

ERIN VILLA

BREDAGH



46 COLEMAN STREET

Front Cover: *Bredagh*

Geoff Burch © April 2021

Acknowledgments.

Thank you to Dr James Austin for allowing me into his home, for his shared interest in the history of the house, and for his contribution to the protection of its integrity.

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Introduction

Iconic houses in Wagga Wagga that date from the 19th century are rare. Prominent early homes included Waterview [demolished], Westoe [incorporated into the Edel Quinn Centre], Goonigal [incorporated into the RSL complex], Invermay [demolished], Hillview [demolished], Stoneleigh [demolished], and there would be others that do not come to mind at present.

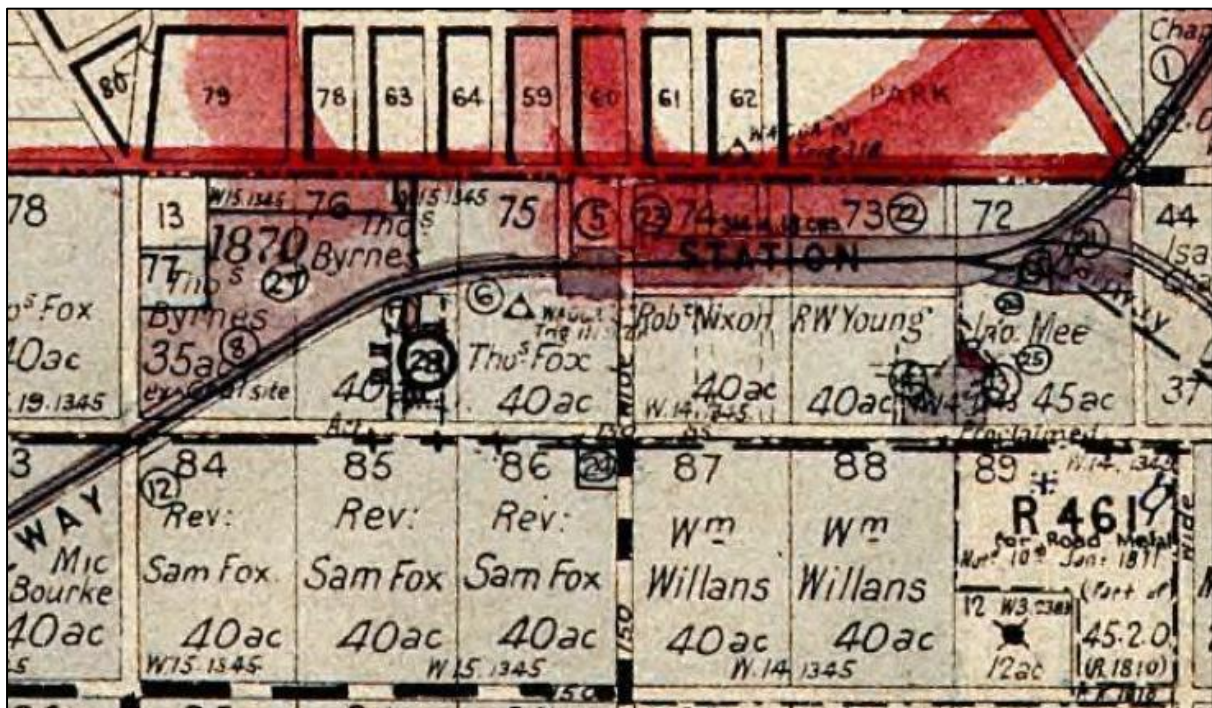
Two prominent buildings that have survived are Belmore House [1860's], which is now known as The Houston [in Kincaid Street], and the home at 46 Coleman Street, known most commonly as Bredagh [1881].

The beauty of Bredagh is that so much of its authenticity has been retained. There are additions to the house, but they are sympathetic, and they have not eroded the integrity of the original buildings. It has an eventful history, making it all the more significant. It truly is one of the premiere iconic homes of Wagga Wagga. We are fortunate that the current and previous owners of the property have been exemplary in protecting and conserving its architectural and historical heritage.

46 Coleman Street

The Freehold Property

The house at 46 Coleman Street in 2021 is located on what was originally portion 86, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. The property was first purchased from the Crown by the Rev. Samuel Fox, on the 31st December 1863. [See Crown plan, W.15.1345]. Fox had also purchased portions 85 and 84, to the west (same crown plan). The Rev. Fox paid forty pounds for the forty acre portion, which had east and west boundaries twenty five hundred links length [503 metres], and north and south boundaries sixteen hundred links length [322 metres].¹



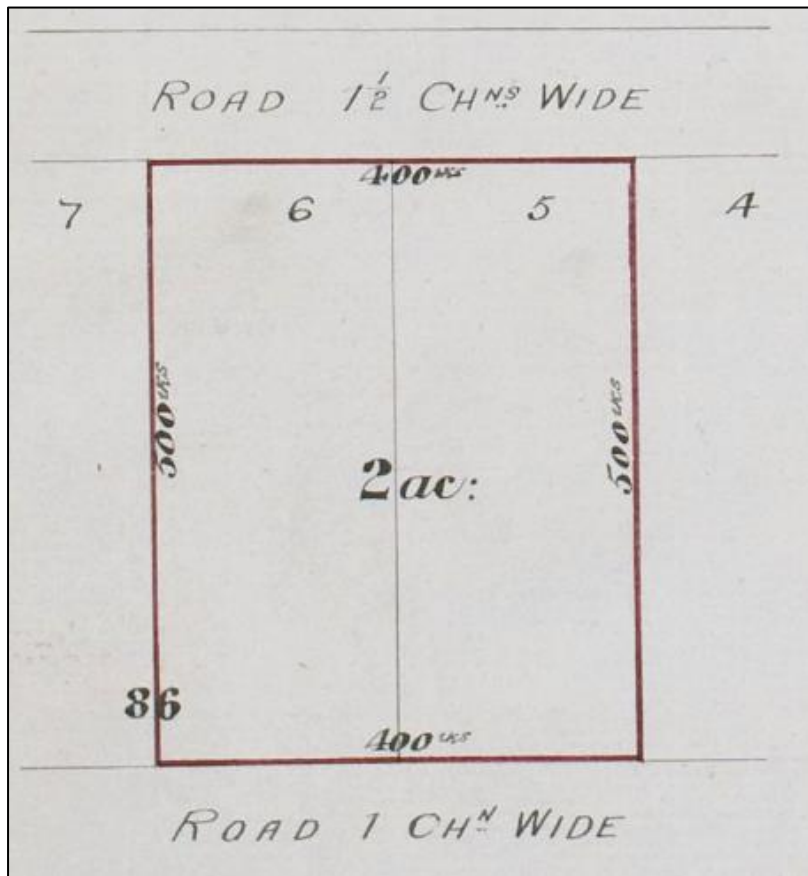
Above: An extract from an early parish map showing portions 84, 85 & 86, as originally purchased from the Crown by the Rev. Samuel Fox. The railway line lays to the north of these portions, while the town of Wagga Wagga is located north of that again. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Left: A mud map of the forty acre portion 86. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In 1874 the Rev. Fox subdivided a part of portion 86 [DP.124] creating ten lots of one acre each. In July 1874 lots 5 and 6 were sold to John Thomas Roberts, a storekeeper of Wagga

¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 9, folio 140.

Wagga.¹ Each of the two lots extended back 500 links [100 metres] from Coleman Street, and each had a frontage of 200 links [40 metres] to Coleman Street.



Left: Lots 5 and 6 of DP.124, as purchased by John Thomas Roberts in July 1874. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

After John Thomas Roberts passed away, on the 5th November 1879, this property [lots 5 & 6] passed to Matthew Highett Lauchlan, esquire of Sydney, Phineas Hann, grazier of Wagga Wagga, and Annie Elizabeth Roberts, a widow of Wagga Wagga [presumably the executors and executrix], in May 1881. In that same month the holdings were sold to John Walsh, a wine and spirit merchant of Wagga Wagga.²

In February 1883 Walsh conveyed these lands to George Coleman, a gentleman of Wagga Wagga.³

On the 9th April 1898, T Edmondson & Co offered for private sale, Bradagh [sic], the late residence of Mr PW Lorimer. The lot consisted of the house with two acres of land and a detached paddock of one acre.⁴ There must have been a lack of interest at this time, as Coleman continued to possess the property up until 1902, although it appears Coleman was in financial difficulty by 1898 with a local architect, George Sheppard, calling for tenders to paint and renovate the house, in December 1899, on behalf of the mortgagee, the Union Bank.⁵

In January 1902 the bank forced a sale to Selina Josephine Greville, the wife of Charles Bathurst Greville, an agent of Wagga Wagga.⁶

George Coleman's death took place on 10th December 1909.

Selina Greville took out a mortgage with Norman Orr, a draftsman of Wagga Wagga, and in April 1905, Orr exercised his rights to force a sale, to Sicilia Grace Thompson, the wife of Robert

¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 183, folio 196.

² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 183, folio 196.

³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 536, folio 90.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 9th April 1898, p3.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th December 1899, p2.

⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 536, folio 90.

Thompson, an agent of Wagga Wagga.¹ In May 1908, Robert Thompson, a forwarding agent of Wagga Wagga, became the legal owner of the lands.

On the 17th February 1930, Mary Eliza Thompson, a widow of Wagga Wagga, became the owner of the property, by transmission.²

A clearance sale took place on the 26th March, the details of which were detailed in the local press.

AUCTIONEERS' NOTICES

Unreserved Clearing Sale

SHEDS FOR REMOVAL, TIMBER,
IRON, VEHICLES, and SUNDRIES

Account Estate late R. Thompson

NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

At 2.30 p.m.

AT "BREDAGH," COLEMAN-ST.,
WAGGA

4 WOOD and Iron Sheds, 24 x 12, 27
x 12, 27 x 18, and 30 x 21, for re-
moval. Iron Tanks (800 and 400 gals.),
Double Lorry and Harness, Sulky and
Pony Harness, Buggy, large Copper,
Wire Netting, quantity Metal, Bricks,
Fancy Iron Railing for verandah,
Grindstone and Stand, and Sundries.

EVERYTHING FOR ABSOLUE SALE

A.M.L. & F. CO. LTD.,
Auctioneers, Wagga.

Left: Notice of clearing sale at Bredagh in March 1930.³

Mary Eliza Thompson now controlled a much larger holding from which she created two new subdivisions – DP17039 & DP17040.⁴ On the 9th April 1930 seventeen lots within the Bredagh land subdivision were offered for sale by public auction.⁵

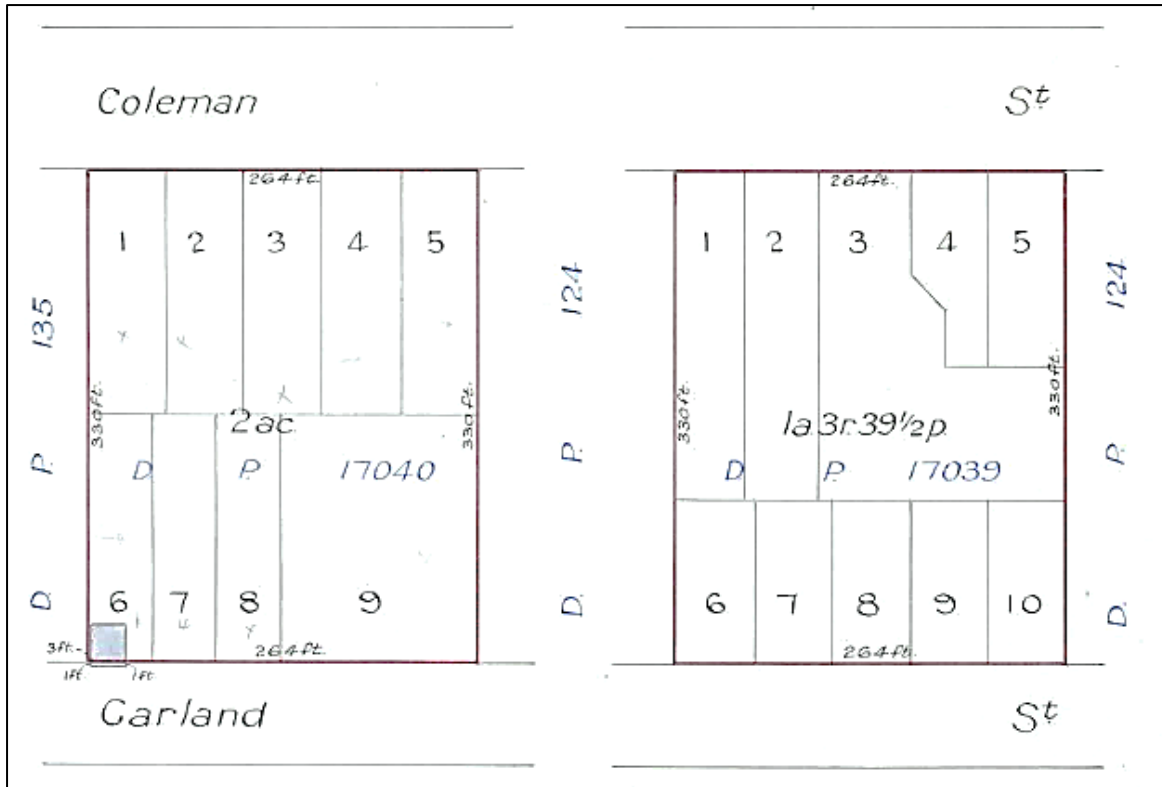
¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 536, folio 90.

² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 536, folio 90.

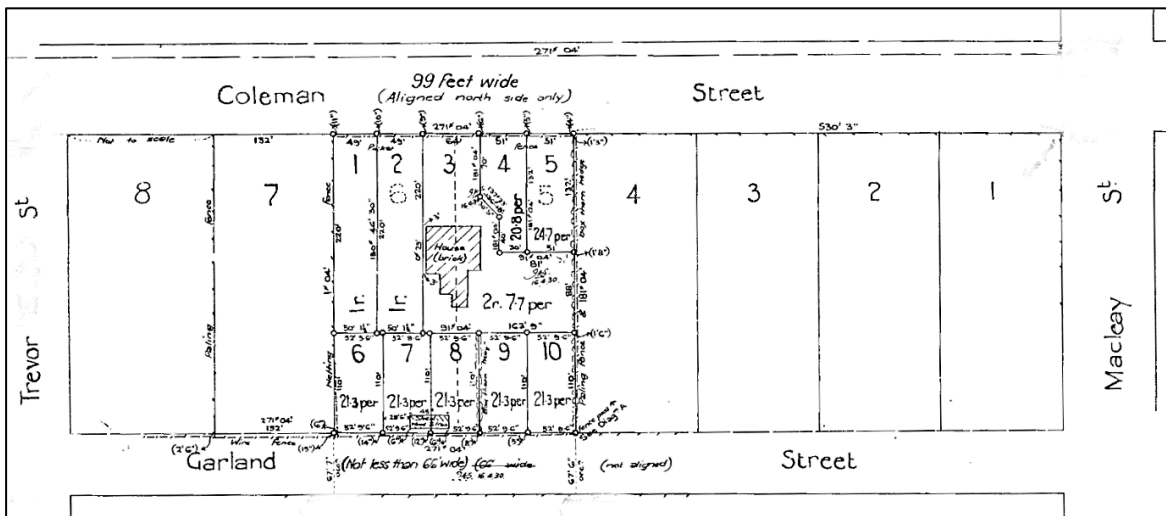
³ Daily Advertiser. 22nd March 1930, p3.

⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4657, folio 17.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 3rd April 1930, p5.



Above: DP.17039 and DP.17040, as held by Mary Eliza Thompson in 1934. Number 46 Coleman Street equates with lot 3 of DP.17039. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services

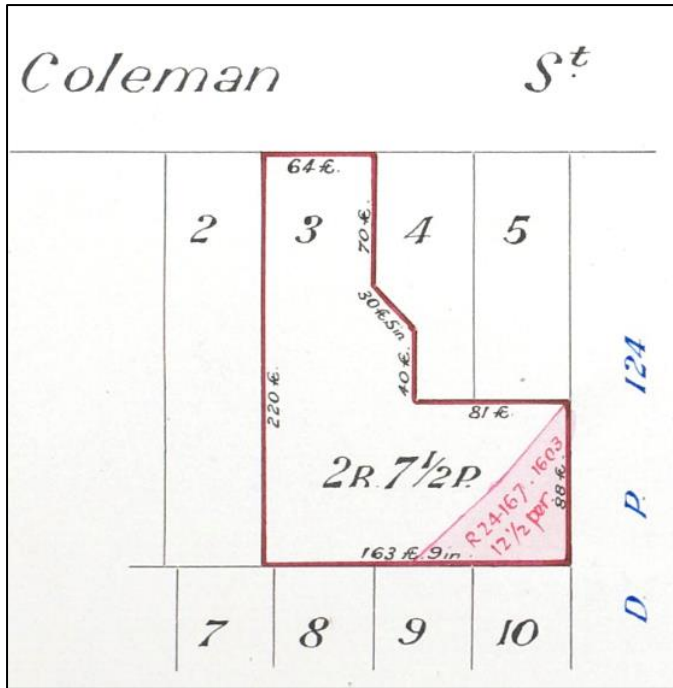


Above: DP17039, showing how lots 5 and 6 of DP124, had been subdivided into ten new lots. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.

In July 1931, Mary Thompson mortgaged all of the lots in the two subdivisions, with Elizabeth Green, a widow of Coonamble, and from August 1934, Elizabeth Green forced a series of sales of the various lots. In December 1936, Elizabeth forced the sale of all lots not sold, to Francis David Gordon, a builder of Wagga Wagga. This included lot 3 of DP17039, along with lots 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 of the same subdivision.¹ Lot 3 was on a separate title.²

¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4808, folios 4 & 5.

² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4808, folio 4.



Left: Lot 3 of DP17039, as purchased by Francis David Gordon in December 1936. The unusual shape of the lot is highlighted in the plan. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. In 1955 the government resumed a piece of lot 3 [highlighted in red on adjoining map] for the purposes of extending Mitchelmore Street through that and other lots.¹

In November 1964, the property was conveyed to Judith Kay MacNeil, the wife of Peter MacNeil, a surgeon of Wagga Wagga.²



Above: A contemporary aerial view of the site showing the current boundaries of DP.3.17039. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. SIX Maps.

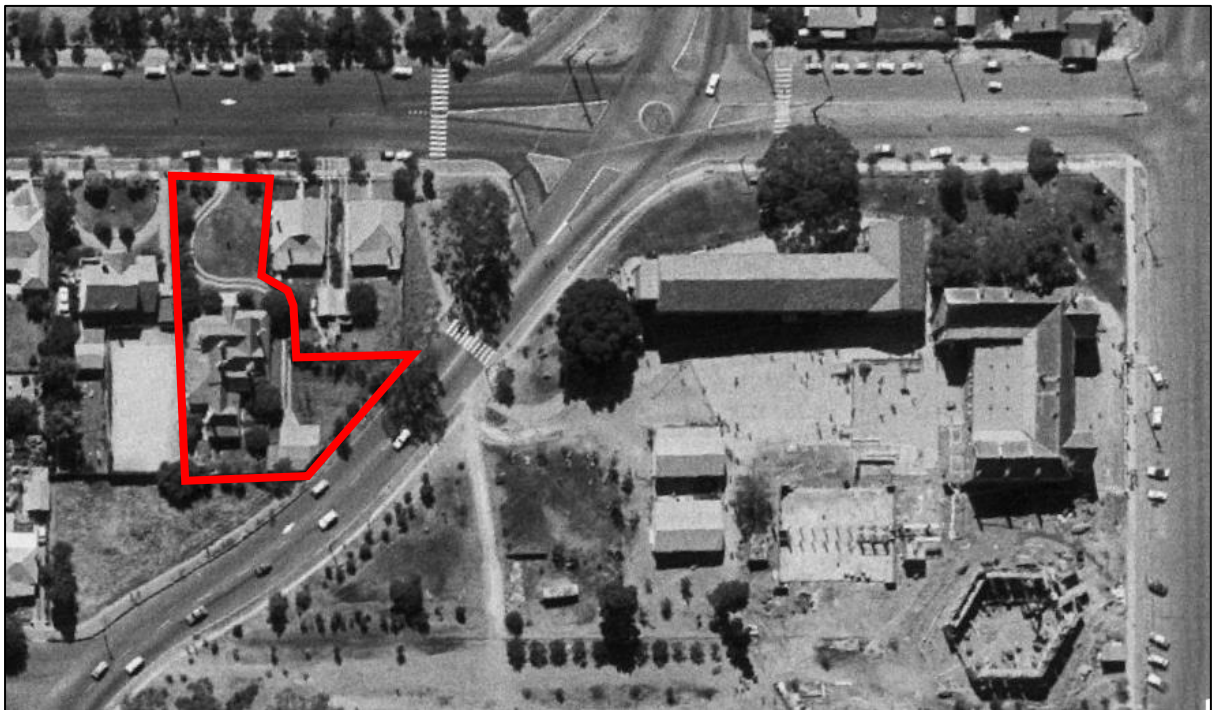
The title was converted to a computer folio sometime after 1978 [DP.3.17039].

¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4808, folio 4.

² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4808, folio 4. / Daily Advertiser. 10th June 2011.



Above: A 1944 aerial view of the site, before the creation of Mitchelmore Street, with 46 Coleman Street highlighted in red. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.



Above: Same view in 1971, with Mitchelmore Street now established and with 46 Coleman Street highlighted in red. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.

The property was sold again in June 2012 for \$750,000. The conveyance was from the Macneils to Dr James Austin.

The Home - Bredagh.

According to a number of contemporary reports [no sources quoted]], the house at 46 Coleman Street was originally called Bredagh and was said to be a Gothic Revival style home built by Charles Hardy & Co., for George Coleman. Coleman Street was named after the aforementioned person.¹ Some sources claim the house was also known as *Coleman House*, but no historical references could be found that support this claim,² although it seems this name was used by the Macneil family.³

The claim that Bredagh was built for George Coleman, in the early 1880's,⁴ is incorrect. The residence was first known as Erin Villa, and was built for John Walsh, a prominent businessman who came to Wagga Wagga in 1880. The house was completed in 1881, two years before George Coleman purchased the property.

It was George Coleman who changed the name of the house from Erin Villa to Bredagh.

George Coleman was still living at Bredagh in February 1889 when he submitted his "*return of stock*" figures, for the Wagga Wagga district. He listed his residence as *Bredagh* and recorded that the area of land consisted of three acres, and that the only stock he held was three horses.⁵

George must have vacated the property not long afterwards, because in September 1889, Frederick William Watt, of Bradagh [sic], on the Hill, advertised for a general servant.⁶

Frederick William Watt

Frederick William Watt was born near Bathurst on the 4th February 1845, the son of Alexander Watt and Andrea Sophie Watt [nee Hoch].⁷

In September 1861 Frederick joined the Lands department as a draughtsman, and over a period of time rose through the ranks to become chairman of the Land Board at Wagga Wagga.⁸

In 1868 he married Maria Jane Hall in Sydney.⁹ The couple had three children – two daughters and one son.

Towards the end of September 1904 and following episodes of poor health for both himself and his wife, Frederick took six months of leave from his position at Wagga Wagga and was superseded by JT Keating.¹⁰ In 1905 Watt, a justice of the peace, was appointed to the position of "*member and acting chairman*" of the Local Land Board at Gunnedah.¹¹

After his retirement Frederick held the position of chairman of the Land Board at Yanco. He was one of the oldest members of the Australian Club.¹²

¹ National Trust and Town Planning Dept., Historic Buildings. The City of Wagga Wagga. Walking Tour Three. 1992.

² Email. James Austin to Sherry Morris. 15th January 2015.

³ Leader. 6th July 1988, p8.

⁴ Leader. 10th June 1996.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23rd February 1889, p4.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd September 1889, p2.

⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1480/1845 V18451480 33A.

⁸ Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1933, p2.

⁹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 7.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 6th October 1904, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th October 1905, p2.

¹² Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1933, p2.

Frederick's death took place on the 30th March 1933, at his residence, 37 Warf Road, Snails Bay, Balmain.¹ His wife had predeceased him, on the 15th September 1924,² but he was survived by his son and his two daughters.

By April 1892, Bredagh was leased to William Newton Bennison, esquire. It was in that month [April 1892] that the house was re-advertised, to let.³

William Newton Bennison

William Newton Bennison passed away in March 1893. His residence at that time was in Flinders Street.⁴ An obituary provided the following details,⁵

"Mr. Bennison came to Wagga from Braidwood, where he was well known in connection with the business of milling, in which his family have taken a prominent part for years. With his brother, some fourteen or fifteen years ago, he dealt largely in cattle, and also had a mill at Wallendbeen. Coming to Wagga at the end of 1889, he was appointed as manager to the Co-operative Milling Company, then newly started, which position he held till the time of his death. He was well known throughout the district, and his decease will cause a widespread feeling of regret, his kindly nature and social qualities making him a favourite in many quarters. His position «s manager of the Milling Company brought him into contact with all classes, especially the farmers, who will receive the news of his decease with much regret."

" BRADAGH,"
On The Hill, Wagga Wagga.

—

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MAY.

TOMPSON, MANNING & JEREMY have received instructions from the Mortgagees to sell by public auction, at the Australian Hotel, on Wednesday, 15th May, 1895, at 3 o'clock,

That very desirable, commodious, and beautifully situated Family Residence, "BRADAGH," on The Hill, Wagga, at present occupied by Mr. P. W. Lorimer, built of brick, contains seven rooms, besides Kitchen, Servant's and Bath Rooms, Sheds for two buggies, specially enclosed Fowl Yard, splendid Garden and Orchard; the whole encompassing about two acres.

In May 1895 a notice of sale by public auction of Bradagh [sic], on the Hill, appeared in the local press, on instruction from the mortgagees. The home was at that time occupied by Mr PW Lorimer. The house was built of brick, containing seven rooms, as well as kitchen, servant's and bath rooms. Also sheds for two buggies, along with a specially enclosed fowl yard plus splendid garden and orchard, situated on some two acres of land.⁶

Left: The 1895 sale notice for *Bradagh*. The notice clearly lists "*bath rooms*" as being external to the house.

Lorimer was still living at Bredagh in March 1898, but he and his family were about to move to Melbourne, which necessitated a sale of his household furniture at the time.⁷

¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 2166. / Daily Advertiser. 26th April 1933, p2.

² Sydney Morning Herald. 16th September 1924, p8.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th April 1892, p3.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th March 1893, p2.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th March 1893, p2.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th April 1895, p3.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th March 1898, p2.

Patrick William Lorimer.

Patrick William Lorimer was born on the 4th April 1852 at Gorbals, Lanarkshire, Scotland, the son of John Lorimer and Jane Lorimer [nee Jamieson].

In June 1851 he married Jane Jamieson at Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. The couple had a large family. Their eldest child was born in Scotland in 1852, but the next, Jessie, was born at Richmond, Melbourne, in 1855.¹

For a number of years Lorimer lived in Wagga Wagga where he conducted a general store, on the hill, in Fitzmaurice Street, selling drapery and general goods.²

He was very public spirited – “He was an alderman of the Wagga Wagga Council in 1897; secretary of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association 1895-97; president of the Commercial Cricket Club in 1891; member of the Wagga Wagga Hospital Committee 1886-93; vice president of the School of Arts; secretary of the Fire Brigade; member of the Protestant Hall Committee in 1886; and of the Murrumbidgee Light Horse in 1887.”³

FURNITURE SALE.

“BRADAGH,” ON THE HILL.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1898,
At 11 a.m.

TOMPSON, MANNING, & JEREMY,
have been instructed by Mr P. W.
Lorimer, who is leaving for Melbourne, to
sell by public auction, as above,
The whole of his
Household Furniture & Effects,
Comprising—

Dining Room Suite
6ft. Sideboard
Extension Dining Table
Writing Table and Chairs, Rotary Chair
Piano (Erard), Card Table
Occasional Tables, Sideboard
Bedroom Suite of 7 pieces
Duchesse Dressing Table
Washstands and Ware
Chests of Drawers
Verandah Seats, Wheelbarrow
Crockery, Laundry Requisites
Kitchen Utensils, &c., &c.

Also,

Buggy and Single and Double Harness.
Horses, 3 Milch Cows.

Mr Lorimer's furniture has been selected
with rare good judgment, and comprises a
unique selection for durability and attractive-
ness. As he is leaving for Melbourne this is
a splendid opportunity to secure really first-
class furniture.

TOMPSON, MANNING & JEREMY,

Lorimer's death took place in August 1906, at Melbourne, Victoria.⁴

Left: Notice for sale of household furniture on account Patrick William Lorimer in March 1898.⁵

Owners of Erin Villa / Bredagh

1. 1881-1883: John Walsh
2. 1883-1902: George Coleman
3. 1902-1905: Selina Josephine Greville
4. 1905-1908: Sicilia Grace Thompson
5. 1908-1930: Robert Thompson
6. 1930-1936: Mary Eliza Thompson
7. 1936-1964: Francis David Gordon
8. 1964-2012: Judith Kay Macneil
9. 2012-2021 plus: James Austin

¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 3698.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st August 1906, p2.

³ Sherry Morris Biographical Listings. Patrick William Lorimer.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st August 1906, p2.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 24th March 1898, p3.



Above: Kerr's Wagga hotel and the Wagga Wagga Railway station c.1890. Bredagh can be seen at extreme back, far right. The distinguishing chimneys are evident. Courtesy Museum of the Riverina [BGS2010_172]



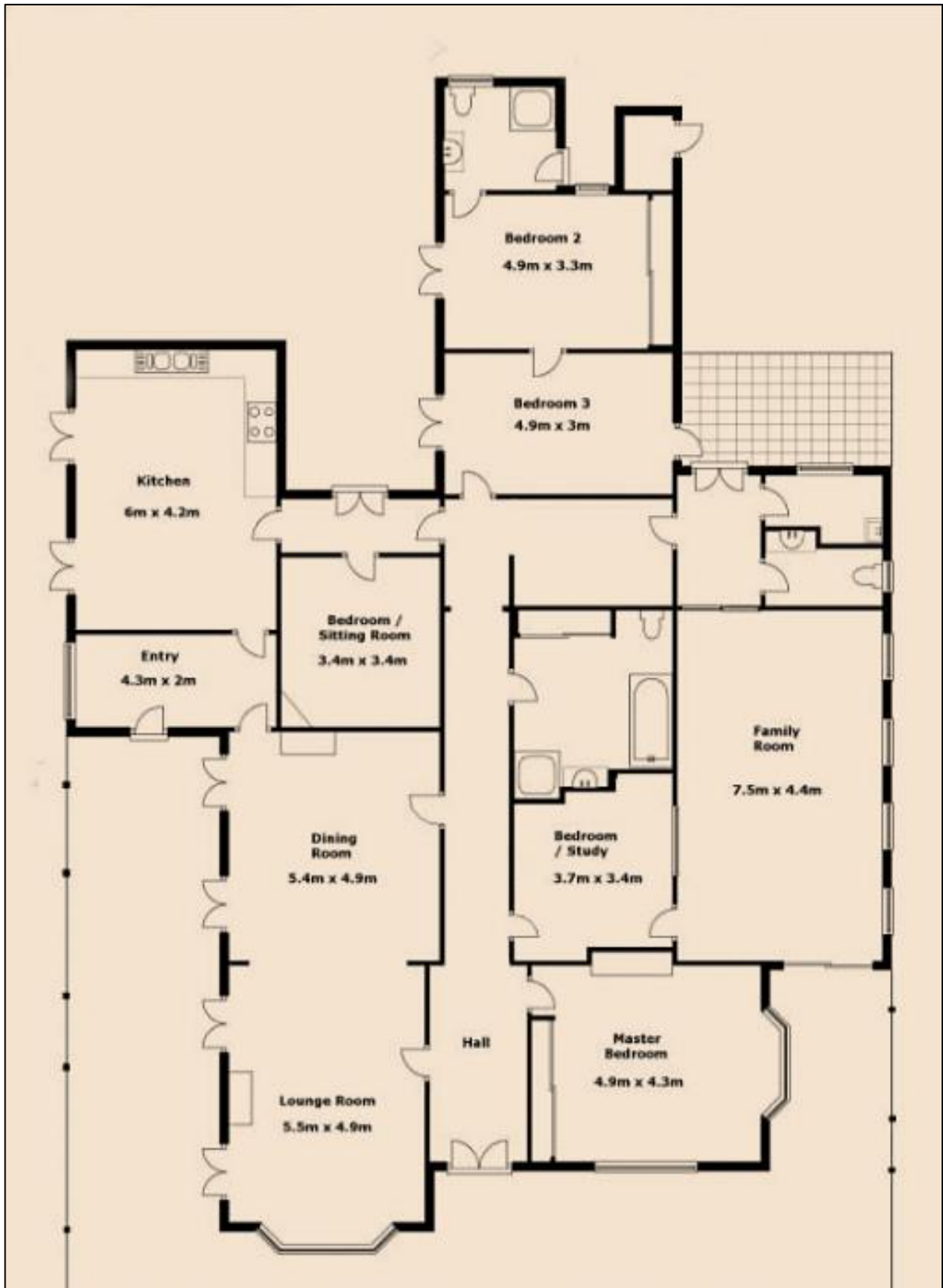
Above: View of Wagga Wagga town during the June 1891 flood. Photo taken from the corner of Coleman & MacLeay Streets. Courtesy Museum of the Riverina [BGS2020_605(1)]. **Note:** The pegs in the foreground of this photo can be seen in the top photo when latter is zoomed up.



Above: Bredagh in 2012.



Above: Bredagh in March 2015. Courtesy NeilRace74 [ancestry.com]



Above: Floor plan of Bredagh in 2012.

The Property Owners

The Rev. Samuel Fox

Samuel Fox was born in Tibshelf, Derbyshire, England circa 1830, the son of Thomas Fox and Elizabeth Fox [nee Holdworth]. He was still living in England in 1851,¹ but in April 1857 he married Elizabeth Jane Shelley, at Tumut, in New South Wales.² The 1851 census lists his age as twenty one years, and his occupation as that of clerk, in a coal and iron works. When he arrived in the colony [c.1855] he was already a priest.³

In 1855, the Rev. Samuel Fox became the first Church of England minister appointed at Tumut. His area of responsibility included Wagga Wagga.⁴

In January 1863 the Rev. Fox assumed his duties at St John's church, Wagga Wagga, having taken over from the Rev. RG Young.⁵

On the 4th February 1866, Elizabeth Jane Fox [nee Shelley], the wife of the Rev. Samuel Fox, passed away at the parsonage in Wagga Wagga, having contracted diphtheria.⁶ Not long after this, on the 15th February, Samuel Hill Fox, their seven year old son, passed away having contracted the same disease.⁷ A second child, Florence Emily Fox, had succumbed some weeks earlier, on the 18th January, also from diphtheria.⁸ The couple's 3rd child, Amy, had died at birth, at Tumut, in August 1861.⁹ Only two of their children survived infancy – Ada Emeline Fox [1865-1944], who married William Mark Nixon at Ashfield [Sydney] in May 1886,¹⁰ and their eldest child, Shelley Ashwin Fox, who passed away in November 1894, when he accidentally shot himself, while cleaning a revolver. The accident took place in the accountant's room in the Commercial Bank at Goulburn, where Fox was the acting manager at the time. Shelley had never married.¹¹

The Rev. Samuel Fox departed Wagga Wagga in 1867,¹² and was superseded by the Rev. SS Harper.¹³

The Rev. Samuel Fox passed away on the 7th July 1902, at Ashfield in Sydney.¹⁴

John Thomas Roberts

John Thomas Roberts was born c.1831, but the location is not known. In 1867 he married Anne Elizabeth Shemelds, in Victoria.¹⁵ By 1867 he was already conducting a general store at Newtown [Wagga Wagga] in partnership with William Love. The partnership was operating in January 1866,¹⁶ and may have commenced even earlier than that.

¹ England Census. 1851 [ancestry.com]

² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2685.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th July 1902, p3.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 17th July 1902, p2.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd September 1905, p2.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th February 1866, p2.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 24th February 1866, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th February 1866, p2.

⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 13536. / Death registration # 4946.

¹⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2558.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th November 1894, p2.

¹² Wagga Wagga Express. 22nd December 1898, p2.

¹³ Wagga Wagga Express. 3rd October 1874, p2.

¹⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 10th July 1902, p3. / 18th December 1902, p2.

¹⁵ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 1337.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 27th January 1866, p1.

TO LET.
AT NEW TOWN.

HOUSE, Three Rooms, Kitchen and large Garden.
Apply to
LOVE AND ROBERTS.

ON SALE.

SEED Oats, (Prime Sample, Victoria.)
Turnips, Lettuce, Mustard and Cress
and Radish Seeds.
Peas, Beans, &c., &c.
AT **LOVE AND ROBERTS.**

NEW POTATOES, PUMPKINS, AND
ONIONS, AT
LOVE AND ROBERTS.
NEW TOWN STORE.

Left: Advertisements placed by the firm of Love and Roberts, in January 1866.

Roberts was a well known businessman in Wagga Wagga, having conducted several businesses. Firstly with William Love [Love and Roberts] and later with David Copland [Roberts, Copland and Co]. The Hall of Commerce, a general store, which sold groceries, hardware cutlery, glassware, etc, was built for Roberts. He was said to be a jovial, kind gentleman, a staunch Anglican, and highly respected. He was a member of the finance committee and church improvement committee of St

John's Church, Wagga Wagga, a member of the Mechanics' Institute, and also a member of the Wagga Wagga Hospital Committee [1872-79].¹ In 1870 he was elected as one of two auditors to serve the new Borough Council.

John Thomas Roberts passed away on the 5th November 1879, at Burwood in Sydney, aged forty eight.² He left a wife, but no children.

Annie was the sole beneficiary of her husband's estate and in May 1881 the property was sold to John Walsh, a wine and spirit merchant of Wagga Wagga.

In 1883, Annie remarried, to John Ferguson, at Petersham.³ Annie died on the 21st May 1889,⁴ at Wagga Wagga, while John Ferguson died at Wagga Wagga, on the 28th November 1905.⁵

John Walsh

John Walsh was born in Oughterard, County Galway, Ireland, in 1842, the son of Patrick Walsh and Margaret Walsh [nee Geoghegan]. John came to Australia, c.1865, and on the 28th December 1867 he married Margaret Jane Clohesy, in Queensland.⁶ Margaret was also a native of Ireland.

¹ Sherry Morris. Biographical Listings. John Thomas Roberts.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th November 1879, p2. / 12th November 1879, p2.

³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2385.

⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11814.

⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 14580.

⁶ Australia Marriage Index. Reg. no.B002294, page no.15371.

John spent seventeen years at Cooktown in Queensland, where he was very successful as a businessman and as a prominent citizen. He served as mayor of Cooktown [1876-1877] and he later represented the seat of Cook in the Queensland parliament [MLA, from December 1878].¹ In 1880 John, and his family, moved to Wagga Wagga.²

In May 1880, John Walsh purchased the business formerly known as Watson Bros.³ This general store was located in Fitzmaurice Street and was once the business of George Forsyth & Co [corner Fitzmaurice and Kincaid Streets].⁴ Walsh's occupation was relatively short lived, and in August 1882 he sold the business to Henry & Eddy.⁵

The family then moved to Sydney, and by 1885 they were settled at *Avonmore*, in Randwick. In 1889 he retired and became a gentleman of leisure. In 1891 John suffered a stroke, and, on the advice of doctors, took a trip to New Zealand with his wife. Early in 1893 he returned to Randwick and his death took place shortly afterwards, on the 13th February 1893.

John and Margaret had at least three children – all daughters. They were,

1. Margaret Kate Walsh [[b.1868, d.1914]. Married Louis Moore at Randwick in 1893.⁶
2. Mary Ellen Walsh [b.1870, d.1909]. Married Peter P Maher at Temora in 1892.⁷
3. Edith Maude Walsh [b.1872, d.1908].

THIS DAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1894,
at 11 o'clock.
IMPORTANT UNRESERVED SALE BY AUCTION.
Under instructions from the
TRUSTEES OF THE LATE JOHN WALSH, Esq.
SUPERIOR FURNITURE and HOUSEHOLD
EFFECTS
comprised in residence known as
AVONMORE, Walsh's-avenue, Randwick.
MASSIVE AMERICAN WALNUT and MAHOGANY
SUITES, in Morocco.
Pair of 30in. MARBLE STATUETTES,
"The Dancing Girls."
ELEGANT EBONISED and WALNUT DRAWING-
ROOM FURNITURE.
ELEGANT BEDROOM SUITES.
CEDAR TELESCOPE DINING-TABLE, 11ft.
HANDSOME AMERICAN WALNUT BEVELLED-
GLASS OVERMANTELS
SIDEBOARDS and HALL SUITE.
BRUSSELS CARPETS, WILTON PILE CARPETS.
BRASS-MOUNTED BEDSTEADS.
HARDIE and GORMAN have received instructions
from the Trustees of the late John Walsh, Esq.,
to sell
The whole of the **FURNITURE and EFFECTS**
comprised in
AVONMORE, WALSH'S-AVENUE, RANDWICK,
at 11 o'clock
THIS DAY, NOVEMBER 12th.
CATALOGUES may be obtained from the Auctioneers.
HARDIE and GORMAN,
188 Pitt-street.

Margaret Walsh [nee Clohesy] passed away at *Avonmore*, on the 3rd February 1914,⁸ aged seventy one.⁹

Left: Notice of sale of household furniture and effects at Avonmore, Walsh's Avenue, Randwick, in November 1894.

¹ Wikipedia. John Walsh. Accessed 27th March 2021.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Walsh_\(Australian_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Walsh_(Australian_politician))

² Freeman's Journal. 18th February 1893, p15.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th May 1880, p3.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th October 1879, p6.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th August 1882, p3.

⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6212.

⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6512.

⁸ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 2920.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 5th February 1914, p8

<p>THE CHOICEST Display of Millinery</p> <p><small>IS TO BE SEEN AT</small></p> <p>JOHN WALSH'S.</p> <hr/> <p>THE CHEAPEST Assortment of General Drapery</p> <p><small>IS TO BE OBTAINED AT</small></p> <p>JOHN WALSH'S.</p> <hr/> <p>THE LARGEST STOCK <small>OF</small> Men's, Youths', and Boy's Clothing</p> <p><small>IS AT</small></p> <p>JOHN WALSH'S.</p> <hr/> <p>AN Insolvent Stock of SEASONABLE GOODS, purchased by Mr. WALSH during his recent visit to Sydney, at an ENORMOUS DISCOUNT, has just been marked off, giving the benefit of the Discount to the Customer.</p> <hr/> <p>JOHN WALSH</p> <p>Has been fortunate in securing the services of</p> <p>ONE OF THE BEST MILLINERS IN THE COLONIES,</p>	<p>Who is prepared to furnish MILLINERY equal in STYLE to anything procurable in Sydney or Melbourne.</p> <hr/> <p>JOHN WALSH</p> <p>Sells Groceries Cheaper than any other house in Wagga Wagga.</p> <hr/> <p>JOHN WALSH</p> <p>Can offer his Customer advantages which no other house in Wagga Wagga can offer.</p> <hr/> <p>JOHN WALSH</p> <p>Keeps Wines and Spirits <small>OF THE</small> BEST BRANDS ONLY.</p> <p>John Walsh Buys for Cash <small>AND CAN</small> Undersell any other house in the District.</p> <hr/> <p>COLONIAL PRODUCE BOUGHT AND SOLD, IN ANY QUANTITY, <small>BY</small> John Walsh, late Watson Bros.</p> <hr/> <p>SELLING OFF! RETURNING TO CHINA. GENUINE SALE.</p> <p>MESSRS. YEE CHONG & CO. (Fitzmaurice-street, two doors from the right hand side of Geo. Forsyth and Co.'s Store) REG to announce, as they are Retiring from Business, that</p>
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Above: Advertisement in June 1880 for John Walsh's new business, detailing the various items sold.¹

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th June 1880, p4.

Preliminary and Important
Announcement !

HENRY & EDDY

Having purchased, at an ENORMOUS DISCOUNT, the
ENTIRE STOCK of Mr. **JOHN WALSH**, consisting of

DRAPERY, BOOTS & SHOES,

Ironmongery, Grocery, Wines and Spirits, and Produce,

IN ALL ABOUT

£10,000 WORTH,

They intend offering the same at an early date, at
prices unknown before in Wagga Wagga, as they are
desirous of

Clearing out the Whole Stock

AT A

BIG SACRIFICE !

In order to make room for ENTIRE NEW STOCKS
coming to hand.

N.B.—Special Concessions to Wholesale Buyers.

Above: Notice of sale of Walsh's business to Henry & Eddy, in August 1882.¹

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th August 1882, p3.

Valuable Suburban Property.

Beautiful Villa Residence.

THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER,
At 12 o'clock Noon.

C. H. CROAKER has been instructed by **John Walsh, Esq.** (who is leaving the colony) to sell by public auction, on Thursday, the 14th December, at the Commercial Hotel, at 12 o'clock Noon,

That most beautifully situated and elaborately finished Suburban Residence known as

ERIN VILLA,

planned and built, with every provision made for comfort and convenience, expressly for Mr. Walsh.

The house is built of brick, and contains seven rooms, all of which are beautifully finished inside; with Kitchen, Servants' Room, Pantry, and Bath-room to which both hot and cold water is laid on.

The Out-buildings comprise three-stall Stable, Coach-house, Fowl-house, &c.

A never-failing supply of good rain water is provided for by a very large underground Tank.

The grounds cover an area of two (2) acres, beautifully laid out, trenced and planted with fruit, shade trees, and shrubs.

Beautifully situated as it is in a high and healthy position, and commanding a splendid view of the whole town and surrounding country, **Erin Villa** stands unequalled in this district as a private residence; and as no expense has been spared by Mr. Walsh in completing and perfecting everything about the place, the auctioneer does with confidence recommend this as a most comfortable home, and invites inspection.

In September 1880, Gordon & Sheppard, architects, sought tenders, for the erection of a residence, on behalf of John Walsh.¹ Tenders closed off in the following month [October]

In March 1881 John Walsh advertised for a general servant, giving his address as Best Street, Newtown,² but then, in October 1881, Mrs John Walsh advertised for a general servant, for her residence, *Erin Villa*.³ It is clear that a new residence had been constructed for John Walsh on lots 5 and 6 of DP124, sometime between March 1881 and October 1881. It is assumed that the building was designed by Gordon & Sheppard and that it was constructed by Charles Hardy & Co. [A number of contemporary reports state that the building was constructed by Charles Hardy & Co., but no source could be found to confirm this claim. Given that Charles Hardy & Co., were the pre-eminent contractors in the 1880's and that the firm built so many of the prominent buildings in and around Wagga Wagga, the statement could well be true.]

John Walsh had sold his business by August 1882, and in December he put his home, Erin Villa, up for sale by public auction.⁴

Left: Sale notice for Erin Villa in December 1882.

In February 1883 Walsh proceeded with a sale of the household furniture from Erin Villa.⁵

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th September 1880, p3.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th March 1881, p3.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th October 1881, p3.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd December 1882, p3.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1st February 1883, p3.

Sales by Auction.

Tuesday, February 8, at 12 o'clock.

ON THE PREMISES.

ERIN VILLA.

**UNRESERVED SALE OF
FIRST-CLASS HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE,**

COMPRISING

ELEGANT DRAWING ROOM SUITE.

DINING ROOM SUITE IN MAHOGANY
AND MOROCCO.

BRILLIANT TONED PIANO.

LARGE PIER GLASSES.

BEDROOM SUITES, CARPETS, ETC.

PICTURES, ORNAMENTS, ETC.

**To Gentlemen Furnishing, Dealers
and others.**

C. H. CROAKER has received instructions from John Walsh, Esq., who is leaving the colony, to sell by public auction on the premises, on Thursday, 8th February, at 11 o'clock, the whole of his

**VERY VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE**

**and which will be offered without
the slightest reserve.**

DRAWING ROOM.

Magnificent Drawing Room Suite, in ebony and gold frames of the latest and most fashionable designs, and upholstered in best figured silk velvet

2 Footstools to match

Piano by Lipp, pronounced by competent judges to be best instrument in this district

8 Oil Paintings, by eminent artists, purchased by Mr. Walsh at Sydney Exhibition at high figures

1 Card Table, in walnut wood

1 Music Stool

2 small Fancy Tables

1 Drawing Room Cheffonier

1 magnificent Ladies Work Table

2 ebony Wall Brackets, with mirror back

1 pair handsome Vases

1 pair handsome Bannets

2 pair handsome Flower Vases

Flower Stand and Vase

2 pair best real Lace Curtains

1 pair Lace Curtains

2 pair best real Lace Curtains

1 pair Lace Curtains

2 Window Cornices, in white and gold, with crimson and gold fringe

4 Curtain Holders,

Fender and Fireirons

2 Worked Hall Brackets

Quantity of Ornaments, in China, glass, &c.

Very handsome best Wilton Carpet

Large Pier Glass.

DINING ROOM.

1 Mahogany Telescope Dining Table

Dining Room Suite—6 Chairs, 2 Easy Chairs, and Couch, in best Morocco leather, and in perfect order

1 handsome Book Case, with glass front

1 large Pier Glass

1 large Sideboard, Cellarettes, &c.

1 Occasional Table (oval), in mahogany wood

1 Clock, in marble

1 Card Table

1 Pair Pictures

2 Pair Vases

1 Fender and Irons

1 Gentleman's Writing Desk

1 large Lamp, duplex burners

1 Window Cornice, with maroon and gold fringe

2 Window Poles and Rings

3 pair Lace Window Curtains

1 crimson and gold Table Cover

1 green and black Table Cover

Best Brussels Carpet

Hearth Rug

HALL.

1 handsome Hall Stand, in English oak

2 Hall Chairs

2 Flower Stands and Vases

Hall Carpet

BREAKFAST ROOM.

1 Table

6 Austrian Chairs

1 Cheffonier

Sewing Machine—Home Shuttle, with stand, and in perfect order

**PLATED WARE, CHINA, GLASS, Delf,
CUTLERY, &c.**

3 silver-plated Salvers

2 " Cake Baskets

1 " Pickle Stand

1 " Biscuit Basket

1 " Liquor Stand

1 " Egg Stand

1 1/2 doz. " Table Napkin Rings and Case

1 set " Dish Covers

1 1/2 doz. Ivory Napkin Rings

1 Butter Cooler

1 set Wire Dish Covers

1 handsome Dinner Service

1 handsome Desert Service

Quantity of Cut Glass Tumblers, Champagne Glasses, Custard Glasses, Decanters, Claret Jug, Cups and Saucers, Breakfast Plates, Basins, Jugs, &c., in great variety.

1 large Ice Chest

1 Bevan's Rapid Water Filter, large

BED ROOM.

1 very superior Double Bedstead, six feet six inches by five feet six inches.

Pair Palliasses

Spiral Spring Mattress

Best Curled Hair Mattress

Very handsome Wardrobe, in walnut, with mirror front (cost £80)

Handsome Dressing Table, in walnut wood, with large mirror, drawers, &c.

Washstand, marble top, and set

2 Bedroom Easy Chairs

Child's Cot, with hair mattress

Carpet

Hearth Rug

Fender and Irons

Cabinet

Above: Notice of sale of furniture from Erin Villa in February 1883. [continued next page]

Cabinet
 Pair Vases

BEDROOM No. 2.

Double Bedstead
 Pair Palliasses
 Curled Hair Mattress
 Dressing Table
 Washstand and Set
 Looking Glass

BEDROOM No. 3.

Single Bedstead
 Palliasso
 Curled Hair Mattress
 Dressing Table
 Looking Glass
 Washstand and Set

BED ROOM No. 4.

Single Bedstead
 Palliasso
 Curled Hair Mattress
 Dressing Table
 Washstand and Set
 Looking Glasses.
 A Large Assortment of Bed Linen, &c.,
 to be sold in lots.

VERANDAH.

Garden Seat
 Smoking Chairs (Austrian)
 2 Easy Chairs
 6 Folding Verandah Chairs
 1 Pair Handsome Vases.

KITCHEN.

A large assortment of Cooking Utensils
 Sausage Machine
 2 Boilers, Kettle, Saucepans, Wash Tubs,
 &c., &c.

SERVANTS' ROOM.

2 Single Bedsteads, Mattress and Bedding
 Washstand and Set
 Dressing Table, Looking Glass, &c.

STABLE AND YARD.

1 Set Good Single Buggy Harness
 1 Set Good Double Harness
 1 Ladies' Side Saddle and Bridle
 1 Gents' Saddle and Bridle
 1 Child's Side Saddle and Bridle
 1000-gallon Tank.

HORSES.

Grey gelding PRINCE, by Lecturer, 5 years
 old, thoroughly broken to saddle, and
 staunch and quiet in both single and
 double harness
 Greg gelding HECTOR, quiet in saddle and
 double and single harness
 A number of fowls.

—

For the convenience of intending purchasers
 a Bus will run from the Post Office.

—

The Sale will commence at 12 o'clock sharp.

—

Catalogues, and orders to view can be
 obtained from the Auctioneer, who calls
 special attention to this Sale, as such an
 opportunity for obtaining NEW and FIRST-
 CLASS FURNITURE may never occur
 again.

—

Note particularly—NO RESERVE.

Left: Notice of sale of furniture from Erin Villa in February 1883. [continued from previous page]

WANTED,
TWO SERVANTS—one as Cook and
 Laundress, one as Housemaid. Must
 have good references. Apply
MRS. JOHN WALSH,
 Erin Villa.

Above: A notice placed by Mrs Walsh in March 1882.¹

WANTED,
ONE or TWO good quiet MILKERS, with
 young Calves.
JOHN WALSH,
 Erin Villa.

Above: A notice placed by John Walsh in July 1882.²

WANTED,
COOK and LAUNDRESS. Must have
 good references. Liberal wages. Apply
MRS. J. WALSH,
 Erin Villa.

Above: A notice placed by Mrs Walsh in November 1882.³

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23rd March 1882, p3.
² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 23rd March 1882, p3.
³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th November 1882, p2.

George Coleman.

George Coleman was born at Guntawang, near Mudgee, on the 12th March 1858, the son of William and Catherine Coleman.¹ He was educated at St Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, for two years,² [probably 1874-1875]³ and then pursued his legal studies at Mudgee. During this latter period he was a correspondent for the Freeman's Journal. He moved to Sydney to complete his studies and was admitted to practice as a solicitor before his twenty fourth birthday.⁴ From 1879 to 1880 George was studying at St John's College, Sydney (within the University of Sydney), where, in August 1879, he received a £5 prize for modern history.⁵ In 1881 he served his articles under Messrs Slattery & Heydon, solicitors, of Pitt Street, before sitting his final exams at the end of that year. He achieved exceptionally good marks, being one of three candidates who so distinguished themselves that they were honoured with special mention to the judges of the Full Court,⁶ and on the 13th December applied to be admitted to the Supreme Court, as an attorney, solicitor, and proctor.⁷ He was subsequently admitted, on Saturday the 17th December 1881.⁸

George Coleman came to Wagga Wagga, in March 1882, not long after completing his articles with the firm of Slattery & Heydon, in Sydney.⁹ He was twenty three years old at the time. He was practicing in Wagga Wagga by April 1882, when he gave notice that he had commenced practice in the offices formerly occupied by Mr Garland, in Gurwood Street.¹⁰ He soon afterwards took the role of managing clerk with HB Fitzhardinge¹¹ and in July 1882, Coleman became a full partner with Harry Berkeley Fitzhardinge. Their offices were in The Exchange building, Wagga Wagga, as were Garland's old offices.¹² The local press featured the following report:¹³

“We understand that to-day two of the legal houses of the town merged into the partnership firm of Fitzhardinge and Coleman. It is no trifling compliment to our young and recent townsman, Mr. Coleman, that he should in the space of a few months have so far won the confidence and respect of a gentleman representing the interests of the large and respectable clientele which Mr. Fitzhardinge has established by upwards of fifteen years' practice. We wish the new firm all success.”

This partnership lasted for a number of years - until the 31st December 1887¹⁴ - and it was early in this period, on the 9th September 1882, that George married Miss Maria Theresa Tighe, the youngest daughter of John Tighe, of Sydney.¹⁵ The ceremony took place in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, it having only recently been rebuilt, and it was the first such service in the new cathedral.¹⁶ Special permission was required from the church authorities, and influenced by the facts that George was an ex-student of St John's College and Maria had been schooled at the Villa Maria convent,

¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 9488.

² NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 9488.

³ Freeman's Journal. 25th December 1886, p8.

⁴ Freeman's Journal. 23rd December 1909, p17.

⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 18th August 1879, p3.

⁶ Burrowa News. 7th April 1882, p2.

⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 14th December 1881, p9.

⁸ Freeman's Journal. 24th December 1881, p10.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th April 1882, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

¹² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th October 1883, p3.

¹³ Freeman's Journal. 1st July 1882, p10.

¹⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st December 1887, p3.

¹⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration #1491 / Sydney Morning Herald. 16th September 1882, p1.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

permission was granted.¹ The church had been officially opened one day earlier, on the 8th September,² fourteen years after the foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Polding, in December 1868.³



Left: St Mary's Cathedral with Hyde Park in the foreground. Courtesy NLA.

Coleman subsequently established his own practice, which he maintained until about 1904.⁴

Coleman was very active in public affairs and was an alderman on the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council for the periods, 1889-1894, 1895 and 1898-1901.⁵ He was elected as mayor of Wagga Wagga on four separate occasions; 1893, 1895, 1898 and 1899.⁶

Coleman had greater political expectations and at one time ran for the seat of Murrumbidgee but was easily defeated by James Gormly.⁷ He had experience in such matters having been joint secretary, along with Mr CH Croaker, of the committee to support George Dibbs as candidate for the

Murrumbidgee in 1885. The chairman of the committee was Mr Charles Hardy.⁸

George Dibbs was subsequently elected as a member for Murrumbidgee, in October 1885, along with James Gormly and Alexander Thorley Bolton.⁹ Gibbs, as premier,¹⁰ was able to form government but he resigned within a few months, having accepted the position of Colonial Secretary. Dibbs was subsequently re-elected, being the only nominee for the vacant seat.¹¹

Coleman declined to contest the state seat of Wagga Wagga in 1898, despite a requisition signed by four hundred prominent citizens, but acquiesced in 1901, when he agreed to run against the incumbent James Gormly.¹² The election was held on the 3rd July 1901 and Coleman was soundly defeated by Gormly, the voting being two to one in favour of the latter.¹³ According to Gormly,

¹ Evening News (Sydney). 11th September 1882, p2.

² Sydney Morning Herald. 9th September 1882, p8.

³ Sydney Morning Herald. 8th December 1868, p5.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

⁵ Swan, Keith. A History of Wagga Wagga. 1970. Appendix 1 – Municipal Aldermen. p188.

⁶ Swan, Keith. A History of Wagga Wagga. 1970. Appendix 2 – Mayors of Wagga Wagga. p192.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 20th October 1885, p5.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th November 1885, p2.

¹⁰ Maitland Mercury. 8th October

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th March 1886, p2.

¹² Wagga Wagga Express. 13th June 1901, p3.

¹³ Wagga Wagga Express. 4th July 1901, p2.

George declared that 1,077 idiots had voted for his opponent, but 479 intelligent voters had voted for him.¹

George was president of the St Stanislaus' Old Boys' Union (Bathurst),² being elected in April 1909.³ He was a member of the Wagga Wagga Hospital Committee,⁴ having replaced Mr P Moran in 1886.

In 1887, George Shephard, architect, sought tenders to build law chambers in Fitzmaurice Street, next to the Union Bank, for Mr George Coleman, solicitor.⁵ His new offices were ready by January 1888, and stood opposite the new post office, in Fitzmaurice Street.⁶

George was now practicing on his own and it appears that, in an effort to generate business and contacts, he joined a variety of groups.

In December 1887, Coleman was secretary of the Murrumbidgee Light Horse.⁷ In February 1888 he was elected by the local committee for the commission of Lieutenant.⁸ Later in the year, in September, Second Lieutenant George Coleman was promoted to the rank of Captain of the Wagga Wagga Reserve Corps of Volunteer Light Horse.⁹

In May 1890 Coleman sued Samuel Hawkins, proprietor of the Wagga Wagga Express, for defamation and sought the sum of £2,000, in damages.¹⁰

Coleman's case was that in December 1889 he was an alderman on the local borough council and a captain of a cavalry troop of the Murrumbidgee Light Horse, and that at that time certain persons in Wagga Wagga had made an effigy of Joseph Palmer Abbott, MLA, which they displayed in the streets of that town, with the intent that the effigy would be burnt, at the end of the day. At some point in time a sword and belt, belonging to a trooper of the Murrumbidgee Light Horse, was placed on the effigy. Another party, opposed to the burning of the effigy, removed it and replaced it with an effigy of George Richard Dibbs, MLA. Hawkins described the event in his newspaper and claimed that Coleman, as Captain of the troop had failed his responsibilities in allowing the trooper's sword and belt to be used in such a way. Hawkins also wrote a letter to the then premier, Sir Henry Parkes, protesting against Coleman's behaviour, in this matter.¹¹ When the matter went to court, the jury took a mere seventeen minutes to find in favour of Hawkins.¹² The judge stated that he found the decision to be the correct one and furthermore expressed the view that the matter should never have been brought before the court.¹³

It appears that some people viewed the actions of Coleman as pompous and reporting of the matter, which was extensive, bordered on ridicule.

¹ RJE Gormly Indexes. As held at CSU Regional Archives. Original material held by NSW State Library [Mitchell]

² Catholic Press. 16th December 1909, p24.

³ Freeman's Journal. 22nd April 1909, p16.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th January 1887, p2.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th October 1887, p3.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th January 1888, p2.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th December 1887, p3.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18th February 1888, p2.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th September 1888, p13.

¹⁰ Evening News (Sydney). 25th June 1890, p5.

¹¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 20th May 1890, p6.

¹² Australian Town & Country Journal. 28th June 1890, p42. /

¹³ Sydney Morning Herald. 26th June 1890, p4.

In May 1890 the Mudgee newspaper referred to their former citizen, in the following cheeky passage:¹

“He is now a flourishing solicitor at Wagga, alderman of the same township, and captain of the Murrumbidgee Light Horse. By-the-bye, he flourished in the Camp when mounted on his Bucephalus; he looked the picture of jolliness and hearty good humour, dashed with a little dignity as become his position, dontchersee. Between ourselves George will soon become too - rotund is the best word, for horseback.”

The local newspaper was not backward in taking a dig at George either. On his election to mayor, for the fourth time, in 1899, the following report appeared in the local paper,²

“A new departure, designed to add dignity and impressiveness to the Mayoral office, was inaugurated on Tuesday night by the appearance of his Worship at the first meeting of the new council in stately robes handsomely set off with ermine and lined with crimson silk. The advocates of decorum and form viewed with admiration the substantial personality of the Mayor in his dignified and stately habiliments as he entered the council to take his place at the head of the table, the assembled aldermen meanwhile standing in an attitude of proper solemnity befitting the occasion. In his University days the Mayor became accustomed to wearing a gown and trencher, and consequently his Worship was able to assume an air of unruffled serenity in a situation which might have been fatal to a less practised hand making his initial bow at a first night performance.”



Above: *Guntawang*, Wagga Wagga. Another home of George Coleman.³

¹ Mudgee Guardian. 26th May 1890, p6.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th February 1899, p3.

³ Sydney Mail. 4th September 1897, p497.



Above: A large life size painting of George Coleman that hangs in the Historic Council Chambers at Wagga Wagga. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council and the Museum of the Riverina.

George resigned his commission as Captain around August of 1890,¹ no doubt influenced by the impacts of the deformation case. He maintained his association with the Light Horse until 1893.²

In August 1888 George was elected to the committee of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club, replacing Dr Taylor, who had resigned.³ He was re-elected again in February 1890.⁴

In 1888, George was a member of the School of Arts Committee.⁵

On the 9th February 1889 George was elected, for the first time, as an alderman on the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council (east ward).⁶

Coleman was secretary to Sir George Dibbs from 1885, the year Dibbs was first elected for the electorate of Murrumbidgee, till his retirement from public life.⁷

On the 14th January 1890 George's father, William Kirbin Coleman passed away at Peak Hill, aged sixty three.⁸

In April 1890, George was elected to the committee of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral & Agricultural Association, in place of William Devlin, who had resigned.⁹

By July 1890 the Colemans were living at Belmore House.¹⁰ In October 1890, George was elected as secretary of the Wagga Horticultural Society.¹¹

In May 1891 George advertised that he was now the Wagga Wagga agent for the Commercial Union Assurance Company.¹²

In July 1892, George was secretary of the Wagga Wagga Public School Board.¹³

In March 1893, George resigned as secretary of the Wagga Wagga Polo Club.¹⁴

In July 1893, George was gazetted as a magistrate of the colony, and declared Returning Officer for the electoral district of Murrumbidgee.¹⁵ He resigned from the position of Returning Officer in June 1901 and was the subject of a presentation on Saturday 22nd June, to acknowledge eight years of service in this capacity.¹⁶

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 26th August 1890, p2.

² Mudgee Guardian. 13th December 1909, p2.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th August 1888, p2.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th February 1890, p3.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th January 1890, p3.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th February 1889, p2.

⁷ Mudgee Guardian. 13th December 1909, p2 / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th October 1885, p5.

⁸ Freeman's Journal. 25th January 1890, p18.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 21st April 1890, p5.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 5th July 1890, p3.

¹¹ Sydney Mail. 11th October 1890, p794.

¹² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd May 1891, p2.

¹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th July 1892, p2.

¹⁴ Australian Star. 2nd March 1893, p2.

¹⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th July 1893, p2.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th June 1901, p2.

The event climaxed with a presentation by the chairman, described as follows:¹

“On behalf of the officers both present and absent, he then presented Mr Coleman with a handsome set of double carvers with fish-slice and fork, the three sets and steel being enclosed in a very handsome polished walnut case to which it is proposed to affix a silver shield bearing the inscription: "Presented to George Coleman, Esq., by his officers on his retirement from the position of Returning Officer for the State Electorate of Wagga. 22nd June. 1901."

On the 15th February 1894, a special meeting of the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council elected a new mayor, Alderman JJ McGrath. The councillors and officers met in the mayor's room, following the meeting, where Alderman McGrath, acting on behalf of a group of council officers, presented Alderman Coleman with a silver salver and claret jug, as a token of the officers' esteem.² Following on from this a movement began to present George Coleman with a testimonial,³ which resulted in the new mayor calling a public meeting, at the town hall, on Friday 23rd February, to consider the matter.⁴ This meeting resolved to present Coleman with an address and a plate, and to form a committee to arrange same.⁵

Coleman resigned, as an alderman, on the 19th February 1894.⁶

The Illuminated Address was made by John Sands of Sydney and arrived in Wagga Wagga in early May. A local press report gave the following account:⁷

“Mr. John Sands has on view (says Thursday's S.M. Herald) at No. 374 George-street an address illuminated by his firm, and to be presented to Mr. Geo. Coleman, of Wagga Wagga. The dimensions of the address are about 40 x 26 upright, the bordering being about six inches in width, and comprised of richly-colored but chaste ornament, into which has been introduced six watercolor drawings, showing the present and past residences of Mr. Coleman.

At the bottom of the border is a view of the Court-house surrounded by heavy ornamental work of original design, through which runs a delicately tinted ribbon bearing the date of presentation, and supporting an impression of the seal of the Wagga Municipal Council, with which Mr. Coleman had a long and honorable career. The whole of the address was cased in a very handsome heavy gilt frame, with a slip of rich plush introduced to harmonise with the ornamentation.”

The presentation took place on the 16th May 1894, inside the Town Hall, when he was presented with the illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns to purchase some plate, of his choice. The illuminated address read as follows:⁸

“To George Coleman, Esq., J.P., Wagga Wagga.

“Dear Sir, - Your fellow citizens - in view of your fixed determination to retire, for the present at least, from public life - desire to express their deep regret at the event, and to publicly mark their sense of the loss the town of Wagga Wagga sustains by your withdrawal from those active and onerous duties of citizenship by

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th June 1901, p2.

² Wagga Wagga Express. 17th February 1894, p4.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 27th February 1894, p2.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th February 1894, p2, 20th February 1894, p2.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 24th February 1894, p3.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th February 1894, p2.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th May 1894, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th May 1894, p3.

which during a long course of years, you have established so strong a claim upon their gratitude and esteem.

In every public movement involving the interests of the town or the welfare of your fellow, citizens you have ever been in the foremost rank. Indeed one cannot point to any permanent public institution of the town - be it the Hospital, the Pastoral - and Agricultural Association, the Horticultural Society, the Turf Club, the School of Arts, the Public School Board, or any one of others which might be added - without seeing there the distinct trace of your genius for good government, order, and discipline.

"It may be truly said, however, that in your aldermanic career you have achieved your greatest success as a leading citizen, and laid us under the deepest obligation. The moment you took your seat at the board of the council you entered thoroughly into the spirit of the office, and gradually laid the foundation of those reforms by which your name will be long remembered by the people of Wagga Wagga. But it was reserved for you during the period of your Mayoralty to perform the great work of your civic life. In the borough you have thrown light and order upon the chaos which previously prevailed in that institution. You brought to the discharge of your public duties - alternately delicate and unpleasant as they must necessarily have been - a vigorous intellect and a sound judgment. You bore yourself throughout in the high office of Mayor with firm resolution and fearless impartiality, and on retiring from office you left the borough entirely recast and perfected in its organization and administration, and a model for the municipal institutions of the country.

"In bidding you adieu to-day your fellow citizens by no means look upon the separation as anything but temporary; and we shall look forward to the day - not far distant we trust - when we shall welcome you back to public life to fill again with renewed energy, not only your old positions, but any others with which the appreciation of your fellow citizens may honor you.

"In conclusion it is the earnest wish of your fellow citizens that you and Mrs. Coleman and your family may be spared to enjoy many years of happiness and contentment.

"We are, dear sir, yours faithfully, for and on behalf of the citizens of Wagga

"John J McGrath, Mayor.

"Committee. L. S. Joseph, P. S. F. Stephen, J.H. Wilkins, J. West, L. Corbett, H. J. King, W. N. Jeffry, P. J. Kelly, P. J. Coffey, J. Nash, R. P. Miller, W. Walsh, Dr. O'Connor, P. Moran (treasurer), and C. M. Cook (secretary)."

Coleman's reply, in parts, gave vent to his frustrations, as per the following passage:¹

"I do not hesitate to say that no occupant of the office of Mayor has had such a stirring term as fell to my lot in the year 1893-94, To even glance at the leading events of my year of office would require more time than I have any right to claim on an occasion of this character. But you are fully aware of them. You are aware of the re-arrangement of the offices of the council, of the radical and very valuable alterations effected in the accountancy of the borough - in fine, the entire re-casting of the administration. You know the opposition I had to contend with; the unmanly warfare waged against me by people, and the friends of people, who put their shoulders up in stubborn resistance to the advancing march of reform. You remember, too, no doubt, how every obstacle was encountered and surmounted, and how the axe was laid to the roots of an effete and dangerous system, which

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th May 1894, p3.

gave way to innovation, of which I and those associated with me have every reason to be proud. And you have not forgotten how at the end of it all, when little remained to be done, I was denied the opportunity of completing the great work of municipal reform upon which I had entered with such zeal and with such hope. These incidents, I know, gentlemen, are remembered - unpleasantly and impatiently remembered - by you."

Having resigned as both mayor and alderman, in February 1894, Coleman nominated for the East ward in February 1895 and was elected. He was unanimously elected mayor as well.¹ Following the mayoral election, Coleman invited the aldermen and several others back to his residence, "*Hughenden*," for a drink.²

Seven months later Coleman again resigned – both as an alderman and as mayor,³ following on from an unedifying dispute with the borough manager, Mr G Smithies.⁴

George next ran for council in February 1898 and was elected, firstly, as an alderman, and then, secondly, as the mayor.⁵ As per previous habit, the new mayor, and his wife, hosted a reception at their residence, "*Guntawang*," following the mayoral election.⁶

Shortly after losing the contest for the state electorate of Wagga Wagga, in July 1901, it appears Coleman made the decision to leave Wagga Wagga. His wife was the recipient of a farewell presentation,⁷ in September 1901, but four months later Coleman was still a practicing solicitor at Wagga Wagga, and had in fact moved to new chambers, next to the AJS Bank.⁸

It is assumed that Coleman was under financial duress around this period and in September 1904 he was compelled to declare himself insolvent.⁹ In 1905 he was suspended, by the State Full Court, from practicing as a solicitor for twelve months,¹⁰ and an appeal to the High Court was denied.¹¹

George's suspension revolved around a situation whereby, in order to help a client, he (George) wrote to a secured creditor, as follows,¹²

Dear Sir, Sometime ago - I am Instructed on July 7 - you lent James Dennis £200 on some sheep, and he gave you a stock mortgage. These sheep were then under mortgage to no one else. Dennis and his banker - the N.S.W. - have recently got at loggerheads, and the bank have formally gone into possession and seized amongst other stock the sheep mortgaged to you. While this may be regular as between Dennis and the bank, it cannot, of course, affect your security, which the bank must respect. Dennis wants to protect these particular sheep if possible, and he wants you to do him a favour, that is to substitute for the £200 mortgage you hold one for £850. If you send it to me we can, if necessary, shift the date two or three days forward and let it be registered at

¹ Freeman's Journal. 23rd February 1895, p19.

² Freeman's Journal. 23rd February 1895, p19.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 19th September 1895, p2.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 12th September 1895, p3. [see also Cootamundra Herald. 11th December 1895, p3 – for additional background]

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 12th February 1898, p1.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 12th February 1898, p1.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 26th September 1901, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th January 1902, p2.

⁹ Mudgee Guardian. 19th September 1904, p2.

¹⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 1st June 1905, p7.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 17th June 1905, p2.

¹² Sydney Morning Herald. 1st June 1905, p7. / Sunday Times. 4th June 1905, p8.

the end of the week. He wants no further money from you, and I have explained to him that if ever things were pushed as far as bankruptcy, he would have to authorise you to release on payment of £200 and would not ask you to give evidence in defence of the £850 transaction. Dennis quite understands all this, and that he must only avail himself of your assistance to the extent that you are not called upon to explain anything. If you are agreeable to do this please let me have the fresh mortgage by return. I enclose Dennis's authority to alter the consideration in the existing mortgage, but I would prefer your sending a fresh one, which would be dated, say, July 10."

The court found that there was no fraudulent motive and that no one had been harmed by Coleman's actions [the creditor had never acted on Coleman's request]. Two of the three judges found that Coleman's actions in advising his client to request a bogus mortgage was unbecoming and that his actions merited a suspension.

In October 1905, Mr & Mrs Coleman were finally set to leave Wagga Wagga.¹ A public presentation was held at the Town Hall on the evening of the 5th October, where a large number of people attended. In addition to the many kind speeches, Coleman was also presented with a purse containing £200.² Coleman left for Sydney that same night.

By August 1906, Coleman had resumed practicing as a solicitor at 24 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.³

George Coleman passed away, at his residence, "Bywong", John Street, Petersham, on the 10th December 1909, at the age of fifty one. He had been in a feeble state of health for some months⁴ and had been confined in Lewisham Hospital for a period.⁵ The local press declared:⁶

"He had been ever ready to place at the disposal of the public his time and ability for the betterment of the town and district. Of striking personality and commanding talents, with which was combined a zeal and energy surprising to those associated with him in public life, Mr. Coleman made an ideal public man, and it is not too much to say that Wagga owes much to him for years of spirited action, which has left its mark in the municipal life and public institutions of the town."

Coleman was survived by his wife, two sons and six daughters.⁷ His children were, in order of birth, Isabel Mary (20th December 1885 at Petersham⁸), John Tighe, Kathleen Gladys (20th July 1889⁹), George Dibbs (16th January 1892¹⁰), Rita Winifred, Susan Margaret (16th August 1894¹¹), Claire Maria, Edmund Barton, Helen Augusta.¹²

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 3rd October 1905, p2.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th October 1905, p4. / Freeman's Journal. 14th October 1905, p20.

³ Freeman's Journal. 11th August 1906, p21.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

⁵ Mudgee Guardian. 21st October 1909, p16.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th December 1909, p2.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th December 1909, p2.

⁸ Sydney Mail. 10th January 1885, p94.

⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 27th July 1889, p1.

¹⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 23rd January 1892, p1.

¹¹ Australian Star. 8th September 1894, p1.

¹² NDW BDM's. Birth registrations, 6003, 28034, 28142, 32769, 36053, 34403, 35402, 7896, 35356.

George took up his pen against Junee on several occasions.

In August 1886 Coleman took the people of Junee to task for attempting to induce the government to expend some £60,000 to provide a water supply for the town. This was an extension of his battle against Junee for the right to have the main rail junction – a battle he had lost. His argument was that the water and sand required for cleaning the engines had to be carried from Wagga Wagga, and the idea to run a pipe from Wagga Wagga to Junee (to supply water) was, according to Coleman, ludicrous.¹ Coleman was scathing in his attack on Junee, stating, in part:²

“You find there a few hotels, and one or two stores. The rest of the population is made up of railway employees, and all told the adults do not number more than a few hundreds. It is essentially a private township. It is built on a conditional purchase, and there is freehold land all round it. Every inch of the ground around it (with the exception of a forfeited selection of 40 acres, on which the lock-up and Public School are erected was, and still is, in the hands of private people, who decline to sell any land except at prices which stifle, speculation. The whole of the" land which could ever be sought after for business sites is in the hands of private individuals, and it is a noticeable fact that it has not passed from them. The village gives no indication of development; it is not the centre of any agricultural or pastoral tract; no main road leads from it, and its trade and business are maintained solely by the railway employees. The people of Junee have never evinced any disposition to help themselves, but, on the contrary, have leaned on the Government for every shilling that was ever spent there. Its municipality is only a few days old, and it is a glaring fact, notwithstanding, that as much public money has been spent in Junee during, the last four or five years as has been spent in Wagga Wagga during the past twenty five years. Mr Lyne was forced to admit that "Junee has been heretofore, and is still sustained solely by public money and that it is, unquestionably, a great drain upon the country.' Still, in the fact of this, the people of Junee venture to approach the Minister, and modestly ask him to pay out another sum of £60,000, and saddle the revenue to which they contribute nothing, with an annual cost of something like from £7000 to £10,000!”

It was during George Coleman’s occupation of Bredagh that a tragic death took place in the house.

A Deceased Infant

On the 22nd January 1887, a most disturbing event took place at Bredagh, when George Coleman discovered the body of a male infant in a water closet at his residence.

Coleman testified that he went to the closet around 11pm on that evening, and that he had a lit a match, which he dropped down the pit. As the burning match descended, he saw something floating in the pit. He struck a second match and was able to discern the body of a child, lying face down. He sent for the police immediately, dispatching one of his employees to bring them back.³

It seems strange that he would drop a match into the pit without reason. A press report stated that he lit the match, “*as a necessary precaution.*”

When the police arrived, they removed the body from the cesspit, and took a girl named Louisa Huggins into custody. Sixteen year old Louisa⁴ was a domestic servant, only recently employed by

¹ Goulburn Evening Penny. 14th August 1886, p7. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th August 1886, p2, 9th September 1886, p3.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th August 1886, p2.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th January 1887, p2.

⁴ The Age (Melbourne). 25th January 1887, p6.

Coleman. She had been working for the family for some six weeks, up until the time that Mrs Coleman and the children went to Sydney – on the 14th December.¹ Louisa came back to the house on Monday the 17th the family having returned from Sydney on the 16th. Two days later, on Wednesday, Louisa complained to Mrs Coleman that she was not well and that she had arranged for her sister to take her place.

Coleman stated that neither he, nor his wife, nor anyone else in the house, realised that Louisa was pregnant. Apparently there were stains on the floor in the servants' bedroom, but they were unaware of this until the Saturday.

Dr Wren testified that the child was a male with perfect limbs. He could see no signs of external violence or any internal damage, although the body was badly decomposed by then. He believed the child had breathed, but he could not prove the child was born alive.

A fellow servant, Jane Lloyd, testified that on the night of Tuesday 18th she was woken up by cries from Louisa. She was awoken again around 4:30am on the Wednesday morning and got up around 5:30am, with Louisa still moaning. Louisa asked for a knife, which she brought to her and then left the room. Sometime later Jane saw Louisa leave the room and fetch the slop pail. There were blood stains visible on her dress. Louisa went back to the bedroom, closed the door, and a couple of minutes later came out with the slop pail, which was covered over. She went out through the kitchen towards the water closet. While she was out, Jane thought she heard the muffled cry of a child, but assumed it was Mrs Coleman's baby. She had seen blood stains on the bedroom floor and the kitchen floor but believed these were as a consequence of Louisa's illness. Jane said she had no idea of what was really happening.

An inquest found that the child was the son of Louisa Huggins but that there was insufficient evidence to say how the child died.²

On the 25th January Louisa Huggins was brought before the court to answer a charge that she had concealed the birth of a child. The magistrate committed her to stand trial at the next sitting of the court of Quarter Sessions, on the 15th March, and granted bail.³ Evidence from Dr Wren and the police made it clear that the child was that of Louisa and that it was Louisa who had disposed of the body. No further account could be found of the case.

Despite his heavy community involvement George Coleman was not loved by all. RJE Gormly was particularly scathing in his assessment, declaring as follows,⁴

“He had an extensive and remunerative practice, but he was always puffed up by his own importance. He lived beyond his income and after many years he was struck off the roll of solicitors, in May 1905. His good name was on the decline slowly but surely for quite some time as he was hard pressed on many occasions to account for Trust Funds held by him. He was a most audacious liar when hard pressed.”

It should be noted that Gormly's father was a political opponent of George Coleman, a fact which may have influenced the comments of RJE Gormly.

The owner to follow George Coleman was Selina Josephine Greville, in January 1902. Selina was the wife of Charles Bathurst Greville, an agent of Wagga Wagga.⁵

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th January 1887, p3.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th January 1887, p2.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th January 1887, p3.

⁴ RJE Gormly Indexes. As held at CSU Regional Archives. Original material held by NSW State Library [Mitchell]

⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 536, folio 90.

Charles Bathurst Greville

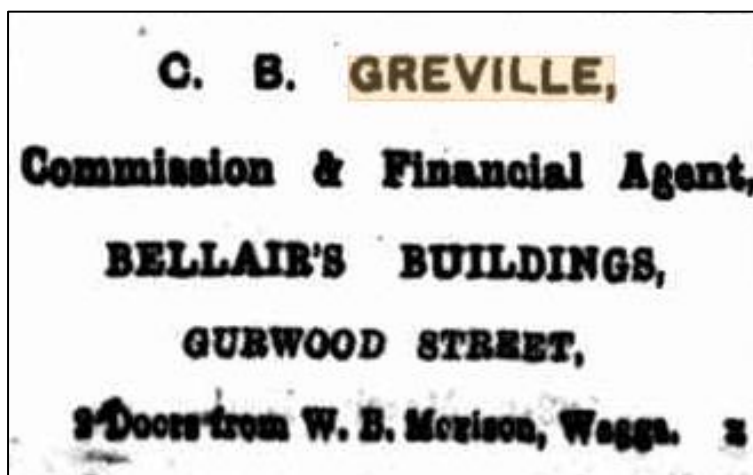
Charles Bathurst Greville was born at Bathurst on the 19th September 1865, the son of William Charles Greville and Elizabeth Greville [nee Roberts].¹

On the 2nd March 1892 Charles married Selina Josephine Schmidt at Surrey Hills, in Sydney.² The couple had at least one child – a daughter [Gladys Emmaline Greville, b.1893]³. Gladys married Harry Baumer in 1913.⁴ It appears that a second child, Keith Joseph Warwick Greville, was born at Wagga Wagga, eleven years later, in 1904.⁵

For a number of years Charles was an accountant with the Australian Bank of Commerce at Wagga Wagga. He had previously been the manager of the Temora branch. In October 1898 he left Wagga Wagga to take up a similar position with the bank at Parramatta.⁶

He returned to Wagga Wagga and in October 1899 he was employed by the Australian Joint Stock at that place. By March 1901 he was conducting an insurance and accountancy business.

Charles also rendered valuable assistance to Mr AFD White, the secretary of the MP& A Association, in preparing for the annual show week.⁷



Left: An advertisement for Greville's agency business in March 1901.⁸

Greville had decided to leave Wagga Wagga again by August 1904, when he advertised for sale the furniture and effects at *Bradagh* [sic].⁹

By 1911 Charles and his wife had returned to Wagga Wagga, where they remained until the time of their respective deaths.¹⁰ Selina Greville [nee Schmidt] passed away on the 27th October 1915.¹¹ Her death took place at her residence, *Lewisham Farm*, on the Urana Road.¹²

Charles Bathurst Greville passed away on the 19th August 1917, at the Wagga Wagga District Hospital.¹³ He was residing at *Lewisham Farm*, and died half an hour after his admission to the hospital.¹⁴ He was survived by his daughter, Mrs Baumer. No mention was made of the couple's son in any of the reports covering their deaths.

¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 5726.

² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 347.

³ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 26382.

⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6425.

⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 17321

⁶ Wagga Wagga express. 15th October 1898, p2.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 20th August 1917, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 30th March 1901, p8.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th August 1904, p3.

¹⁰ Daily Advertiser. 20th May 1911, p4.

¹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 16422.

¹² Daily Advertiser. 28th October 1915, p2.

¹³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 10935.

¹⁴ Daily Advertiser. 20th August 1917, p2.

On the 7th March 1905 Bradagh [sic] was up for sale by public auction, on instruction from Mrs Charles Bathurst Greville, who had left the district. The house was located in a commanding position on The Hill, with three acres of land. It was said to be substantially and artistically built of brick and cement on the most modern lines, with **eight rooms**, kitchen, bathroom, etc.¹ The house must not have sold at that time as it was shortly afterwards readvertised, this time on instruction from the mortgagee.² The house also had gas & water laid on.³ By the end of September 1905 Jeremy & Co. reported they had sold *Bradagh* to Mrs Thompson.⁴

Robert Thompson

Robert Thompson was born c.1844 at Lythe, Yorkshire, England. He came to Australia around 1868, and in the early days he travelled all around Australia engaging in mining and prospecting ventures. He arrived in Wagga Wagga around 1884, where he was employed for many years as manager for Wright Heaton & Co. He later went out on his own, establishing an agency business in his own right.⁵

It was Robert and Sam Angel who started the Terrier Coursing Club in Wagga Wagga. Robert also took an active interest in cricket and bowls, and he owned several ponies that had won prizes at various Wagga Wagga Shows.⁶ He was associated with the District Hospital Committee and with the local Church of England.

In 1886, Robert Thompson married Cecilia Grace Graham, at Murrumburrah.⁷

Cecilia conducted a drapery and millinery business in Fitzmaurice Street for many years, while her husband was manager at Wright Heaton & Co., but when the firm transferred him to their Armidale branch she sold her business and moved with her husband.⁸

The couple later returned to Wagga Wagga where Cecilia passed away, at her residence, *Bradagh* [sic], on the 16th July 1906.⁹ Robert became the legal owner of *Bredagh* in 1908. It appears that Robert and Cecilia had no children.

A year later Robert remarried [at age 63]. He married twenty six year old Mary Eliza Heathwood, in Victoria, in 1907.¹⁰ The couple had five children, all born in Wagga Wagga.

1. Gloria Hannah Thompson [b.1907].¹¹
2. Marjory Mary Thompson [b.1909].¹²
3. Russell William Thompson [b.1911].¹³
4. Dorothy Jane Thompson [b.1914].¹⁴
5. Kenneth Robert Corona Thompson [b.1916].¹⁵

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 28th February 1905, p3.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th March 1905, p3.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th March 1905, p5.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 28th September 1905, p2.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 4th December 1928, p2.

⁶ Daily Advertiser. 4th December 1928, p2.

⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 7809.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th July 1906, p2.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th July 1906, p2. / NSW BDM's. Death registration # 10762.

¹⁰ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 1607.

¹¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 29952.

¹² NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 9247.

¹³ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 34307.

¹⁴ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 15094.

¹⁵ NDSW BDM's. Birth registration # 36181.

Robert Thompson passed away on the 3rd December 1928, at the age of eighty four.¹ He was survived by his wife and his five children. The property [*Bredagh*] passed to his wife in February 1930.

Mary Eliza Thompson [nee Heathwood] passed away on the 7th May 1962, at Sydney Hospital.²

It was during the period of occupation by the Thompson family that Sister Liguori sought refuge at Bredagh [in July 1920], after fleeing from the Mt Erin Convent, and pending her departure to Sydney.³

The Sister Liguori Incident

This incident took place in 1920 and related to a nun – Sister Mary Liguori [or Bridget Partridge] who decided she no longer wished to be a nun, after some ten years in the convent. It was a sensational case that made the national headlines, reflecting the deep seated sectarian conflict that existed within the Australian community, in those days. The conflict was fuelled by the decision of Bishop Dwyer to issue a warrant for Sister Liguori on the grounds that she was insane, when she clearly wasn't. Bridget Partridge then went on to sue Bishop Dwyer for false arrest, claiming compensation of £5,000. Bredagh featured prominently in the story.

Mary Partridge was born at Newbridge, Kildare, Ireland, on the 21st October 1890. She was the daughter of Edward Partridge, a corporal in the Royal Engineers, and his wife, Anne Partridge [nee Cardiff. Her father was English and Protestant. Her mother was Irish and Catholic.⁴ Mary came to Australia, from Ireland, in 1910, at the age of eighteen and joined the convent at Mt Erin in the following year.

The incident is perhaps best explained with a chronological list of developments,

24th July [Saturday] – Sister Mary Liguori left the grounds of the Mt Erin Convent and entered a private residence in Coleman Street, this being the home of Mr CJ Burgess. From there she rang the Catholic Presbytery and spoke to Father Barry, to advise him she had left the convent. Later, that same day, two sisters visited the residence in Coleman Street and Sister Liguori returned with them, to the convent. Still later, Dr Leahy, who had previously attended Sister Liguori, was called to the convent, at which time he prescribed some medications and ordered her to bed. At around 8pm Sister Liguori again left the convent, sparking a search by the nuns, the police, and several Catholic families, but Sister Liguori could not be found.⁵

25th July [Sunday] – Sometime after midnight it was learnt that Sister Liguori had again entered the residence of Mr Burgess in Coleman Street. Afraid that this would be the first place the convent people would look for her, Sister Liguori asked to be taken elsewhere, and she was relocated to the home of Mr & Mrs Robert Thompson, in Coleman Street [*Bredagh*]. At one point in time members of the search party suggested they enter the home of the Thompsons, but the police advised them not

¹ Daily Advertiser. 4th December 1928, p2.

² Sydney Morning Herald. 12th May 1962.

³ National Trust and Town Planning Dept., Historic Buildings. The City of Wagga Wagga. Walking Tour Three. 1992.

⁴ Australian Dictionary of Biography. Bridget Partridge [1890-1966]

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 6th August 1920, p2. / Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

to do this. Inspector Duprez and Dr Tivey visited *Bredagh* on the Sunday morning. Sister Liguori wrote a letter to the Bishop, Dr Dwyer on this day [a letter of resignation].¹ Mrs Thompson sent a messenger, by way of the Church of England hostel, to Dr Tivy, who subsequently examined Sister Liguori and then advised the police that she was a sane person.² Sister Liguori left *Bredagh*, to travel to Sydney, on this Sunday night.³



Above: Mt Erin Convent.

26th July [Monday] – Following his return from Albury, Bishop Dwyer attended the Coleman Street residence with the intent of seeing Sister Liguori but found that she had left.⁴ Despite assurances from Mrs Thompson, some members of the search party, noticeably Mr JJ Byrnes, refused to accept her word that Sister Liguori had left the house. The Ven. Archdeacon Pike also gave his word to Byrnes that the girl had left, but this assurance was not accepted either. Mrs Thompson was subsequently induced by Byrnes to allow him to search the house – he found nothing.⁵

27th July [Tuesday] – Bishop Dwyer and Inspector Duprez visited *Bredagh*, and another thorough search was made of the house – nothing was found.⁶

1st August [Sunday] – Sister Liguori travels from Cootamundra to Kogarah, by train. She was accompanied by Brother RE Barton, a Grand Master of the Loyal Orange Institution, who had travelled up from Albury in order to accompany Sister Liguori. There was no doubting the religious politics at play with Brother Barton declaring, “*Rome is not going to have her way today...It is Rome*”

¹ Daily Advertiser. 6th August 1920, p2. / Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

² Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

³ Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

⁴ Daily Advertiser. 6th August 1920, p2.

⁵ Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

⁶ Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

*versus the Orange Institution in this matter. I want the Protestants of NSW to stand behind the Institution. We want your moral and financial support.”*¹

7th August [Saturday] – Sister Liguori arrives at the home of the Rev. Touchill, a Congregational minister, after dodging the lookouts that had been set up by supporters of the Catholic Church to find her. Mrs Touchill stated that Sister Liguori had been directed to their home by mutual friends.² Sister Liguori had in fact donned the garb of Ethel Heathwood, Mrs Thompson’s sister, who was visiting *Bredagh*, and Sister Liguori had then left *Bredagh* in company with Mrs Thompson to enter a private car, which took her to Cootamundra via Adelong.³ Mrs Thompson travelled with Bridget to take her to the home of her [Mrs Thompson’s] sister, near Adelong. Mrs Thompson’s sister was Mrs Letitia Howell, the wife of a grazier.⁴

8th August [Sunday] – Sister Liguori was arrested at Kogarah, on a warrant issued by Bishop Dwyer. The latter charged that Sister Liguori was of unsound mind. Six policemen visited the residence of the Rev. Touchill [Chapel Street, Kogarah], and took Sister Liguori into custody. Sister Liguori told the police that she would never go back to the convent.⁵ Sister Liguori was taken to the Reception House in order that she could be examined to determine if she was in fact insane.⁶

13th August [Friday] – Sister Liguori appeared before the magistrate at the Reception House and was ruled to be sane, on the advice of the examining doctors.⁷

In October 1920 Bridget Partridge sued Bishop Dwyer, claiming £5,000 for malicious arrest.⁸ The court eventually found in favour of Bishop Dwyer,⁹ although the jury ruled that the Bishop was at fault to some degree. Bishop Dwyer was forced to pay costs, which amounted to some four or five thousand dollars. These costs were quickly covered by his supporters.¹⁰ Bishop Dwyer told a gathering of supporters at Ganmain that the judge had acted under “*Divine guidance*.”¹¹

Some alleged that those who gave sanction to Bridget had been persecuted,

“A Wagga message in the “Argus” states that, arising out of circumstances surrounding the escape of Sister Liguori (Miss Bridget Partridge) from the Mount Erin Convent, the Rev. Silas Bembrick delivered an address in the Methodist Church on Sunday night on sectarianism. Members of the No Surrender Loyal Orange Lodge attended in regalia. Mr. Bembrick declared that already persecution and boycott were being resorted to in Wagga against people who had assisted Miss Partridge in her escape. “I know,” he said, “that Mrs. Thompson’s sister was persecuted, and Mrs. Thompson’s children have been threatened in the streets. At least four local firms—a draper, two publicans, and a fancy goods man— have withdrawn their business from Mr. Thompson, who is a carrier.” He urged Protestants not to take this quietly sitting down, but to stand by the people who were being victimised and see that the boycott was defeated.”

¹ Daily Telegraph. 9th August 1920, p5.

² Daily Advertiser. 9th August 1920, p2. / Daily Telegraph. 7th August 1920, p11.

³ Northern Champion [Taree]. 14th August 1920, p4.

⁴ Goulburn Evening Penny. 7th July 1921, p4.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 9th August 1920, p2.

⁶ Daily Telegraph. 9th August 1920, p5.

⁷ Daily Telegraph. 14th August 1920, p11.

⁸ Cootamundra Herald. 29th October 1920, p4.

⁹ Dungog Chronicle. 15th July 1921, p2.

¹⁰ Daily Express. 22nd July 1921, p1. / 14th July 1921, p1.

¹¹ Singleton Argus. 25th August 1921, p2.



Above: Mrs Robert Thompson.



Centre: Bridget Partridge.¹



Above: Bishop Dwyer.²



Above: The Rev. W Touchell and Mrs Touchell.

¹ Dr Jeff Kildea. *Where Crows Gather: the Sister Liguori Affair[1920-1921].*[YouTube]

² Dr Jeff Kildea. *Where Crows Gather: the Sister Liguori Affair[1920-1921].*[YouTube]

On the 26th March 1930 there had been a clearing sale at *Bredagh*, which included four wood and iron sheds, two iron tanks, a double lorry and harness, a sulky and pony harness, buggy, large copper, wire netting, quantity of metal, bricks, fancy iron railing for verandah, grindstone and stand, and other sundries.¹

In the following month, on the 9th April 1930, Eliza offered for sale seventeen blocks, in the Bredagh subdivision, all overlooking the town and adjacent to Wagga High School, said to be on account of the estate of the late Robert Thompson. All with sewerage, electric light, gas & water.²

In July 1931 Mary Eliza Thompson mortgaged Bredagh with a Mrs Elizabeth Green, a widow of Coonamble. It is not known if there was any relationship between the two women. An obituary for Mary Green, in June 1943, provided the following details,

“At her residence, Townsend Street, early on Sunday morning the death occurred of Mrs. Elizabeth Green, at the age of 77 years and 10 months.

She was born at Newcastle and was a daughter of the late John Kent. It was at Dubbo where she married the late Henry Green, who died in Coonamble 19 years ago. The late Mrs. Green, who had been ill for about 13 months, made several visits to Orange and Sydney to consult specialist's and on her return to Coonamble a few months ago it was known to the medical fraternity and several relatives that the end was near.

In her young days deceased was a noted midwife, a profession she practised with success in town and in various parts of the district. Before making Coonamble their home the late Mr. and Mr. Green lived on their "Green Villa" property, near Warrana, after which Mr Green purchased "Raylands" property, 23 miles west of Coonamble.

Always an obliging neighbour the home of the Green family, back in the years that are gone, was recognised by friends and strangers for the unfailing hospitality dispensed, also for the consideration shown by the late Mrs. Green for the sick and distressed. During her declining years and her long illness she was fortunate to have the unremitting care of her daughter, Mrs. G. Harris, who was at the bedside of her mother to the last.”

Mary was about to vacate *Bredagh*, in January 1932, when she advertised the property, available to let, for one month, furnished.³

In 1935, Mary Eliza Thompson and her daughter, Marjorie Mary Thompson, a stenographer, were living at 71 Johnstone Street.⁴ By 1937 the two ladies were living at 1 Argyle, Westbourne Street, Drummoyne.⁵

In December 1936, Elizabeth Green forced the sale of all lots not sold, to Francis David Gordon, a builder of Wagga Wagga.

¹ Daily Express. 22nd March 1930, p7.

² Daily Advertiser. 3rd April 1930, p5.

³ Daily Advertiser. 12th December 1931, p4.

⁴ Australia. Electoral Rolls. 1935.[ancestry.com]

⁵ Australia. Electoral Rolls. 1937.[ancestry.com]

Francis David Gordon

Francis David Gordon was born at Wagga Wagga, in 1893, the son of David George Gordon and Sarah Gordon [nee Reineker].¹ His parents had married at Wagga Wagga on the 23rd December 1885.²



Above: David George Gordon and Sarah Gordon [nee Reineker]. Courtesy leahrindle [ancestry.com] David George Gordon passed away on the 30th April 1924, at his residence, 263 Edward Street, Wagga Wagga.³

¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 35956

² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6127.

³ Daily Advertiser. 1st May 1924, p2. / 1st May 1924, p6.

Sarah Gordon [nee Reineker] passed away on the 4th April 1943, at Wagga Wagga. Sarah Reineker was born at Berrima but had resided at Wagga Wagga for the previous seventy six years. She worked tirelessly for St Luke's Church and could recall many events from the early days of Wagga Wagga, most notably details of the Tichborne Case.

Sarah was daughter of Franz Reineker and Johanna Reineker [nee Beier]. Around 1867 the family moved from Berrima to Alfredtown, on the outskirts of Wagga Wagga. Franz [or Francis] was a stonemason by trade, and his work could be found in many Wagga Wagga buildings. He also selected land in the district but had been retired for many years when he passed away in April 1903.¹



Above: The parents and siblings of Francis David Gordon. L to R: Alice, Emily Amelia, David Francis, David George [father], Sarah [mother], Frederick George, and Mary Eva. Courtesy roger tolhurst [ancestry.com]

In 1989 Donald Gordon, the son of Francis David Gordon, provided the following details to Bill Ellis, who was compiling the book, *"The Street Names of Wagga Wagga,"*

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th April 1903, p2.

“Francis David GORDON; (1893 -1972); Master Builder and Developer; born in Wagga Wagga where he lived all his life; son of David Gordon who was a Boiler Attendant at Murrumbidgee Flour Mill, Edward Street. Attended South Wagga Public School; served apprenticeship in Carpentry in Wagga Wagga and whilst still an apprentice was employed for a time (with others) on the building of Big Springs homestead when he and the other workmen rode their bicycles daily to and from work at Big Springs. He purchased and resided in the old home (from 1939 to the early 1950's) at 46 Coleman Street and short way west of the Wagga Wagga High School; he acquired the old home and surrounding land at 75 Coleman Street (which was used as a Girls' Hostel) and later sold such property to the Seventh Day Adventist Church which was thereafter used as a Church Office and School - with the Church some years after, erecting thereon a modern brick Church and Primary



School. He caused the subdivision of the same and erected some of the houses in Roma Street, and others in Edward, Beckwith and Coleman Streets (as well as other areas) and was Contractor/Builder of the Presbyterian Church (St. Aidens) Coleman Street. He was an Aprairist of some note and from about 100 bee hives he produced honey for sale and supplied same to various grocery stores in Wagga Wagga including Huthwaites, Slatterys, Bullocks, Edmondsons and others. He was the father of 11 children (8 girls and 3 boys) - all of whom attended South Wagga Wagga Public and Wagga Wagga High Schools. Died at Wagga Wagga 7 June, 1972 and was buried in S.D.A. Portion of the Monumental Cemetery.”

Above: Francis David Gordon. Courtesy rtoihurst32 [ancestry.com]



Left: Frank tending to his bees. Courtesy roger tolhurst [ancestry.com]

On the 11th March 1913, Francis married Annie Myrtle Hollis, at Wagga Wagga.¹ The couple had a large family - eleven children - all of whom were born at Wagga Wagga.



Above: Frank and Annie Gordon with their eight daughters. Standing - L to R: Dorothy, Shirley, Thelma, Clarice, Wilma, Jean, and Linda. Seated – L to R: Francis David Gordon, Annie Myrtle Gordon [nee Hollis], and Marjorie Gordon Taylor. Three sons – William, Alan and Donald are not included in the photo. Courtesy rivergirl104 [ancestry.com]

¹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3506.

In March 1938 FD Gordon advised council that he was operating a workshop at the rear of his premises at # 8 Coleman Street, “and employing machines for the manufacture of joinery in connection with building operations.”¹

Frank had a strong connection with the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and there is a claim that church services were held inside *Bredagh* in the 1940’s, which is quite plausible, but no sources could be found to support the claim.

In November 1944, WG Huthwaite & Co., completed a new and modern delicatessen department, the construction work for which had been done by Mr FD Gordon.²

Two advertisements in 1949, suggest Frank had a liking for cars and motor bikes,

1949, 24th January – For sale. BSA motor cycle, 2¾ h.p.. Well shod. Good appearance. Apply 46 Coleman Street.³

1949, 18th April – for sale. 1928 Buick Tourer in good mechanical order. Two new tyres. Apply 46 Coleman Street.⁴



In September 1951, Mrs Annie Amelia Hollis [nee Postance] passed away at 46 Coleman Street, that being the home of her daughter, Mrs FD Gordon.

Ninety three year old Mrs Hollis was the widow of the late William Hollis, of Chiltern (Vic.). An obituary notice provided some brief details,⁵

“Born in England, Mrs. Hollis came to Australia as a child. She came to Wagga only five years ago and had been living with her daughter, Mrs. F. D. Gordon, of 46 Coleman Street, who survives her. She is also survived by two other daughters, Mrs. McGregor, of Nunawadding (Vic.), and Mrs. Mornement, of Murrumbeena (Vic.), and two sons, Messrs. Frederick Hollis, of Fitzroy, and Arthur Hollis, of Ringwood (Vic.). Her husband predeceased her 36 years ago.”

Above: Annie Amelia Hollis [nee Postance]. Courtesy “leahwindle” family tree [ancestry.com]

¹ Daily Advertiser. 12th March 1938, p10.

² Daily Advertiser. 29th November 1944, p3.

³ Daily Advertiser. 24th January 1949, p5.

⁴ Daily Advertiser. 18th April 1949, p5.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 10th September 1951, p2.

When the Seventh Day Adventist community decided to erect a new school, in Coleman Street, in 1953, at a cost of some £3,000, much of the work was done by volunteer labour, under the direction of Mr S [sic] Gordon. [This presumably should have read F Gordon]. The new school was constructed at the rear of the then existing church offices [in Coleman Street].¹

Frank and Annie were still living at 46 Coleman Street in 1963, but by 1968 their address was 1 Chaston Street, Wagga Wagga.²

Francis David Gordon passed away on the 7th June 1972, and was buried in the Seventh Day Adventist section of the Wagga Wagga cemetery.

Annie Myrtle Gordon [nee Hollis] passed away on the 28th December 1982, at Wagga Wagga. Annie was buried in the Wagga Wagga Monumental Cemetery.

Gordon Place, Koorringal, Wagga Wagga, was named in honour of Frank in 1988.³

The Macneils

In November 1964, the property was conveyed to Judith Kay MacNeil, the wife of Peter MacNeil, a surgeon of Wagga Wagga.⁴

In June 2011 the following article appeared in the local press,

Wagga Couple to Relinquish Historic Home.⁵

"As much as they would love to stay in their home of 47 years, well-known Wagga couple Peter and Kate Macneil have realised their historic Coleman Street home Bredagh has become too much for them to manage. The Gothic Revival-style home built for four-time Wagga mayor George Coleman in the early 1880s is for sale by tender. The Macneils are just the fourth family to have owned Bredagh. They bought the house in 1964 from the Gordon family, who in turn had acquired it from the Thompson family who had bought it from Mr Coleman. Ask the Macneils what their favourite memories of their house are and they talk about the parties, including charity events, costume party dinners for 30 people around a dining table, 18th birthday celebrations for their children, a wedding and a major birthday for Kate. "I promised to take her to dinner at Paris's top restaurant," Dr Macneil said. "Of course, I didn't have the money to do that." The kids got together and took her shopping and while she was out we created a Paris at the house, including making an Eiffel Tower on the fountain. "We dressed in French costume and when Kate came home I was dressed as a French peasant sweeping the path." "It was absolutely too much to take in," Mrs Macneil recalled. Does the house have a ghost? "No ghosts," Mrs Macneil said. "I am very sensitive to ghosts and I have never noticed one here." But there has been scandal. According to Ron Pratt and Con Forsyth's 1981 book on Wagga's historic properties, in July, 1920, Sister Mary Ligouri, an Irish nun, ran away from the Mount Erin convent after nine years in her order. According to Mrs Macneil, the nun sought refuge at Bredagh because she believed the Thompsons were Protestants. Mrs Macneil remembers a neighbour telling her that when Sister Mary left the house there was a stand-off between armed Catholics and Protestants. Tenders for Bredagh close at 4pm on July 13. Selling agent, Grant Harris of Raine and Horne, said there had already been strong

¹ Daily Advertiser. 18th May 1953, p2.

² Australia, Electoral Rolls. 1963, 1968. [ancestry.com]

³ Street Names of Wagga Wagga. Bill Ellis.

⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4808, folio 4. / Daily Advertiser. 10th June 2011.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 9th June 2011. Ken Grimson. On line.

interest in the property. The Macneils have not yet decided where to live once Bredagh is sold, but would like to be in central Wagga to be close to the library and the shops. "It will be a sad day when we leave," Mrs Macneil said. He said the interest included people who wanted to maintain the house as a grand residence, while some people had mentioned using it for bed and breakfast accommodation."

Peter Macneil

Peter Macneil passed away in March 2020, at the age of ninety. An obituary type article provided the following details,¹

Professor Macneil is being remembered as a devoted husband to Kate, a loving father of five, a true gentleman and a highly respected surgeon.

Daughter Genevieve Fleming said her father was a "true gentleman with a warm and genuine disposition, who always had a good joke ready to tell".

"My brothers and I were so lucky to have his unyielding love and caring guidance," Mrs Fleming said.

"Dad's 55-year marriage to my mother Kate was filled with love, laughter, wonderful friendships and fun. A wonderful role model and now a legendary example to his eight grandchildren, he will be very missed and never forgotten."

Mrs Fleming said her father introduced the family to snow and water skiing and taught his children to love the mountains as he did.

He played the trumpet, trombone, banjo, piano, euphonium, guitar, washboard, kazoo, tin whistle and more, and he instilled a love of music in his family.

Professor Macneil, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), had a great sense of humour and loved a dress-up party, Mrs Fleming said.

Born in Kew, Melbourne, Professor Macneil pursued his medical studies in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom before he and his wife settled in Wagga in 1964.

Professor Macneil practised as a general surgeon in Wagga for four decades, with professional appointments in Denmark as a visiting surgeon for four months, in Sumatra where he trained local doctors and surgeons and as a senior surgeon at the RAAF Base at Butterworth in Malaysia.

"A humble and eternally kind person, he always went above and beyond in his surgical duties, helping many people through challenging times with compassion and discretion," Mrs Fleming said.

"Dad was a selfless person who volunteered his time for a range of community causes from mental health, to prevention of farm injury, better surgical services in 'the bush' and Aboriginal health.

"In retirement he worked pro bono at Gove and Katherine hospitals, where he established specialist services to support those regions.

"He served as a long standing member of Rotary and was a champion for surgical services in country Australia, as the first regional Australian to be elected to the Royal College of Surgeons."

Dr Peter Macneil always had a passion for improving medical education, particularly for those who practised in what he called "the bush".

He was chairman of the Southern District Medical Association. He advocated for, and achieved, associate teaching hospital status for the Wagga Base Hospital with

¹ Daily Advertiser. 23rd March 2020. Jody Lindbeck.

the Medical School of the University of NSW. He delivered regular guest lectures at Charles Sturt University and took an active interest in medical students involved in clinical rotations at Wagga Base.

He also established the Riverina Rural Health training unit and became its foundation medical director. The unit was recognised as one of the most successful of its type in NSW, providing medical students, doctors and health professionals with access to ongoing educational and training opportunities.

Professor Macneil also played a significant role in the development of higher education in the Riverina. In 1974 he joined the Council of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, holding a number of important positions including deputy chairman of council from 1977 to 1983.

He won the Louis Ariotti Award for Innovation and Excellence in Regional and Rural Health in 1997 and was awarded the College Medal from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1996, for services to regional and rural health.

In 1997, Professor Macneil was conferred with an honorary doctorate in health studies by Charles Sturt University.



Above: Dr Peter Macneil. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.

In June 2012 *Bredagh* was sold to Dr James Austin for the sum of \$750,000. During the occupation of *Bredagh* by doctors Macneil and Austin, the integrity of the house has been extremely well preserved. Additions have been made to the original structure, over the years, and renovations have been made in some rooms, but the changes have always been sympathetic to the original design and have maintained the integrity of the original layout. *Bredagh* remains one of the rare examples of iconic Wagga Wagga homes from the 19th century.

James Austin

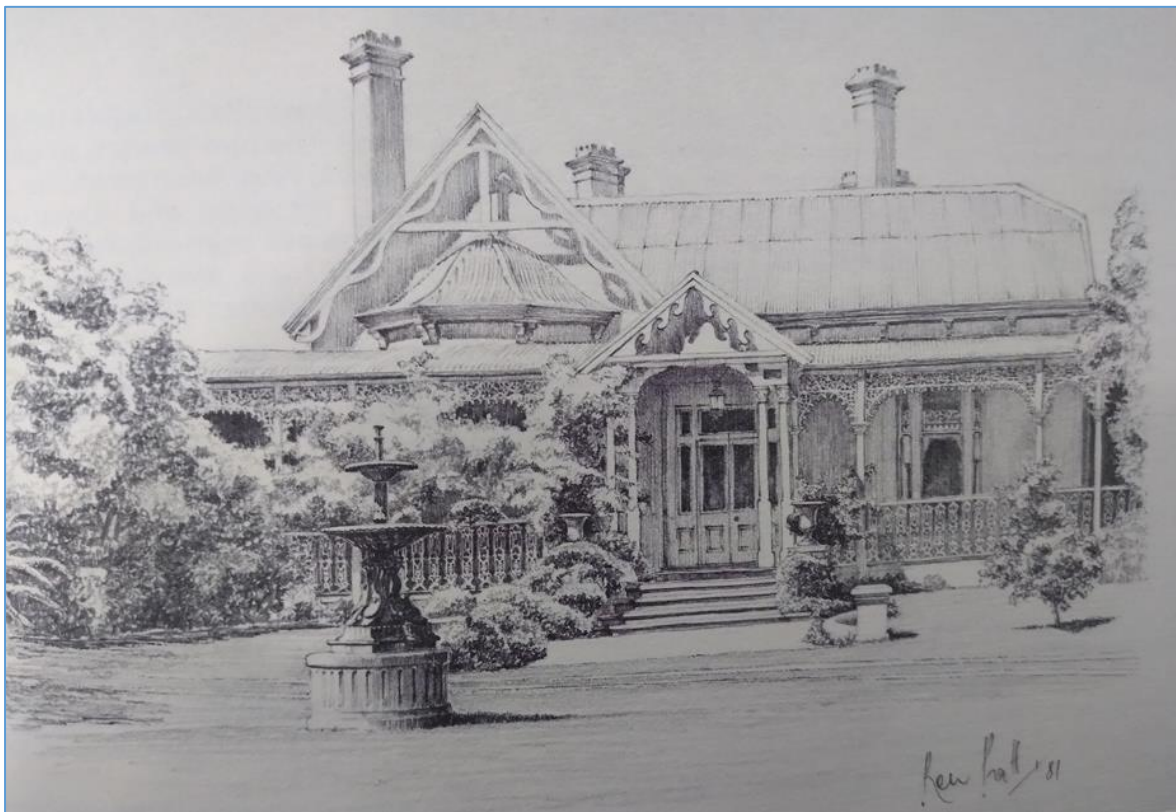
James Austin was born and raised in South Africa, where he completed his schooling and where he attended university to gain a medical degree.

At the age of twenty four, Dr Austin travelled to England where he ended up staying and practicing medicine, for the next ten years. During this period, he undertook additional studies, qualifying in the areas of anaesthetics and intensive care.

He then completed a year of work in New Zealand, before accepting an offer to move to Wagga Wagga, in his capacity as an anaesthetist and intensivist.

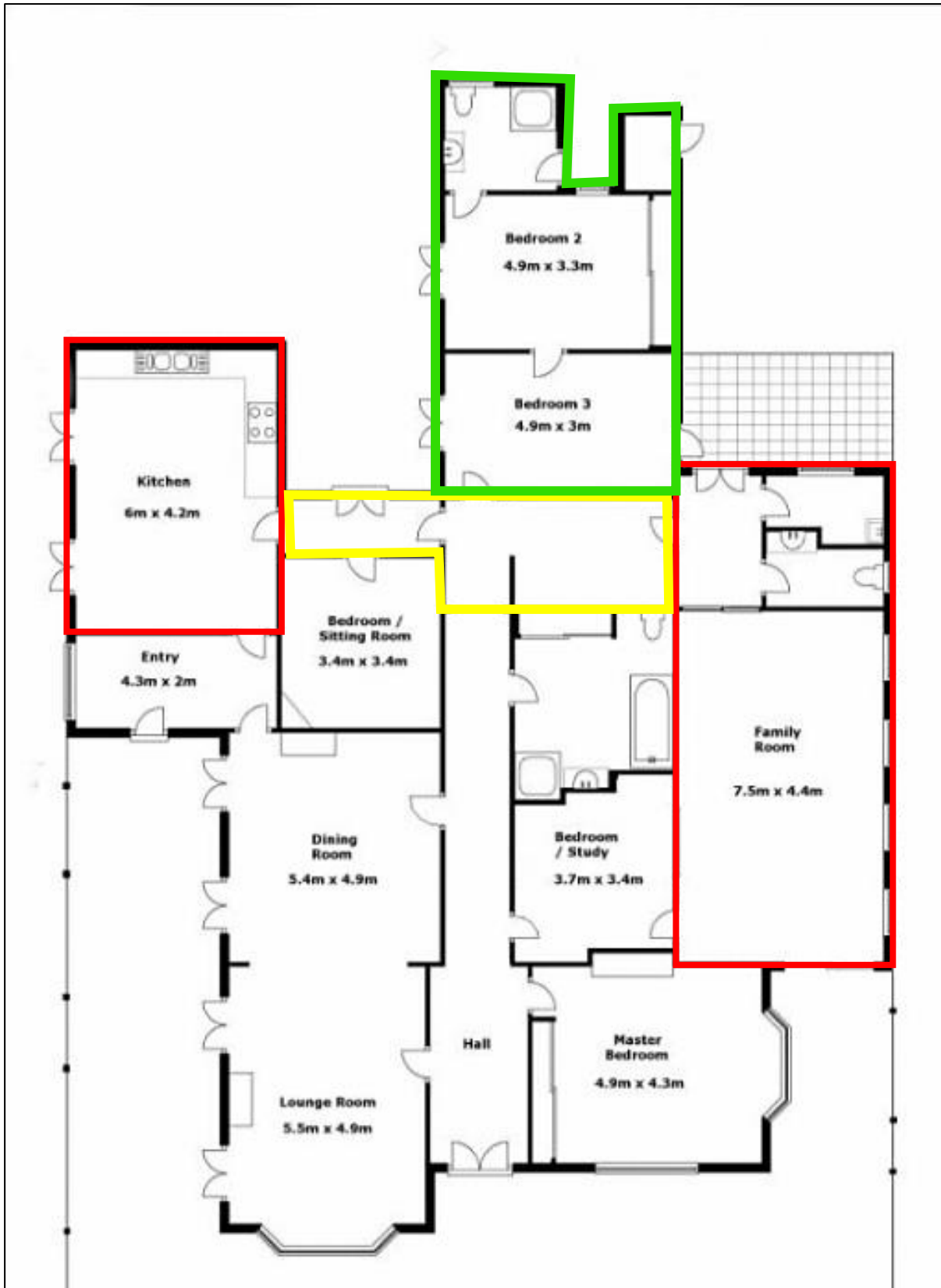
Dr Austin has served the community of Wagga Wagga and the surrounding districts continuously since his arrival in 2005.

Dr Austin was previously Lead Clinician for paediatric anaesthetics at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, and currently holds teaching posts with the Rural Clinical Schools of the University of New South Wales and the University of Notre Dame Australia.¹



Above: Sketch of Bredagh, by Ron Pratt [1981].

¹ LinkedIn. <https://au.linkedin.com/in/james-austin-38882034>.



Above: The 2012 plan with certain areas highlighted. The areas highlighted in red are additions to the original design, while the area highlighted in yellow is an approximation of the addition that connects the main house to what was once the external kitchen and servants' room complex [highlighted in green].

An early description of the house states that the main house consisted of seven rooms, and these would have been,

1. Drawing room
2. Dining room
3. Breakfast room
4. Bedroom 1
5. Bedroom 2
6. Bedroom 3
7. Bedroom 4

It is possible that one of these rooms has been consumed by one of the additions to the original design.

The complex to the rear of the original house consisted of the following,

1. Kitchen
2. Pantry
3. Servants' room

There was also an external bathroom [or bathrooms], which may have been connected to the kitchen complex. The February 1883 sale of the household furniture lists, "*a washstand and set,*" in each bedroom, while the May 1895 notice of sale clearly lists the "*bath rooms*" as separate from the main house.

The house also featured a prominent fountain at the front of the property, which can clearly be seen in the earlier photos of the house. It is believed to be well over one hundred years old.



Above: A front room of the house, in contemporary times.



Above: The fountain in April 2021. Courtesy Dr James Austin.

The Architecture¹

The building is said to be *Victorian Rustic Gothic* in style. Prominent characteristics which determine the style are an asymmetrical main facade featuring irregular silhouette of the steep pitched roofs that have prominent gables with decorative [or traceried] bargeboards. Other characteristics include masonry walling, medieval style chimneys, bay windows, verandahs and a Tudor style arched entry.

The building is a brick structure, with a cavity between the two brick frames on the outside walls, and solid double brick for interior walls. The roofs are gabled, steep pitched, and covered with corrugated iron.

The chimneys are a prominent feature of the building. Several sources claim that the building was originally intended to be a two storey building, hence the extended height of the multiple chimneys. This claim may be correct, but no primary sources could be found to support the claim.

A Wagga Wagga builder, who has worked on the home, is inclined to support the claim, based on two primary factors. Firstly, the height of the numerous chimneys – these are far and away above the normal height of chimneys, for no obvious good reason other than the fact that they were designed to accommodate a two storey structure. Secondly the roof joists and some of the framing suggest they were designed to accommodate a second floor.^[2]

The verandah features timber columns [at differing centres], cast iron valances, and cast iron balustrades which provides for an elegant detailed verandah, and along with the timber frame symmetrical gabled porch, the concrete steps and pedestal urns, create a nostalgic entrance to the home.

The front door is timber panelled with glass inserts and featuring accompanying sidelights. A large bay window provides a prominent feature on the eastern portion of the front façade. A double hung window, with sidelights, provides a balance on the western side of the same facade.

Elements of the house include seventeen feet high ceilings, cast iron fire places, double hung windows, and French doors with access to the verandah.

The heavy cypress bearers in the roof are set at forty six centimetres apart, supporting the claim that the building was originally intended to be two storeys high.

The original ceilings were set at a height of five point one metres (17ft), but the later added false ceilings have reduced the ceiling height to four point nine metres (16ft). The original ceilings were constructed from thin strips of timber fastened onto the joists, close together, then rendered with a mortar [lime and water]. These are now hidden by the newer ceilings, which are probably pre-1960's.

An interesting feature of the house are the moulded rendered skirtings rather than the usual timber. There are detailed moulded timber architraves at the 'four panelled' doors throughout the house which is typical for joinery of the Victorian period. The French doors that open onto the verandah feature fan lights above and retain their original cut glass handles.

The house features multiple cast iron fireplaces set with elaborate timber mantels in original condition.

¹ Daily Advertiser article c.November 1998. Copy held by Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. 46 Coleman Street folder. / Daily Advertiser. 14th [or 10th] March 1979.

^[2] Chris Stevens. 28th April 2021.

There were cellars at the rear of the house, which were later filled in. Some sources claimed that there was a cellar under the house that had been boarded over, but according to the current owner it was more of a "crawl space" than a cellar.

The new kitchen was added by the Macneils, in the period 1975-1976. A local builder, Reg Jenkins, used the original moulds to make the doors for the new kitchen. The building application lists Buckman Buildings as the builder for the project.¹

There is a gazebo at the end of the swimming pool which appears to be of heritage significance, but nothing is known of its origin. Approval for the swimming pool was granted in September 1977.²

In August 1990 the Macneils were given approval for alterations to the house [for rooms at the rear of the premises]. The works included a "fitout and finishes to existing study, bathroom and laundry," along with the installation of two new doors and a skylight in the bathroom. Estimated cost of these works was \$50,000. The architects were Peter Freeman and Partners of Canberra.³

BUILDING APPLICATION

Local Government Act, 1919 (Ordinance No. 70)

THE TOWN CLERK
CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Date 5/11/75

Sir,

I, the undersigned, hereby make application for the approval of the Council to plans and specifications (two copies supplied herewith) of a building which I propose to erect and complete WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS from date of approval.

Particulars are as follows:--

Class of Building ALTERATIONS
(HERE STATE DWELLING, FLATS, SHOP AND DWELLING, GARAGE, STABLES, ADDITIONS, OR AS THE CASE MAY BE)

LOCATION OF BUILDING

Lot..... Section..... Street or Road Coleraine St
Area..... Frontage..... Depth.....

NAME OF OWNER..... Address.....
NAME OF BUILDER Buckman Building Group 155 Doobla St
Wagga

SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS

NOTE:-- Sizes must be given.

Number of particulars of all rooms and outhouses.....

Area of:-- Dwelling..... M²; Patio/Verandahs..... M²; Garage/Carport..... M²
Foundation and Site under Main Walls 450x250mm Damp Proof Course Materials VERCOBARK
Main Walls Brick Partition Walls..... Roofs -- Main.....
Roofs -- Subsidiary Gal. Metal Floor Joists CONCRETE Floor.....
Ceiling Joists 175x38mm Wall Plates..... Rafters 175x38mm
Bearers..... Corner Studs..... Other Studs.....
Height of Room, floor to ceiling 2700
Proposed Method of Ventilation AIR BRICKS
Proposed Method of Roofwater Drainage TO EXISTING
Proposed Method of Sullage Water Disposal TO SEWER
Particulars of Closet Accommodation.....
(WHICH MUST BE STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE 44 OR 44)

NOTE: Block Plan, showing Buildings and all Outhouses, must be shown on the back of this application.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDINGS: \$ 7,000.00
State whether Applicant is Owner, Builder or Architect Buckman Building Group
Signature of Applicant

Left: A copy of building application 808/75. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

¹ Wagga Wagga City Council. Building application, # 808/75.
² Wagga Wagga City Council. Building application, # 610/77.
³ Wagga Wagga City Council. Building application, # 657/90.



Above: Bredagh in 1977.¹



Above: Bredagh in 1981.²

¹ Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. 46 Coleman Street folder.

² Wagga Wagga City Library. Local History Collection. 46 Coleman Street folder.



Above: Bredagh in 1996.¹

What the various photos reveal is how little the façade and silhouette have changed over time.

¹ National Library. Grant Elmers [PIC Box P1444 #P1444/22]

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Register Book
Vol. V Folio 83

44 CANCELLED *W*

GRANT OF LAND SOLD AT UPSET PRICE AFTER ATTEMPTED SALE BY AUCTION.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth:—

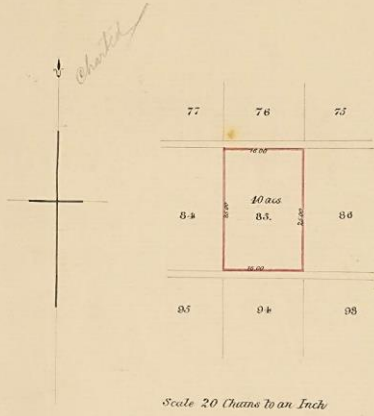
TO ALL to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:—

WHEREAS in conformity with the Regulations in force for the Sale of Crown Lands in Our Colony of New South Wales, the lands herein mentioned were on the *Ninth* day of *February* One thousand eight hundred and *fifty seven*, put up for Sale by public auction, at *Wagga Wagga* in Our said Colony, when no sufficient bidding was offered for the same, and whereas since the said *Ninth* day of *February* One thousand eight hundred and *fifty seven* *The Reverend Samuel Fox of Wagga Wagga* hath applied to purchase the same at the upset price thereof; Now know Ye, That for and in consideration of the Sum of *Forty Pounds Sterling*

being the said upset price thereof, well and truly paid into the Colonial Treasury of Our said Colony, before these Presents are issued, WE, with the advice of Our Executive Council of Our said Colony HAVE GRANTED, and for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, DO HEREBY GRANT unto the said *Samuel Fox* his Heirs and Assigns, Subject to the several and respective Reservations hereinafter mentioned, ALL THAT Piece or Parcel of Land in Our said Colony, containing by Admeasurement *forty acres* and Parish of *South Wagga Wagga, at Wagga Wagga,*

Waggyard and Parish of *South Wagga Wagga, at Wagga Wagga, Portion Number Eighty five.*

Commencing at the North East corner of portion number eighty four, and bounded on the West by the East boundary of that portion, being a line bearing South twenty five chains; on the South by a road, one chain fifty links wide, bearing East sixteen chains; on the East by a line bearing North twenty five chains; and on the North by a road, one chain fifty links wide, bearing West sixteen chains to the North East corner of portion number eighty four aforesaid. Being the Land proclaimed as Lot 12, on the 19th November, 1856, and selected by the said Samuel Fox.



Samuel Fox with all the Rights and Appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging: To Hold unto the said *Samuel Fox* his Heirs and Assigns for ever: Provided Nevertheless, AND WE DO HEREBY RESERVE unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all such parts and so much of the said Land as may hereafter be required for making Public Ways, Canals, or Railroads, in, over, and through the same, to be set out by Our Governor for the time-being of Our said Colony, or some person by him authorized in that respect; AND ALSO all Sand, Clay, Stone, Gravel, and Indigenous Timber, and all other Materials, the natural produce of the said Land, which may be required at any time or times hereafter, for the construction and repair of any Public Ways, Bridges, Canals, and Railroads, or any Fences, Embankments, Dams, Sewers, or Drains, necessary for the same, together with the right of taking and removing all such Materials; AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER RESERVE unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, the right of full and free ingress, egress, and regress, into, out of, and upon the said Land, for the several purposes aforesaid: In Testimony Whereof, We have caused this Our Grant to be Sealed with the Seal of Our said Colony.

WITNESS Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Councillor, SIR JOHN YOUNG, Baronet, Knight Commander of Our Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Our Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of Our Colony of NEW SOUTH WALES at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this *Thirtieth* day of *December* in the *seventeenth* Year of Our Reign; And in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

John Young
John Young

Above: The original deed issued to Samuel Fox. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

Notes

Back Cover: 46 Coleman Street in April 2021. Courtesy Dr James Austin.

