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The Wagga Wagga Express and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser.

The first newspaper published in Wagga Wagga was the *Wagga Wagga Express and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser* (WWE). The first edition was published on the 30th October 1858¹. The original format was four pages, each of six columns, published every Saturday. The cost was sixpence per copy².

On the 25th August 1875 the name was changed to the *Wagga Wagga Express*³.



On the 1st November 1919 the WWE became a daily and assumed a new name, *The Daily Express*⁴.

In 1930 the WWE was forced to seek a court order to prevent the Union Bank from foreclosing on it⁵.

It later became the Daily Express, before the publication ceased in September 1939⁶.

The original WWE office was in a wooden building at the lower end of Fitzmaurice Street. The building still stood in 1908, near Mr Coyne's bakery, operating as a Chinese store. Back in the early days, James Gormly and his family had resided on the site where Coyne's bakery later stood, alongside the Express office, with the yard and stables of his mail coach business situated where Knights Meats now trade⁷. The Express office back in the early days was owned by Suzannah Brown⁸, owner of the Hanging Rock Station, and the widow of "Tinker" Brown.

This site was allotment 3 of section 5, South Wagga Wagga, which we would now describe as being about forty five metres to the south of Knights Meats, on the same side of Fitzmaurice Street. Gormly described it in 1913 as "*now marked on the front with Chinese characters, and is situated next to the Golden Fleece hotel and a residence on that property.*"⁹

The WWE office was moved to new premises during the time of Fowler Boyd Price, probably sometime in 1859. This was a new building in Johnston Street that would later be part of the residence of Mr Lupton¹⁰. Price lived there initially and must have subsequently moved the office and printing plant there as well¹¹. This was to the rear of the Australian Hotel and Victoria House¹².

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 30th October 1858, Vol.1, No.1, p1.

² Wagga Wagga Express. 30th October 1858, Vol.1, No.1, p1.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th August 1875, p1.

⁴ Dwyer, Mary. *The Wagga Wagga Express*. CSU Regional Archives Summer School Scholar 2001-2002.

⁵ Morris, Sherry. *Wagga Wagga a History*. 1999. p177.

⁶ Kirkpatrick, Rod. *Country Conscience – a history of the NSW provincial press, 1841-1995*. 2000. p28.

⁷ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

Wagga Wagga Express. 5th November 1908, p2c2

⁸ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

⁹ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

¹⁰ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

¹¹ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

¹² Wagga Wagga Express. 31st October 1908, p2c2.

The paper was enlarged in November 1864¹³, but in what way is not documented. By October 1868 the WWE was issued bi-weekly¹⁴.

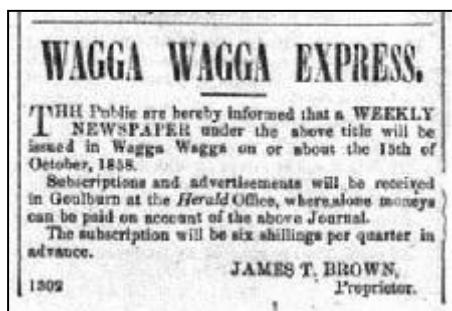
On the 14th February 1892 the then offices of the WWE were completely destroyed by fire. The only things saved were the account books, which were rescued with difficulty. Publication of the WWE was able to continue thanks to the assistance of the *Wagga Wagga Advertiser* office, and to Messrs J. T. Williamson and H. B. Fitzhardinge who allowed Hawkins to use the premises and plant of a previous evening newspaper [*Star?*]¹⁵.

In April 1913 the WWE ceased publication,¹⁶ but was to be subsequently resurrected within a month.

In November 1938 the Wagga Express was operating out of offices in Johnstone Street, in the building adjoining the Lands Office, and the Shire Offices¹⁷.

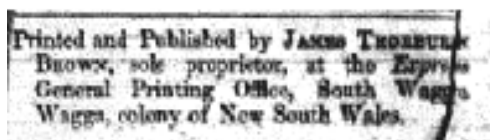
James Thorburn Brown.

The first proprietor of the WWE was James Thorburn Brown, an editor from America. Brown



travelled to Wagga Wagga, from Sydney in 1858, arriving either late September or early October, with the original intention of publishing the first edition of his new venture on the 15th October¹⁸. Brown experienced some delays and the first edition was not published until 30th October 1858.

Left: From the *Goulburn Herald*, 25th September 1858.



Left: From the WWE, 30th October 1858.

Brown apparently had learnt his trade under George Mott, of the Albury Border Post¹⁹. It is probable that Brown was financed by William MacLeay, the then member for the Lachlan district, and that he was acting as manager and editor for MacLeay²⁰.

J. G. O'Connor, an old newspaper man, stated in 1906, that when the *Empire* ceased publication in 1856, Sir William MacLeay bankrolled Brown & Morgan (two compilers from the *Empire*) to set up the Yass Courier and that at the same time he dispatched Bentley to Wagga Wagga to set up the WWE²¹.

¹³ Wynyard Times. 10th November 1864, p3c3.

¹⁴ Yass Courier. 9th October 1868, p2c6.

¹⁵ Australian Town & Country Journal. 20th February 1892, p17.
Sydney Morning Herald. 15th February 1892, p5.

¹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 21st April 1913, p2c2.

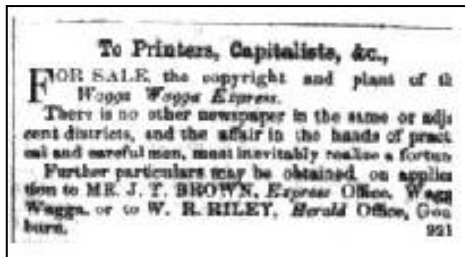
¹⁷ Wagga Express. 5th November 1938, p3c2.

¹⁸ Goulburn Herald. 25th September 1858, p2c5.

¹⁹ Australian Town & Country Journal. 7th September 1878, p25.

²⁰ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

²¹ The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate. 20th January 1906, p4.



When Brown advertised the paper for sale in 1859, he did not list himself as the proprietor, although there was no reference to MacLeay²².

Left: From the *Goulburn Herald*, 2nd April 1859.

Brown departed Wagga Wagga within a year of his arrival and subsequently established Townsville's first newspaper, the *Cleveland Bay Herald and Northern Pioneer*, in March 1866²³. James J. Baylis in his reminiscences recalled that Brown only owned the paper for a few months before selling out to Fowler Boyd Price²⁴.

Brown's movements post Wagga Wagga are not well recorded, but certainly in October 1859 he was before the insolvency court with liabilities of £83 2s. 6d, and assets of £10. His address was listed as Princess Street, Sydney, and his profession as *printer*²⁵.

In February 1865 a James Thorburn Brown, teacher of Illawara, was before the insolvency court at East Maitland, with debts of £69. 16s. 2d, and assets of £15²⁶. It is not known if this is the same person.

Brown was insolvent again in June 1867, and the situation was to prove far more serious this time. He was described as a *printer* of Townsville. The first hearing in the insolvency proceedings occurred in mid July, and it was adjourned until the following week, at which time debts of £278 10s. 4d. were proven with a further adjournment scheduled before the end of July²⁷. At this latter meeting another debt of £110 3s. 4d. was proven, but as Brown was not present a further adjournment was ordered to be held on the 1st August²⁸.

Brown did not front for this meeting and a warrant compelling his attendance at a meeting on the following Thursday was issued²⁹. This court met on Thursday 8th August and debts of £67 14s. 10d. were proven. Brown was "*brought up in the custody of the Sheriff*" and examined.

Brown deposed that he commenced a newspaper in Townsville on the 3rd March, 1866 and that he had purchased some plant from Messrs Cubitt & Co. of Sydney. He also testified that he had operated a store at Crocodile Creek for a short time, commencing around September 1866. He claimed to own property in America, which he valued at \$10,000 to \$15,000, at the time of his departure from that country. The hearing concluded with a further meeting scheduled for the 14th October³⁰.

At the meeting on the 14th October, debts of \$815 9s. 9d. were proven, with assets of \$2 recorded. The Attorney General opposed the granting of a certificate, and a certificate sitting was set for the 9th December 1867³¹.

At the December meeting the Attorney General submitted nine objections against a certificate being issued, and the court accepted two of these, ruling that Brown had incurred debts with

²² Goulburn Herald. 23rd April 1859.

²³ Kirkpatrick, Rod. Anniversaries. 30 May 2008. <http://i-grafix.com/index.php/contributors/rod-kirkpatrick/the-education-of-three-journalists.html> [Retrieved 2nd July 2012]

²⁴ James J. Baylis. *The Murrumbidgee and Wagga Wagga*. RAHS Journals Vol.13, parts 4 & 5, 1927.

²⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 5th October 1859, p3. Government Gazette October 1859.

²⁶ Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser. 16th February 1865, p3.

²⁷ Brisbane Courier. 16th July 1867, p2. / 22nd July 1867, p2.

²⁸ Brisbane Courier. 27th July 1867, p4.

²⁹ Brisbane Courier. 7th August 1867, p2.

³⁰ Brisbane Courier. 9th August 1867, p4.

³¹ Brisbane Courier. 15th October 1867, p2.

the knowledge he could not meet the payments thereof, and that his insolvency “*was attributable to unjustifiable extravagance in living.*”

Evidence revealed that Brown had started a newspaper at Townsville in February 1866, the first edition of which was published on the 3rd March 1866. The associated plant had been purchased from Messrs Arthur Cubitt & Co., of Sydney, over which he gave a bill of sale to a Mr Black. Black foreclosed in June and Brown was sold up. Brown then went to Rockhampton and on to the Crocodile diggings where he commenced business as a storekeeper. This only lasted for three or four weeks before he departed for Brisbane. The report finished as follows:

*“In concluding his review of the evidence, the Attorney-General asked that the judgment of the Court should be as strict and severe as possible. The man's conduct was most disgraceful. He left Townsville without money, and having drawn out all the money from the bank, came to Brisbane and expends his cheques upon girls. His HONOR remarked that this was a disgraceful case. If it did not legally amount to obtaining money under false pretences, the insolvent had been guilty of swindling, and that too upon rather an extensive scale. He would give the insolvent the highest sentence possible, and would therefore sentence him to be imprisoned in Brisbane gaol for one year.”*³²

We know that Brown did go to jail because in March 1868, in the Supreme Court, Brisbane, “*Mr. Garrick, applied for leave to issue a writ of habeas corpus for the attendance of James Thorburn Brown, a prisoner confined in H.M. Gaol at Brisbane, to give evidence in this matter on Tuesday next, 24th instant, at the Police Court, Brisbane.*”³³

Brown moved to Sydney at some stage and towards the end of the 1890's was employed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney³⁴.

In a sad ending to this story, at around 5am on the 23rd October 1900, a body was found lying on the grass in Centennial Park, Sydney. A revolver was clasped in the right hand with one empty chamber, and there was a single bullet wound to the forehead. The body was identified as that of sixty eight year old James Thorburn Brown, a printer, who had lived with his son-in-law at Petersham up until a month ago, but who had since then been homeless. An inquest on the same day returned a verdict of death by suicide³⁵.

Gormly stated that William MacLeay, junior, the member for the Lachlan and Lower Darling in the first and second parliaments of NSW, and member for the Murrumbidgee in the third parliament, was the “*actual proprietor*” of the WWE³⁶.

Brown wrote to the editor of the *Yass Courier* in October 1858 to deny an accusation that “*Messrs MacLeay, Donaldson, and Gordon*” were connected with the publication of the WWE, claiming that he was the “*sole proprietor*” of the paper. The editor stated that “*these statements are in contradiction to statements made freely by Brown in both Yass and Goulburn*” and commenting that “*time will tell as to the liberality of his reporting*”, suggesting that Brown's editorship would reflect the opinions of MacLeay and those like him, especially as regards their opposition to “*free selection*”³⁷.

It may have been that Brown was bankrolled by MacLeay and others?

³² Brisbane Courier. 10th December 1867, p2.

³³ Brisbane Courier. 24th March 1868, p3.

³⁴ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.
Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

³⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 24th October 1900, p6.

³⁶ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

³⁷ Yass Courier. 16th October 1858, p3c7-p4c1.

In March 1859 a man named James Murdoch appeared in the Wagga Wagga Court charged with being of unsound mind, where Dr Morgan gave the opinion that Murdoch was “*unfit to be at large*”. The only surety to come forward for bail was Brown, and as a second surety could not be found, Murdoch remained in custody. Murdoch had been employed by Alexander Davidson as a teacher at Bullenbong but the *Yass Courier* believed that Murdoch was now the “lead writer” for the *WWE*, noting that this was the only case before the court

The *Courier* interpreted this as confirmation that the WWE had lost their lead writer⁴¹.

Left: Wagga Wagga
Express, 29th October 1859
– Page 1.

Wagga Wagga Express, 23rd April 1859, p2c1.

Fowler Boyd Price

In October 1854 Fowler Boyd Price, of Sydney, was issued with a General Auctioneers license⁴³. Three years later he was declared insolvent. His address was described as “*late of Bridge Street, Sydney, but now Redfern*”, while his occupation was still “*commission agent*”. Total liabilities were £620 and assets £30⁴⁴. His certificate of discharge was issued in February 1858⁴⁵.

Price became well known by horse breeders and others throughout the colony, as the compiler of the first volume of the *Stud Book of New South Wales*, which publication first appeared in 1858⁴⁶. He also compiled and published the *Australian Racing Calender*⁴⁷. Before moving to Wagga Wagga Fowler Boyd Price was for some time the sporting editor for *Bell's Life in Sydney*, and also wrote under the pseudonym of *Whipcord*⁴⁸. He subsequently formed a partnership with Francis Mason, as printers and publishers of the *Sydney Dispatch*⁴⁹.

Fowler Boyd price succeeded James Thurlow Brown as editor of the WWE, and Gormly thought that he also became the proprietor⁵⁰. When Price first came to Wagga Wagga he lived in a new building that later formed part of Mr Lupton's residence, on the sandhill between Gurwood and Johnston Streets⁵¹ [where the old SRCC multi-storey building now stands - 2012].

Price's time in Wagga Wagga was fairly short, with him leaving in February 1860 to return to England, where he had “*succeeded to the possession of a large estate*.”⁵²

A complimentary farewell dinner took place on the evening of the 25th January, at Byrnes' Australian Hotel. There were some forty persons present, and Price was presented with a “*highly complementary address*,” which had been subscribed to by sixty of the leading citizens of the district⁵³.

A report in the WWE gave a glowing report on Price's character⁵⁴:

“On Tuesday morning last Mr Price, late editor and proprietor of this journal, took his departure from Wagga Wagga for Sydney, en route to England by the Salsette mail steamship. It is hardly perhaps too much to say, that no gentleman occupying his prominent position, ever quitted the scene of his labours, so universally respected, and regretted. We do not think that he has made one enemy during the nine or ten months in which he has discharged the difficult and delicate duties of a newspaper editor amongst us, and this

⁴³ Government Gazette. October 1854, p2184.

⁴⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 8th October 1857, p4.

Government Gazette. October 1857, p1951. / November 1857, p2255.

⁴⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 8th February 1858, p2.

⁴⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 17th June 1858, p1..

⁴⁷ Goulburn Herald. 30th April 1859, p2c3.

⁴⁸ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

Goulburn Herald. 30th April 1859,

⁴⁹ Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser. 7th October 1858, p3.

⁵⁰ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

⁵¹ Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

⁵² Gormly, James. *Exploration & Settlement in Australia*. 1921. pp388-389.

Yass Courier. 28th January 1860, p2c5.

⁵³ Sydney Morning Herald. 2nd February 1860, p3.

⁵⁴ Empire. 9th February 1860, p4.

without sacrificing one iota of the dignity of his office, or the independence of his character. To his efforts and energy our progress towards the erection of a pontoon bridge over the Murrumbidgee is mainly due, and it must have been highly gratifying to his personal feelings that every share in this important enterprise had been taken up before he left the township.”

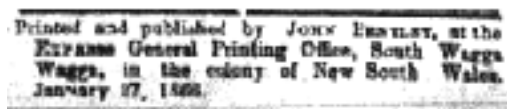
James Gormly described Price as “*a superior class of man, and was in my opinion, the best sporting writer in Australia in his day.*”⁵⁵

John Bentley & William Rogerson

Fowler Boyd price sold the newspaper to two of his employees, John Bentley & Rogerson in 1860. Bentley brought Rogerson out soon afterwards⁵⁶, in July 1862⁵⁷.

It was Bentley who removed the newspaper offices from Johnstone Street “*to the yard behind Gurwood street*”, shortly after Rogerson departed. Samuel later joined Bentley, as editor of the paper, before becoming a partner, and then eventually the sole proprietor⁵⁸.

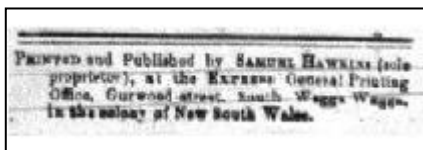
Bentley was still the publisher in December 1866⁵⁹. Bentley subsequently sold to Samuel Hawkins. Bentley was a prominent citizen of Wagga Wagga who was connected with many community groups, notably the Mechanics’ Institute⁶⁰.



Left: From the WWE, 27th January 1866.

Samuel Hawkins

By August 1868 Samuel Hawkins was the editor of the WWE⁶¹. Morris states that Hawkins was born in Gloucestershire, England circa 1835 and came to Wagga Wagga in the mid 1860s to take up the position as editor of the WWE, and subsequently becoming the proprietor of same in 1869⁶². He had previously published a paper at Burrangong, and had lived at Kiandra at one time⁶³.



Left: From the WWE, 17th July 1872.

⁵⁵ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

⁵⁶ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1913, p5c2.

Daily Advertiser. 21st April 1913, p2c2.

Sydney Morning Herald. 2nd March 1860, p2c3.

⁵⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 31st October 1908, p2c2.

⁵⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 12th February 1901, p2c1-2.

⁵⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 31st October 1908, p2c2.

⁶⁰ Morris, Sherry. *Biographical Listings*. John Bentley.

⁶¹ Gundagai Times. 1st August 1868, p2c1-2.

⁶² Morris, Sherry. *Biographical Listings*. Samuel Hawkins.

⁶³ Sydney Morning Herald. 24th July 1868, p2.

PUBLISHED every WEDNESDAY and
 FRIDAY MORNING, and dispatched
 immediately to all parts of the Colony.

MURRUMBIDGEE DISTRICT ADVERTISER.

ESTABLISHED 1881.

Terms of Subscription 1- per Quarter, in
 ADVANCE, payable in advance, 10s. per
 10s. per annum, and 12s. per 12s.

WAGGA WAGGA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1872.

WAGGA WAGGA
Business Directory

WAGGA WAGGA
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WAGGA WAGGA
33 INCHES Buxton

Notes.

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LAND, STOCK, STATION, AND COMMISSION
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1st Jan'y. 1872.

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C. RIGGALL
DESIRES to return his sincere thanks to the numerous friends and patrons who have honored him with their patronage since his establishment a business in Wages, Wages, and begs to inform them that he has REMOVED to
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Street,
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civility and attention, and by employing only the very
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The Boots and Shoes made by C. H. will always
be guaranteed both in fit and finish.

Station order expires on moderate terms.
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Caution.

ANY person or persons found SHOOTING in the GUNNY GUNNY PADDocks without special leave in writing from the authorities will be

Wool Season—1869-70.

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Note.—Weal waybill forms posted free to any station, on application by persons desiring to consign their produce to F. P.

e 1.

It was in late July 1868 that Hawkins became embroiled in a conflict with Frederick Ainslow Tompson. Hawkins' account of events was that William Willans (a local solicitor) had been duly elected, at a public meeting, to chair an impending "*dejeuner*" for the Governor of NSW, but this decision was subsequently quashed by a stacked meeting and Tompson was instead appointed the chairman. Hawkins claimed that many people took offence at this action and that as a consequence some had declined to attend the dinner.

Tompson refuted this interpretation, explaining that the decisions at the first meeting were made by a group of four and did not have the support of all persons present, and that the second meeting quite correctly rescinded the earlier decisions and elected new officials⁶⁴. A subsequent letter to the editor of the Yass Courier, from Hawkins, detailed the series of events that had occurred and challenged Tompson's interpretation of those events. Hawkins emphasised the fact that the original selections were made whilst the Police Magistrate, Mr Henry Baylis, was in the chair⁶⁵.

Hawkins published his interpretation of events, in a report of the visit, noting that Tompson was still sitting on the local bench as a magistrate, and calling on the Executive to remove him from that position. The article was reprinted in the Yass Courier⁶⁶, and the Gundagai Times, the latter noting that Tompson was still sitting on the local bench "*as if nothing had occurred*"⁶⁷.

The original report in the WWE so enraged Tompson that he subsequently went to the Royal Hotel, where Hawkins was staying, had a groom open the door to the room of Hawkins, and then whilst the latter lay in bed, bashed him with a horse whip⁶⁸. Within a week Hawkins had again been attacked, in his office, this time by the son of F. A. Tompson⁶⁹.

Both the accused attackers were charged to appear in court. Hawkins attempted to have the cases tried in Sydney, on the grounds that he would not get a fair hearing, but this was refused by the local court. Hawkins pointed out, in his application, that on Tuesday evening, following the publication of the article in the WWE, the court house was lent for the purpose of holding an "*Indignation Meeting*" against him. The Town Crier proclaimed the meeting throughout the day, and it subsequently drew a large crowd. The meeting passed a resolution which read as follows:

*"That this meeting composed of the magistracy, tradesmen, and workmen of the town of Wagga Wagga desire to express their unqualified disapproval of the report published in the Wagga Wagga Express of Saturday last"*⁷⁰

It was clearly evident that Hawkins would not get a fair hearing.

Tompson and his son appeared in court at Wagga Wagga in October 1868, before Judge Hargrave. The jury was unable to reach a verdict in the case against Tompson junior, despite the fact that the defence admitted the circumstances, as described by Hawkins, were correct. In the case against Tompson senior it was noted that two of the twelve jurors selected were

⁶⁴ Yass Courier. 29th July 1868, p3c3-4.

⁶⁵ Yass Courier. 8th August 1868. p3c5.

⁶⁶ Yass Courier. 29th July 1868, p3c1.

⁶⁷ Gundagai Times. 1st August 1868, p2c1-2

⁶⁸ Gundagai Times. 1st August 1868, p2c1-2

⁶⁹ Gundagai Times. 8th August 1868, p3c2.

⁷⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th November 1868, p3c6.

related to Tompson. As there were no other jurors to choose from (twelve others had already been rejected) both parties agreed to accept the twelve as were. Hawkins had asked for the case to be moved to Sydney but the judge rejected this application. In summing up the judge commented that *“There could be no doubt that a terrible assault had been committed, under circumstances of peculiar aggravation. It was an assault by a magistrate sworn to uphold the law he had breaking – by an elderly man, who should have known better how to curb his indignation, natural as it might have been; and on a day dedicated to peace and rest.”* On the other hand he noted that this *“was one of the clearest cases of libel he had ever seen”*, and further that *“Hawkins had insinuated that Tompson was a person of such notorious bad character that leading residents of the district would not sit at the same table as him, at a public dinner.”*

The jury found in favour of Tompson, despite the evidence of an independent witness who confirmed that Tompson forced his way into the room and then repeatedly struck Hawkins with a whip handle. Tompson himself admitted hiding the whip *“down his sleeve”* and to striking Hawkins, but denied forcing his way into the room. He also admitted that Willans had originally been elected chairman of the dinner for the Governor, Lord Belmore, but in his words this was done *“most irregularly”*⁷¹.

This was the beginning of an ongoing vendetta between two groups, one composed of Willans and Hawkins, and the other consisting of Tompson and Henry Baylis, with both sides having their supporters in the community. Hawkins was able to use the WWE to push his agenda, whilst the Wagga Wagga Advertiser (Wagga’s second newspaper from late 1868) generally supported Tompson & Baylis.

Hawkins wrote to the Colonial Secretary stating that Tompson (Snr) should be removed as a Commissioner of the Peace, because of his actions. The Colonial Secretary referred the matter back to the local bench [headed by Baylis], which confirmed their support for Tompson⁷².

Typical of the differences was opposition to the Wagga Wagga Bridge Company and support for a “free bridge,” by Hawkins and Willans, whilst the Wagga Wagga Advertiser (WWA) took the opposite position in each case⁷³. The WWE was particularly scathing of Henry Baylis.

The WWA suggested in 1870 that Hawkins had three signs in his office⁷⁴:

1. Annoy the police magistrate [Henry Baylis] on every possible occasion
2. Abuse the Wagga Wagga Bridge Company and its bridge
3. Insult F. A. Tompson, the Town Clerk, whenever possible

Hawkins relinquished ownership of the WWE in the last week of 1897⁷⁵ and left Wagga Wagga in April 1898, moving to Monaro where he had purchased a share in the *Monaro Mercury*⁷⁶, which he subsequently managed for Mr F. C. Hogg⁷⁷. A presentation dinner was held in the rooms of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association on the 25th May 1898 where a group of prominent Wagga Wagga citizens acknowledged the contribution Hawkins had made to Wagga Wagga and presented him with a cheque for £150⁷⁸.

⁷¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th October 1868, p2c6-7.

Sydney Morning Herald. 24th July 1868, p2.

⁷² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th April 1869, p2c4.

⁷³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th June 1870, p2c3-4.

⁷⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th September 1870, p3c1.

⁷⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 31st October 1908, p2c2.

⁷⁶ Gormly Indexes: Samuel Hawkins.

⁷⁷ Australian Town & Country Journal. 17th February 1900, p10.

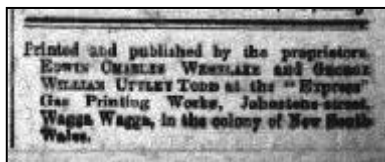
⁷⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th May 1898, p3c1.

In February 1900 there was a degree of anxiety when Hawkins went missing in Sydney. He had arrived in Sydney on Saturday 3rd February at 6am, took a cab from the Railway Station, and was last seen in Erskine Street on that same day. He was seventy years old at the time⁷⁹. It was subsequently revealed that he wrote two letters on that fateful afternoon - one to Percy Shannon, of the Sydney Morning Herald, was personal and gave instructions as to the dispersal of his effects. The second was a lengthy explanation to his friends in general, outlining perceived troubles. It is believed that he boarded the *Namoi*, a steamer travelling to Newcastle, but that he never disembarked, indicating he had drowned between Sydney and Newcastle⁸⁰. His luggage was taken to the office of the Newcastle & Hunter River Steamship Company, where the two letters were revealed. The luggage also contained “*documents, several valuable articles of jewellery, and a quantity of personal effects.*”⁸¹

Hawkins carried on the business for some thirty years before selling out to Messrs Westlake & Todd⁸².

Hawkins was also the owner of the Temora Star in 1884 when he sold the plant to Mr Stockhart Adolph Johnnes Wehr, who moved the plant to Junee and published the Junee Southern Cross⁸³.

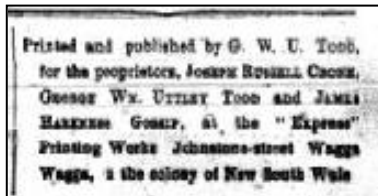
Edwin Charles Westlake & George William Uttley Todd.



Edwin Charles Westlake & George William Uttley Todd became the new proprietors from the beginning of January 1898⁸⁴.

Left: From the WWE, 8th January 1898.

Joseph Russell Crone, George William Uttley Todd & James Harkness Gossip.



Joseph Russell Crone, George W. U. Todd & James Harkness Gossip became the new proprietors around the 21st June 1898⁸⁵.

Left: From the WWE, 21st June 1898.

Joseph Russell Crone.

Joseph Russell Crone became the sole proprietor on the 9th February 1901⁸⁶. Some 6 months earlier he had represented the Wagga Express at a conference of some 200 newspaper representatives, at Sydney, in July 1900⁸⁷.

⁷⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th February 1900, p2c3.

⁸⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th March 1900, p2c6.

⁸¹ Sydney Morning herald. 13th March 1900, p10.

⁸² Daily Advertiser. 21st April 1913, p2c2.

⁸³ Junee Southern Cross. 20th September 1901, p2c2-4.

⁸⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 6th January 1898.

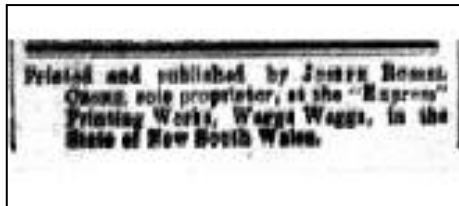
⁸⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 21st June 1898.

⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 12th February 1901, p2c1-2.

⁸⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 26th July 1900, p4.

Crone,⁸⁸ was described as a well known journalist, and the late proprietor of the Wagga Express when he died on Monday 17th July 1911⁸⁹. He passed away at Glebe Point, Sydney, aged 68 years old. During his newspaper career he had been associated with a number of newspapers including the following⁹⁰:

- the Ovens Advertiser, Beechworth
- the Forbes and Parkes Gazette
- the Daily Telegraph, Sydney
- the Wagga Express, Wagga Wagga.



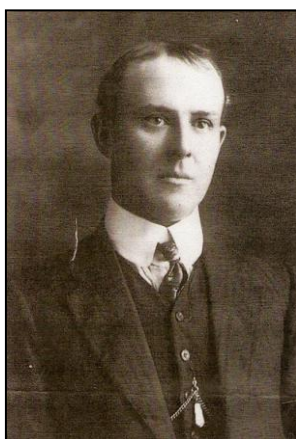
Left: From the WWE, 12th February 1901.

John Halowell Baillie & Percy James Johnstone.

John Halowell Baillie & Percy James Johnstone became the new proprietors around the 5th March 1903⁹¹. Although Johnstone had only recently been connected with the WWE, Baillie had been working there for some seven years. It was claimed that Johnstone had “*a very wide experience of the commercial side of the business in some of the largest business houses in the city and country centres.*”⁹²

The new proprietors stated that “*extensive improvements have been made in the plant (which is now the best in the provinces), and the facilities for obtaining the latest and most reliable information from all parts of the Southern District, the City, and abroad, have been largely extended.*”⁹³

John Halowell Baillie married Celia Letitia Dunn, the daughter of Mr Robert Dunn of Kurrajong, on 25th September 1900⁹⁴.



Left: John Halowell Baillie.
Photo courtesy of Tony Dunn.



Right: Celia Baillie (nee Dunn).
Photo courtesy of Tony Dunn.

⁸⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 31st October 1908, p2c2

⁸⁹ Barrier Miner. 18th July 1911, p4.

⁹⁰ The Advertiser (Adelaide). 18th July 1911, p8.

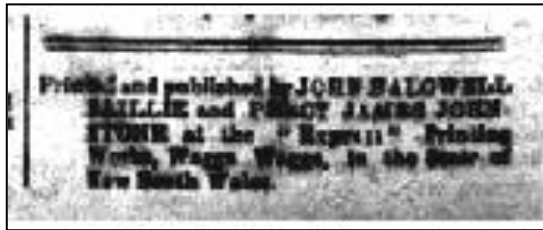
⁹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 5th March 1903.

⁹² Wagga Wagga Express. 7th March 1903, p2c3.

⁹³ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th March 1903, p5c5.

⁹⁴ Daily Advertiser. 27th September 1900, p3c2.

John Halowell Baillie began his newspaper career with the *Melbourne Herald*, before moving to the *Newcastle Morning Herald*. He then became editor of the *Newcastle Times*, and still later chief reporter of the WWE. He was proprietor of the latter up until 1913, two years of this in partnership with Percy J. Johnstone⁹⁵.



Left: From the WWE, 31st January 1908.

Percy James Johnstone had established a partnership with John H. Baillie as proprietors of the WWE, for some two years, up until 1913 when he left Wagga Wagga⁹⁶. Johnstone died in Sydney aged fifty four, on Friday 3rd September 1920⁹⁷, in tragic circumstances⁹⁸. He died of a sudden heart attack whilst commuting on the ferry *Kuringai*, around 5pm. No doubt he was on his way to his home, which was situated in Sydney Road, Manly. He was said to be well known in the printing trade, having operated such a business in Bathurst Street (Sydney) for some years⁹⁹.

At end June 1910 the paper was still published by the partnership of Baillie & Johnstone, but by 1st July 1911 Baillie was the sole proprietor¹⁰⁰.

The last edition of the WWE published by Baillie was that of the 15th April 1913¹⁰¹. There was a brief period during which the WWE was not published, before new owners took over in the following month.¹⁰²

Baillie was given a valedictory dinner in June 1913, having then been associated with the WWE for some seventeen years¹⁰³. Presumably he was still the proprietor at the time of its demise some two months earlier.

Baillie then moved to Sydney where he worked for the *Sydney Morning Herald* for several years, followed by two years with *The Daily Telegraph*.

Baillie died in Sydney aged about forty one, on 15th April 1921¹⁰⁴. He was living in Strathfield (Sydney) at that time, and was survived by his wife Celia Letitia (nee Dunn), two sons, aged 18½ years and 15 years (Reginald & Leonard), and a daughter (Vera) aged 13¹⁰⁵.

Henry Dunstan

The closure of the WWE on the 15th April was short lived, with new owners, Dunstan & Sons, publishing their first edition on the 10th May¹⁰⁶. In an editorial it was noted that the new

⁹⁵ Morris, Sherry. *Biographical Listing*. John Baillie.

⁹⁶ Daily Express. 16th April 1921, p2c2.

⁹⁷ Morris, Sherry. *Biographical Listing*. John Baillie. Quoting Daily Advertiser. 28th September 1920.

⁹⁸ Daily Express. 16th April 1921, p2c2.

⁹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 8th September 1920, p2c3.

¹⁰⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 30th June 1910. / 1st July 1911.

¹⁰¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 15th April 1913, p4c8.

¹⁰² Wagga Wagga Express. 10th May 1913, p4c8.

¹⁰³ Daily Advertiser. 23rd June 1913, p2c2.

¹⁰⁴ Morris, Sherry. *Biographical Listing*. John Baillie. Quoting Daily Advertiser. 18th April 1921.

¹⁰⁵ Daily Express. 16th April 1921, p2c2. / NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

¹⁰⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th May 1913, p4c8.

proprietors had “*extensive journalistic interests at Lockhart, Urana, and Clear Hills, and some few weeks must elapse before these can be satisfactorily disposed of, in order that efforts may be concentrated on the development of the business in Wagga.*”

Furthermore it was stated that it was the intention of the proprietors to convert the Express “*into a daily newspaper, to be published each afternoon.*”¹⁰⁷



Left: From the WWE 10th May 1913.

In April 1914 it was reported that Mr Henry Dunstan had been operated on in Sydney, that the operation was a success, and that his condition was favourable¹⁰⁸.

Despite this early optimism it was only some two months later that his death was reported in the local papers. He died at his residence, *Penandra*, in Johnston Street on the 14th June, aged fifty two years¹⁰⁹.

Henry was born at Castlemaine, Victoria, in 1862, and spent most of his younger years there. At age thirteen he started work as a book keeper in his uncle’s general store. Later he was a cashier in the local branch of the firm of Ball & Welch. He started his career in journalism in 1881 as a reported with the Horsham Times under the well known pioneer journalist, E. J. Stephens. He rose to the position of editor before moving to the *Wimmera Star* as editor and manager in 1883. In that same year he married the eldest daughter of a local teacher, William Hine.

In 1885 Henry founded the *Minyip Guardian* and a year later the *Rupanyup Spectator* [Kirkpatrick stated that the two papers were started within a month of each other¹¹⁰.] [Minyip and Rupanyup are both north east of Horsham in Victoria]

Henry disposed of these two publications within a few years and assumed the position of editor and manager at the *Charlton Independent* for a short period. In 1890 he established the *Yackandandah Times* and operated same for a number of years. In 1906 Henry’s sons were old enough to be involved with the business and he established the *Urana Independent* and the *Clear Hills Standard*, with their assistance.

The involvement of his sons allowed Henry to pursue other interests. While in Victoria he had practiced as an auditor for a number of large firms, and held an auditors license under the Victorian Companies Act. In 1907 he took up studies and became a qualified auditor under the NSW Local Government Act. He subsequently audited a number of local Municipality and Shire Councils, including Albury, Jerilderie, Berrigan, Yanko, Coolamon, Culcairn, Urana, and Hume.

He then studied and attained the Shire Clerks Certificate, and was subsequently appointed Shire Clerk at Urana. This was followed by similar appointments at Wollondilly and then North Botany (Mascot). During this period his sons carried on the two papers at Urana and Clear Hills, in addition to leasing and operating the *Lockhart Leader*.

¹⁰⁷ Wagga Wagge Express. 10th May 1913, p2c2-3.

¹⁰⁸ Daily Advertiser. 10th April, 1914, p2c3.

¹⁰⁹ Daily Advertiser. 15th June 1914, p2c1.

¹¹⁰ PANPA Bulletin, February 2005, pp58-59.

When the *Urana Independent* was destroyed by a severe fire in 1912, Henry gave up his career in local government and returned to Lockhart to assist his sons. The lease on the *Lockhart Leader* expired in May 1913, and Henry took the opportunity to purchase the Wagga Wagga Express¹¹¹.



The family continued to publish the WWE, which was a daily from 1919-1930, up until its demise in 1939¹¹².

Left: From the Wagga Wagga Express, 5th November 1938.

Below: Masthead of the Wagga Wagga Express, 5th November 1938.



Wagga Wagga Advertiser.

The second paper established in Wagga Wagga was the Wagga Wagga Advertiser (later the Daily Advertiser). Kirkpatrick gave the following account:

*“Wealthy pastoralists Thomas Darlow and Auber George Jones established the Wagga Wagga Advertiser as a bi-weekly in 1868. It became a tri-weekly in 1880 and a daily on January 3 1911. Stephen Sullivan, a printer on staff at the beginning, and his daughters, Alice and Forbie, ran the paper from 1883 until the 1950s when Rupert Henderson, managing director of John Fairfax, gradually assumed control. His daughter, Margaret Jarrett, became the owner, but the paper – along with the Riverina Media Group of which it was the flagship publication – was sold to Rural Press on May 2 2007.”*¹¹³

The End.

¹¹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th June 1914, p2c3-7

¹¹² PANPA Bulletin, February 2005, pp58-59.

¹¹³ <http://i-grafix.com/index.php/contributors/rod-kirkpatrick/the-education-of-three-journalists.html> [Retrieved 21st June 2012]