



Aerial view of Teneriffe and New Farm 1928 and 2023



NEW FARM & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Vol XXVIII No 3

MARCH MEETING

On a perfect autumn afternoon, 90 dedicated local history lovers met George Cowin the fourth, whose great grandfather had migrated at the age of 17 in 1881 from the Isle of Man to Brisbane. He began work as a yardman at nearby Newstead house. One of his many chores was teaching one of the Harris girls to ride sidesaddle. Another was building stone walls on the property. However, he missed the farming life, and moved to Grandchester to establish an orchard but it failed because of severe drought.

He returned to Brisbane and acquired a job with his horse and dray in a Woolloongabba sawmill. He then became a carrier in Eagle Street.

Through this period, George the first rented rooms in Harcourt Street New Farm where he could house his horse and dray. In the street he met Eliza White also a migrant from England, and a governess to Mr Jackson. He instilled in her good saving skills, and she soon bought a cottage in Brown Street New Farm. George the first and Eliza were married in 1890 at the Holy Trinity Church in the Valley. Eliza would not allow George to go back to farming. Fortunately, CSR was being built in 1892 and George won the tender to cart refined sugar to customers. George the fourth, his great grandson, treated us to wonderful photos of the original CSR, its wharves, jetties, buildings, sheds, its cold storage facilities and the many horses and drays. Horses continued to be used until 1919 when George was able to buy leftover trucks from World War I. At the same time, George and Eliza bought land and built a home in Villiers Street, New farm, with office and stables for 36 draught horses.



George was very community minded, raising funds to establish New Farm state school in 1901. Three generations of Cowins have attended the school. He was also a founding member of the Master Carriers Association of Brisbane, and George, the fourth, has continued this position. George the first was also a founding member of the Queensland Manx society, and George the fourth has also followed this tradition. George the second entered the family carrier business after serving overseas in World War I, and his son George the third joined in 1935 after completing high school.

George the fourth touched on the very important activities of the CSR social club which sponsored sporting teams in football, cricket and tennis, also annual picnics and Christmas parties.

The Cowins successfully ran this business until 1993, almost 100 years of service to the CSR. The home and business in Villiers Street was sold in 1995.

George presented a fascinating story of the Cowin family, blending a tale of migration, settlement in a new country, life in New Farm, and their close association with CSR, an important piece of New Farm history.

We look forward to a second instalment of the Cowin families.

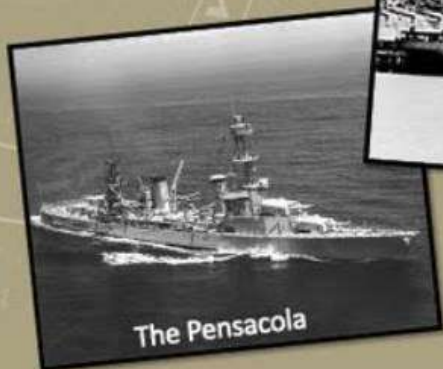


March Meeting Photos by Jack Wheeler



New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:

1941 - THE PENSACOLA CONVOY WHY DID IT COME TO NEWSTEAD?



The Pensacola



At Newstead Wharf



Speaker:
Brian Martin

'Pensacola Convoy Place' is located next to Bretts Wharf

Saturday 22nd April 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au
Enquiries: 0409 498 403

Did you grow up in Arthur Street?



The owners of this months feature house would be interested to see any early photographs that include their house (above).

They believe the roof line may have been altered from the original which perhaps had a separate second tier which covered the verandah. The lower roof may have been curved or straight, as in the picture below. If you can offer any help please email goodasgolder@gmail.com.



WHAT IS IT?



This image from 1908 depicts workers in a glass bottle factory. Molten glass was blown into metal molds for shaping. It shows a gaffer (blower) at work to the far left with his crew. This is a typical mouth-blown shop crew which included the mold tender boy (lower right) with a set of tongs in his right hand, the gatherer (behind gaffer) with the next gob of glass for the gaffer on a second blowpipe, and the snapper up (to the right standing) with a snap case tool in his left hand. The caption to the photo is: "Glass Blower and Mold Boy. Boy has 4 1/2 hours of this at a stretch, then an hour's rest and 4 1/2 more: cramped position."

President's Message April 2023

Do you ever think about the fact that you are creating history as you go about your daily life? Most often it will be history that is of no consequence for future generations other than the fact that you lived, but we never know the moment that will become an important memory. Some memories will be important just to the person concerned or their family, some become history remembered that needs to be shared. We try to bring you such memories at our regular Saturday public meetings. Our historical walks also are an opportunity for the tour leaders to share information about the lives of people and buildings that have shaped our community. Please check on Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com.au) and search for 'Historical Walks' for information about the walks and to book a place. I thank members for their good wishes for my journey back to good health after 3 months of chemotherapy treatment – that is now part of my history! I expect to be back to 'normal' very soon!

Vale Berenice Brewer (almost 92 years of age). I want to acknowledge the recent passing of long-time member and New Farm resident Berenice Brewer. Berenice was an ESL teacher at New Farm State School for a number of years and assisted many new migrant children to learn English and become a vital part of the school community. She was an active member of the historical society prior to moving into Aged Care. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

At our April meeting, Brian Martin will talk about the PENSACOLA CONVOY, seven American military transport ships and their escorting warship which were making a routine voyage to the Philippines when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th 1941. The damage inflicted was so severe that existing plans for the U. S. Navy to defeat Japan were suddenly rendered unworkable. One urgent and most important matter was the defence of the Philippine Islands, then an American protectorate with General Douglas MacArthur commanding the army and air forces. Military planners in Washington debated where to send the Pensacola Convoy until President Roosevelt decided it should come to Brisbane – to Newstead!

Special treat for May will be to have our member Fay Rayner tell us about Rayner's butcher shop in Brunswick St– many of us will have bought meat there. One friend of mine told me "The best ham and silverside in Brisbane!"

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Desley

President



New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc. The office is located at the front of the Ron Muir Meeting Room beside New Farm Library.
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Hoxton, 200 Arthur Street, Fortitude Valley



On 24 August 1878 one of the blocks in James Gibbon's subdivision of Teneriffe Hill and surrounds was purchased by Thomas Egense Palmer. Part of this block would become 200 Arthur Street. Thomas was born in Copenhagen in about 1841. He travelled to Australia aboard the Warwick in 1871 as crew with the rank of Able Seaman. On 17 June 1878, he took the Oath of Allegiance to become a naturalised British subject. He was living in Brisbane by this date and the 1879 Electoral Roll lists him as a resident on Terrace Street, Fortitude Valley with occupation is described variously as "dealer" and "hawker". However the details of exactly what he sold could not be uncovered. On 9 December 1879, Thomas married Isabel Yarrell at the Wesleyan Parsonage at Ipswich. Isabel (also spelt Isabell) was ten years younger than Thomas and was born in London to William and Elizabeth Yarrell. She arrived in Australia in 1873 on the Gauntlet. Thomas and Isabel were both living in Brisbane at the time

of their wedding so it is not clear why they chose to marry in Ipswich. Thomas had bought the land on Arthur Street three months before his wedding so it seems likely he intended to build their family home there shortly afterwards.

Records indicate they were residing there by 1883. The couple christened their family home Hoxton, after the area of London where Isabel was born. The Palmers lived at the home together until Thomas died in January 1896. Isabel inherited his estate, valued at £622, including the Arthur Street house. In May 1907, Annie Sophia Pincott was appointed as trustee for the property. Annie had arrived in Australia from England. Her occupation given as "domestic servant" on the ship's passenger list but from as early as 1899, she was working as a dressmaker from 200 Arthur Street.

Hoxton, 200 Arthur Street, Fortitude Valley continued...

Sophia's maiden name was Yarrell, so Annie and Isabel were likely related. Annie would later refer to her as her "Aunt", although this relationship could not be confirmed. It is not clear if Annie was officially adopted by Thomas and Isabel but she was known as "Annie Palmer" and "Miss Palmer" after her arrival in Brisbane. On 13 July 1907, she married Ernest Watson. Ernest was also a tailor and at some time before 1912 they established a tailoring workshop at the rear of the Arthur Street house. They seem to have employed other staff over the years, as they regularly placed advertisements.

DRESSMAKING, wanted at once Bodice Hand. Apply Miss Palmer, Arthur street, Teneriffe.

WANTED at once, body Hand. Apply Miss Palmer, Arthur street, Teneriffe.

WANTED bodice Hand at once. Apply Miss Palmer, Hoxton, Arthur street, Teneriffe.

TAILORESS, wanted a small job Maker, first-class hand; E. Watson, Tailor, Arthur st., Teneriffe.

TAILORESS wanted, outdoor trouser Hand. first-class only; E. Watson, Arthur st., Teneriffe.

Annie inherited the house on Isabel's death in 1945. In a newspaper tribute, Isabel is referred to as "our dear Aunt" and it concludes with "Remembered by all at 200 Arthur Street, Teneriffe." Ernest and Annie had a son, Ernest John Watson, on 13 September 1908.

He was a talented pianist, trained by Percy Brier, a highly respected organist, pianist and composer. Ernest became very well-known in Brisbane himself and in 1932 he travelled to England to undertake further study.

In addition to performing, Ernest also taught piano and held lessons at 200 Arthur Street after he returned from England in 1933. He had a Bechstein Grand Piano, which was located in the large front room on the northern side of the house. Ernest later travelled back to England and in 1952, he was appointed to the staff of the Trinity College of Music in London. Annie died in June 1955 and her husband inherited the house.

Ernest sold the following year to join his son in England.

MR. ERNEST WATSON

Pianist's Astonishing Progress

RECITAL IN ALBERT HALL

A year ago Mr. Ernest Watson went to London, pianistically speaking a mere boy and he has returned a grown man. In his recital in the Albert Hall last night he showed an amazing improvement and development. Someone has been building grandly on the foundations which were well and truly laid by Mr. Percy Brier. A new breadth and a new vitality has crept into his playing. He has learned how to approach and come to grips with a big work; he has learned how to get really big tone, and in the refinements of his art he has learned much.



Hoxton, 200 Arthur Street, Fortitude Valley continued...

In January 1956, the house was purchased by James and Elizabeth Gallagher. James enlisted to serve in the First World War. He returned home to Australia in June 1917 after suffering from chronic rheumatism which made it difficult for him to walk. On 22 September 1917, James married Elizabeth Catherine Mabel Range and the couple settled together in Brisbane. They had a son, Robert, the following year. By 1919, they were living on Cordelia Street at South Brisbane and James was working as a labourer. The couple had a daughter Margaret in 1921. They later lived on the corner of Peel and Grey Streets, South Brisbane and on Montague Road West End. They were still living at 92 Montague Road when they bought the house in Arthur Street in 1956. James and Elizabeth lived at 200 Arthur Street with Beryl, Janice and Lorraine their daughters until James died in 1965. The house was sold in January 1972 and Elizabeth died three months later.



Pietro and Angelina Perazzoli became the new owners of the house on 14 January 1972. Pietro had previously worked for many years as a labourer at Silkwood near Innisfail in Far North Queensland. By 1958, he had relocated to Brisbane and was running a business or store at 473 - 481 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley. While Pietro died in 1979, the Perazzoli family continued to own 200 Arthur Street until 1992. The house was purchased in October 1992 by Jennifer Irene Smith but the ownership was transferred to Helen May Smith only two months later. The house did not go on the market again until October 2021.

by Marianne Taylor

Charmed by the high ceilings and genuine period features, Di Graham and David Mullen purchased Hoxton at that time.



The front hall of the house has pressed metal ceilings that are likely also under the sheeted ceiling in the bedroom that was originally a sitting room. Di believes the pattern of the pressed metal was produced in 1895 and so was a later addition to the somewhat new build.

There are quite a few quirks to the house. Some of the tongue and groove runs vertically while other walls are laid horizontally. The timber in the floors is also of varying widths even in the original part of the house leading to speculation as to why. Regardless, the house is made from beautiful old wood with coloured glass windows and solid architraves.

The house has previously undergone at least three extensions to accommodate the specific needs of the families who lived there. A tailoring workshop was added to the rear of the house and that same area was later utilised by Ernest Watson to teach piano. At that time curtains were hung over the doors that led to the original service section of the house to afford separation to the other residents.

This time the house is to be lifted and built under and rooms will be reconfigured to achieve a more workable floorplan. Di and David have worked extensively with Council Heritage to keep as much of the original features as possible while adding the necessary bathrooms and amenities. The large back garden will be landscaped and replanted accordingly. Plans are all set. These lovers of old houses and old things generally have saved a real piece of history and uncovered its story along the way.

NEW FARM RIVERWALK

DISCOVERY TOUR

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 - 8 am

The history and stories of New Farm and Kangaroo Point, viewed from New Farm's Riverwalk.



Join us for a 1.5 hr leisurely stroll along New Farm's Riverwalk.

Be transported back to the 1800's when the first sailing ships navigated the 'River Highway' delivering vital supplies for the European settlement.

Hear stories of the colonial families and their river-facing mansions. Their leisure activities included Sailing, Rowing Regattas and swimming in the River's 'netted pools'.

Learn about the establishment of industrial commercial/war-time ship building and the construction of Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge - an engineering masterpiece.

View colonial residences, trendy 1930 flats and contemporary multi-million dollar apartment complexes overlooking the River.

The starting point: Merthyr Road cul-de-sac near Griffith Street intersection.

The Walk concludes at Howard Smith Wharves - the world class entertainment precinct - until recently New Farm's derelict shipping wharves.

Enquiries: Tour Guide: Santina Musumeci. Wait List for future Walking Tours: Email: notify2121@gmail.com

Eventbrite link tinyurl.com/5f495w9x





archives

Gerard Benjamin

The Murrays of Tullibardine in Merthyr Rd

In 1901 with the Boer War in progress, the name Tullibardine had some currency in the Australian press since the patriotic Scot, the Duke of Atholl (J. Stewart-Murray), known as the Marquess of Tullibardine, was keen to sign up Scottish-Australians for the 'Scottish Horse' in order to support the military efforts in South Africa of 'Kitchener of Khartoum'.

Brisbane readers of the newspaper may have naturally surmised a link between the Caledonian Duke—and the owner of the grand house which once stood in New Farm on Merthyr Rd (on the block bounded by Abbott, Moreton and Watson Sts).

The home was Tullibardine, and its purchaser in 1901 was the pastoralist and politician, John Murray (1837-1917). Originally from Ayrshire, he arrived with his parents and siblings on the Victorian goldfields in 1852. By the

1860s, he was raising cattle near Rockhampton while also becoming involved in local government. Murray was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly in 1888, then in 1901 was appointed

to the Legislative Council. We can imagine that his home's location was no accident, being but a stone's throw from the residence in Moray St of Sir Samuel Griffith who had been twice Premier. In the 1890s, Murray had been offered a cabinet

seat in a Griffith-McIlwraith coalition but declined. Tullibardine was considered to be one of the largest and most comfortable homes in New Farm, with its extra wide verandahs, its "artistically-spurred drawing and dining rooms", and six spacious bedrooms. It appears to have had extensive gardens. Its circular driveway delivered visitors to the wide front stairs, while the stables/garages opened onto Watson St.

The house was ideal for social occasions when the notables of New Farm might enjoy supper served in the dining-room with Duke Stewart's band providing the music.

Come 1903, John Murray, now in his 60s, expressed the desire to get back to pastoral life—so he began buying properties in the Longreach area, including Beaconsfield in 1911. When he died at Longreach in 1917 aged 80, one acquaintance eulogised thus, "He was respected by all his political opponents. There was no beating about the bush with Mr Murray. What he said, he meant."

Following the death of Murray's first wife, Jane (nee Hartley), he had married Margaret (nee McGavin), a niece of one of Queensland's earliest Presbyterian ministers. She had taken a keen interest in politics in support of her husband—and passed away in 1922. Three years later, the property was for sale as 'Tullibardine Estate', it had been divided into seven blocks, the house being on the largest one.

Before the eventual removal of the house ca 1928-30, it appears briefly to have been renamed Marooma and used by Nurse Irene Kirwan to care for psychiatric patients. Later Nurse Kirwan, who was prominent in the community, conducted Marooma Private Hospital at Windsor.

It is thanks to the Murray descendants still connected with Beaconsfield Station that photographs of Tullibardine have come to light, one of which appears with this article:

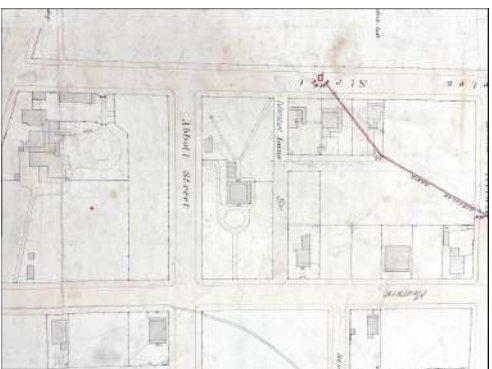
Tullibardine is also mentioned in the recent book, Brisbane Utopian Dreams and Dystopian Nightmares, written by Dr Bill Metcalf, who was a keynote speaker at a meeting last year of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society.



A car waits at Tullibardine below the home's front verandah which overlooked Merthyr Rd. (Photo: Peter Thomas, GG-grandson of John Murray)

After this column was written a group from the NFDHS visited the Brisbane City Archives, an outing arranged by committee-person Robert Allen. On display were a number of old drainage plans of New Farm.

This one is of Tullibardine—with its circular driveway, situated between Watson and Abbott Streets.



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



V

THE VILLAGE
news



Coles New Farm for the generous supply of afternoon tea at monthly meetings.