

# WWDHS NEWSLETTER No. 445 Oct– Dec 2020 ISSN 2207-1016

## Meetings

**Final Committee Meeting, 2020**  
HCC on 16 November at 1.30 pm

**Next General Meeting** has been postponed until February 2021.

**Christmas Party:** 28 November 2020 at the Marrar Pub, 6 pm.

## COMMITTEE 2020-2021

**President:** Geoff Burch

**Vice President 1:** Geoff Haddon

**Vice President 2:** Sherry Morris

**Secretary:** Margaret Hill

**Treasurer:** Geoff Burch

**Committee:** Tony Dunn, Margaret Nowlan-Jones, Peter Morris, Di Lovett, Rhonda Reedy, Brian Andrews, Craig Dixon, Leanne Diessel, Judy Buik

**Welcome to new members:** Heather Benton, Jennifer Denham and Marlene Turner

**Geoff Burch** has posted more articles on the Society's website: One on the Commercial Hotel (later Romanos) and one on the Subdivision of Portion 205, North Wagga which includes the Black Swan Hotel and McPherson Oval. These can be viewed or downloaded at following links:

<https://www.wwdhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/commercial-hotel-publish-20200918.pdf>

<https://www.wwdhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/portion-205-subdivision-20201007-publish.pdf>

**WWDHS Patron:** Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister

## WAGGA WAGGA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. PO BOX 90, WAGGA WAGGA. 2650.

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<b>Vice-President:</b> Geoff Haddon	Ph 0269224403
<b>Vice-President:</b> Sherry Morris	Ph 0269229337
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<b>Web site:</b> <a href="http://www.wwdhs.org.au">www.wwdhs.org.au</a>	

**Committee meetings:** 3rd Monday of the month  
**General meetings:** 3rd Monday of the month 7:30  
**Annual Subscriptions:** Single: \$20, Couple: \$30.  
 Corporate: \$50. Due by 1 July each year. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to WWDHS. BSB: 062 600. A/c No.: 0080 0270

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# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 21 September 2020**

## **The Committee for 2020-2021 is as follows:**

President: Geoff Burch

Vice President: Geoff Haddon

Vice President: Sherry Morris

Secretary: Margaret Hill

Treasurer: Geoff Burch

Public Officer: Peter Morris

Committee: Tony Dunn, Margaret Nowlan Jones, Peter Morris, Diane Lovett, Rhonda Reedy, Craig Dixon, Brian Andrews Leanne Diessel, Judy Buik.

## **Additional Positions.**

Committees and Delegates, Museum Advisory Committee: G Burch, P Gissing, B Andrews

Museum Steering Committee: G Burch with P Gissing as alternate Delegate

Museum/Council Huthwaite Study: G Burch, P Gissing

Newsletter: S Morris

Research: L Diessel

Web Administrators: G Burch, P Gissing

Web Emails: L Diessel

WWDHS Archives: J Buik

Strategic Plan: No formal committee

Guest Speakers: G Haddon

Supper Roster: Vacant while daytime meetings are held

Excursions: G Haddon

Best Cemetery: C Dixon, M Hill

Membership Database, welcome letters and passwords: G Burch

## **Newsletters**

The committee decided that the Newsletter in future would be issued every three months (rather than two) and will be complimented with more regular news emails. The current newsletter is for October-December this year. The next newsletter will be in January 2021. This decision was made as the Society now has a strong presence on-line which allows more regular contact. In addition printer and postage costs are expensive and we like to keep membership fees low.

## **Meetings**

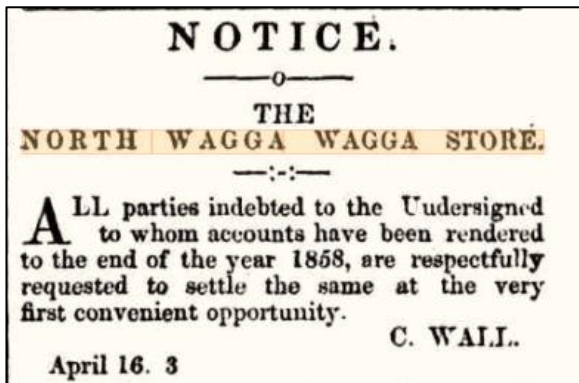
It was decided that, because of Co-vid restrictions, the next general meeting will not be held until February 2021. The final Committee Meeting will be held on 16 November 2020.

## “Tinker” Brown’s Store

41 Gardiner Street, North Wagga Wagga

By Geoff Burch

On the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1850 William [Tinker] Brown purchased allotment 18, portion 5, from the Crown.<sup>1</sup> Following the death of William, the property was managed by his wife, Susannah Brown. From as early as 1858, Charles Wall occupied the North Wagga Store,<sup>2</sup> and still did so in 1866, but this was on allotment 10, of section 5.<sup>3</sup> This store was located immediately adjacent to the Ferry hotel, facing onto Hobkirk Street. Further to the east, along Hobkirk Street, lay the White Swan hotel.



**Left:** Charles Wall’s notice in the local press, in April 1859.

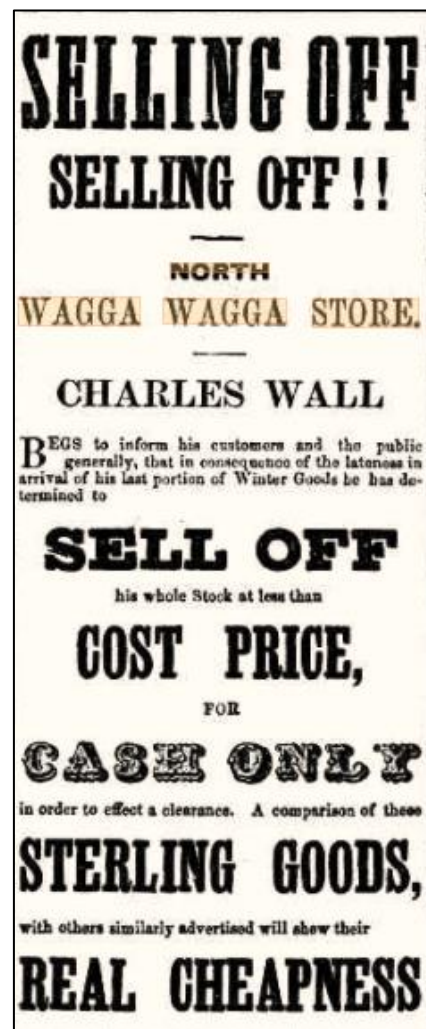
**Right:** In 1866 Charles Wall appears to be getting ready to wind down the business.<sup>4</sup>

Certainly in 1867 or 1868 Joseph Maultby became the new operator of the North Wagga Store and this store was located on allotment 18. Presumably Wall had closed his store and moved on to other ventures.



**Left:** Advertisement for Maultby’s North Wagga Store in December 1868.

[Daniel Boon was the licensee of the Black Swan hotel in 1867 and 1868]



<sup>1</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 131, number 48.

<sup>2</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 30<sup>th</sup> April 1859, p5.

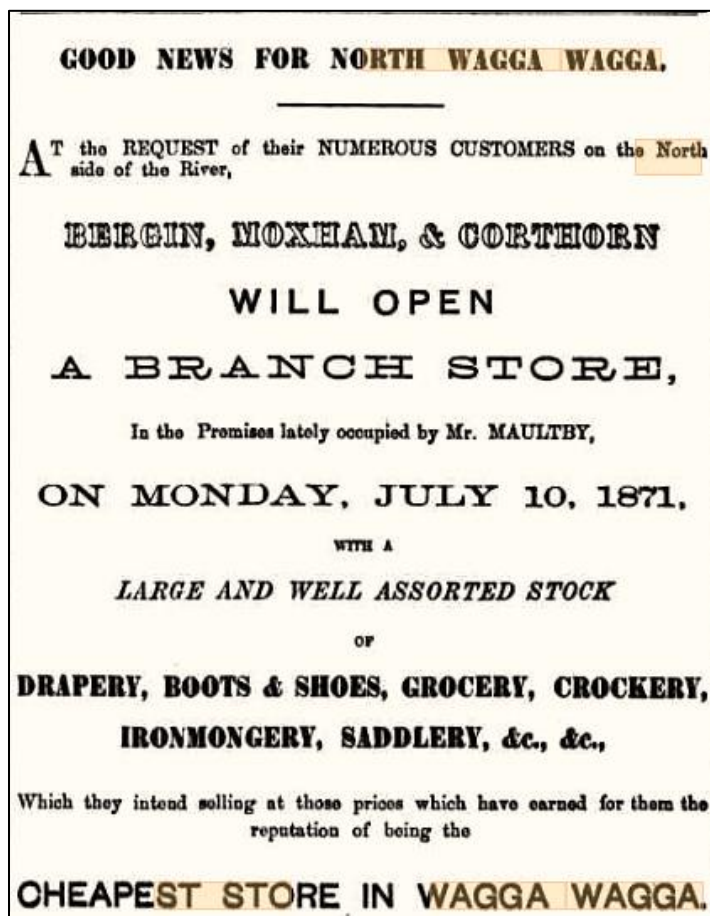
<sup>3</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> August 1866, p3.

<sup>4</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 18<sup>th</sup> August 1866, p3.

In 1868, 1869 and 1870, the property featured a store and residence and was occupied by Joseph Maultby. Maultby also occupied allotments 19 & 20 as well, all of which were owned by Susannah Brown.<sup>5</sup>

During the 1870 floods, Maultby had the foresight to move his stock up to the loft over his store. The Black Swan at that time had four feet and six inches of water inside, forcing the licensee, Henry Croaker, onto a roof.<sup>6</sup> Maultby's business was called the North Wagga Wagga Store, and it was an agency for the Wagga Wagga Advertiser.<sup>7</sup>

In July 1871 it was announced that the well-known firm of Bergin, Moxham, & Corthorn, of South Wagga Wagga, would take over the North Wagga Store business of Maultby.<sup>8</sup> Maultby had moved to Narandera to open a store at that place.<sup>9</sup>



**GOOD NEWS FOR NORTH WAGGA WAGGA.**

AT the REQUEST of their NUMEROUS CUSTOMERS on the North side of the River,

**BERGIN, MOXHAM, & CORTHORN**

**WILL OPEN**

**A BRANCH STORE,**

In the Premises lately occupied by Mr. MAULTBY,

**ON MONDAY, JULY 10, 1871,**

WITH A

**LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED STOCK**

OF

**DRAPERY, BOOTS & SHOES, GROCERY, CROCKERY,**

**IRONMONGERY, SADDLERY, &c., &c.,**

Which they intend selling at those prices which have earned for them the reputation of being the

**CHEAPEST STORE IN WAGGA WAGGA.**

**Left:** Notice of Bergin, Moxham, & Corthorn assuming control of the North Wagga Store in July 1871.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1872 Charles William Thurlow Brown, of Hanging Rock and the heir of William Brown, conveyed part of allot. 18 to Louis Meurant, store keeper of North Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £60.<sup>10</sup> This was the southern half of allotment 18 and had area of 1 rood.

Meurant also purchased the North Wagga Store business from Bergin, Moxham, & Corthorn, around the same time. The latter firm had just dissolved their partnership, which probably catalysed the transactions.<sup>11</sup>

From 1874 to 1876 the southern half of allotment 18 featured a stone store, which was owned and occupied by Meurant and Arthur. From 1877 to 1879 John Arthur was listed as the sole owner/occupier.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1869, p3./ 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1868, p3.

<sup>6</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4<sup>th</sup> May 1870, p2.

<sup>7</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1870, p4.

<sup>8</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12<sup>th</sup> July 1871, p3.

<sup>9</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1871, p2.

<sup>10</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 131, number 48.

<sup>11</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8<sup>th</sup> June 1872, p3.

<sup>12</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

John Arthur passed away on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1906. An obituary provided the following details of his life:

The death took place on Thursday evening at his residence, Peter-street, Wagga, of Mr. John Murray Arthur, aged 78 years. Deceased suffered for a long time from paralysis, and for a considerable period had been attended by Dr. Burgess...

The deceased gentleman was born at Glasgow, Scotland, in the year 1828, and was the son of the late William Murrv Arthur, merchant of the same city. He was educated at the Glasgow High School, and afterwards at the Glasgow University. He came to Australia in the old 'Malabar,' and was one of the few survivors of that memorable voyage of 165 days from London, landing at Port Phillip in May 1853. His previous connection with the London Wool Exchange secured his engagement with the firm of Sennet and Guthrie, Wool brokers, of Geelong, and on severing his connection with that firm he spent some time in the Tallangatta district, Victoria, from which place he proceeded at the end of 1854 to Kindra Station in this district, where he was tutor for a number of years. Afterwards he took the position of accountant to the late Charles Wall, both at North and South Wagga. He was also a partner in the then well-known business firm of Meurant and Arthur, storekeepers of North Wagga. Upon the dissolution of that firm he commenced business in South Wagga, which he carried on for seventeen years.

During his long residency in this I district Mr. Arthur occupied many public offices. In 1877 he was elect-ed an alderman for the North Ward of the Municipality, which office he filled for n considerable time. In 1893 he was elected one of the Borough Auditors and retained the position, with the exception of one year, until, in 1904, failing health compelled its relinquishment. It is not generally known that Mr. Arthur possessed high qualifications for this office as he was a chartered Accountant of the City of Edinburgh. He was also auditor for the Wagga Commons, Murrumbidgee Turf | Club, and the School of Arts, the latter position being held until the time of his decease.

It is nine years since the first symptoms of paralysis appeared, and since that time his health has been gradually declining until it culminated in his death as recorded above. In 1873 he married Miss Mary Ellen Walsh, sister of Mr. William Walsh and of Mr. P. J. Walsh, of this town, and who, with two daughters and three sons, survive him.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 12<sup>th</sup> May 1906, p2.



## NORTH WAGGA WAGGA STORE.

WE HAVE THIS DAY SOLD ALL OUR  
INTEREST in the above Store to Messrs.  
**MEURANT & ARTHUR**

And beg to solicit for our successors a continu-  
ance of that patronage which has been so  
liberally accorded to us,  
**BERGIN, MOXHAM & CORTHORN.**

IN REFERENCE to the above, Messrs.  
**MEURANT AND ARTHUR**  
Have great pleasure in informing the public  
that they have PURCHASED the  
**NORTH WAGGA WAGGA STORE,**  
And solicit a continuance of the support  
accorded to the firm of **BERGIN, MOXHAM**  
and **CORTHORN.**

They trust by keeping a  
**WELL-ASSORTED STOCK,**  
AND  
**SELLING AT LOW PRICES,**  
To merit their share of public support.  
**MEURANT & ARTHUR,**  
North Wagga Wagga Store.

Left: Notice of sale from Bergin, Moxham, & Corthorn, to Meurant & Arthur.

1877, 12<sup>th</sup> March – Transfer of title from Louis Meurant, to John Arthur, storekeeper of North Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £500.<sup>14</sup>

## DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

THE undersigned beg to inform their  
Customers and the Public generally  
that their **PARTNERSHIP EXPIRES** on  
the 31st INSTANT through effluxion of  
time, and that all accounts owing them will  
have to be arranged for previous to that  
date. In order to reduce the **STOCK**, all  
Goods on and after **MONDAY, 15th instant**,  
will be sold for **CASH at COST PRICE**,  
and to prove that this is a bona-fide sale,  
the whole **STOCK and PREMISES** will be  
sold by public auction (if not previously  
disposed of privately) on the 1st MARCH.

**LOUIS MEURANT,**  
**JOHN ARTHUR.**

North Wagga Wagga,  
January 8, 1877.

## In the Assigned Estate of **JOHN ARTHUR**, late of North Wagga, Storekeeper.

**NOTICE** is hereby given that **ANDREW LYSAUGHT**, of North Wagga, store-  
keeper, is empowered to receive all **DEBTS**  
due to the above Estate, and to give effectual  
discharge therefor. And all persons **IN-**  
**DEBTED** to the said Estate are hereby  
required to pay the amounts respectively  
due by them to the said **Andrew Lysaught.**

Dated this 10th day of May, 1880.

**JNO. J. MORROW,**  
Creditors' Assignee.

1878, 15<sup>th</sup> November –  
Conveyance of part of allot. 18  
from trustees for estate of John  
Arthur to John Arthur.<sup>15</sup>

In July 1879 Andrew Lysaught  
took over the store from John  
Arthur. In the same month the  
“Trust Estate of John Arthur”  
sold off the stock of the store.  
John Morrow of Melbourne  
was the trustee.

<sup>14</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 167, number 222.

<sup>15</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 188, number 112.

### Andrew Paul Lysaught

In the 1880s Andrew Lysaught conducted a store on the site. In 1878 Lysaught had a farm at North Wagga Wagga called *Retreat Farm*.<sup>16</sup> Andrew had selected 40 acres of land at Eunonyhareenya in 1872, which may have been the same land.<sup>17</sup> In June 1879 he sold off a variety of stock, tools and equipment, suggesting he had given away farming.<sup>18</sup>

In May 1880 Lysaught placed a notice in the local press that confirmed he had taken over the conduct of the store from the estate of John Arthur [insolvent].<sup>19</sup> He was conducting the shop in June 1881, when his wife passed away on the premises, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of that month.<sup>20</sup>

From 1880 to 1882 Alexander Lysaught occupied the property which featured a stone building with a shingle roof (store and residence).<sup>21</sup> His wife died on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1881, leaving him with seven children to care for.<sup>22</sup> To cap of his troubles he was insolvent by October 1882, with assets of some £345 and liabilities of some £325.<sup>23</sup>

The Wagga Wagga rate books confirm his presence at the store in 1884 and 1885. It appears that by 1887 he had relinquished the shop and moved on to another business.<sup>24</sup>

It appears that Lysaught was the last person to conduct a store from the cottage, until the 1950's, when Mrs Webber purchased the property.

Andrew Paul Lysaught passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1914, and an obituary provided the following details:

Last evening the death occurred of Mr. A. P. Lysaught, 71 years, one of the most widely known residents of the Wagga district for nearly half a century. Since 1868 Mr. Lysaught had been alternately associated with the business life of the town, first as a farmer at Brucedale for several years, and later as a storekeeper at North Wagga. Mr. Lysaught, about 25 years ago, joined the staff of the Wagga Post Office and for several years was on charge of the night shift in the mail sorting room. Having reached the retiring age he retired from the public service and engaged in business as commission agent and tobacconist. As enthusiastic advocate of the principles of the friendly society movement, Mr. Lysaught came into prominence and for many years was an active participant in benefit society work. He was a much respected member of St. Michael's Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, of which he was a foundation member. He was also well known for his work on athletic and other sports committees and took a leading part in the annual demonstrations of the Wagga friendly societies held for many years. He was twice married and by the first marriage there was a family of four sons and three daughters, of whom the following are living: Messrs. Arthur and Alfred Lysaught, of Wagga, Mrs. W. Smith, of Tumut, Mrs. James Clarke, North Wagga, Mrs. A Thomas, Sydney. His second marriage was to Mrs. John Mallon, and his widow survives him, as also do two sons and three daughters by this marriage, Mr. James Lysaught, of Germanton, is a brother of deceased and he had four sisters in Sydney and Melbourne.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> May 1878, p2.

<sup>17</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 17<sup>th</sup> August 1872, p2.

<sup>18</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 28<sup>th</sup> June 1879, p5.

<sup>19</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29<sup>th</sup> May 1880, p3.

<sup>20</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14<sup>th</sup> June 1881, p2.

<sup>21</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

<sup>22</sup> Australian Town & Country Journal. 18<sup>th</sup> June 1881, p42.

<sup>23</sup> Freeman's Journal. 28<sup>th</sup> October 1882, p11.

<sup>24</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21<sup>st</sup> April 1887, p2.

<sup>25</sup> Daily Advertiser. 31<sup>st</sup> December 1914, p2.

In 1885 David Cassidy occupied the premises.<sup>26</sup> There are no references confirming that Cassidy conducted the store during his occupation. He was known as a stock dealer and he may have lived in the cottage and used the paddock behind to hold stock. Cassidy also experienced financial difficulties and was insolvent in 1883.<sup>27</sup>

From 1887 to 1889 the stone store was occupied by Edwin Boswell and the property was now owned by Ferguson.<sup>28</sup> In the 1890's Boswell was the proprietor of the Riverine Nursery, in Beckwith Street, and he may well have been conducting a similar business at North Wagga Wagga in the 1880's.<sup>29</sup>

Around 1888, John Ferguson purchased the property and held it until his death in 1905, at which time his wife became the legal owner.

John Ferguson was the owner /occupier in 1893 when the building was described as a stone cottage.<sup>30</sup> John continued to reside in the cottage until his death in 1905. His wife stayed on for a year and then sold to Meurant.<sup>31</sup>

John Ferguson had an interesting life, as was detailed in his obituary:

One of the oldest residents of Wagga in the person of Mr. John Fergusson [sic], passed away at the Wagga Hospital on Tuesday evening. Deceased had just reached the allotted span of three score years and ten. Up to within the past few years he was as fine a specimen of manhood as could be seen anywhere, being tall and possessing quite a military bearing. But of later years advancing age had told its tale upon him and after a comparatively short illness he succumbed to paralysis of the brain. Deceased was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in the year 1835, and when he was ten years of age his father emigrated from Scotland to this State taking all the family with him. In his young manhood, deceased took up the vocation as the owner of bullock teams, and it was in following up that line of business that he first became acquainted with the Riverina. In fact his teams were driven from Sydney right over to Bendigo and other important goldfields in the early days. Subsequently he turned his attention to a butchery and bakery business at Marulan, near Goulburn. After some success in that direction the prospects in the Wagga district attracted him, and he decided to sell and take up his residence here. There was no railway to Wagga in those days, and the family were driven from Marulan to here in waggonettes. On settling down here, he established a hay, corn, and produce mart, on the site where Mrs. Sinter's furniture warehouse is now situate in Baylis-street. In this business, combined with auctioneering, he had considerable success, and removed to a more convenient stand in Gurwood-street. At this time he conducted auction sales at the Pastoral Yards, and had practically the yards to himself. Upon retiring from the auctioneering and store-keeping, he contented himself with devoting his attention to various agencies, notably the Caledonian Life Insurance, and retained many of these until a short time ago. He was thrice married, and the family formerly resided at Foxborough Hall, where the Hon. James Gormly, M.L.C., now resides, although the former building was burned

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<sup>26</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

<sup>27</sup> Maitland Mercury. 11<sup>th</sup> January 1883, p5.

<sup>28</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

<sup>29</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 21<sup>st</sup> September 1895, p2.

<sup>30</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

<sup>31</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.



down. Deceased's first wife was a Miss Margaret Shepherd, of Glasgow, who came out from Glasgow about the same time, and by their marriage they had fourteen children. There were no children by either the second or third wives, the second wife being Mrs. Roberts, widow of Mr. Roberts, of the firm 'Roberts, Copland and Co.,' now 'D. Copland and Co.,' and the third wife was a Mrs. Beresford, a sister of the first Mrs. Fergusson. The children include: Mrs. John Clout, of Barber's Creek, Marulan; Mrs. J. J. M'Grath. wife of Mr. J. J. M'Grath, Wattle Vale, North Wagga; Mr. Archibald Fergusson (Sydney); Mrs Mary A. Hamey (Sydney), Mr. John A. Fergusson (June), Thos. Fergusson (Brewarrina), Edward H. Fergusson (Wagga); Mrs. Ada Greenham (Bathurst), Mrs. T. W. Dunn, wife of Mr. T. W. Dunn, butcher Wagga; Miss Eveline Fergusson, of Penrith; and Mr. Robert Fergusson, Sydney. Two boys and a girl died in infancy.

During his twenty-nine years' residence in Wagga, deceased took a very active interest in town affairs and for some years served as an alderman on the Municipal Council being the representative of the North Ward. He also took a great interest in the Hospital, being for some years a member of the Hospital Committee and was for some period of time connected with the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association, but probably the outstanding interest of his public life was his zeal in connection with military matters. He was the sergeant of the Cavalry Brigade, established in Wagga, another prominent member of it being his son in law, Mr. J. J. M'Grath. His interest in the brigade was unbounded and his ability as a horseman was unchallenged. Speaking of his horsemanship, he has given many an exhibition on Wagga Show days, and it used to be a pleasing spectacle to the populace to see deceased, at each annual show, riding his favourite horse, 'Hector.' To again revert to his military associations, it may be mentioned that at the Tenterfield military tournaments he was successful in winning many prizes, being thoroughly skilled with the lance, a weapon which one of his sons will now treasure as an heirloom. At the tournaments, owing to his correct military bearing and general appearance he was dubbed by his military confreres as 'The Emperor,' the deduction being that he was like the then reigning Emperor of Germany. Behind all the personal pleasure which he derived from his associations with military life, he possessed the spirit of patriotism in all sincerity. Amongst his fellow townsmen he was highly respected, and there are many who will sympathise with the bereaved family. It remains to be said that he clung devotedly to the Church of his fathers, and for several years he was honoured with the position of elder of St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church, Wagga.<sup>32</sup>

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1906 the trustees in the deceased estate of Annie Elizabeth Ferguson, conveyed the property to Louis Meurant, who had been the highest bidder for the property at public auction, paying £70.<sup>33</sup> Meurant was still the owner in the period 1914-1916, and the stone cottage still stood.<sup>34</sup> The situation was unchanged for the period 1920-1922.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 30<sup>th</sup> November 1905, p2. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30<sup>th</sup> November 1905, p2.

<sup>33</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 799, number 657.

<sup>34</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1914-1916. pp139-142. Microfilm roll 1652.

<sup>35</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1920-1922. pp379+. Microfilm roll 1656.



**Above:** A very early photo of Tinker Brown's old shop at the corner of Gardiner and Rowan Streets. Courtesy CSURA [RW.1948-23]



**Left:** An aerial view showing the location of Tinker Brown's allotment 18 of section 5 [highlighted in red boundary], with the Black Swan hotel further south, at the corner of Gardiner and William Streets. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. SIX.



**Above:** the 1891 flood, with Black Swan hotel on the right and Tinker Brown's old store on the left.

In 1907 Frederick Bye occupied the cottage.<sup>36</sup> This is probably the same Frederick Bye that was licensee of the Sportsman's Arms hotel, in Kincaid Street, in 1918, and who passed away there [Sportsman's Arms] in that year. Before taking up the hotel he conducted a chaff cutting business for many years, travelling all around the district, in that capacity.<sup>37</sup>

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1920 Albert Avondale Meurant, an agent of Wagga Wagga, and Rosetta Isabella Meurant, a spinster of Wagga Wagga, the executors of the will of Louis Meurant, conveyed the property to Albert Edward Dengate, a painter of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £190.<sup>38</sup> Albert Edward Dengate arrived in Wagga Wagga, in early January 1913, with his wife, and two young sons. In February 1913, Mrs Dengate was afflicted with enteric fever, and died, at the tender age of twenty five.<sup>39</sup> Albert Dengate was still the owner during the period 1929-1931, but the property was occupied by William Cusack, a butcher. The stone cottage was a residence not a business.<sup>40</sup>

Dengate continued to hold the freehold for the period 1935-1937, and during this period he lived firstly in Baylis Street, and then Best Street. The stone cottage was occupied by Norman Leslie Jameson for the period 1935-1937. The property had a frontage of 66ft to Gardiner Street and a depth of 165ft.<sup>41</sup>

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1938 Albert Edward Dengate conveyed the property to John James O'Keefe, of The Rock, for the sum of £275.<sup>42</sup> It appears that the stone cottage was a residence only during the

<sup>36</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

<sup>37</sup> Daily Advertiser. 20<sup>th</sup> November 1918, p2.

<sup>38</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1190, number 610.

<sup>39</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 8<sup>th</sup> February 1913, p2.

<sup>40</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1929-1931.

<sup>41</sup> Wagga Wagga Rate Valuation Books. 1935-1937. RW.1429-124.

<sup>42</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 1825, number 800.



whole period of O'Keefe's ownership. O'Keefe conveyed the title to Ivy Lillian Webber, married woman of North Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £500 on 21 July 1950.<sup>43</sup> Mrs Webber conducted a store from the cottage,<sup>44</sup> she being the first person to do so since Alfred Lysaught back in the early 1880s. In the years preceding Mrs Webber's purchase, Bill Price, the uncle of Bob McFarland, lived in the old house for a number of years.

In 1945 there was a welcome home party held in Bill's Gardiner Street home, for Corporal GC {Mick} McGrath, who had seen service in the Middle East and New Guinea, and who was due back in camp within a week.<sup>45</sup>

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 1960, Ivy Lillian Webber conveyed the title to Kevin Leslie Catlin, and his wife, Patricia Mary Catlin, for the sum of £875.<sup>46</sup> Kevin Catlin carried on with the general store business, until 1966. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 1966 the Catlins transferred the property to Arthur Edward Rolfe, a store keeper of North Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Jean Edna Rolfe, for the sum of \$3,000.<sup>47</sup> It is speculated that Rolfe purchased the business in order to eliminate competition, and, given the price paid, to secure the stock of the store. Rolfe, of course, was carrying on business further south along Gardiner Street, towards the intersection with Wall Street, on part of portion 205. It would appear that the old stone store building was demolished sometime between 1966 and 1974. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1974, the Rolfes transferred the property to John Daniel Breasley, builder of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of \$750.<sup>48</sup> In 2020, it was still owned by Jack Breasley.



**Left:** A 1944 aerial view showing the old stone building with an old timber building to the north, on the same lot. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. [Intramaps].

<sup>43</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2132, number 967.

<sup>44</sup> Bob McFarland. 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

<sup>45</sup> Daily Advertiser. 7<sup>th</sup> August 1945, p2.

<sup>46</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2612, number 828.

<sup>47</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2818, number 404.

<sup>48</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 3171, number 311.

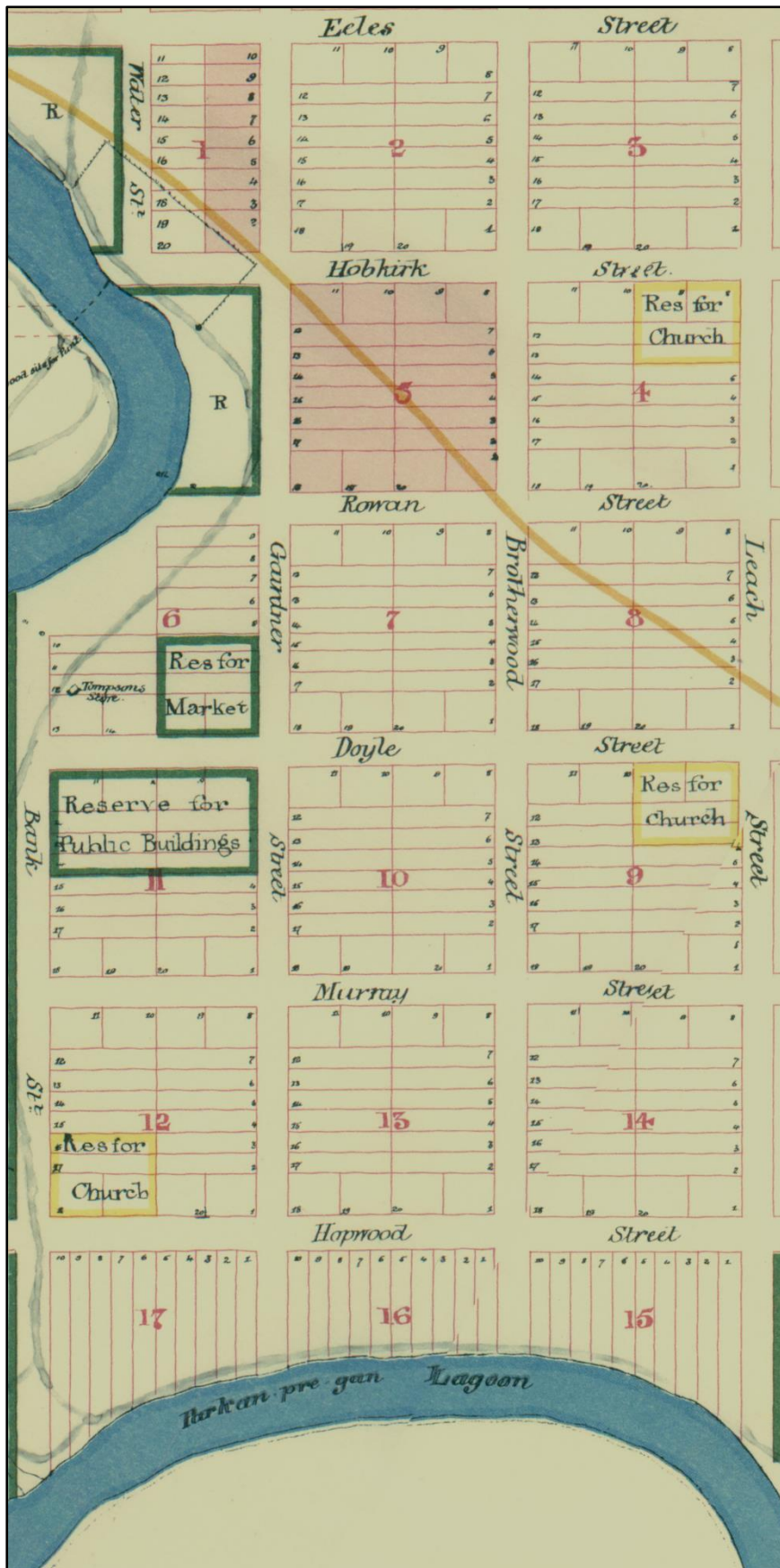
**Right:** A 1971 aerial view showing the old stone building still standing, but the old timber building to the north, is now gone, and two new house have been erected on the next two lots to the north. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. [Intramaps].

When Jack purchased the building in 1974 it was in poor condition and he was compelled by council to demolish the building. Most of the old granite stone was saved and used by Don Smith in the construction of the fireplace etc, in the Oura Winery building.

**Below:** A contemporary aerial view of the southern half of allotment 18 (highlighted in RED), located at the intersection of Gardiner and Rowan Streets. Courtesy Google Earth.







**Left:** An extract from Adams' 1849 plan of North Wagga Wagga, with section 5 highlighted in pink. Allotment 18 is at the corner of Rowan and Gardiner Streets.

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