

# BREMER ECHOES

*OUR FOREBEARS PAST, YET PRESENT STILL*



ISSN 2208 – 2131

*IPSWICH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC*

*VOLUME 38 NO 1*

*FEBRUARY 2020*

## **RESEARCH ROOMS & LIBRARY**

### **“Brigg House”**

“Cooneana” Heritage Centre

1041 Redbank Plains Road,

New Chum, Ipswich Q 4303

Please address all correspondence to address above:

Phone: 07 3282 6454

President: 07 3282 3067

Or email: [secretary@igs.org.au](mailto:secretary@igs.org.au)

Website: <http://www.igs.org.au>

**MONTHLY MEETING: SECOND** Tuesday of the month at 9.30am

[Except January]

**“Brigg House” Cooneana Heritage Centre,**

**1041 Redbank Plains Rd.**

**New Chum 4303**

**Dues are payable by 30th September.**

**Subscriptions Single Membership \$40**

**Family 2 members residing at the same address \$55**

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Visitors welcome at Research Library per day \$20; ½ day \$10;

Research undertaken by post – Initial Research Fee \$30

Additional Research fees charged at rate of \$25 per hour or part thereof.

Annual Membership includes Society's magazine Bremer Echoes

February, July, & November, posted or emailed.

Out of town members entitled to research on their behalf from Society records.

### **OPENING HOURS**

**Monday & Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm**

**Saturday 9am to 12 noon – Closed Sunday**

**Closed all Public Holidays**

**Cover Photograph:** *Courtesy John Rossiter [Also Picture Ipswich]*

*This photograph is taken from the centre panel of the Panorama of Ipswich from circa 1872, taken by the late Ipswich photographer, Biggingee Sorabjee Pochee. B. S. P. was of Indian origin and spent fourteen years (1863 to 1887) working in the area. The panorama consisted of five separate photographs taken on glass plates. By overlapping and butt joining them he achieved the sweeping view measuring 9½“ x 52¾“. An original copy of this panorama has been preserved and is on display at the Ipswich Art Gallery.*

## ***BREMER ECHOES***

ISSN 2208 – 2131

Volume 38 No 1

February 2020

**The Journal of the IPSWICH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC**

**The First Genealogical Society in Queensland 1977**



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***Caboolture River, Beachmere Q- Editor's Collection***

*Welcome to our new members  
and we wish them well with  
their research.*

*Audrey Mazzaracca; Kathy Bishop;  
Harold Catchpole; Billy-Jo Mitchell;  
Karen Strahan; Glenda Pepper*

## Welcome to a New Year and a New Decade.

The Ipswich Genies wish for everyone an improvement to the weather with rain to put an end to the dreadful bushfires, and our hearts go out to those who have been affected, and we know it will take years to recover even a fraction of what has gone in such a short time.

Australia is a land of either too much or too little rain; we all say there has never been a drought that did not break, but that is no comfort to those who have lost so much. Thank you to all the firefighters who have risked so much to help and to those families who have lost loved ones, our thoughts are with you.

Also to those who have worked behind the scenes, as there are meals to be prepared, vehicles to be maintained and families to be accommodated, as well as the livestock and wild life which have needed help. We can only hope that things will be easier as time passes.

Best Wishes to all.

Our corner of Queensland has not escaped unscathed, but thankfully things now seem to be settled and we are looking forward to life returning to normal.



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**From the Editor:** This is the first Bremer Echoes for 2020, and I hope we all have a successful year of researching and find some of those ancestors who have proved elusive in the past.

Thank you to Brian Jeffrey for his interesting “Let There Be Light”- the beginning of the illumination of the streets of Ipswich, with Part 2 in the July edition. We take lots of things for granted now in the town, but this article makes you realize how times have changed.

Sadly we have said goodbye to two of our long time members in the last couple of weeks – Jim Cummings, and Aileen Fisher. We extend deepest sympathy to their families.

The Society has been the recipient of a Gift of a collection of microfiche and microfilm records from the Colonial Forces Study Group Queensland, for which we are truly grateful. The full list is on page 5.

Thank you to the Ipswich Library Digital Archivist Melanie Rush, who has offered to contribute articles of interest for our magazine, the first is on page 12, explaining copyright and the use of photographs from Picture Ipswich.

*Ed.*



## A NEW RESOURCE

Before Christmas, the Society was Gifted a great new resource for Family History Research by the Colonial Forces Study Group Queensland Inc.

Our thanks go to Dorothy Walsh [one of the Spinners & Weavers at Cooneana], who gave the Society contact details for the Group, and three of our members travelled to Brisbane and collected boxes of microfiche and microfilm records. (*Photograph below*).



*Courtesy Brian Rough (CFSG)*

### ***Microfiche & Microfilm Records Gifted to the Genies.***

These records are a valuable asset, and yes, some of these are on line, but a number of members of our Society do not have or wish to use computers, and over the years have been happy to research using fiche and film and printed records.

Members are conscious of the fact that we are running out of space, but it is amazing what can be done if need be. Our microfiche and film room, had no more space [we thought] but by re-arranging and moving to storage extra viewers – we only use 2 at a time – and replacing some file drawers that had been put aside, we will make room. It is not something that can be rushed, as we do not want double handling, especially of heavy objects. We had thought it could be done while we had our Christmas Break, but that has been and gone, and it will be done as time permits. We all have our own lives apart from the Society – although some spouses are not so sure.

It may surprise many that research can be carried out without going on line, as there are many records which may never been added to the internet. The Society has Burial Registers and Cemetery Records of many small cemeteries not only locally, but from other areas, photographs of graves, church, school and local family history books which hold a wealth of information for researcher.

A very big thankyou to the Colonial Forces Study Group for their kind donation; this has added greatly to the Library at "Brigg House".

## **RESOURCES GIFTED BY COLONIAL FORCES STUDY GROUP**

The Queensland Government Gazettes from 1859 to 1989 on *microfiche*.

### ***Microfilm***

The Week	1876 - 1934
Weekly Herald	1864 - 1867
Queensland Daily Guardian	1860 - 1884
Moreton Bay Free Press	1852 - 1859
Our Paper	1868
Moreton Bay Courier	1846 - 1856
Courier / Courier Mail	1857 - December 1945
The Week	1876 - 1925
The Queenslander	1866 to April 1939
Moreton Bay Maps & Plans	1837 - 1845
Queensland Electoral Maps	1865 - 1935
Pettigrew Diaries	1849 - 1899
Captain Keir	1883 Journal;
Men of Queensland	
F.E. Bailey's Letters	1866 - 1878;
George Mitchell's Log	1850 - 1882;
Midgeley's "Storm King" Diary	1869;
Blasdall's Journal	1862;



## WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF RESEARCHING.

*John Rossiter*

“If at first you don’t succeed, try – try – try – again ----and again ---- and again.”

Yes! This is an old proverb but it rings true, especially when you are chasing your family history.

Remember that no one person knows all the answers. This is why being a member of a society such as ours, it opens up the field to learn from each other. We each have an area where we have operated and the best knowledge probably comes from practical experience.

If, on your first visit to our society or other research areas, you go away disheartened by not finding the answers you had hoped for, go back again on a different day and you will probably meet a different assistant who may have knowledge in that field. Some of us have skills in computer operations. You may find a member who has done research into German families – someone who excels in Scottish information – someone who negotiates census records – or someone who knows the local area. You will find somebody who will be of assistance. Remember that all brick walls are able to be broken, but it often takes considerable time and effort.

It is surprising just what information can come out during a chat over a cuppa.

Bounce off one another and you too will gain from the experience. Beware! Not all of the information you may find on some on-line resources is 100% accurate. Use this as a guide and check it out for yourself to assure yourself that it does apply to what you are researching. Sometimes, you will need to purchase birth, death or marriage certificates. Yes, they can be costly, but if you want accuracy they can be important. With death certificates, some of the information can be questionable as the person who would best know the correct information is the one who was buried.

You may find on some certificates where corrections have been made in a side column many years later. These can include items such as spelling, ages, parents’ names or even a name changed by deed poll. These adjustments can be quite enlightening and provide the answer to that long-held question.

“Happy Researching!”

*From FAHS eBulletin 193 – January 2020*

If you have Tasmanian research, have you tried **[‘Libraries Tasmania’](#)**? **The Tasmanian Names index** contains a wealth of information for researchers with close to one million names of people who have lived in Tasmania. The index provides free access to over 1.3 million digitised records including convict, birth, death, marriage, arrivals, departures, wills and many more.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Part 1 – A short history of gaslight in Ipswich

By Brian Jeffrey

When my forebears arrived in Ipswich in 1855, they would have found it a dark and forbidding place at night. The newspaper columnist '**Red Gum**' would recall how the town's streets were 'in a state of nature, and ... lighted up every night with numerous blacks camps'. The nightly gloom would not be alleviated until February 1863, when the Municipal Council determined that a post topped with a kerosene lamp would be erected on the corner of Nicholas and Brisbane Streets. The move was an experiment to determine 'whether it would be expedient to light the leading thoroughfares of Ipswich in this way'. One councillor objected to the kerosene lamp on the grounds that it was unnecessary and 'would only benefit the few who were out at night'.

Nonetheless, the idea took off, kerosene streetlamps proved popular and eventually townsfolk were able to move around at night with a modicum of safety. In late 1874, an Ipswich resident signing himself 'Gaslight' wrote to the *Queensland Times* to point out that it had been almost ten years since Brisbane had replaced kerosene lighting with gas. Even Toowoomba looked like getting gaslight before Ipswich. The newspaper's editor added his own comment, opining, 'In the entire continent of Australia there is no town so favourably situated as Ipswich for gas-illumination. With an unlimited supply of excellent bituminous coal within a mile of its streets – with a railway winding through its very heart – it should seem strange indeed if this town be long unsupplied with this desirable light.'<sup>i</sup> In fact, it would be another year or so before anything happened.

In June 1876, the newspaper again took up the case for gas in an editorial lamenting the town's apparent lack of public spirit and noting that the residents of 'more stirring communities' were referring to it as Sleepy Hollow. The editorial recalled that as long as twelve years before a man who had already succeeded in getting a gas company formed in Brisbane had visited Ipswich to see if there was similar interest but had failed to get an encouraging response. As a result, Ipswich was still compelled to rely on kerosene lighting, despite its use resulting in many fatal accidents. Noting how profitable gas companies had proven as an investment, the newspaper suggested that a public meeting be called and a provisional committee appointed to bring the matter to fruition.

The meeting, held in the School of Arts on 27 June, heard that a gas company could be expected to present 'an investment of a most lucrative character to the shareholders'. In mid-August, Mayor Ald. Charles Frederick **Chubb** wrote to the *Queensland Times* to advise that he had entered into negotiations with persons 'competent to erect the whole of our gasworks, who are ready to take the contract at once, to light the town in twelve months, and to take 2000 shares'. Shortly after, the *Queensland Times* reported it had been shown a plan of a proposed pipeline network which would carry the gas from a production site fronting The Terrace at North Ipswich to the woollen mill, the railway workshops and throughout the main parts of the township. The main pipeline would total about 4,950 yards (4.5 km).

By November, the Ipswich Gas and Coke Company had been registered as a limited liability company and the public were being invited to take up shares. It had also successfully applied for a site on The Terrace in North Ipswich covering almost two acres where it proposed to erect a gasometer for storing gas. About 150 shareholders attended the company's first general meeting in the School of Arts on 8 March 1877. They were informed that 277 investors had bought 6,340 shares and that the company's assets amounted to £1,850. The days of kerosene street lighting were clearly numbered.



The first gas mains were laid on 27 May 1878. In June, a bakery business on The Terrace had the dubious honour of having the first meter installed. On 14 August 1878 'some little stir' was created when the exterior of the School of Arts and some of the business premises on the eastern side of Nicholas Street were among the first public buildings to demonstrate the potential of gas. 'The School of Arts was illuminated with two large sunlights, containing sixteen burners each', the *Queensland Times* reported, 'and the contrast between the bright white light of the gas and the dim illumination of the kerosene lamps which were hung beneath was very observable. The lamps on either side of the entrance to the building were also lit with gas, and shone very brilliantly. We congratulate the company's engineer on the successful manner in which the works under his superintendence have so far progressed; and we trust that he will be soon able to supply all parts of the town with a light as brilliant as that which illuminated the School of Arts last evening.'

During a special meeting on 1 July 1878, the Council considered, among other things, where gas street lamps might be placed. It came up with a proposal for ten lamps, one on each of the corners of Nicholas and Bremer Streets, Brisbane and Nicholas Streets, Brisbane and Burnett Streets, Brisbane and Bell Streets, Brisbane and Gordon Streets, Brisbane and Ellenborough Streets and Brisbane and West Streets, as well as one at the gate of Queen's Park, one on the Bremer bridge and one on the footbridge at the railway station.

The Editor of the *Queensland Times* was dubious about the likelihood of gas lighting impacting on the town's gloom. 'Our city fathers have determined to illuminate our darkness with ten gas lamps – truly, a vast undertaking to light our city with such a gigantic illuminatory (*sic*) power!', the newspaper editor railed. 'What they are about no one seems to understand, and when worthy Alderman Wiley [a misspelled reference to Alderman John Swain **Willey**] suggested twenty-six lamps as advisable, the other aldermen sat aghast at the bare mention of such light to lighten our very dangerous darkness at various precipitous corners. But Alderman Wiley was right when, in cutting terms, he ridiculed the idea of only ten lamps as being insufficient [Alderman **Willey** had proposed sixteen lamps]. I suppose that the ten lamps will just represent our municipal intellect – the Mayor, town clerk, and eight aldermen – and I beg to propose that they be named after the said worthies, and handed down to posterity as the monuments of gas-fitting genius'. The Council eventually accepted a tender to provide the ten street lamp-posts at £2/11/6 (\$5.15) each.

On the evening of Saturday 17 August 1878, a number of Ipswich businesses were lit with gas, although again the *Queensland Times* was disappointed that only one – the Caledonian Hotel in Bell Street – provided any exterior illumination. 'We hope to see some of our other citizens initiate the example set by [the Caledonian Hotel] and thus assist in making the streets of Ipswich a little more inviting to sight-seers on a Saturday evening'.

Soon, even the Town Hall clock had an automatic gas light (although apparently it didn't work very well). At some point at least one additional streetlamp had been added to the original ten; in September, Alderman William **Vowles** was demanding to know by whose authority the lamp at the corner of Brisbane and Thorn Streets had been shifted from one side of the street to the other. Alderman **Willey** opined that it was decidedly the better location, adding that, as a general rule, some fifteen to twenty 'larrikins' congregated in the vicinity, much to the inconvenience of passers-by, and the lamp would be the means of removing them.

No longer, it seemed, could detractors refer to Ipswich as Sleepy Hollow.  
*Part 2 in July Bremer Echoes.*

## EDUCATION IN IPSWICH IN THE 1860'S

"Red Gum" Queensland Times 19.03.1909

Measures upon the subject of public education were, let it be said to the credit of the pioneer parliamentarians, amongst the earlier results of the legislation of the first session of the first Parliament of Queensland; so that, whatever charge of inexperience our early legislators were at that time open to, they are, at all events, entitled to the credit of passing measures promoting public education before those intended to develop the material resources of the colony.

The first National (or Primary) School, under the mastership of the late **Mr. John Scott**, was established, in 1851, in Nicholas Street, in a brick building -- part of which is now in evidence at the back of the general grocery business of the Messrs. **Dalton** Brothers, formerly kept as a bowling-saloon (run by Messrs. J. T. **Crooke** and Co.). Subsequently a brick building was erected, in 1862, in Brisbane Street, now the property of the Ipswich City Council, opposite Mr. A. E. **Roberts** Coach-works, Gordon Street.

Contemporary with this school building was the national school at Little Ipswich (now the West Ipswich Girls' State School, the late Mr. John T. **Johnston** having taken a keen interest in its erection, and I am not sure but what was then known as "**Synan's School**" (that being the surname of the first head teacher of that academy) was not finished before "**Scott's School**."

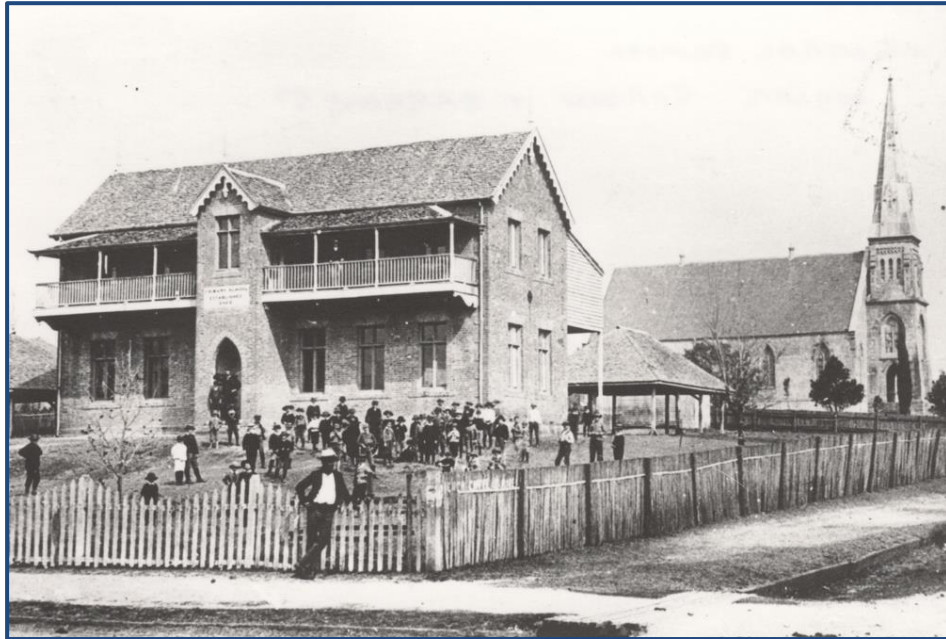
At the same period a brick national school building was erected at Warrill Creek. The East Ipswich School was, on an exchange of sites, transferred to the northern portion of the Queen's Park in the early 90's. During its 48 years of existence there have only been two head teachers connected with that institution namely, the late Mr. John **Scott** (who retired after 36 years' service) and Major C. A.H. **Watson** (since 1897).

It may be interesting to know that the first steps taken to found a primary school in North Ipswich took place at a meeting held, in the old immigration Depot, on the 18th April, 1865, presided over by the late Dr. H. **Challinor**, and the following gentlemen interested themselves in the matter:--Messrs. A. **Fitzgibbon** (chief engineer of railways then), H. M. Reeve, Wm. North, J. Watson, Stuart **Hawthorne**, and R. **Dunbar**, resulting in a committee comprising Messrs. A. **Fitzgibbon**, J. **Scott**, J. **Watson**, D. **McIntosh**, Thos. **Pryde**, Jas. **Reilly**, John **Pettigrew**, and Fred **Chapman** being appointed to carry out the undertaking, which was accordingly done, and the late Mr. W. H. **Ewing** was subsequently installed as the first head teacher of the first State School on the north side. As an instance of the expansion of the North Ipswich area in the meantime, there are now four State schools "over the water" a Boys' and Girls' school in North Ipswich, one at Brassall, and one at Tivoli.

The first Grammar School established in Queensland was inaugurated in Ipswich on the 25th September, 1863, by the late Sir George Ferguson **Bowen**, the contractors for that classic-looking seminary having been the late Messrs. John **Ferguson** and David **McLaughlin** (both good old family names in Ipswich and district. the first-named being the father of Mrs. James **Lucas** of Purga and of Mr. G. G. **Ferguson**, the well-known locomotive driver, and, I think, the only surviving son of a stalwart contingent of **Fergusons**: architect, Mr. **Backhouse**).

The first trustees were the Hon. Arthur **Macalister** (Chairman), Dr. Henry **Challinor**, Sir Joshua Peter **Bell**, and Messrs. Geo. **Thorn** Sen, Benjamin **Cribb**, (treasurer), F. **Forbes** and John **Panton**. The Ipswich Boys' Grammar School has

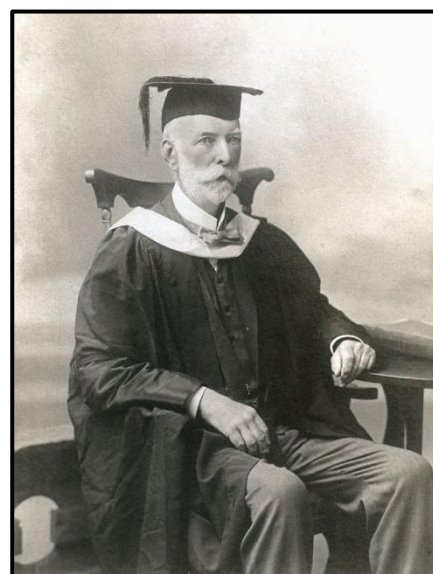
since had a brilliant record, its students shining in nearly all callings and professions -- pulpit, medical, legal, engineering, politics, business circles, and even soldiering, several of the Ipswich Grammarians having distinguished themselves in the South African war. The names of the successive head masters since 1863 are -- Mr. Stuart **Hawthorne**, .MA, Mr. John **Macrae**, M A , Mr. D **Cameron**, M.A., Mr. C. A. **Flint**, M .A., and Mr. B. G. **Lawrence**, M.A., the last named gentleman being the present head. [1909].



*Ipswich National School, corner of Brisbane and Gordon Streets, Ipswich 1890s  
(St Stephens Presbyterian Church in the background)*

*Courtesy Picture Ipswich – Benjamin and Laura Taylor, I.X.L. Studio collection.  
[qips-2014-02-23-0068p]*

*Donald Cameron, Headmaster Ipswich Grammar School, 1875 -1900, Ipswich  
Photograph late 1890s  
Whitehead Collection Picture Ipswich  
qips-2011-06-05 0003p*



## COPYRIGHT AND THE PICTURE IPSWICH COLLECTION

Illustrating family histories with photos of ancestors and the places where they lived helps to bring their story to life, and the Picture Ipswich collection has thousands of images that help to tell the story of the city and its people.

Picture Ipswich has recently updated its copyright procedures to align with changes made to the Federal *Copyright Act 1968*, and which were introduced across the country last year.

The good news is that photos taken before 1955 are out of copyright, meaning you are able to download and use any Picture Ipswich image dated prior to 1955 as part of your research without seeking permission of the copyright holder.

The bad news for us researchers (good news for photographers) is that copyright protection has now been extended to 70 years.

This means, if a photo was taken any time after 1 January 1955, it will be in copyright for 70 years from the date it was taken, if the photographer is unknown.

If the photographer is named, an image taken after 1 January 1955 will be protected by copyright for the life of the photographer plus 70 years, which means many are going to be protected well into next century.

But do not worry, you can still use the images you find on Picture Ipswich, even if they were taken after 1955 and are still in copyright. If you are using an image as part your own personal research or study, you can download the image from Picture Ipswich without seeking permission from the copyright holder.

If you wish to use an image from Picture Ipswich in a book you are publishing and intend to sell, you will need to ask for permission from the copyright holder. To do this, just get in touch with the Picture Ipswich Digital Archivist (contact details below).



*Boys with decorated bikes, Marburg Ipswich 1940's*  
Photographer unknown. Picture Ipswich qips-2008-10-05-0012

Regardless of whether an image was taken before or after 1955, whenever you use an image from the Picture Ipswich collection, we ask that you acknowledge Picture Ipswich as the source of the image and use the assigned title to caption the image, attribute the photographer (if known), and include the image's unique reference number, as in the example below:

For more information on how you can use Picture Ipswich images and how to navigate copyright, please read the

factsheet available on the Ipswich Libraries website:

<https://www.ipswichlibraries.com.au/picture-ipswich-copyright/>

### Picture Ipswich



Picture.Ipswich.qld.gov.au



LibPictureIpswich@Ipswich.qld.gov.au



(07) 3810 7272



@PictureIpswich



#PictureIpswich

*Melanie Rush, Ipswich Library Digital Archivist*

## SOME IPSWICH BUSINESSES IN 1934

The **Undertakers** whose names appeared in the "Queensland Trade and Business Directory in 1934 for Ipswich were:

O. BOETTCHER	Limestone Street;	G. DOWDEN	Ellenborough Street
J. & H. REED	Nicholas Street	PRASSER Brothers	Brisbane Street
WATSON Brothers	Brisbane Street		

**Doctors** in 1934 Trade Directory:

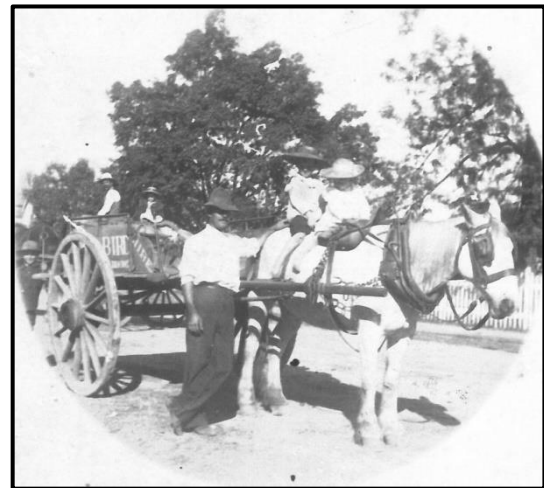
G.H. BRANDIS	Brisbane Street	E.E. BROWN	Brisbane Street
B.G. WILSON	Brisbane Street	D.A. CAMERON	East Street
J.A. CAMERON	East Street	T.L. COONEY	East Street
B.L. HART	East Street	M.S. PATTERSON	East Street
E.J. O'KEEFE	Ellenborough Street		

**Blacksmiths & Coach Builders** in 1934 Trade Directory:

BROUGHTON Bros	Nicholas Street	R.W. HURFORD	Limestone Street
J.C. READING	Limestone Street	A.E. ROBERTS	Limestone Street
J. THOMAS	East Street	J.R. WARD	Brisbane Street

**Carriers** in 1934 Trade Directory:

V.E. BOCHER	no address given
P. CONWAY	Liverpool Street
J. HAMILTON	Booval
T.B. HAWKINS	no address given
A. HOEPNER	Bundamba
B.E. HOHENHAUS	One Mile Estate
J. JACKSON	Warwick Road
C.E. KRIES	Liverpool Street
C.E. MANDERS	Brisbane Street
L.V. MANDERS	Omar Street
P.F.W. MANDERS	Keogh Street
C.L. MORGAN	Blackstone
E. SADLER	Brisbane Street
N. SIMPSON	Challinor Street
SPIERS Brothers	Warwick Road
M. SVERDLOFF	Brisbane Street
H.H. WHITTAKER	Simpson Estate
J. WHITTAKER [Jnr]	North Ipswich
H. WHYBIRD	Cemetery Road



*Harry Whybird with children in the dray and on the horse c1910 Whitehead Collection  
Picture Ipswich qips-2012-08-29- 0099p*



**IPSWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**  
**‘Cooneana’ Heritage Centre**  
**1041 Redbank Plains Road,**  
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[www.ipswichhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ipswichhistoricalsociety.com)  
[ipswichhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

The Ipswich Historical Society was founded in October 1966 and in July 1967 the Society began its search for suitable premises for meetings and to establish a Historical Museum. It was in February 1969 that the collection of articles of historical significance began.

The Ipswich City Council in 1997 purchased what is now known as the **Cooneana Heritage Centre** at New Chum, and the Ipswich Historical Society was given the opportunity to develop the **Cooneana Heritage Centre Project**. This began in January 2000.



Early Photograph of 'Cooneana';  
 Courtesy Ipswich Historical

*‘Cooneana’ homestead was built in 1868 by Samuel Pearson **Welsby**, who had purchased the property on the 17th April that year, and the family occupied the home for many years. He had come to Australia from England, arriving on the “**Fortitude**” in Moreton Bay on the 20th January 1849.*

This building has been undergoing restoration, and plans are being made for the rooms to hold artefacts from times past.

The other main building on site was built in 1976 as the offices of Rhondda Collieries, one of the major mining companies on the Ipswich coal fields. This now houses the main displays and Library and archive room of the Society. Another was the pay office for the same company. A good example of a worker’s cottage is ‘Jim Donald House’ named for a local Member of Parliament. A number of groups are a part of the Historical Society, one favourite with visitors is the Blacksmith Shop which has working displays on special days, and it is possible to attend tutorial workshops. Also of great interest are the “Spinners & Weavers” in ‘Brighton House”, who hold displays and workshops, and a Miner’s Group meet to reminisce and catch up with old friends.

In 2016, the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a large Jubilee Open Day and the publication of "Ipswich Historical Society: The First 50 Years".

**“The Vision:** To educate and inspire the wider community by promoting Ipswich history and heritage”

**“The Mission:** To research, promote, collect, record, preserve and display the history of Ipswich in an informative and collaborative manner, using suitable technologies and to the best possible standard.”



***Front Gateway***

Other groups at the Heritage Centre: - the Historical Motorcycle Club; the Queensland Metal Artisans Collective; the Mini Crafters; and the Ipswich Genealogical Society in “Brigg House”.

All work together to preserve the history of the local families and the district, and to promote the area.



***Check out Mini Crafters Facebook***



***Blacksmith Shop***

***Historical Motorcycle Club House***

[www.historicmotorcycle.org.au](http://www.historicmotorcycle.org.au)



***Queensland  
Metal Artisans  
Collective Logo***





*Extract from QT 16.05.1914 page 7*

(By "Red Gum")

## Memories of early Ipswich by Mr. Charles FLEISCHMANN

Charles **Fleischmann** was born at Wurtemberg Germany on the 15th of March, 1852, and came in the sailing ship "Deana" with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John **Fleischmann**, departing Bremen, in November 1858, the voyage to Moreton Bay, taking 6 months. They stayed with John's brother Charles at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane before coming to Ipswich on the river steamer "Hawk".



*Nicholas Street, looking South from Union Street, Ipswich,  
c.1910 Whitehead Collection Picture Ipswich  
WDH-005-qpl-0196p*

Their first home was a wooden cottage, on the property of William **Vowles**, between Nicholas and Ellenborough streets, which later was the property of Mr. F.W. **Whitehouse**. Here they remained a short while, before his father set up a business opposite William **Thompson's** Horse and Jockey Hotel in Nicholas

Street. When Patrick **Donegan**, who was a baker, retired in the latter part of the

1860's, to become a licensed victualler at the Queensland Hotel North Ipswich, John **Fleischmann**, purchased the two-storeyed brick building, originally owned by a Mr. **Sutton** of Redbank.

Charles **Fleischmann** attended the old Church of England day-school on the corner of Nicholas and Brisbane Streets, later the site of the Bank of Australasia. Mr. Hugh **Stowell** was the school-master, and later Mrs. H. **Newton** and Mr. **Compton** were in charge of this school. The building was used for the Lutheran Church services conducted in German by the Rev. Lacy H. **Rumsey**, the Anglican clergyman. Music was taught at the school in the early sixties, by Mr. Julius **Haimberger**, who had a business in Bell Street on the site of the railway bridge, called the "North Australian Music, Stationery, and Fancy Repository."

At this time, Nicholas Street did not cut through to Limestone Street, and the area became known as the "green" between the day-school and St. Paul's Church.

On the property adjoining the Church of England school [later the School of Arts] was a wooden cottage, which was the original Courthouse in Ipswich,

and was used as the Ipswich Mechanics' School of Arts, with the late Mr. James **Hanna** as secretary. The post-office and General Store run by Richard **Gill** was in Bell Street. On the opposite side of Brisbane Street, facing the "old school", also used as a Sunday-school, was Mr. Charles **Hanson's** London Tavern on the corner of Brisbane and Nicholas Streets known at that time as Greenham's Corner. Next door was Mr. J. M. **Illidge's** "Hall of Commerce", selling boots and shoes, beside a large gateway, which was subsequently built in and turned into a tobacconist's shop, called the "Hole in the Wall". "Bowen House", the drapery store of Samuel **Paris** was next with the Bank of Australasia, (later F. C. **Allen's** dispensary), George **Faircloth** as manager, and on the corner of Brisbane and Bell Streets were the Australian Stores, of H. M. **Reeve**, and lower down, in Bell Street, was **Cribb** and **Foote's** London Stores.

"Nicholas-street, in my youthful days," said Charles **Fleischmann**, "appeared to be the 'hub' of Ipswich, as between Brisbane and Bremer streets there were butchers, bakers, publicans, general stores, barbers, auctioneers, a ginger-beer factory, and schools (the first national school was established in a bowling alley in this street). Of one old Nicholas Street family (the **Wilkinsons**) I have known five generations, as I well remember the Hon. James **Wilkinson's** grand-father, Robert **Wilkinson**, sen., and further," said he, "I recollect seeing the Queensland giant (Mr. Richard **Barker**, now of Sydney, who is nearly 7ft in height) a big bouncing baby as he was born just opposite to our shop in Nicholas Street, on the site of the present Central Hotel".

Charles continued – "The boys of Nicholas and Ellenborough Streets seemed to be a very happy lot and we certainly had more freedom than the youth of to-day, as we were allowed to have our evening pastimes, without being molested in the main street, almost opposite to our respective homes."

John **Fleischmann**, sen, was always an attentive man in regard to his saddlery work, and for a short time he took up land for cotton growing at Walloon. His business consequently expanded from small dimensions to a very profitable one, and in due time several of his sons, particularly Charles assisted him. On the death of his father, Charles took charge of the saddlery business.

There were many changes in Ipswich during his 50 odd years of residence, one, the establishment of the "Ipswich Herald" (now the "Queensland Times") in 1859 by Edmund **Gregory** in Ellenborough Street, almost on the opposite side of the road from where his parents resided ; and like the rest of the youth in those days, he frequently "peeped" through the newspaper office windows and watched the operations of the Columbian press, while Thomas **Woolley** printed the "Herald" newspaper.

Residing in Ellenborough Street were the **Lane** family ("Jimmy," the eldest son), the **Beverleys** (seven boys altogether), "Granny" **Murphy**, "Jack" **Kendal** (a brother of Mrs. Dan **Collins**), the **Lowertons**, and the **Sloans**. The resident doctor was the Dr E. N. **Lucas**, and at the corner of Brisbane and Ellenborough Streets, opposite George **Dowden's** furniture shop (later the site

of the "Queensland Times") was the saddlery and harness establishment of W. F. **Brown**. John **Hannan** was the landlord of the North Star Hotel, and on the next property to the **Fleischmanns**, in Ellenborough Street, resided the redoubtable pair of old racecourse identities Mr. and Mrs. W. **Crisp**.

A number of early business people in Nicholas Street during 1860's and 70's were Richard **Wright**, who erected the first butcher's shop which was later owned by Samuel **Watson**, another butcher was Maurice **Bowers**, other names were **Yates** and **Reed** who sold furniture in Brisbane Street, and the auctioneer J. V. **Jenkins**. Next door was the Birmingham and Sheffield (ironmongery) stores of H. C. **Williams** (father of Harry **Williams**, of Messrs. Cribb and Foote's, and at one time Mayor, and Legislative Assembly member for Ipswich), later Dan **Kennedy's** shoe store. S. D. **Pick's** tobacconist, with "Professor" **Page** commenced operations in Ipswich as a tonsorial artist.*[humorous name for a barber]* In this regard, Charles **Fleischmann** also spoke of the hairdressing and perfumery establishment of James **Fletcher**, in Nicholas Street, on Mrs. Malcolm **McLean's** property. Mr. **Fletcher** moved from Ipswich to Laidley, to establish a hotel.

Charles further referred to "Given's Corner," and the "town clock," distinctly remembering the big fire in February 1863, which extended from the corner of Nicholas Street to Dr H. **Challinor's** building, next door to the North Star Hotel. H. M. **Cockburn** had an auctioneering establishment in the early sixties on the site of Messrs. **Hughes** and **Cameron's** premises, the large gateway which, said Mr. **Fleischmann**, is now being converted into another "hole in the wall," like Martin **Byrnes's** old gateway in Brisbane Street, now Mr. J. P. **O'Dea's** tobacconist's shop.

Next to H. M. **Cockburn's** was Patrick **Dwyer's** coopery; Mr. **Dwyer**, the father of Patrick **Dwyer**, of Arthur Street, was a powerful Tipperary Irishman, and was a very strong swimmer. He then resided on what was the property of Thomas **Hall**, and it was on this land that Samuel **Shillito** established a business as a machinist about 1867.

Joseph **Sparkes** "opened a shop" on the premises later occupied by R. **Powter**; Harry **Brookes**, had a bakery next door, and he later opened the Prince of Wales's Hotel, on the corner of Mortimer and Brisbane Streets, which became the Ulster Hotel. Charles **Fleischmann** remembered the Mayor, Ald. A. J. **Stephenson** coming to the city.

Mrs. Malcolm **McLean** the mother of James the city inspector, and John **McLean**, and Mrs. David **Kerr** Maryborough, was one of the earliest residents in Nicholas Street, her property being on the site of the present railway line, on the western side. He also remembers the old bowling (skittles) alley, which was subsequently converted into the first national school (under the regime of the late veteran Mr. John **Scott**), in June of 1861, and which Charles attended as a pupil.



Messrs. **Dalton** Brothers' Grocery and Mr. J. B. **Colthup's** furniture shop are on the site of Messrs. J. T. **Crooke** and Co bowling alley. Then the ginger-beer factory of John **Robinson**, who was associated with Mr. Harry **Hooper** in "Hooper and Robinson's" colliery at Tivoli in 1866, next door to the "Clare Castle" Hotel, a one-storey brick building, erected by John **Clune**.

Between the "Clare Castle" and Bremer Street were several small cottages, one occupied by John **Barnes**, a well-known carrier in those days. The opposite side to Clune's Hotel was all vacant, so far as the Nicholas Street frontage was concerned, but, standing back—on the site of Messrs. Cribb and Foote's machinery store—were a couple of cottages, and in one there resided an old gentleman whom the boys delighted to style "Old Dan Tucker." His name was George Salt **Tucker**, and he, at one time, held a very important position in metropolitan circles. John **Murphy**, the first Mayor of Ipswich, had a store there. Mr. **Fleischmann** recollects when Mr. Richard **Hargreaves** opened a hotel on the property of the late Mr. Stephen **Broom**, afterwards removed to the site of the Central Hotel, which, during the 1860's was kept as a boarding-house by Mrs. **Fairbanks**.

It was about this period, said Charles **Fleischmann** that Mr. James **Gibbs** commenced business as a pork butcher in Nicholas-street. Charles at one time attended Mr. W. **O'Donnell's** night-school in Wharf Street, also Mr. Dan **McGrath's** school at "The Cutting" near Burnett Street. He remembered the "Ipswich Collegiate School," in Gordon-street, known as Mr. A. P. **Gossett's**; also the "Ipswich Commercial Academy," near the Court-House, with the late Mr. Thomas **Fraser** as head-master. This was about the period when James Stewart **Ogilvie** kept the "Highland Home" Hotel in Brisbane Street, later the site of **Loynes's** furniture bazaar, opposite the Bee-Hive stores of M. and H. **Levy**, and on the same section of Brisbane-street was the butcher's shop of Owen **Connor**.

He spoke of the "big fire" in Bell-street in 1863 in the back stores of Mr. D. **Mitchell** (of East-street), and of Messrs. T. H. Jones (of Bell-street). Louis **Heitz** was then transmitting in what was known as the "Iron House," situated on the property on which the power-house of Cribb and Foote is erected. Mr. George **Holt** was the baker of Bell Street at this time. Gordon **Cameron** had a grocery store and fruit-shop in Bell Street about this period. The saddlers then, besides his father John, were W. Munro **Smith** in Brisbane Street, on the site of T. H. **Archibald's** hosiery establishment, J. P. and C. **Quinn**, in Bell Street; and Mr. Christopher **Gory**, in East-street, in which latter establishment he remembers seeing the veteran, Mr. Robert **Wilson** at work over half-a-century ago.

Mr. **Fleischmann** distinctly recollects all the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of the railways in Queensland, this city being the scene of the pioneering work connected with that system. He was present also at the opening function in connection with the Ipswich Grammar School in September of 1863,

as he was likewise at the turning of the first sod of the railways in this State by Lady **Bowen** in February of the following year. The steamer traffic on the Bremer had special attractions for him when he was a lad, and he knew the steamers "Bremer", "Hawk", "Breadalbane", "Ipswich" and "Brisbane".

"Old Gas", the late Mr. A. **Gaskarth**, was the identity of Bremer Street in those days, he being a shipping agent 50 odd years ago. Mr. **Fleischmann** also, referred in a humorous manner to his connection with the old No. 2 company of the Queensland Volunteer Rifle Brigade (Mayor, Ald. A. J. **Stephenson**, having been, he thought, a non-commissioned officer at the time), and he states that he will long remember the trip of the Ipswich volunteers (the late Mr. William **Barber** sen., being the leader of the Ipswich Volunteer Band at the time) to Brisbane for the purpose of meeting the late Duke of Edinburgh as a guard of honour. He also mentioned that a "certain cask of beer"—or, rather, its contents—disappeared during that visit to the metropolis.

What is now a fruit depot, in Nicholas-street, Mr. **Fleischmann** states, was erected by John **Clune** as a music hall. This building has, since 1866, been used for many purposes—a drill-hall, a cotton-ginning establishment, a bulk store, a fire-brigade station, and a practice-hall for the Ipswich City Band. Altogether, Mr. **Fleischmann** narrated a host of interesting reminiscences.



*Australian Stores and Horseleys, C H Fleischmann, Saddle and Harness Maker next to Whitehouse Café. C1915      Whitehead Collection Picture Ipswich WDH-003-GPL-0131*

## MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS

These two photographs are in our collection, but the names are unknown. If you recognize anyone, please contact the Society.



It is thought  
they would have  
been taken  
during the  
1930's



*The Ipswich City Council election is due to be held in March this year,  
160 years since the first election.*

### **Re-print from Bremer Echoes March 1996**

## **FIRST COUNCIL ELECTION**

*By Sandra Miller*

The Municipality of Ipswich was declared on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1860 and published in the Queensland Government Gazette March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860. The boundaries of the Municipality were proclaimed on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

A notice dated March 17<sup>th</sup> 1860, in the Gazette - "the Corporation shall consist of a Mayor and Alderman". It nominated Henry Buckley as the 'First Running Officer' and that the first meeting of electors shall be held at noon at the Court House at Ipswich on Thursday, the twelfth day of April, in the year, one thousand eight hundred and sixty".

A large group of people gathered at the Court House on the day and with Henry Buckley presiding, the election was held by a show of hands. Shortly after the returning officer began to declare the winners, a group of people demanded a poll which Buckley declared would be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

There were 25 candidates and those elected were: John **Murphy**, John **Johnston**, Charles **Watkins**, Donald **Bethune**, Christopher **Gorry**, John **Thompson**, John **Pettigrew**, Francis **North** and Thomas **Stanley**.

The first meeting of the Council was held in the Old Court House on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1860, with the newly elected Alderman present. At this meeting John **Murphy** was appointed the first Mayor of Ipswich.

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*Irma Deas President*

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