

BREMER ECHOES

Our Forebears Past, Yet Present Still



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Ipswich Genealogical Society inc

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July 2025

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OPENING HOURS

Monday 9.00am to 1.00pm

Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Saturday 9am to 12 noon – Closed Sunday

Closed all Public Holidays

PLEASE NOTE: This is the last magazine before the AGM on 9th September 2025. Membership is due 1st October 2025

Cover Photograph:

Story page 4 Information Brian Jeffrey.

Dating from the late nineteenth century, this is the only photograph of the BISN Nowshera known to exist. It shows the vessel in dock in Sydney (on the far side of AUSN Ranelagh)

Picture PXE 722/2801 – State Library of NSW: Dixon Gregory Collection PXD 519

Vol 3, page 41

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The Journal of the IPSWICH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC
The First Genealogical Society in Queensland 1977

<i>Page 4</i>	<i>The Voyage Of The Nowshera</i>
<i>Page 9</i>	<i>Our Horse Shoe</i>
<i>Page 10</i>	<i>Neighbours in Court</i>
<i>Page 12</i>	<i>Rose Manson Ipswich Housewife</i>
<i>Page 17</i>	<i>Common Sense Resurrected</i>
<i>Page 18</i>	<i>Bremer Echoes History</i>
<i>Page 19</i>	<i>Bremer Bridge Proposed 1889</i>
<i>Page 21</i>	<i>Munro Family Mystery Photo</i>
<i>Page 22</i>	<i>AGM Notice</i>

From the Editor: Part 1 of the voyage of the “Nowshera” in 1883 beings on page 4 and parts 2 and 3 will be found in later editions of Bremer Echoes. We thank Brian Jeffrey for once again allowing us to publish his very detailed and interesting research.

Another year half over, and the AGM will be held in September, see page 22 All positions will be declared vacant, and members are encouraged to think about nominating for a position on the Executive. We really do need a helping hand.



I encourage members to send in their research names to be published in our magazine – perhaps you could be lucky and find others also researching the same families. *Irma Deas Editor*

We welcome our new members, and wish them success with their research.

David John Muller, Roy Walsh

Dayle Cassar, Neal McKenzie

Tracy Underwood

Research by Brian Jeffrey

Part 1

THE VOYAGE OF THE *NOWSHERA*
A tale of drama, tragedy and mischief
Part 1: The setting and the players

In 1883, the British India Steam Navigation Company Ltd (BISN) launched a 2,962-ton barquentine-rigged, iron screw steamer, the *Nowshera*, in Dumbarton on the River Clyde, Scotland intending that it would operate as a trading vessel in southern latitudes. At the time, Queensland had been having difficulty attracting emigrants because ships came by way of the Southern Ocean, meaning that most passengers disembarked in Melbourne or Sydney. To address the problem, the then Prime Minister, Sir Thomas **McIlwraith**, had encouraged BISN to inaugurate a service travelling by way of Naples and the Suez Canal to Colombo, Batavia (now Jakarta), Cooktown, Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane. The company entered a one-off contract with the Queensland Government's emigration service as a means of earning income while the vessel was sailing to its intended destination via the new route.

It was an inauspicious beginning for a vessel on its maiden voyage, yet it would prove to be a fraught journey, endangered by one of the most powerful and destructive volcanic events ever recorded and delivering ashore in Brisbane what the *Brisbane Courier* (6 October 1883) would refer to as 'a cargo of contention and grievances...'. While events would be recorded and commented upon in logs, newspaper reports and official investigations, a personal diary of the voyage maintained by my great grandfather William **Hastie** and discovered in Ipswich over 100 years later now provides a valuable contemporary account of the voyage as day-to-day events unfolded.

According to Lloyd's register, the *Nowshera* was 320 feet in length (about 97.5m), 42 feet (about 13m) in breadth, and 25 feet (7.5m) in depth. It had two decks, one of which was steel and the other timber, and six bulkheads. Under the command of Captain J. W. **Livingstone** (a nephew of the African explorer, Dr. David Livingstone), the ship set out from Plymouth on 19 July 1883 with 660 passengers, 143 of whom had been granted assisted passage because they fell into categories of people required in Queensland. Their number included my forebears, the Hastie family: William, a carpenter aged 32, his wife Elizabeth (nee **Bell**), 32, and their children Ralph, 8, Margaret, 6, John Bell (Jack), 4, and William, who would turn 2 shortly after the voyage began.

The *Nowshera*'s complement of 660 passengers was high; in her book *Rights of Passage: Emigration to Australia in the Nineteenth Century* (Tavistock, London 1986), historian Helen **Woolcock** says the average

complement embarking on government-chartered vessels between 1860 and 1890 was 354. The majority were English (440), followed by Irish (159) and Scottish (31). The **Hastie** family made up six of the last-mentioned. The remaining 30 passengers were from various other countries.

As far as the passengers were concerned, the supreme authority on board was Dr John Edward **Usher**, the ship's surgeon-superintendent. Born in Victoria, Australia in 1854, he had been registered with the London Medical Board in May 1881 and was on his first voyage to Queensland in charge of an emigrant vessel. As the holder of such an office he was subject to strict regulations laid down by both the home and colonial governments with the intention of ensuring the safety and well-being of the passengers in his care. His position carried an extraordinary degree of authority relating to their health, welfare and discipline from the moment they embarked.

Even before passengers boarded, Dr **Usher** would have been busy inspecting them for signs of ill-health, especially the children. If he came across a child who was found to be suffering from measles, scarlatina (scarlet fever) or any other infection, the family would be sent home, to be recalled to another ship when all the members were healthy. William **Hastie** would note in his diary: *Felt sorry for one woman and family who were refused a passage because her baby had measles.* One wonders if he would have been so sympathetic had he known what fate had in store for his young son. Doctors were also supposed to examine passengers' clothing and baggage but, faced with such a daunting task in the time available, any inspection would have been cursory. William **Hastie** would note that, when he presented for examination, Dr **Usher** only looked for his 'vaccination mark', an indication that he had had a vaccination against smallpox, which was compulsory for all emigrants.

Among his many other responsibilities, Dr **Usher** had to prepare a passenger list, maintain a medical and disciplinary log, record the daily temperatures between decks, register births and deaths, list the possessions of those who died, complete a classified summary and write an official report of the voyage detailing the 'health, discipline and arrangements' of the ship. Significantly, as would become evident, he recorded any interference or non-cooperation by the ship's master and officers. Thus, he was called upon to exercise not only medical but also managerial, clerical and administrative skills, and to exercise a degree of tact and discretion in exercising his authority.

It was a considerable responsibility for any one man, and Dr **Usher**, for whom it was a new experience, could have been excused for being a little daunted at the prospect, especially as the *Nowshera's* above-average complement of passengers included a number of young, single men and

women, some of whom would prove resistant to discipline. Dr Usher would have been aware that any perceived failing in his duties would incur the wrath of the Immigration Agent and possibly an investigation by the Immigration Board at journey's end. Penalties could include the loss of his entire gratuity and even imprisonment. Notably, the passengers included what the Brisbane *Telegraph* of 13 October 1883 would later describe as 'some twenty or thirty Brighton girls ... poured into the ship at the last moment' who would prove a source of trouble and disturbance throughout the voyage. Dr **Usher** told the newspaper he had already identified them as 'a small contingent ... who had been benevolently foisted on the Attorney-General for transmission to Brisbane'. He would later claim to have weeded out a few at the Plymouth depot, but those who managed to slip on board without detection 'soon let it become pretty evident what their profession was, and that they were coming out to practise in Queensland'.

The surgeon-superintendent was supported by a government-appointed Matron, Mrs Eliza **Ware**, a veteran of many voyages on the Queensland run. Above all else, she was responsible for the welfare of the young women and her duties would have run the gamut of guardian, governess, nurse, midwife and even policewoman. At night, she literally kept the young woman under lock and key in the single-women's quarters, an area out of bounds to all men except the surgeon-superintendent, to whom she was answerable. In addition, Dr **Usher** was entitled to appoint passengers to carry out certain tasks, including keeping watch. Later events indicate that he also chose at least six men he judged to be strong, dependable and respectable to act as constables. Each was given a Queensland Government-supplied uniform which bore the insignia 'Constable H. M. Queensland Government'. Dr **Usher** also appointed 18-year-old Henry Stephen **Dutton** to serve as his assistant, and a recently-married man travelling with his wife, 27-year-old Robert **Macfarlane**, to conduct the shipboard school and library.

Running the shipboard school and library using government-supplied materials and books was a seven-days-a-week job, extending even to teaching Sunday School for children aged 4-14 and evening classes for the young adults. The children's classes usually ran from 9.00am to 12 noon and from 2 to 4 pm each day. The teacher might be allowed to rest on Sundays if there was a clergyman or passenger 'of good moral and religious character' available to take on that duty with the surgeon-superintendent's consent. A week or so before the ship reached its destination, the teacher would hold examinations and arrange prizes for outstanding students.

As for Captain **Livingstone**, when it came to an emigrant vessel under charter to the Queensland Government, a Letter of Instructions from Owners to Masters reminded him that he was responsible only for matters

connected with the sailing of the vessel or the management of the crew as far as the navigation of the ship was concerned. Thus, he was required to forego the authority he would otherwise possess in maintaining order and discipline among the passengers, as well as otherwise among the crew, such authority being entirely in the hands of the surgeon-superintendent. Nonetheless, whenever a surgeon-superintendent found himself having to take disciplinary action against members of the crew, he was placed in an invidious position. As would become evident in the case of the *Nowshera*, disharmony between the ship's master and crew and its surgeon-superintendent was a recipe for disaster, even more so when the officers and crew, finding immoral young women on board, were determined to take advantage of such congenial company.

At the outset, Dr **Usher** enjoyed a good relationship with the passengers under this care. William **Hastie** found him *a very agreeable man*, noting in a diary entry: *He takes great interest in the welfare of all on board. He is determined that no trouble shall be on board if he can prevent it.* On 26 July, William records how Dr **Usher** had been *kept busy at the dispensary hour giving out medicine, prescribing porter (a dark-coloured style of beer) to a good number which seems to be a very popular medicine especially among English and Irish emigrants.* In his official report on the voyage, Dr **Usher** would list Coup de Soleil - 30 cases of sunstroke - among the principal reasons passengers presented for treatment. As the ship made its way through the Suez Canal, the heat proved especially challenging for the emigrants. One, Lewis **Pilcher** observed, *... a ship being iron holds heat for so long. Inside the ship you can hardly put your hand on it.* (NLA S 9533, Reference Collection, National Library, Canberra) Each morning passengers sought relief in the fresh air, sea breeze and relative calm of the deck and remained there until the evening curfew. William **Hastie** recalls that on occasion *Most of [the] passengers slept on deck ... on account of the heat.*

William appears to have had little interaction with Captain **Livingstone** apart from a bizarre incident on 4 August while the *Nowshera* was in Port Suez, at the southern boundary of the Suez Canal. The Red Sea telegraph cable had been completed over 20 years earlier and on this occasion was being used by Yorkshire police seeking assistance with investigating a robbery there. The Suez Chief of Police sought Captain **Livingstone's** assistance. William recorded: *We were all in single file marched round the ship past the doctor. When I and other two were selected as answering the description given, were ordered to bring our things up beside the Captain and there formally examined. But as we all wanted the cut in the forehead and the mark in the mouth answering to the description given of the thief, we were all acquitted.*

Unbeknown to William, by this point in the voyage the doctor's relationship with Captain **Livingstone** had already become strained. On 1 August, when the *Nowshera* was approaching Port Said, Dr **Usher** had directed the captain that the vessel was not to take on water there due to the risk of introducing cholera on board. The doctor was forced to draw on his authority when the captain attempted to ignore the instruction, arguing that water was more expensive at Port Aden, some 1500km further on. Although Dr **Usher** prevailed, it would be recalled as the first cause of unpleasantness between the two men. Dr **Usher** would later comment in his official report, 'After refusing to permit Captain **Livingstone** to take water at Port Said, his manner changed, following this his officers offered obstruction in many ways. From Aden a systematic plan of annoyance and corruption of the emigrants was practised by the ship's people.' (*Queensland State Archives COL/A370 Letter No. 85/5145*).

Around the same time, tragedy struck the shipboard school and Sunday School with the death of 27-year-old Mary Anne **McFarlane**, wife of the appointed schoolmaster, Robert **McFarlane**. Under government regulations, the teacher's role was considered so important that, should circumstances dictate that the incumbent could not continue, the ship's matron or even the surgeon-superintendent was required to step in as a substitute. On this occasion, however, **McFarlane** appears to have carried on with his duties, although a fellow emigrant Lewis **Pilcher** observed, 'this has cut him up'. (**Pilcher**, op. cit.) William **Hastie's** diary entry was more emotional: *They had only been married 3 months and on their way to seek their fortunes in a new country. When overtaken by trouble, she laid her earthly burden down at Jesus' feet. Her last words to her husband being why did he look so sad. He answered he could not help it. She told him not to mourn for her as all her trust was placed in Jesus as her saviour. I am going to sleep, she said, but sleep in Jesus. Her body was consigned to the deep about 10.00 o'clock, after the funeral service had been read.*

The ill-feeling between Captain **Livingstone** and Dr **Usher** would continue to fester until the antagonism and hostility between the two men became what the *Brisbane Courier* would later describe as 'very bitter indeed' (6 October 1883). Future articles will recall how circumstances on board caused Dr **Usher** to consider arming himself against violence from the crew and, in a sensational aftermath to the voyage, how a public inquiry by the Immigration Board heard both men bring charges against each other and passengers make allegations regarding both Dr **Usher** and Matron **Ware**.

To be continued November Bremer Echoes

OUR HORSE SHOE WITH A STORY



Beside the front door of Brigg House we have a coat rack. For a number of years two old horse shoes have hung there, and no one has taken much notice. Recently one of the members commented on the size of them, as one is a normal size but the other a lot smaller, a fact that up until that time no one had thought about.

An approach was made to Martin Geddes, one of the blacksmiths at the Heritage Centre. Martin explained the shoe would have been made for a small horse/pony many years ago, and made of brass, the reason being it is more flexible than the usual material used by farriers. Small horses need a different type of shoe than larger horses.

Martin suggested it be polished and preserved as in all his years working as a blacksmith, he has only ever seen a couple of them. One of our members has kindly cleaned our little horseshoe, which is now on display.

IF I KNEW

If I knew that a word of mine, a word not kind or true,
Might leave its trace on a loved one's face,
I wouldn't speak harshly, would you?
If I knew that the light of a smile might linger the whole day through,
And lighten some heart with a heavier part,
I wouldn't withhold it, would you?

Truth (Brisbane, Qld. : 1900 - 1954), Sunday 3 July 1904, page 6

NEIGHBOURS IN COURT 1904.

Donner and Blitzen.

In the civil business there was a defamation case by which a good deal of interest was evoked, a special jury being empanelled to try it. The parties were a young Dane named Lauritz **Hagen**, who sued Paulina **Graf** and her husband, Jacob **Graf**—a middle-aged couple—for £200 for alleged defamation of character.

To understand the case properly some little explanation will be necessary. It appears that some time ago **Hagen** had a grocery business in Boonah, which was burnt down. The fire started in an adjoining store occupied by a man named **Neilson**, and the suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire resulted in Neilson being arrested and tried for arson. He was convicted and sentenced. **Hagen**, after the fire, became the licensee of the Travellers' Rest Hotel at Tarampa, which is owned by the **Grafs**, who live a short distance from the house, and who, from the evidence, like their little drop of beer as well as anyone.

According to **Hagen**, in February last he went over one morning to Mrs Graf and borrowed some buggy harness. While there he found that Jacob **Graf** was unwell—it was suggested in cross examination he was drunk, but this Mrs **Graf** denied, and also the insinuation that she was suffering a recovery. At any rate, **Hagen** remained for some little time and turned the cream separator for Jacob's frau. A fortnight later he returned the harness to **Graf** himself, whom he thanked for the loan of it.

Some little time after an old German farmer named Daniel **Neureth** told Hagen something, and the consequence was a visit to Messrs. **McGrath** and **O'Neill**, and the present action.

According to **Neureth** who is a very old fellow with a long fringe of white whisker round his face a la **Kruger**, and who told the court he had 'done mit wark,' Mrs. **Graf** happened along to his place one day, and in the presence of himself and others accused her brother, a man named John George **Bohlesht**, with having stolen some harness from her skillion room, and that the police were sent for he (**Schlecht**) had got **Hagen** to bring it back. '**Hagen**, the swindler, -brought it to us. **Hagen**, the Danish rogue,' added the indignant frau. 'On another occasion she is reported to have said that **Hagen**, **Schlecht** and old **Neurath** were all 'one pack,' and farther, 'Our places are too good insured. If they had not been they would have been burnt down long ago like the buildings at Boonah; the dirty swindler **Hagen**.'

This was the defamation complained of, and the plaintiff's evidence was borne out by the old farmer **Neurath** a young tailor who rejoices in the classic surname of Caesar and John George **Schlecht**, Mrs. **Graf's** brother, who not only denied stealing the harness but also having sent his son with it to **Hagen**.

For the defence, Mrs. **Graf** went into the box, and denied ever having lent Hagen the harness, and said she still believed that **Schlecht** took it and not Hagen. Under cross-examination by Mr. Peter **Macgregor**, she said she had hunted old Daniel **Neurath** out of the house on account of his having misbehaved himself. 'What! exclaimed his Honor, 'the venerable, old gentleman?' Mrs. **Graf** said it was the same but when pressed to tell the jury what it was the old lady became very coy, and only after a good deal of persuasion could be induced to whisper, "he lifted up mine clothes". The result was she hunted him out, and when she saw him a few days later she says he said, 'How do you do, old woman? I don't forget I do you a trick.'

What she understood by this Mrs. **Graf** did not explain. She admitted having been fined some time ago for threatening to strike a man named **Schoenfeldt** with a hammer, but it was, she said, on false evidence. She also admitted having apologised through- the 'papers to a man named **Sippel**, about whom she had made use of defamatory language.

Her husband, Jacob, under cross examination, said that if he had ever paid for 35 drinks in one day 'at **Hagen's** hostelry, he supposed he must have ordered them. His Honor: I was once charged 33s at a northern hotel for beer for one day, and yet I did not drink any of it.

Mr. Macgregor: But, your Honor, the defendant had an opportunity to dispute the bill.

His Honor: So had I, but I did not. You see, I happened to have a German friend with me that day. ' (Laughter.) Jacob said he had paid a £5 bill for drinks on one occasion, but had protested he had been charged double. After Mrs. Phillip **Neureth**, a daughter-in-law of the 'venerable old gentleman,' had given some evidence, Mr. **Stumm** (Instructed by Mr. Ambrose **Born**) who appeared for the **Grafs**, argued that there had been no evidence given to show any defamation.

In this view the jury evidently agreed, for they found that while Mrs. **Graf** did speak and publish the words to Caesar she had not done so to **Neureth**, and also that the words were not defamatory. This was, of course, a win for Jacob and his frau, who also got costs against the publican. (*The newspapers used Neurath and Neureth*)

Queensland Times (Ipswich, Qld.) Thursday 25 September 1919, page 5

DEATH OF MRS JACOB GRAF: The death occurred on Tuesday last of a very old colonist, in the person of Mrs. Jacob **Graf**, at the age of 67 years. Deceased, who was born Wurtemberg, Germany, came to Queensland in 1863, being then 11 years of age, and with her parents, Mrs. and Mrs. **Pfeffer**, resided in Ipswich for some years. She was married three times, her first husband being Mr. **Clem**, of Wondai, her second, Mr. **Kruger**, of Brisbane, and she was married to Mr. **Graf** of Omar Street, some four years ago. Deceased had been ailing for some six months.

ROSE MANSON – COMPASSIONATE IPSWICH HOUSE WIFE

Queensland Times Ipswich, Qld. Monday 25 August 1947, page 3

MRS. MANSON IN SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO, August 24, --Mrs. Rose Manson (Ipswich), who personally cared for the graves of hundreds of American soldiers buried in Ipswich, arrived to-day aboard the Marine Phoenix as a guest of the fighting men's families She will visit about 100 families in California, and then others in Midwestern States. To keep up her daily round of distributing flowers Mrs. Manson took a job as a cleaner at the Ipswich Post Office. "I felt that it was my duty as a mother to put flowers on the graves of the boys who died so far from their homes." Mrs. Manson said.

Queensland Times Ipswich Saturday 24 April 1948, page 2

STORY OF MRS. ROSE MANSON TO BE PUBLISHED IN U.S. The complete story of Mrs. Rose Manson's efforts on behalf of American service-men of World War II is soon to appear in the U.S. magazine "Coronet," under the title, "Aussie Angel." When World War II ended Mrs. Manson (of Ipswich) tended graves of American servicemen in the U.S.A.F. military cemetery at Ipswich until the bodies were sent home in caskets several months ago.

At present Mrs. Manson is visiting, at the expense and invitation of the Gold Star Mothers in Wichita, Kansas (who organised the trip), bereaved parents of ex-service-men buried at Ipswich. An American newspaper has this to say: "Mrs. Manson's road to fame was built of patience, sympathy, and the quality of motherliness which 12 children of her own—eight of them still living—could not exhaust. There was enough left over to win her the name of 'Mother' to every U.S. flier to see service in Australia. "Her doors were open to winged young Americans throughout the war, and coffee perked on her stove day and night for them.

*57 Salisbury Road Ipswich, where hundreds of American Servicemen were welcomed by Rose **Manson** during World War 2 (Chris Lloyd)*



Moreover, she cooked enough food for them to qualify as an expert on the G.I.'s feeding habits." After relating Mrs. Manson's activities in connection with the US Cemetery at Ipswich, the newspaper added, "This was half of her post-war story. The other half lay in her services to the living, for she maintained her correspondence with all the parents whose children she had known, and the list of American Gold Star Mothers who knew her well grew and grew."

American Magazine "Coronet" April 1949 Vol.25 No 6 / 65 to 68.

Mother to Silent Heroes. *How a kindly Australian woman brought solace to hundreds of Gold Star mothers: Carol Hughes*

One day in 1942, a young airman named Peter wandered into the little town of Ipswich, Australia. He was on leave and very lonely. Over a glass of beer in a pub, an American flier said: "You ought to go to the **Manson** house near the cemetery—you'll meet everybody there".

Later, this chance remark was to make little Ipswich one of the most beloved spots in the world to thousands of Americans. The lonely young flier visited the home on the hill above the cemetery and, like hundreds before and after him, found it the closest thing to home away from home. Mrs. Rose **Manson** and her brood of eight children took young Peter to their hearts. Sitting on the porch one day, looking over the rows and rows of bleak white crosses that marked the war dead, Peter said with a wry smile: Mom, what a stark, cold place that cemetery is! I'd hate to be buried there."



*Picture Ipswich
Whitehead
Collection
IDWHD-016-PRI-
1862r.jpg*

*The American War
Cemetery before the
bodies were
returned to America
The area is now
known as Manson
Park and marked by
an "Historic
Plaque"*

Next week they shipped Peter back. His entry into the cemetery began a series of events that brought the lowly little Australian mother on a tour of the United States, and made the valley cemetery one of the most

beautiful in the world. From the very first day, Mrs. **Manson** kept Peter's grave a bower of flowers. One day her daughter Judy said to her: "Mother, if Peter could see his grave, I think he would tell you to 'spread them out—'give everybody a chance."

Rose **Manson** began to spread them out. Although the cemetery was kept immaculate by personnel of the American Graves Registration Service, every day she made a special trip to place flowers and to watch over the sons of Americans buried in the peaceful spot.

One day it occurred to her how much it would mean for an American mother to hear from an Australian mother about her son's grave. So, patiently, she wrote a letter, enclosing a small picture, to each Gold Star Mother. Back came a flood of grateful missives from America. The mothers begged for more information; offered money for the care of graves; wanted to know what they could do to help Mrs. **Manson**. To each she replied: "Just send some flower seeds to plant, and, if you like, some small American flags."

Seeds began to pour in from the U.S.—all kinds and types. Mrs. **Manson** didn't know about many of the strange packets from America but she planted everything—and soon morning glories and California poppies began to push Australian flowers over the fence.

In the years that followed, Rose **Manson's** mail from America became an avalanche. The American mothers numbered in the hundreds—and she was only one woman. "But I had got hold of something and couldn't let go," she says simply. "I couldn't bear to think of an American mother waiting in vain for an answer to her letter."

The **Mansons** had little means, and money for postage became a very real problem. She began to sell things around the house, and to deny herself luxuries. Finally she took a job, cleaning the post office at night, and used her earnings for postage. Until war's end, she attended every service for the 1,409 American dead—and sent to each mother all the information she could uncover about the boy.

While Mrs. **Manson** was struggling with her problems in Australia, a kindly American mother in Wichita, Kansas, was working to bring her a reward. Mrs. David **Moretz**, who had lost her boy in Australia and had received one of those Ipswich letters, thought it would be wonderful to bring Mrs. **Manson** to America on a visit. So she sent a mimeographed letter to 1,408 Gold Star Mothers with whom Mrs. **Manson** had corresponded, asking if they would contribute to a travel fund. The response was generous, and an invitation was sent to Mrs. **Manson**, the mother who had scrubbed floors, reared eight children and worked all her life to make ends meet.

"When the news came," she said later, "I felt like a fairy princess with a magic wand. I never believed it was true until I set foot in San Francisco."

For ten months, she toured America from coast to coast. She visited every state in the Union, traveling by train, car, bus, and even hitchhiking.

Funds were not sufficient for her to travel in royal style, but to her half the fun lay in "making things meet and enjoying the adventure."

She talked to hundreds of mothers, visited the homes of Chinese, Negroes, and even a few Indian tepees on the Navajo Reservation; she stayed at homes where servants did her every bidding—and slept on the floors of mountain cabins.

Much of her mission held sadness, for it meant talking for hours to the families of American boys. In Rapid City, South Dakota, she was met at the station by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel **Redmon**, whose son had died in Australia. Mrs. **Redmon** threw her arms around the mother from Australia and said: "It's the next best thing to having John home again."

Mrs. Manson arranged her visits well in advance. One home, centrally located, served as headquarters. The mother in that vicinity would write all the other Gold Star mothers nearby, telling them the date of her arrival. From then on, Mrs. **Manson** stuck like a hermit to the house.

Mothers and fathers arrived at all hours and from all directions. Some drove 500 miles to talk to her. They asked Mrs. **Manson** countless questions and she had the answers, since she had painstakingly prepared a ledger with the record of each boy in the cemetery at Ipswich and all available information about his death.

There were times, however, when she gave no information. In Chicago, an Italian mother came to see her. Although the flier son had been officially listed as dead, his body had never been identified. The mother still clung to the hope that her boy was alive. "I could have told her that he was buried in a common grave with other fliers," Mrs. **Manson** said, "but it is not for me to destroy hope. Such mothers were not disillusioned: neither were they given encouragement."

Her most-heart-warming experience occurred in Harlem. She never knew in advance what type of home or mother would be awaiting her at the next stop. When she arrived at the house in Harlem, "the door opened and there stood the sweetest, kindest, grey-haired old Negro mother I have ever seen."

Mrs. **Manson** spent the day in that simple home. "Hearts are the same all over the world, and somehow that simple Negro mother who had lost everything made me feel rich by comparison."

Once, while traveling on a bus, Mrs. **Manson** talked to a blind man about her experiences. "I'm the richest woman in the United States," she told him. "I'm worth millions in friends and heart-warming experiences."

A SIMPLE, SELF-MADE WOMAN, with no pretensions to education, Mrs. Manson often baffled the press that descended upon her at every stop. Once, in a Southern town, a reporter for a left-wing paper asked: "What do you think of the Negro problem here?" Mrs. **Manson** replied: "If you still think it's a problem after 100 years, how do you expect me to solve it within a few weeks?"

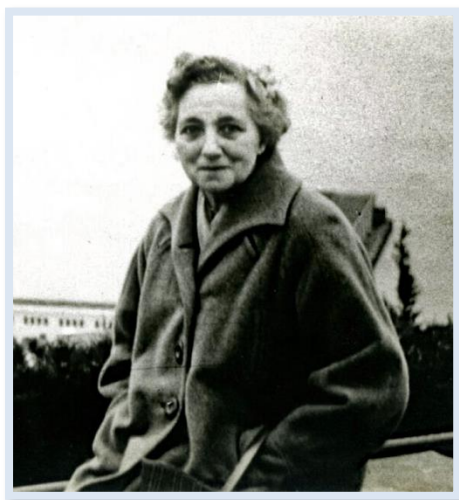
Rose **Manson** is a unique personality with a touch of earthy humanity, and friendliness that endeared her to the hundreds of American families she met throughout the country. It was this understanding for others that turned her simple little house by the cemetery into the “home away from home” for hundreds of American and Australian boys. Night and day her doors were unlocked; her sleep was always close to waking. Her name became a byword in Australia, passed around at the USO canteens from boy to boy.

The already-strong link between Ipswich and America became even stronger when the Gold Star Mothers decided to furnish one room in the Manson home with sheets, pillow cases, towels and essentials, to be dedicated to the Australian mothers whose sons were buried near theirs.

Today, the little cemetery is closed, the Graves Registration personnel has departed. The nights when Mrs. **Manson** laughed with the boys, the mornings when she sent them away to their missions, and the silent weeping over their graves when the bodies came back—all that has passed now. The American bodies were returned home for burial or sent to the national cemetery in Hawaii. But the ties of the Gold Star Mothers for Ipswich will endure.

Mrs. **Manson** remarks sadly: “It’s true that they have taken my children away, but in their place I shall always have the living memory of the mother of each of the boys. I shall never look over that peaceful valley without seeing in my mind’s eye the white cross that marked the grave of each American who rested there.”

One of the very few photographs of Rose Manson that have been found.



Plaque - Columbarium Wall Ipswich General Cemetery. Genies Collection.

HOPEFULLY, COMMON SENSE CAN BE RESURRECTED

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepchildren;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

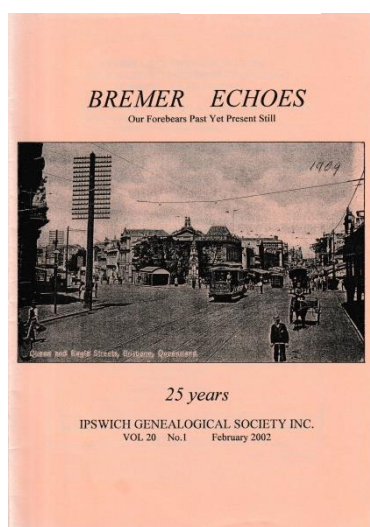


“BREMER ECHOES” the Magazine of the Ipswich Genealogical Society

The first edition of the magazine was in 1983, Bremer Echoes Volume 1, no 1, and there were six editions each year. A competition had been held to find a name and “Bremer Echoes” was chosen. * *“Bremer” is the river which flows not only through Ipswich, but also through the whole area from which we draw our branch members; “Echoes” conjures up memories of the past and that is the essence of our hobby*.* [From the Vol 3 no 4 editorial]

At that time our group was a branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland, and Volume 3 no. 4 in August 1985 was the first produced after we had broken away from GSQ, to become the Ipswich Genealogical Society Inc.

2002 The text was typed and headings hand printed, and



the A5 pages run off on an early type of photocopier. Our 12 page black and white booklet gradually grew, and for a number of years was produced commercially, now with the help of our local Federal Member of Parliament Shayne Neumann, we have a 24 page booklet with coloured photographs.

There are three editions per year, February, July and November, and the majority of members receive the magazine electronically, but a small number choose a printed copy posted. Bremer Echoes can be viewed on the Society’s web site, Picture Ipswich, and TROVE.

Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 6 July 1889, page 4

PROPOSED BRIDGE ACROSS THE BREMER RIVER. Several of the residents of North Ipswich and the Basin Pocket are desirous of securing better and safer means of communication between the two places than at present exists, and are accordingly taking steps to secure the construction of a bridge across the Bremer in that part of the municipality. Two meetings of a preliminary character have already been held, at which a committee and other officers were appointed and steps taken to secure the object in view. It is proposed to construct the bridge from Ferguson-street to the Bremer Basin Estate. Last night another meeting of the committee was held at the residence of Mr. T. **Lobb**, Basin Pocket. Mr J. **Ervin**, secretary of the committee (in the absence of the president, Mr. **Munro**, who sent an apology for his absence, as he had met with an accident), occupied the chair. There were present -Messrs. A. **Cole**, T. **Cole**, T. **Lobb**, J. **Burrows**, Joseph **Widdison**, A. **Widdison**, and T. **Jackson**. The correspondence between the secretary and Mr. A. H. **Barlow**, M.L.A., was read. As Mr. **Munro** was incapacitated, it was decided that Mr. **Burrows** should act in his stead in waiting upon Mr. **Barlow** in company with Mr. **Cole**. Mr. Thomas **Cole** proposed, Mr. A. **Cole** seconded, and it was carried that the secretary should write to the Municipal Council soliciting information and support. The subscription list which had been taken round the Bremer Basin Estate was read, and this showed that the respectable sum of £260 had been promised towards the erection of a bridge. Two new members were added to the committee-namely, Messrs. J. and A. **Widdison**. It was decided that the next committee meeting should be held on that day week, at 7.30 o'clock, at the residence of Mr. T. **Cole**. An interesting discussion took place with reference to the advisability of agitating for two bridges-one across the river at the Basin Pocket and the other at Woodend. Messrs. **Jackson** and A. **Cole** were appointed to wait upon his Worship the Mayor and Aldermen J. **Nicholls**, J. **M'Gill**, F. G. **Springall**, J. **Spresser**, and R. **Tallon**, for the purpose of acquainting them with the object of their letter to the Council. After a vote of thanks to the representatives of the press present, the meeting adjourned till next Friday.

Articles from Queensland Times relating to a new bridge over the Bremer

06.07.1889 page 4; 08.10.1889 page 5; 10.10.1928 page 6;

28.11.1941 page 4; On TROVE and 16.02.1984 page 14;

This bridge is still being discussed, and residents are still waiting.

PATCHES

When no one threw a thing away,
Like flour bags and such,
They were handy for all sorts of things,
And the cost was not too much.

Kero' tins and kero' boxes,
They were treasurers to us folk,
For buckets and for furniture,
And to fix the things that broke.

We never threw a thing away,
And we mended what we had.
I reckon that it stood us well,
“We could teach a few”, said Dad.

“The trouble with the world “, said Dad,
As he reached for pipe and matches,
“The trouble with the world today,
Is no one uses patches.”

We were satisfied with what we had
And stayed together longer,
We never threw it all away
And patches made us stronger.

By Grahame Watt Courtesy John Rossiter

Kero' - kerosene which was used for lanterns, kerosene refrigerators and had other uses on farms, was purchased in tins which held 4 gallons and two in a wooden box. These boxes were used in a multiple of ways, as a seat, step stool and even as shelves. The kero tins were useful when the top was cut out and a handle added gave you a bucket – very useful.

Flour bags – Flour was purchased in cotton bags which had the manufacturer's name printed on the fabric. The bags would be washed, and used in many ways, as patches, even sewn together to make tea towels, or in some cases undies for the children. It was a soft cotton fabric.

Mystery to Solve



This photograph was found after the death of Richard Murray **Munro** 1871 -1953. Information from his wife Elsie Lucretia (**Colwell**) **Munro**, 1886 - 1965, states it is his family with “Father” Gordon Sutherland **Munro** and “Mother” Eliza (**Read**) **Munro** parents of Richard Murray, who did have a sister Edith, but none of the others appear to be his siblings – see below.

<i>1881 British Census</i>	<i>5 St. Georges Ter. Edmonton Middlesex</i>		
<i>Gordon S. Munro</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>b. Marylebone MDX</i>
<i>Eliza Munro</i>	<i>wife</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>b. Westminster MDX</i>
<i>Douglas Graham</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>b. Enfield MDX</i>
<i>Ellen Lee</i>	<i>dau</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>b. Enfield</i>
<i>Ronald G</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>b. Enfield</i>
<i>Duncan Roderick</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>b. Enfield</i>
<i>Murray Richard</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>b. Enfield</i>

*Other known children: [1881] - Daughter -Edith L. Munro aged 24, b. Enfield Lock - Governess at the home of Edward S. **Swansborough** 7 Michael's Grove Kensington; Malcolm Kenneth son 18 [has not been found.]*

Murray Richard is not named on his birth certificate, (just “Boy”) his death certificate states Richard Murray and he was known as Dick. There is no date on the photograph.

Editor



PLEASE NOTE:

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting of The Ipswich Genealogical Society Inc.
Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 9.30 am

Cooneana Heritage Centre

1041 Redbank Plains Road New Chum

The Monthly General and Committee Meeting will follow.

All welcome.

Nomination forms are available at “Brigg House”,
Cooneana Heritage Centre, 1041 Redbank Plains Road, New Chum, Q. 4303
email: secretary@igs.org.au

Please return the forms to:

The Secretary “Brigg House” Cooneana Heritage Centre
Before 20th August 2025

AGM AGENDA

- Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting
- Business arising from the minutes
- President’s Report; Treasurer’s Report;
- **Election of Officers:**

President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer;

Appointments to other positions

Please inform the Secretary of any other business you wish to include
on the Agenda by Friday 29th August 2025

Irma Deas, President Ipswich Genealogical Society Inc

24th June 2025

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Contact the Secretary the address page 2

FROM RAIL TO WAR – QR Employees who enlisted in the Anglo Boer War 1899 – 1902 and the Great War 1914 – 1918 plus other information.
USB \$25.00 plus \$5.00 P&P [Australia]

PLACES OF WORSHIP – Ipswich & District Churches
Short history of churches in the area \$5.00 + \$2.50 P&P in Australia

INDEX TO IPSWICH CEMETERY BURIAL REGISTER 1847 – 2014
Over 36,000 records giving full name, age, death and burial dates where available 1 CD - \$20.00 + \$5.00 P&P

INDEX TO IPSWICH GENERAL CEMETERY 1851 - 1992 & Columbarium Wall 1949 - 1992. One microfiche \$6 includes postage in Australia. Over 15,000 entries with details of name, age and date of death.

BIRTH, DEATH & MARRIAGE EXTRACTS 1858 – 1865 from The North Australian & Ipswich General Advertiser. \$10 + \$10.00 P&P in Australia

CITIZENS OF IPSWICH - 1904 Names of Ipswich citizens in 1904 taken from Available Church Records - Baptisms, Deaths and Marriages, Electoral Rolls, Post Office Directory, Available School Rolls, Queensland Times Reports. \$10 + \$10.00 P&P in Australia

IPSWICH & DISTRICT PIONEER REGISTER - pre 1914; Pioneer Families of the Ipswich, Gatton, Laidley, Boonah and Esk areas of Queensland.
Please note prices: Set Volumes 1 & 2 - \$10 + \$18 P&P in Australia

JUBILEE HISTORY OF IPSWICH 1910 Commemorates the Jubilee of Municipal Government. Reproduced on CD from the original 157 page book \$19.50 (\$6.00 P&P)

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024 - 2025

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