveyor maps are plentifully besprinkled with small areas marked V.R. These letters have nothing to do with Queen Victoria, but meant "Reserved for a Village." Canberra, however, was never one of these; it was never designed nor laid out, and its answer to the question: "However did you come to be here?" which in the early days of inquiry, often used to baffle me proved to be just that of Topsy: "Specks, I grewed!" Old Canberra grew..

Dr Frederik W Watson

MOSES MORLEY OF STRINGY BARK HILL



Frame work knitter

Moses Morley was a Nottingham man, born in Greasley in 1832, the son of a framework knitter. Hosiery was the mainstay of the village, but by the 1840s there was a sharp decline in the industry and Moses did not follow his father's footsteps. Instead he became a coal higgler, selling his product to households from a horse and cart.

By 1857 he had grown restless, and arrived in Australia on the *John and Lucy* as a single man who could read and write, describing his occupation as a bricklayer. For the next twenty two years he seems to have moved around the Monaro and Goulburn districts, amongst other occupations he worked as a builder in stone. There are several reports of Court appearances where he seems to have been a victim rather than a felon. In 1879 he married Sarah Corner, nee Miller, at Goulburn and from there he and Sarah settled permanently in Queanbeyan.

1882 found him living on his own land on Stringy Bark Hill – holding three Lots parallel to Cooma Road next to today's quarry.



Moses Morley's limestone quarry, Kimberley Knoll

In New South Wales, the 1881 Act allowed the State Children Relief Board to become the guardian of children currently in institutions and to place them with families either as boarders, adopted children or apprentices. By 1886 Moses and Sarah, as a childless couple, had taken advantage of this system and 'boarded out' a lad and a young girl of French birth known as Leah Wilkinson.

One Sunday morning Mid May 1886, about five o'clock Moses went to the police station and reported that Leah, about seven years of age, had been missing since eleven o'clock on the previous morning. At that hour she was sent with the lad who was older to bring home the goats. They first went to the letter-box on the road-side for the mail. With this the boy returned home, leaving Leah to fetch the goats. She didn't return so a search was made for her later on in the day, but without avail, and early next morning the services of the police were sought. Senior-sergeant Cornett, accompanied by Constable Bond, set out immediately to prosecute a search, and in this they were aided by several neighbours of Morley; The searchers separated and by and by senior sergeant came upon small foot-prints which he believed to be those of the missing child. The place where

these were found indeed, the whole country thereabouts is rugged and precipitous, and very dangerous for a little one to wander through after nightfall. The tracks were carefully followed, and never for the shortest period lost.

They led every direction, evidently showing that the poor child wandered she knew not whither. The sergeant found the country through which the track led so broken that he had to abandon his horse and pursue his way afoot... At one place, the little wanderer came to a deserted hut, and her footsteps had made the circuit of this two or three times; and then she struck out farther from home than ever. At nearly dusk on Saturday night, the Senior-Sergeant's patient and anxious following of the footsteps was rewarded- by coming upon the- child, faint, footsore, and hungry (for she had had nothing to eat since she left home). In answer to the Senior Sergeant's question, she said she was looking for the goats, and that was all he could get from her.⁷

By late 1894 Sarah was devastatingly ill with cancer. She died in January 1895 and was described as being of an unassuming nature, and was well liked by her acquaintances.

Moses continued to live on Stringy Bark Hill until 1905 when the entire district was ringed by devastating bush fires. On Monday January 3 *The Queanbeyan Age* reported:

Extensive and destructive bush fires have prevailed in several parts of the district chiefly between Yass and Queanbeyan. Hundreds of miles of pasturage and fencing and other improvements, with hay and grain stacks have been destroyed. Old

⁷ Queanbeyan Age, May 11, 1886

Ginninderra homestead has been demolished and the paddocks of Hatch Bros at Rose Hill in the same neighbourhood were surrounded by fire 'which destroyed upwards of 1000 sheep and several horses including a valuable stallion. It is estimated that fully 500 men including upwards of 70 from Queanbeyan were fighting the fire yesterday and today.

An old age pensioner and an old resident of the district named Moses Morley, who, since his wife's death, some years ago, has been living a hermit life on his selection near Stringy Bark, came into Queanbeyan on foot — a distance of four miles — early on Monday, bare-headed and clothed only in shirt and trousers. He reported to the police that on the previous afternoon, as he sat reading at the door of his hut, he heard a roaring sound, and looking behind found the bark chimney of his dwelling all in flames. Before he could turn to save a thing the rooms were fast filling with flames, and though he bravely entered the burning house, he immediately saw his only means of escape being cut off by the rapid approach of the flames to the doorway, through which he was fortunate enough to make a hair-breadth escape.

This seemed to be the end of Moses' life on Stringy Bark Hill. He sold his land to Mrs Swan who owned neighbouring properties. The proceeds of this sale and a small allocated pension allowed him to live in town until his death. On Friday February 23rd, 1912, the Queanbeyan Age announced:

ON Wednesday last, shortly after midday, there passed away an old resident of Queanbeyan, in the person of Moses Morley. Prior to his taking up his home in Queanbeyan, now many years ago, he had for a long time been a resident of Collector. He was a stone mason by trade, but took up land on the Stringybark Hill, about three miles south of Queanbeyan. Here he followed mixed

farming, and with it also opened a limekiln on his selection. He was twice married, but left no issue. His second wife died a few years back. Becoming infirm he left his selection, giving a transfer of it to Mrs. Swan, his next door neighbour on terms concurrent with his life. With the proceeds, added to a small old-age pension grant, he eked out his living. A couple of years ago he suffered from sunstroke, which greatly impaired both his mental and physical powers. Senility was the cause of his death.

There is no evidence of a first marriage here or in England and he was childless. Sarah arrived in 1864 as a widow with a thirteen year old son, Henry. Despite Sarah's death announcement (details given, one would assume, by Moses) stating she was from Leicestershire, she was born in Sligo and Henry in Shankhill, Armagh



Queanbeyan Methodist Worthies c 1900 left to right:
X, Southwell, X,X, JHW Walker,X,X,X, John Gale, X, George Southwell
Front: Rev Mowbray, Moses Morley, Samuel Taylor, Southwell.