



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

Vol. XXVII, No. 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING

A.V. Dodwell put wheels on roads

At our September meeting, Dr Hilary Davies offered a detailed insight into the life's work of Alexander Vaughan Dodwell who lived from 1913 in Moray St, New Farm.

In 1905 A.V. Dodwell formed the Canada Cycle and Motor Agency (Qld) Ltd when he, as the local manager and with some help from others, took over the Brisbane operations of the Toronto-based Canada Cycle & Motor Company.

Dodwell's firm went on to operate in Queensland until 1929 with branches in Rockhampton, Charters Towers and Townsville, along with many agents throughout the State.

The company sold the Canadian Russell car and a range of British cars including the Clément-Talbot and Humber, the Italian Fiat, the French Renault and Darracq, and the American Dodge and Studebaker amongst others, thus putting

Queenslanders firmly on the road for work and pleasure.

CCM sold popular brands of motorcycles: the British Triumph and BSA, and the Indian (USA). Another offering was custom-built bodies for ambulances, buses, and fire trucks, including in 1909 the Brisbane Ambulance

Brigade's first motorised ambulance, plus vehicles for the Ipswich Ambulance Brigade. There were even motorbikes converted to be delivery vehicles such as the Autocarrier used by Finney Isles & Company Ltd of Queen Street.

The first motorised bus service between New Farm and North Quay was in 1911 using the 30-seater Commer bus from CCM. By about 1912, an Albion "Char-a-banc" bus from CCM was providing transport in the vicinity of Jundah in western Queensland.

By 1909, CCM was delivering taxi cabs to the Brisbane Taxi-Cab Company Ltd as well as to other local taxi companies.

In 1910 CCM built its headquarters including a showroom on the Adelaide and Creek Sts corner. The building, which was enlarged in 1925, still stands.

From 1927, CCM faced financial difficulties leading to its closure in 1929 as an early casualty of the Depression. Mr Dodwell remained

in New Farm until his death in 1945. Dodwell Lane links Maxwell and Moray Sts.

Many thanks, Hilary, for this fitting tribute to a family which has become part of the texture of New Farm history. Enjoy the talk online [here](#).



BY
Austin Adams



Glorious wheels: Top –The speaker, Dr Hilary Davies (right), with Anne Clarke, granddaughter of A.V. Dodwell. Above – CCM showroom and garage in 1906-9. (SLQ: 16279)

OCTOBER MEETING

The bells of St Stephen's

Our speaker in October is historian Sr Anne Hetherington whose presentation, 'The Bells of St Stephen's', centres on the St Stephen's site in Elizabeth St, since its beginnings in 1843.

Many would know that St Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane's oldest still-standing church, is one of only three pre-separation buildings remaining in Brisbane.

Anne is a Sister of Mercy, a former teacher and Principal of All Hallows' School. "Bells will receive a passing mention," she says, "but the emphasis will be



on the history and architecture of both the chapel and the current cathedral."

"In recent years I have been a regular guide at St Stephen's (covid-permitting), and in my spare time I am endeavouring to write my own family history."

The venue is the Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm, and the meeting (to be recorded) is to take place at 2.30pm on Saturday, 30 October. Afternoon tea will be available, and all are welcome. Entry: \$5 (members \$4).

The automobile engine will come, and then I will consider my life's work complete... — Rudolf Diesel

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

What's old is new again...

SYDNEY —1877: The alleged case of smallpox on board *HMS Wolverine*, just arrived at Sydney, is creating a considerable sensation. It is asserted that at the time the case was reported the officers of the ship were attending a ball at Government House, and it is asked why the Governor and all his guests were not placed in quarantine. The officers of the ship assert that the disease was contracted ashore in Sydney. A seaman on *HMS Sappho*, who is supposed to be down with smallpox, was drafted to that ship from the *Wolverine*. — “Fifty Years Ago”, *The Telegraph*, 19 January 1927, p. 8.

SPRING Hill — 1900: The first case of plague struck Spring Hill in May 1900: “The authorities have decided that a brick house in Bowen Street, Spring Hill, in which the patient lived, is to be pulled down. Five wooden cottages adjoining are to be burnt, having been condemned as unfit for human habitation.” — *The Northern Miner*, 9 May 1900.

QUEENSLAND — 1950: The total number of plague cases in Queensland is 92, of which 40 have proved fatal. There are now 26 cases under treatment. After a lull of some days a fresh case of plague was reported in Brisbane on Wednesday, the patient being a carter residing at Spring Hill. Another case came to light on Thursday. — *Warwick Daily News*, 12 Aug 1950, p. 4.



Gwandoben & Genevieve: (Above left) The Tudoresque Gwandoben was built for a son of A.V. and Mrs Dodwell in 1933, just below the Dodwell family home at Moray St. Passers-by on the New Farm riverwalk these days will notice that the house is ‘under wraps’ awaiting positioning as part of a new development on the site. Meanwhile, society member Dick Banks offered the reminder that a 1904 Darracq (a brand distributed by CCM) was the star in the popular 1953 film *Genevieve* about a barrister whose friend challenges him to a race during the annual London to Brighton Run.

KENT ST QUERY

BOARDING HOUSE...

KY wrote that she is researching the house at 71 Kent St, New Farm, saying, “It would be amazing to know more about the history of the house and to be able to share that with the home’s current residents and my colleagues.”

NFDHS replied that a quick look at Trove’s newspapers indicates that

the address appears to have been a boarding house during 1920-50s. A typical advert from 1920 read: “Clean double furnished veranda room, vacant, also single, conveniences, no children; 71 Kent St., New Farm.”

Only doors away at No. 81 Kent St was Nurse Williams’ maternity hospital, as per this [article](#) in October 2020.

If you can help further with this query, please email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Yes, it’s Festival time!

The Teneriffe Festival was conceived in 2010 to mark Teneriffe officially becoming a suburb in its own right after 150 years, showcasing its rich heritage in Brisbane’s history and celebrating its current lifestyle appeal. With a tag line of ‘Wool, Wool stores and Wharves’, its purpose was to celebrate where Teneriffe has come from, where it is now and its aspirations for the future. This is an area proud of its past but with a clear vision for its place as a shining example of the outcomes possible for urban renewal.

The Historical Society has been an integral part of each Festival since that first one in 2010 in order to showcase the rich history of Teneriffe. Many people who now live in Teneriffe could be unaware that there were wharves where they walk along the Teneriffe Boardwalk, and while knowing that there are significant buildings called Woolstores, Cannery and Gasworks, they are unaware of the industry in Teneriffe in by-gone days.

It is the role of the Historical Society to showcase this history. This grounding

in history is what makes the Teneriffe Festival not just another festival.

Plans for the Historical Society display at the Teneriffe Festival on 23 October are very much on our agenda right now and we need your help to staff it over a period of about six hours. We will display historical photos of Teneriffe that will stimulate conversation. Did I hear you say you don’t know much about Teneriffe? This is a day when we can all learn something new together. What you need to be a volunteer is an enthusiasm for history and a desire to promote our Society.

Also being sponsored by the Historical Society are the bus tours of Teneriffe in a restored bus supplied by the Omnibus and Coach Society. Stuart Wallace is making all the arrangements, but he needs guides for the tours that are conducted on the hour throughout the day. Detailed notes of places of historical significance along the route are supplied and training given, so please consider becoming a guide for a tour or two.

To volunteer as a bus tour guide or to help to staff the stand, please email info@newfarmhistorical.org.au, or phone Desley on 0409 498 403.



Automotive heirloom: The award was to "A.V. Dodwell" by the Studebaker Export Corporation "in recognition of fifteen years of loyal business association".



On the Boundary: A view ca 1880, probably from Bowen Tce, of Petrie Bight in the left foreground, with Boundary St heading up towards St Paul's Tce. Near the centre of the image is the Hotel Orient dating from 1875. (QUT Digital Collections)

Photos: Gerard Benjamin, Gayle Martin

Design and Layout: G. Benjamin



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

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Raise your words, not your voice. It is the rain that makes the flowers grow, not thunder... — Rumi

**GERARD BENJAMIN**

Miegunyah House Museum: Open Day, and lots to see

“I’m not going unless I can bring my pet”, was the reputed threat of 15-year-old Frances Sophia Jones. The year was 1857, and the pet in question was a red-winged parrot. The girl’s mother, Mrs Mary Louisa Jones, capitulated. Besides, she had other things on her mind. This rushed voyage to England was to prevent another daughter, Lizzie, from joining a Catholic order.

Mrs Jones had been widowed for five years. Her husband Richard had been a prominent early citizen and merchant in Brisbane. The family had been living at New Farm in a cottage on property (later to become Merthyr, the estate of Sir Samuel Griffith) which was sold up before embarking.

On the voyage, the parrot likely charmed fellow passengers since it had been taught the patriotic cry, “Sebastopol is taken”. Despite this,

Frances recorded a perilous moment in her diary: “On 25th Wednesday at about 7.00, a very large sea washed over the deck and into the saloon where it became nearly six inches deep. My parrot got out of his cage but was fortunately caught again...”

In London, the family resided at Cambridge Tce overlooking Regent’s Park. As the story goes, a visitor, Mr Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur, was looking for their house and spotted the bird hanging in its cage in the window. We can imagine the parties eagerly comparing notes about Queensland, especially regarding Macarthur’s daughters Mrs Patrick Leslie and the late Mrs Wickham.

Unfortunately, the parrot caught a cold and died—but thanks to the wonders of the taxidermist’s art, the bird ‘lived on’, returning to Australia with Frances Sophia and remaining with her always.

In 1954, almost a century after this story began, Frances’s daughter, Mrs Cecilia Bancroft, gave the parrot to the Queensland Women’s Historical Association (QWHA), and it eventually took up residence at Miegunyah in Bowen Hills in 1967 when that distinguished home, built in 1886 by the Perry family, was purchased by the QWHA to be opened as a museum.

“Frances Sophia’s parrot is just

The picnic basket owned by the Perry family who lived at Miegunyah from 1886 until 1920.



Miegunyah House Museum, 35 Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills.

one of more than 10,000 fascinating items that have been gathered over decades,” explained Jenny Steadman, the Collections Manager.

“We have exhibits that contribute to Brisbane history in areas covering embroidery, art, furniture, fashion and domestic equipment.”

“Miegunyah House Museum even has the bracelet given to Lady Diamantina Bowen, our first Governor’s wife, as the couple were departing Brisbane in 1868,” says Jenny.

Quite apart from its museum, Miegunyah offers visitors the experience of a gracious old homestead, with its high ceilings, spacious reception rooms, wide verandahs, and room for the servants, making you glad that it has survived progress when countless others have succumbed.

Indeed, the house proves to be an

unexpected gem for the many who mainly associate Bowen Hills with the faded ghost of Cloudland or have a vague awareness that a famous woman aviator may have once lived in the suburb.

In fact, the record-breaking flyer, Lores Bonney, whose husband was a cousin of Bert Hinkler, lived at No. 15 Jordan Tce, just along from Miegunyah at No. 35.

On Sunday 10 October (10.30am to 3.30pm), Miegunyah is holding an Open Day thereby providing an ideal opportunity to take in the ambience of the house and to view its exhibits. Admission is free, and you can also enjoy Devonshire teas, a book sale and a craft stall.

At the very least, the Open Day will offer you the chance to view Frances Sophia’s well travelled and revered red-winged parrot.

MONTHLY HISTORY COLUMN from
MY VILLAGE NEWS OCTOBER 2021





NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Membership Form

Annual Membership – 1 September 2021 to 31st August 2022

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

Office Use Only:		
Receipt No:	Date:	Treasurer:
Date Entered on Register:		Secretary:

ESSENTIAL BOOKS published by the New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc.

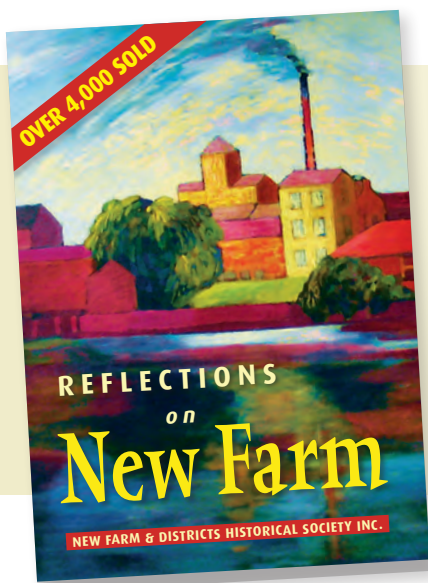
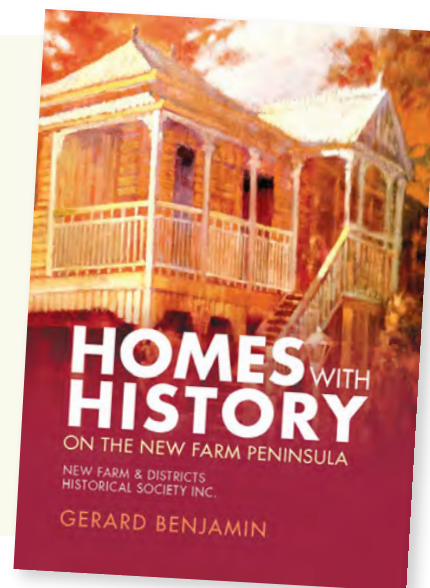
Homes with History — on the New Farm Peninsula

by Gerard Benjamin

This enthralling snapshot of more than 20 local homes notes architectural details, but its main focus is on *people*—those who built the houses, the architects who designed them, and the successive residents and families who occupied and adapted them.

When launching the book, the former Governor of Queensland Penelope Wensley said, “The individual stories are absorbing... All who take the time to read the book will enjoy the parade of personalities that passes through its pages...”

160pp, illustrated in colour; includes five letters (1848-52) of James Gibbon
PAPERBACK, \$35; HARDBACK, \$59.50.



Reflections on New Farm

compiled by Gerard Benjamin & Gloria Grant

This book has sold more than 4,000 copies, and is an indispensable reference about New Farm's past, with enlightening insights about the suburb's notable places, people, landmarks and events — particularly through the eyes of long-time residents who remember how it used to be... With 35 chapters and over 150 photos or graphics, you'll relish these valuable personal recollections and wonderful stories.

PAPERBACK, 2008, 176pp. ISBN: 9780980586800 — \$25

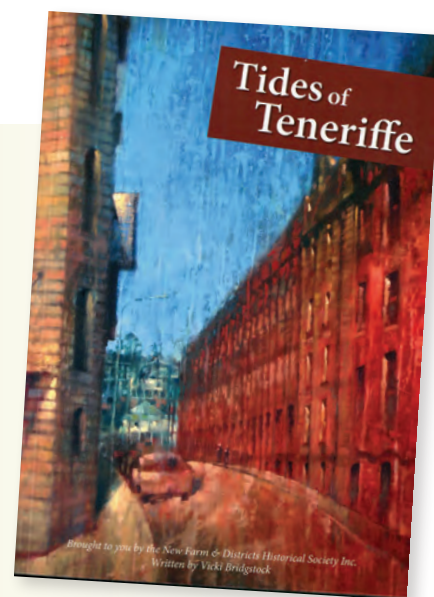
Tides of Teneriffe

by Vicki Bridgstock

How Teneriffe has changed—from being a colonial outpost, when its wool and sugar wharves were the centre of Queensland's economic boom, to being a bustling inner city suburb in its own right.

Vicki's book puts you in the flow of Teneriffe's past and local memories, and features historic images and never-before published photos of life in Teneriffe. Hear the hidden voices and stories behind this choice spot in Brisbane's heartland.

PAPERBACK, 2009, 72pp. • ISBN: 9780980586817 — \$20



The three books are available from local bookshops in New Farm and Newstead, as well as from the State Library of Queensland Library Shop. Alternatively, the books may be purchased from the New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc. Phone 0409 498 403 or email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au • www.newfarmhistorical.org.au