



# NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au  

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Vol. XXVI, No. 7



**Live stream team:** At a meeting called by Ross Garnett at the end of last month to discuss how to live stream the August meeting were (from left) Brett Greig of Synergy Video, Malcolm Godfrey, Desley Garnett, Jill Barker (our speaker at the August meeting), and Ben Wieland.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ross Garnett

### Making history with hybrid meeting

AS I write, Queensland has again locked out travellers from other states to assist in keeping COVID 19 under control. Many are feeling the effects of not being able to continue regular activities which are just starting to open up, though differently from the regular patterns of meeting together.

Our Historical Society has been able to keep in touch with everyone via the newsletter, thanks to Gerard's dedication to producing it.

We love the many responses to articles in recent newsletters and the extension of the stories that have been featured, so please keep up that valuable communication.

On Saturday 22 August at 2pm, the committee has planned a 'hybrid meeting'—meaning a limited number of attendees at Warner Hall in Merthyr Road, as well as any number viewing from home on their phones, computers or smart TVs.

This is great news for those members and friends who have not been able to attend meetings in the past because of distance or ill health.

The 'livecast' will bring the meeting right into your home. There will even be the facility to ask questions online if you are viewing in real time, plus the video will be available at a later date on YouTube.

All that is required is that you click on a link which we will send by email in the weeks before

## AUGUST MEETING

### Judge Paul's oriental abode

THE Japanese house on Langshaw Street in New Farm was an interesting local sight that neighbours took their visitors to see until 1961. Various anecdotes were told about how and when the house was built and the eccentricities of Judge Paul, who first lived there. Then a developer bought the land to build an apartment block.

The story of the house continued when it was saved on the brink of demolition, and moved north.

"Who Judge Paul was, and why the house came to be in New Farm, turned up a more intriguing story with greater significance than I anticipated when I began to research it more than 15 years ago," said Jill Barker who is to be our speaker at the 'hybrid meeting' of the Society coming up on 22 August 2020 at 2pm.



the meeting. This link will take you directly to the 'livecast' on your device.

It is thanks to COVID that we are finding different ways of doing what we normally do—and, at the same time, expanding the possibilities of communicating. Of course, what we will miss is the sense of community enjoyed when getting together for those afternoon teas in the Kingsholme Courtyard.

If you do not have the ability to join us via an online connection, you will be very welcome to attend in person at the normal venue. If you do decide to attend in person, there will of course be procedures to be followed, as you are discovering almost everywhere you go now.

There will be no charge to attend the August meeting either in person or on line.

MORE DETAILS NEXT PAGE

**MEETING 22 AUGUST****Like to come in person?**

**H**ERE'S what will happen for those who plan to attend the meeting in person on 22 August to start at 2pm:

- You will need to book to be one of the 40 people who can attend in person. Ring Desley on **0409 498 403** or email **drgarn@bigpond.net.au** to book your seat
- Please do not attend if you are unwell or if you have underlying health issues that could make you more vulnerable to infection
- There will be one entry door and one exit door
- You will be asked to use hand sanitiser as you enter
- You will be required to sign in with your name, address and phone number as you enter
- Chairs will be spaced for physical distancing
- Afternoon tea will not be served at the August meeting

**MORE FROM ROSS****Make a party of it...**

**O**ne thing we are going to miss at this hybrid meeting (i.e. both in person and online) is the sense of community we have always had, so here's an idea: if you plan to join in the meeting online at 2pm on 22 August, why not invite a few friends to your home to watch together on your smart TV or tablet device, and have a social afternoon with a cuppa together. *Please take a photo of your group and send it to us for inclusion in the next newsletter.*

**AGM**

Because of these unprecedented times caused by the pandemic, the AGM this year will be a little different. Our constitution requires that it be held within six months of the end of the financial year.

The committee is working on a plan to hold the election of officers and committee members in a manner which allows as many financial members as possible to vote. There will be details in the September newsletter, but in the meantime, please consider if you or someone you know would be interested in contributing to the society by nominating as a member of the committee. It would be great to welcome someone who has a strong interest in researching historical

information as well as having IT skills. *Maybe that person is you?*

**MEMBERSHIPS**

August is the month when memberships are due – and the amount is still only \$10 per person. You can pay by bank transfer (details are on the attached membership form), at the office in the Ron Muir Room on Thursday afternoons 2pm to 4pm, by post, or at the meeting at the Warner Hall.

We encourage you to pay your membership as soon as possible. Given the difficulties of this peculiar year, I am sure that you will agree that we have endeavoured to maintain a connection with our members through the newsletter over past months.

**VALE JOE AND AGNES**

Our condolences go to the wife and family of Joe Gough, who would often make the trip from Bribie Island for our monthly meetings. We also offer our condolences to the family of long-time member Agnes Munro.

**WELCOME TO JILL**

I am excited to extend a welcome to a wider group of historically-minded people through our very first hybrid meeting.

I am sure that the story of the Japanese House in New Farm, as told to us by Jill Barker, will contain facts which will come as a surprise to some, and be of great interest to many.

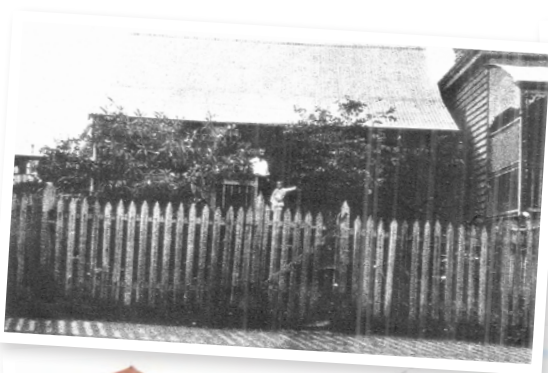
**DYNASTY OF CABINETMAKERS**

**Anyone for Billiards?:** Though uncaptioned, this group photo dated ca 1900 likely includes Benjamin Winston (top RHS) along with his four sons, James, Frank, Arthur and Edwin, as well as apprentices and possibly grandchildren. Born in Manchester, Mr Winston (1865-1934) was given charge of the furniture-making section of the department store, Finney, Isles, and Co., Ltd. (later David Jones).

By 1896, he had set up his own business in New Farm and manufactured award-winning billiard tables from premises in Brown St (a few doors from James St). A key exhibit at the Ekka in 1915 was a full-sized, massively-built standard Winston billiard table in maple, which was considered a "tribute to the excellence of work in Queensland."

The WWI honour board at the New Farm Bowls Club (B. Winston was a prominent member) is the handiwork of Winston's which operated for more than 40 years. – *Image: Thanks to Tina Morgan (one of her relatives is in the photo) via Lost Brisbane on Facebook.*





**From Kent to Kent Street:**  
(Top left) Thomas and his son Walter at 84 Kent St ca 1916. Flats occupy the site today. (Mid-left) Thomas built the house at 282 Kent St, ca 1933. (Left) Photo by Ruddle ca 1921 showing Thomas Stockley and his wife Bertha (1871-1936), and their three children, Milly (14), Winifred (11) and Wally (9).



*Shirley Jones, granddaughter of Thomas Stockley, contributed this profile of her Kent Street forebears.*

State School and attended St Michael and All Angels' Church. They climbed all the local trees and cliffs, played in New Farm Park and watched the Cowin family's sugar drays trundle by.

Thomas was on the Parochial Council at St Michael's, and Millie and Winnie were in the Girls' Friendly Society (an Anglican Church group). Millie said that her father

worked on houses and shops and at Kedron Brook, as well as on the Toombul Bridge which was near the flyover to the airport.

By 1922, the family moved into the Federation style house at 282 Kent St, Teneriffe, which Thomas had built. The block had a narrow nine metre frontage and a large backyard, plus an easement running along the back, which is now used as a street entrance.

Thomas named the house *Addington* for the town of his birth. Millie, by then 14, helped pass the bricks up to her father. The house has a street-level red brick frontage. Since it is on a slope, it has several stories at the back. The brick sides do not appear to be in the 1930s photos. Blackbutt floors were mentioned. This house has had extensive renovations which would have impressed Thomas.

The house was sold by Thomas' son Walter around 1940, so as to be able to purchase penicillin from America for Walter's niece who had osteomyelitis in her leg. Penicillin was not available for general use in Australia until after WWII.

During the depression, Thomas Stockley was in charge of gangs of men, some of whom were out of work doctors and lawyers. Single men received two days' work a week, while married men might be lucky with three days. Thomas asked his wife to pack a little extra lunch each day. After his death in 1933, Bertha discovered that he gave most of it to his men for lunch and smokos.

Millie became a milliner, and in 1930 at St Michael and All Angels, New Farm, she married George Brook who had begun work at the CSR Sugar Refinery aged 15.

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## STREET STORY

### The Stockleys of Kent Street

BRISBANE must have seemed another planet for Bertha Stockley (Parris) when she and her husband Thomas arrived from England with their three children in 1913.

Around a decade earlier she had been a parlour maid at Chester Square, Belgravia in London, just minutes' from where the famous TV series *Upstairs, Downstairs* had been set.

The couple had married in 1906, but just before WWI started, the decision was made to emigrate. Thomas (1869-1933) was a bricklayer, and with their children, Mildred (6), Winifred (3) and Walter (1), the couple boarded *Orsover* for Brisbane. Only their elder daughter would have remembered that the Pinkenba railway wharf was slightly damaged upon docking, and that the tug had its stem bent.

Thomas, Bertha and the children initially stayed at 40 Leichhardt St, Spring Hill, with his aunt Annie Botten (later Morris) who had emigrated earlier. By May 1914, the Stockleys moved to a workers' cottage in New Farm at 84 Kent St. Perhaps the street had an added attraction since both Thomas and Bertha had been born in Kent.

The Stockleys likely made the acquaintance of the well known Nurse Williams whose St Aubrey's maternity home was just across the street at No. 81. Nurse Williams would have noticed that the two-year-old Wally had a mild form of infantile paralysis which affected his arm.

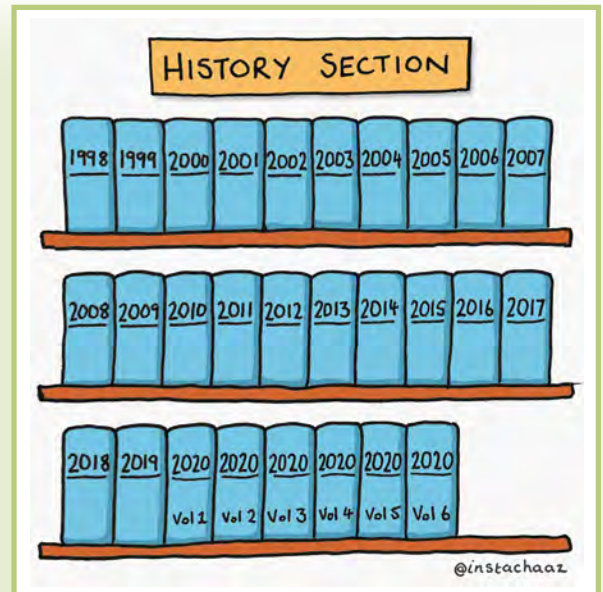
The Stockley children were pupils at New Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

George was in charge of the bagged sugar, and during WWII worked 12 hour days to keep the American servicemen supplied with sugar. He happened to meet General Douglas MacArthur and described him as a 'decent chap'. Later when living at Morningside, George rode his bicycle down to the Hawthorne Ferry and crossed the river to work each day. He worked at the refinery until he was 65.

Winnie married a naval man and moved to Melbourne. After his early death around 1940 she returned to Brisbane.

Wally went to Beaudesert to work around 1926, then moved to various rural properties around Warwick and Emerald. He rode bullocks in the Warwick Rodeo in the 1930s then went droving to the Northern Territory. Wally married Rita May Dobby in Yeppoon in 1945. A workplace accident claimed his life in 1952.



**Humouresque:** Artist Chaz Hutton from Victoria thinks that there's been a lot happening in 2020! Thanks Chaz.



**Early rural idyll:** Dwellings at and near Norris Point (site of the Powerhouse) in 1886. At least one house on the point was washed away in the 1893 flood (NFDHS News, May 2020, p. 6). A close study of the photo reveals several houses blending with the top tree-line, including Teneriffe House (just right of centre). – QUT Photo, courtesy of Brenda Koster on Facebook.

**Design & Layout:** Gerard Benjamin

**Photography:** G. Benjamin



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**VILLAGE** NEWS

MANY THANKS TO  
**Grace Grace MP**  
Member for McConnell (07) 3145 9100  
for photocopying the newsletter

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*There are some defeats more triumphant than victories... — de Montaigne*



### *New Book: Social history with page-turning appeal*

My grandfather Charlie Monk was well retired from the Railways Pay Office in Rockhampton before I was old enough to know him. He was an old-fashioned gent who spoke fondly of the ‘old country’. He was a man of few words and offered no clues about our family history.

After he died, I was surprised to learn that his father had been born in Ipswich, so my genealogical curiosity was stirred. After trawling through countless shipping lists at the former State Library (microfiche in those days), it was a thrill to find his grandparents William and Leonora arrived from London (with their son aged almost two) in February 1857.

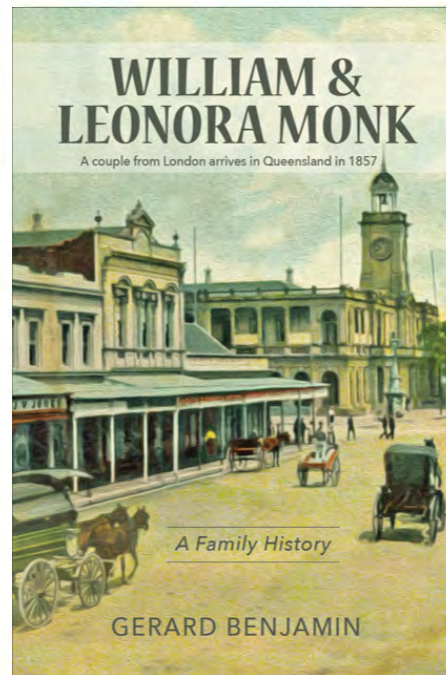
The ancestral quest was sporadic after that, although a visit to Cairns acquainted me with Surveyor Monk. He was the child from 1857. His

efforts tramping through the ranges behind Cairns to find a route for a railway to Kuranda, established him as a foremost railway surveyor.

The surveyor’s sister Kate, a widow three times, was also in Cairns. Her second husband could have starred in historical drama. Coming from a wealthy London family, Edward was literate, artistic, musical and charming. But charges of forgery resulted in him being transported twice, first to NSW then to Tasmania. After fleeing to South America, he later turned up as a doctor on the frontier in far north Queensland, and is credited with starting the first hospital in Cairns.

My mother suggested her eldest cousin Rhodie, by then in his eighties, would know most about the Monks. His rich resource of anecdotes had me assiduously taking notes. Among the many photos he had kept, one in particular started me on a trail that led to a cache of letters in New Zealand and an unpublished manuscript in Melbourne.

Fast forward to recent years when two cousins told me about their planned trip to central Queensland to see the ‘old places’. After we said goodbye, I felt I should have exhorted them: “As well as Rockhampton, be



sure to visit Anakie, Alpha, Emerald and Bogantungan, and other places important in the history”.

Though their trip never came off, I decided it would be better to put down the facts in book form. Giving it the title *William & Leonora Monk*, after the couple who had set foot in Ipswich in 1857, seemed fitting. These ancestors would be as delighted to see their names in print, as is my 93-year-old mother, the

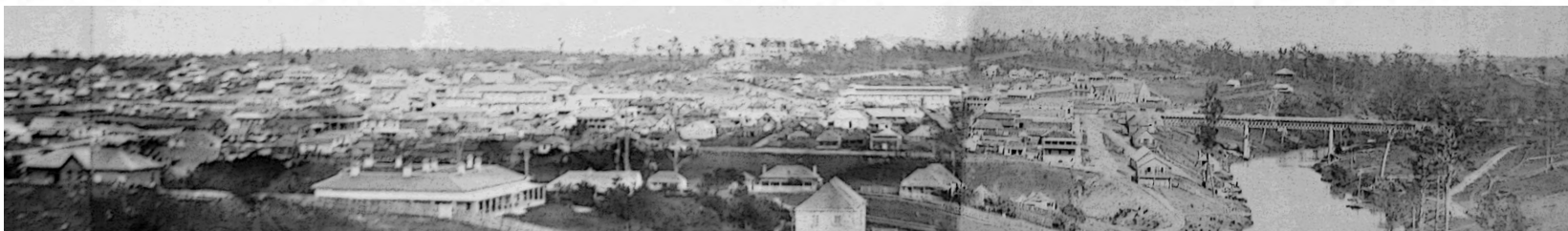
eldest of their great-grandchildren.

While it is just one family’s history, the casual reader is likely to have a couple of those moments when they think, ‘hey, I know about this,’ whether it be regarding families named, locations mentioned or experiences endured. After all, in early Queensland, there were surely only two degrees of separation.

One congruence stretches far beyond Queensland in the 19th century. On hearing that the emigrants left from 15 Priory Street in Bow in London, a keen reader of Hilary Mantel (*Wolf Hall*) made the point that the street was likely once part of the medieval priory in Bow. “One of its nuns wrote to Thomas Cromwell (Henry VIII’s Mr Fix-it) before he closed it down. Part of the property was given to Cromwell’s protégé, Ralph Sadler...”.

After reading the final draft, author and historian Helen Gregory graciously opined: “This account has captured the essence of good social history: the page-turning urge to read what happened next.”

Copies of *William & Leonora Monk* are available from New Farm bookshops. Below: How Ipswich looked when the Monks lived there in the 1860s.



MONTHLY  
HISTORY  
COLUMN from  
MY VILLAGE  
NEWS  
AUGUST 2020



# NEW FARM & *Districts* HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## Membership Form

Annual Membership – 1 September 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Type of Membership	New	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> contact info unchanged
			<input type="checkbox"/> updated info below
Name:			
Residential Address:			
		P/Code:	
Postal Address:			
		P/Code:	
Telephone:	Work/Mobile:	Home:	
Email:			
Photo permission	Photographs taken at public meetings may be published in newsletters and on social media		

I can volunteer in the following ways:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming at meetings     | <input type="checkbox"/> Collect Oral Histories                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set up / clear up of room | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with archives                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IT support at meetings    | <input type="checkbox"/> Write short historical items for website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with afternoon tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advise on new technology  |   |

**Membership Cost: \$10**

Signed:..... Date:.....

Payment method:

- Bank Transfer: to New Farm and Districts Historical Society Inc.  
BSB 034065 - Account Number 146217 – Reference: MEMB and your surname. Please post or email completed form
- cheque or money order payable to: **New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc.**
- Cash at public meeting or Society Office

**Post to:** PO Box 1141  
New Farm QLD 4005

**Email to:** [info@newfarmhistorical.org.au](mailto:info@newfarmhistorical.org.au)

<b>Office Use Only:</b>		
Receipt No:	Date:	Treasurer:
Date Entered on Register:		Secretary: