

# **The History of Cleveland House, Surry Hills**

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**John Walter Ross**

**Cover photograph:**

Cleveland House 2007, Sally, <http://sydneynearlydailyphot.blogspot.com.au/>

**N**OTICE. — CARPENTERS, MASONS, AND  
BRICKLAYERS, who will enter into Contract  
according to the Principles laid down by Mr. GREEN-  
WAY, the Architect, may see the Drawings, Specifi-  
cation, and Instruction at his Office, George-street, of  
a House now building for Mr. D. COOPER, Merchant,  
on Friday, and the following Week.

*Sydney Gazette*, 14 August 1823: Francis Greenway advertises for tradesmen to build Cleveland House for Daniel Cooper.



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## Foreword

The colony of New South Wales presented many business opportunities for those with the ability and determination to succeed. For emancipated convicts such as Daniel Cooper, this was especially true during the tenure of Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1810-1821) due to the Governor's encouragement of convicts to return to their place in society after completing their sentence or being pardoned. Cooper arrived in 1816, was conditionally pardoned in 1818, and rapidly built up a wide-ranging business empire. By 1823 he was wealthy enough to cap his prosperity off by building an imposing Georgian villa on the 10-acre Cleveland Estate next to present-day Prince Alfred Park, designed by the former Civil Architect Francis Greenway. After its construction, Cleveland House stood for many years in splendid isolation with views over the city and Cockle Bay.

Daniel and Hannah Cooper only lived in the house until 1828, when they separated. Hannah lived in the city and Daniel returned to England in 1831 to run his businesses from there and never returned to the colony. So began a long succession of tenants in the house and its surrounding area that reflected not only the grand mansion itself but its proximity to the city and the developing industrial development around it. The house was surrounded by various outbuildings such as stables and servants' quarters, but until 1870 the house itself was the centre of activity. Three schools and a boarding house for students operated between 1834 and 1883, catering for the sons and daughters of the colonial gentry, both city and country.

The construction of Redfern station in the 1850s heralded the industrial expansion of Surry Hills, and the era of commercial usage of the Cleveland Estate began in 1870 with the erection of a steam laundry next to the house. After this a series of larger industries, such as a soft drink factory, and smaller ones, including bakeries, a piano repairer and wine merchants operated well into the twentieth century. Meanwhile, the house continued to be used as a boarding house until 1895, when a severe economic depression prompted the Government to use it as a Labour Bureau, which operated until the economy recovered by 1903. Two Catholic charities then operated a women's refuge followed by a home for aged women until the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children purchased the property in 1958, making it their headquarters until 1988. The modern era then saw the erection of two apartment blocks behind the house, leaving the original Cleveland Estate reduced to the house itself, which is currently undergoing much-needed repairs.

Cleveland House stands today as the oldest mansion in the country, and its survival is a testament to the quality of its design, construction and location, which have given it an enduring appeal to a broad range of occupants that have reflected the changing nature of the area over nearly two hundred years of European settlement.

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## Timeline of occupation

1809-1818: Charles Smith's kitchen garden and nursery.

1824-1828: Daniel Cooper and family.

1830-1833: Joseph Weller and family.

1834-1843: de Metz Ladies Seminary.

1844-1849: John Tooth and family.

1849-1853: Anglican Rectory and boys' school.

1856: William and Henry Lumsdaine and families.

1857-1865: Cleveland House Academy for boys.

1870-1871: Prince Alfred Steam Laundry.

1871-1873: Patent Steam Laundry.

1873-1890: Barrett & Co. cordial factory.

1874-1883: Sydney Grammar School boarding house.

c1877-1887: George Hamilton, baker.

1884: Thomas Emerson's boarding house.

1885-1890: Herman Holtermann's German Club and boarding house.

1887-1888: Albert & Daniel McCarthy, wine and spirit merchants.

1888-1891: S & D Reid, publishers.

1888-1890: Smith, Babb & Bailey, bakers.

1890-1891: William Ezold's boarding house and piano business.

1891-1893: Summons and Whitton's cordial factory.

1891-1895: Alexander and Julia Robb's boarding house.

1894-1902: Peter Decker, fuel merchant.

1896-1903: Government Labour Bureau.

1893-1903: Peach & Jones, bottle merchants.

1903-1907: Herman Crouch, Edward Hawkins, John Clarey and Thomas Swords, fuel merchants.

1903-1933: Mount Magdala women's refuge.

1908-1912: Aloysius Wilden, engineering works.

1913-1915: G H Beal and George Adams, coach painters.

1916-1922: G H Beal then Frederick Standen, cab proprietors.

1923-1925: Clifford A Hodges, boot factory.

1926-1930: George Topple, Cleveland Motor Garage.

1931-1933 or later: Oxford Press, printers.

1933-1946: Home for aged and infirm women.

1946-1958: Our Lady of Consolation Home.

c1956-c1966: Oxford Picture Framing No.

c1956: Artificial Limb Factory, Repatriation Department.

1958-1988: New South Wales Society for Crippled Children, hospital and headquarters.

1986-1988: Denerin Pty Ltd, developers.

c1988-c1997: Barlow & Co., solicitors, Herda group, dental supplies.

1997-today: InViVo Communications, medical education company.

## **Timeline of ownership**

1810: Charles Smith.

1818: Thomas Clarkson.

1819: Robert Lathrop Murray.

1819: Daniel Cooper.

1837: James Cooper, nephew of Daniel Cooper.

1853: Robert Archibald Morehead and John Walker.

1855: Isaac Levey, brother of Solomon Levey.

1860: Montague Levey, on the death of his father Isaac.

1896: Robert Peach and Thomas Jones (outbuildings).

1896: New South Wales Government.

1903: Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St. Benedict.

1946: Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

1958: New South Wales Society for Crippled Children.

1986: Denerin Pty Ltd.

1988-present: LGS Enterprises Pty Ltd.



## Early history – 1809-1819

### Cleveland Gardens land grant

The sandhills immediately south of Sydney were originally covered by stands of blackbutt, bloodwood, angophora and banksia trees of immense size, but these were soon chopped down. In the early nineteenth century, this part of Sydney remained undeveloped. The area that ran between today's Devonshire and Cleveland Streets to Chippendale was gazetted as the Government Paddocks, but soon became known as the Cleveland Paddocks after Governor Lachlan Macquarie's friend, Major Thomas Sadler Cleveland<sup>1</sup>.

Major Cleveland was an officer in Macquarie's 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment whose name was invariably spelt "Cleaveland" by Macquarie. Cleveland sailed from New South Wales on leave on 20 October 1811 in the *Providence*, changed passage mid-voyage to the *Worley* but died at sea before reaching England. Macquarie was reportedly shocked to hear of the death of "dear Major Cleaveland"<sup>2</sup>.

The land on which Cleveland House stands was originally part of a ten-acre grant to the former convict Charles Smith on 26 December 1809 by the Acting Governor Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson for the purpose of cultivating a kitchen garden, partly to supply the Sydney Market. Smith was a skilled gardener and had tended Governor Arthur Phillip's garden in Sydney. The grant was confirmed by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 1 January 1810, directing that the land would be known from that time as Cleveland Gardens<sup>3</sup>. The area was bounded by Devonshire Street on the north, Cleveland Street on the south, present-day Chalmers Street on the west and present-day Elizabeth Street on the east.

Charles Smith (c1758-1818?) had arrived in New South Wales in 1790 on the *Surprize* to serve a seven-year sentence. The ship was part of the notorious Second Fleet. 1,026 convicts departed England, but 267 died during the voyage, the highest mortality rate in the history of convict transportation to Australia<sup>4</sup>. His good behavior in the colony was rewarded with an absolute pardon in November 1792.

Smith succeeded in cultivating the land, and advertised produce for sale in 1814<sup>5</sup>. Little more is known of the land until it was mortgaged to brewer Thomas Clarkson in January 1817 for £92. However, Smith must have defaulted on the payments, because the Supreme Court on 24 March 1818 foreclosed on the mortgage and vested the land to Clarkson. He sold the land to Robert Lathrop Murray in April 1819 for £180, who then sold it to Daniel Cooper on 9 September 1819 for the same price<sup>6</sup>.



## Daniel Cooper – 1823-1831

### Arrival and prosperity

Daniel Cooper (1785-1853) was born in Bolton, Lancashire. He was convicted in 1815 at Chester on a charge of stealing and sentenced to transportation for life, arriving in Sydney in January 1816. He received a conditional pardon in 1818 and an absolute pardon in 1821. In January 1819, he married Hannah Dodd, who had also been convicted at Chester and transported for 14 years. They both described themselves as widowed.

Cooper prospered in the colony with various businesses, including a store, a public house and investment in shipping. He also established the Australian Brewery and became a partner in Hutchinson, Terry and Co, which extended its activities from flour milling to general merchandise and banking, issuing its own bank notes. He later joined Solomon Levey in the firm Cooper & Levey, involved in various trading ventures<sup>7</sup>. The firm achieved spectacular financial success, which was significant in that both partners were emancipated convicts. To sustain its large retail trade, the firm sent ships to Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, the Society Islands, India, and Mauritius for cargoes of potatoes, salt pork, wheat, rice, wines, textiles and other goods. As an exporter, the company took a leading role in pioneering the shipment of Australian wool to England.

Cooper's management of the firm was only a part of his activities. From an early stage in his career, he served on committees concerned with the most diverse objectives: the prosperity of the colony, the interests of stockholders, the commemoration of anniversaries, and the honouring of governors. He was elected to the executive committee of the Sydney Free Public School and was the only emancipist to participate in the founding of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce in 1825. He actively campaigned to have emancipists serve on juries, and when this right was won he was one of the first to serve. In addition, he built up a personal fortune, largely in real estate, independently of his share in Cooper & Levey<sup>8</sup>.

### A fine mansion for a wealthy merchant

The 1820s was a time of consolidation as New South Wales slowly developed from a penal settlement into a free society. Successful colonists built solid houses without architectural flourishes, especially during Thomas Brisbane's tenure as Governor (1821 to 1825). Stylistic traits were minimal, and the emancipist Francis Greenway was the only architect of note practising in the colony. Most of the builders of substantial houses in the first half of the 1820s (as was the case before Macquarie's arrival in January 1810) were wealthy Sydney merchants, mainly emancipated convicts rather than free settlers.

By 1823, Cooper was wealthy enough to start building a large house on the Cleveland Gardens estate. In August 1823, the *Sydney Gazette* carried an advertisement from Francis Greenway seeking carpenters, masons and bricklayers to work on a building for "Mr. D. Cooper, Merchant"<sup>9</sup>, so construction would have started soon after this. The house must have been well under way in March 1824 when Cooper petitioned the Government for a gift or purchase of crown land adjacent to the site to use as an access road for "a two-storey house which I am building at the back of the asylum"<sup>10</sup>. In a further letter to John Oxley, the Surveyor-General, in July 1824, he estimated the cost of the house at £4,000<sup>11</sup>. In February 1825, Daniel and Hannah Cooper moved from George Street to take up residence in Cleveland House.



Figure 1 Original brick and stone appearance (Madden, 2014)

Cooper's brief to Greenway appears to have been to make the house large but plain. James Broadbent suggested that size may have meant more than style to the rising emancipist merchant, and he saw his investment in terms of cubic feet and resale value rather than architectural quality. Cleveland House is the most stylistically restrained house attributable to Greenway, although there is some architectural refinement of proportion and elaboration of detail. The roof has wide eaves, and pilaster strips reinforce the four corners of the brick body of the house, which is sheltered on three sides by a single-storied verandah supported on slender wooden columns. The staircase is typical of Greenway's work, but is built of wood rather than stone. It rises in two flights separated by a semicircle of winders<sup>12</sup>.

The arrangement of the principal rooms is unusual. The drawing room was originally on the first floor, with windows to the north (the front) and to the west. The dining room, a similar size to the drawing room, was in the wing behind, and was entered externally from the back courtyard. The back door, with fanlight and side lights, was equal in status to the front door, but with a more old-fashioned fanlight of wheel-like semicircular lights. The front door fanlight is semi-elliptical with a delicate arrangement of glazing bars radiating from a reeded hub.

During the 1820s, the house stood "in splendid isolation on the site of a sloping eminence"<sup>13</sup>. It enjoyed views of Cockle Bay and to the city. The climate of the area was thought to be healthy, enjoying pleasant breezes<sup>14</sup>. The house has now been re-sashed, subdivided and heavily renovated, losing much of its subtlety. Throughout the house, the joinery is unusually elaborate, particularly so in the dining room, one of the most highly-finished rooms from this period surviving in New South Wales<sup>15</sup>.



Figure 2 Cleveland House front door

### **Francis Greenway, architect**

Francis Greenway was born in 1777 near Bristol, England, to a family that included generations of stonemasons, architects and builders in the West Country. He was in private architectural practice when he was found guilty of forgery in March 1812. The mandatory death sentence was commuted to transportation to New South Wales for fourteen years.

He arrived in Sydney in February 1814, in the middle of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's tenure. As he was the first experienced architect to arrive in the colony during a time of expanding public works, Macquarie allowed him considerable freedom to practise privately soon after he arrived. He had a full command of the techniques of his profession and great artistic abilities. But he was temperamental and quick to take offence. When he presented Macquarie with a scathing report on the construction of the infamous Rum Hospital, prompting costly alterations to the building, he made the first of a long line of enemies who were to plague him for life.

In March 1816 he was appointed Civil Architect and assistant engineer to the Government. His first project was the Macquarie Tower lighthouse on South Head, and its success prompted the Governor to grant him a conditional pardon. But when Macquarie gave him carte-blanche to design a new Government House, he designed an extravagant castle and then began work on the stables that were so grand they were often mistaken for Government House itself. The British Government was appalled by the great cost of the buildings, and cancelled many of Macquarie's projects, leaving the "palace for horses" as Greenway's only Gothic building still standing. It has served as the Conservatorium of Music since 1916.



Figure 3 Francis Greenway

Two fine surviving examples of Greenway's work that face each other across Macquarie Street are the Hyde Park Barracks (completed in 1819) and St. James Church (completed in 1824). Macquarie's patronage of Greenway ended with the Governor's return to Britain in 1821, and he became less and less influential under the new Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane until he was dismissed as Civil Architect in November 1822. From then he had to survive on a decreasing number of smaller commissions of private cottages and houses, such as Cleveland House in 1823<sup>16</sup>.

Despite his difficult personality and lack of political acumen, Greenway's legacy stems from his genius for turning to good account the poor architectural resources in the early colony, such as the lack of skilled stone carvers, by concentrating on proportion and the texture of his materials rather than ornament, leaving behind some of the finest buildings to grace colonial Australia<sup>17</sup>.

### **The Coopers separate**

The Coopers lived in Cleveland House until 1828 when Daniel became estranged from his wife, formally separating in August 1828. The Deed of separation formally vested the house, together with the outbuildings, gardens, yards, etc. to his trustee, permitting his wife to reside there for the rest of her life. But Hannah Cooper preferred to live in the Manchester Arms Hotel on the corner of Park and George Streets, also given to her by Daniel Cooper under the Deed. The house was advertised for lease in July 1829<sup>18</sup>. Daniel Cooper moved to England in 1831 to carry on the supervision of Cooper & Levey from there, never to return. After Hannah died in Sydney in 1836, he married Alice, who survived him<sup>19</sup>.

## Joseph Weller – 1830-1833

### A healthier climate

The trader Joseph Brooks Weller (1802-1835) migrated from Folkestone in Kent to the warm climate of Sydney in 1824 to alleviate his tuberculosis and to check out business prospects for his family in the colony. After 18 months he returned to England to report back to his father Joseph, and then in 1827 sailed again to Sydney for good, taking younger brother Edward (1814-1893). The second eldest brother George (1805-1875) was already in Sydney<sup>20</sup>.

Joseph Senior (1766-1856), wealthy landowner and trader of Amersham Manor in Kent, had also suffered from tuberculosis for years, and his doctor advised him to travel to the warmer drier climate of Australia. The family's Kent estate was sold to the Earl of Radnor (the head of one of England's wealthiest families) for the large sum of £80,000. Joseph, his wife Mary (b1779), two daughters Frances (Fanny) (1812-1896) and Ann (1822-1887) travelled to Sydney in 1830. Joseph brought the proceeds from the sale of his estate to Australia in sacks containing 12,000 sovereigns<sup>21</sup>. The Wellers found in Cleveland House a fitting residence for a family of substantial means. Joseph took out a lease and they moved there in August 1830.

### Whaling and a land grab in New Zealand

The three brothers, Edward, George and Joseph, decided there were good prospects in New Zealand, so they sailed for the Otago region in 1831 to operate as whalers and land speculators. They built jetties, storehouses, wharf buildings and dwellings, 17 years before the first Scottish settlers arrived. While in New Zealand, the brothers embarked on a wildly ambitious policy of land purchase. Joseph, engaged in the Foveaux Strait area, initially made some modest purchases near the Bluff, and then found two Maori chiefs who sold him the 430,000-acre Stewart Island for £10. George and Edward speculated in land on a grand scale, and by the time the first colonists arrived in Wellington in 1840, they claimed title to a massive 3,000,000 acres.

Joseph died of tuberculosis in July 1835, and as there were no Christian burial grounds in the South Island, Edward shipped his brother's body back to Sydney preserved in a puncheon (barrel) of rum<sup>22</sup>. The business prospered for some years, but by the 1840 proclamation of sovereignty, the business was defunct. New South Wales Governor Sir George Gipps declared that all land purchases prior to 1840 had to be investigated and approved by the Crown. While the two Weller brothers fought their claims through the courts, they saw them thrown out of court one by one<sup>23</sup>.

### The Johnstons of Annandale

While living at Cleveland House, Frances married Lieutenant Robert Johnston (1792-1882) in July 1831, and they spent part of their honeymoon there. Robert was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston (1764-1823), who was a member of the New South Wales Corps which accompanied the First Fleet to Botany Bay in 1788. In 1808, George Johnston was the commandant of the New South Wales Corps when, working closely with John Macarthur, he led the Rum Rebellion which overthrew the controversial Governor William Bligh. He assumed the title of Lieutenant-Governor, heralding a chaotic interregnum in the colony that ended with the arrival of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in December 1809, who brought the 73rd Regiment to restore stability and order.



**Figure 4 Robert Johnston RN (SLNSW)**

Robert was one of George's seven children to the convict Esther Abrahams, whom his father married in 1814. He was on leave from the Royal Navy when he met Frances. His father died in 1823 and his elder brother soon afterwards, leaving Robert as heir to the estate at Annandale on his mother's death. Until 1828, he lived at Annandale House with his mother and her two daughters, but friction between them culminated in Robert attempting to have a court declare her insane in 1829. Esther was found to be incapable of managing her own affairs (although from 1800 to 1802 and for six years after the Rum Rebellion from 1808 to 1814 she had ably managed the estate in George's absence in England). Although Robert managed the estate for the Trustees from this time, he did not inherit the family properties until his mother's death in 1846<sup>24</sup>.

After the wedding of Robert and Frances in 1831, she was one of the first women in the colony to receive a land grant upon marriage<sup>25</sup>. Frances kept an extensive photograph album of her homes and family, which is now in the Mitchell Library<sup>26</sup>. By May 1833, the Weller family had left Cleveland House and stayed for a while with the Johnstons at Annandale House<sup>27</sup>. By 1835, Joseph Senior and his extended family were living in two large three-bedroom houses in Prince Street in The Rocks, Sydney<sup>28</sup>.

## De Metz Ladies' Academy - 1834-1843

### A seminary for young ladies

Andrew Louis de Metz (1771-1852) was a London stockbroking agent of Jewish background. He suffered insolvency twice in England, firstly in April 1815<sup>29</sup>, then in February 1832<sup>30</sup>. The second insolvency was possibly the catalyst for the family's emigration to New South Wales. Andrew de Metz and his wife Anne (1776c-1860) stepped ashore from the barque *Sir Joseph Banks* on 15 December 1833, accompanied by their six daughters Esther 22, Julia 21, Angelina 19, Matilda 16, Isabella 15 and Rosetta 13<sup>31</sup>. The family rented temporary accommodation at 105 Pitt Street, and quickly started advertising a Ladies' Establishment to commence in January 1834. The cost would be £60 per annum, which included the "useful and ornamental branches of polite female education", as detailed in the advertisement below<sup>32</sup>.

**LADIES' ESTABLISHMENT.**

—ooo—

**M**RS. and the **MISSES DE METZ** inform their Friends and the respectable Inhabitants of Sydney and its vicinity, that they propose opening a **LADIES' ESTABLISHMENT** within two miles of the Town (on the same principle as the first-rate Boarding Schools in England) for a limited number of Young Ladies, where every attention will be paid to their health, comfort, religious, and mental improvement.

Mrs. and the Misses **DE METZ** have lately arrived from England, and can give reference to Persons of the first-class and respectability in Sydney, that they are, in every respect, competent to the arduous undertaking of forming the minds and manners of their Pupils.

**TERMS**—£60 per annum, which includes the useful and ornamental branches of polite female Education, viz.:—Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, French, Pianoforte, Drawing in various styles, Flower and Landscape Painting, Mezzo and Oriental Tinting, Dancing, and Plain and Fancy Needle-work.

No extras, except for Books and Stationery.

Bills to be paid Quarterly—and a Quarter's Notice to be given previously to a Pupil's removal.

Should any of the accomplishments be declined, or if there be two or more Pupils of one Family, a deduction will be made accordingly.

Terms, respecting Day Boarders, may be known by application to Mrs. **DE METZ**, at 105, Pitt-street, Sydney.

*December 31, 1833.*

Figure 5 Advertisement for the de Metz school (*Sydney Herald*, 2 January 1834)

Mrs. and the Misses de Metz were sketchers and teachers in England, so were well qualified to impart the art of drawing to the daughters of the colonial gentry<sup>33</sup>. By the next month, the de Metz family had leased Cleveland House and opened their seminary in February, presumably operated by their ready-made teaching staff of daughters<sup>34</sup>. The spacious and fashionable mansion would have

been part of the appeal of their establishment. The school had about 17 pupils at any time, and must have done fairly well, because the family was able to maintain a coach and horses.

### **Runaway servants and a dodgy dairyman**

In 1837, the assigned servants (serving convicts) in the de Metz household were seven women and four men. There were nursery maids, housemaids, lady's maids, laundry maids and needlewomen, and sometimes the women had several occupations<sup>35</sup>. But between 1837 and 1839, there were ongoing problems with their servants, either for stealing or absconding from the house after hours without authority.

In one instance when the convict servants Ann Welch and Mary Simpson were taken to court for being out at night without a pass, Sergeant Higgins declared that it was a regular occurrence for the servants to leave the house at night after the family had retired to bed. But Andrew de Metz optimistically claimed that since he found the cellar door still locked in the morning the women could not have got out, despite eyewitness police evidence to the contrary<sup>36</sup>. He invariably gave his servants good character references and requested they be returned to his service after their time in gaol. The police and magistrates were puzzled by such loyalty to his felonious and nomadic staff, who were called "the most abandoned creatures" by one magistrate. The authorities recommended he replace them with free immigrants, but he refused<sup>37</sup>.

As a sideline, the family operated the Cleveland Dairy with sixteen cows and a bull in the paddock behind the house<sup>38</sup>. This enterprise suffered staff problems as well, and on one occasion in 1838 a free servant working in the dairy was charged with embezzlement. However, the magistrate discharged the defendant, saying there was no deficiency in the milk account, and offering the observation that in any case milk accounts would puzzle a clearer-headed man than the servant<sup>39</sup>. In 1842, Mrs. de Metz advertised for a housemaid and a laundress, stipulating that they be immigrants. Apparently she at least had had enough of convicts, ex-convicts and the children of former convicts as employees by then<sup>40</sup>.

### **Insolvent again**

Andrew de Metz continued to work as a stockbroking agent, but he became entangled in the business affairs of his two sons-in-law, Lawrence Spyer (husband of Angelina) and Moses Brown (husband of Matilda), who both experienced financial difficulties during the severe depression of the 1840s. In November 1843, de Metz was declared bankrupt for the third time. Under the law of coverture (part of English common law), Mrs. de Metz's school belonged to her husband and could be seized by his creditors. The family moved the seminary (and their home) to a less resplendent building in Elizabeth Street near the Supreme Court, opening in 1848, this time in the names of the daughters only<sup>41</sup>.

By 1843, four daughters were still living at home. Matilda married in 1834 and Angelina in 1835. Rosetta married Stephen Spyer in January 1840, but died in December that year during childbirth. Isabella died in 1841. Esther and Julia remained single<sup>42</sup>. One of the Misses de Metz was still advertising lessons in 1868, 35 years after the school had begun, indicating that the business had endured, providing a livelihood for several sisters<sup>43</sup>.

## John Tooth residence – 1844-1849

### The Kent Brewery

John Tooth (1803-1857) was born in Cranbrook, Kent, and migrated to Sydney in the *Bencoolen* in 1828. He received a grant of 2,450 acres in Durham County in the Hunter Valley. He then acquired various cattle runs and set himself up as a general merchant and commission agent in Spring Street, Sydney. In September 1835, with his brother-in-law John Newnham, an experienced brewer from Kent, John Tooth opened the Kent Brewery on 4.5 acres on Parramatta Street, using the Blackwattle Creek that ran through the brewery site as a water supply.



Figure 6 Kent Brewery (KB Workers' website)

The purchase of land for the brewery and the establishment of buildings, equipment and materials were financed substantially by John's brother Robert, a successful brewer who lived in Kent. The Kent Brewery expanded between 1835 and 1844, managing to weather the economic depression of the 1840s<sup>44</sup>. But by 1843, John Tooth's own precarious financial position, including a debt that had grown to £24,000 to his brother Robert, forced him to take action. In September 1843, he dissolved the partnership with John Newnham and leased the brewery to his recently-arrived nephews Robert (1821-1893) and Edwin Tooth (1822-1858), the sons of Robert Senior<sup>45</sup>.

## Cleveland House residency

Cleveland House was still being advertised for rent in February 1844<sup>46</sup>, but by May, John Tooth and his family had taken up residence<sup>47</sup>. The Toths were raising nine children and three cows in and around the house<sup>48</sup>. However, he overextended his pastoral ventures, struggled to repay his expanding debt to his brother Robert, and was declared bankrupt in March 1848, owing his brother £28,000.

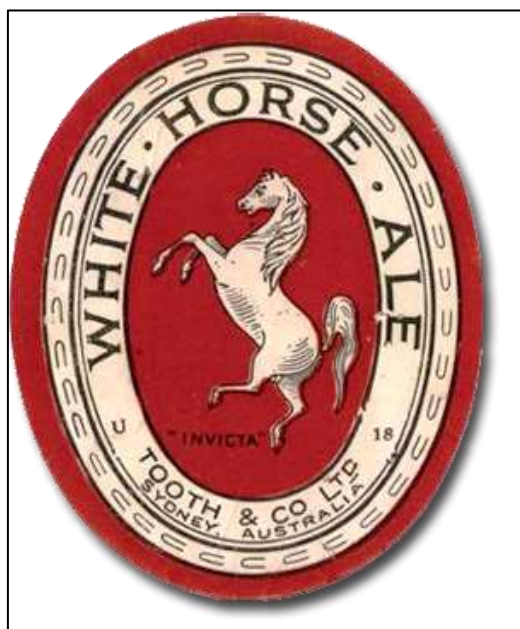


Figure 7 Tooth's White Horse Ale ([www.vblcs.com](http://www.vblcs.com))

Then in March 1849 John Tooth advertised his household furniture and sundry effects for sale<sup>49</sup> before moving out of Cleveland House by July. It was then advertised for rent by James Cooper after repairs and repainting, being "in every respect fit for the reception of a respectable family"<sup>50</sup>. Presumably the Tooth family moved somewhere smaller and more in keeping with their parlous financial state at that time.

Despite John Tooth's own financial problems, his nephews' prudent management skills, combined with the end of the Depression and the prosperity from the gold rush of the 1850s meant that the Kent Brewery prospered over the next decades. John Tooth moved to the Wollongong district in the early 1850s, then to the Hunter Valley a few years later. He died at Irrawang, near Raymond Terrace, in October 1857, survived by his wife Elizabeth Ann (nee Newnham)<sup>51</sup>.

## Anglican Rectory and College – 1849-1853

### A clergymen's residence

In 1849, the Church of England leased Cleveland House for accommodation of its city-based clergymen and their families, including the Reverends William Walsh, John Milner, Alfred Stephen and Robert Allwood<sup>52</sup>. William Horatio Walsh (1812-1882), born in London, was appointed colonial chaplain to Van Diemen's Land in 1838, and sailed on the *Fairlie*. After some misunderstanding about his official destination, on arrival in Sydney he was retained as a minister in New South Wales. Then in April 1839 he was granted a licence as rector in the new parish of St. Laurence in central Sydney. Bishop William Broughton laid the foundation stone of Christ Church in January 1840, and Reverend Walsh became its incumbent minister when it opened in 1845<sup>53</sup>.



Figure 8 William Horatio Walsh (Anglican History)

John Milner (1822-1897), BA, was a clergyman and academic in England before he arrived in Sydney on the *Havannah* in August 1848. He was promised a licence to preach in New South Wales, but mysterious allegations were made against him by someone on the ship, although Captain John Erskine and senior crew members said there was no foundation for them. Milner started legal proceedings against the person and obtained a retraction, but they were never officially refuted, and Bishop William Broughton would only grant Milner a temporary licence to preach, which was cancelled in 1852. This prompted the press to claim a terrible injustice to Milner by a vicious and unfeeling ecclesiastical system<sup>54</sup>. So from 1852, John Milner could teach but not preach in Sydney.

## The growth of higher learning

The development of Sydney as a commercial centre from the 1830s created a demand in the private sector for better and more useful education. Up to the 1870s, most of the major schools were close to the city centre. One of the first was Sydney College next to Hyde Park, founded in 1830 as a secular institution by religious dissidents. Most of its students were the sons of wealthy merchants, aged from seven to sixteen. Almost from the beginning of European settlement, vocational interests were an important part of education in Sydney.

But many colleges, including Sydney College, failed during the depression of the 1840s, raising questions about higher education in Sydney. However, many of Sydney's leading citizens, such as William Charles Wentworth, were keen to create an institution of higher learning to provide social and political leadership based on merit rather than birth (as it was in England). The University of Sydney, established in 1850, was unique in the British Empire at the time: it was a secular publicly-funded university, with a teaching and examining function, founded through State endowment, and owing nothing to any religious denomination.

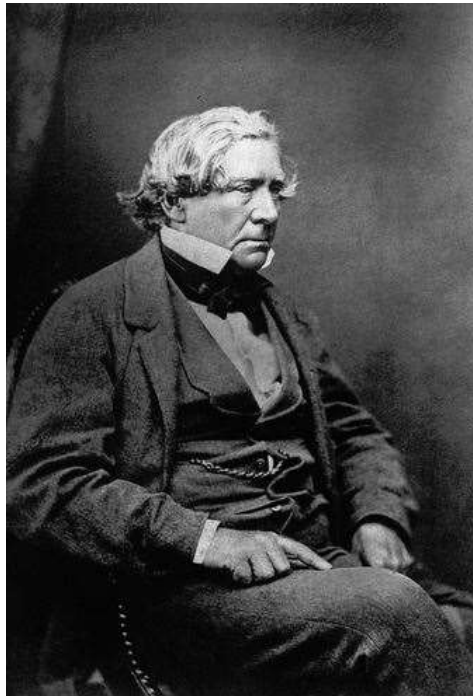


Figure 9 William Charles Wentworth (SLNSW)

Unlike traditional English universities, which aimed only to educate the future military and government leaders in the classics, leaving the professions like medicine and law to other institutions for their training, the University of Sydney soon developed professional “schools”<sup>55</sup>. Arts (which included Science) was the first Faculty in 1852. The Faculties of Medicine and Law started in 1856, Engineering and Pharmacy in 1883, Architecture and Science in 1884, Education in 1900, Dentistry in 1901 and Economics in 1903<sup>56</sup>. The University aimed to serve all of Sydney, although middle class males, who matriculated through examinations, were the first to benefit.

Reverend Robert Allwood, canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral from 1852 to 1891, wrote a long letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in November 1852 from his residence at Cleveland House. He urged the establishment of a theological college at the University, pointing out that religious teaching had been excluded from the University's courses. Moore College was established in 1856 to prepare men

for Christian ministry and mission work<sup>57</sup>. Allwood later became the Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1869 to 1882<sup>58</sup>.

### **Collegiate Institution at Cleveland House**

Sydney College had closed in 1850 and Sydney Grammar School was not established until 1857, so when the University opened in 1852, there was an urgent need for feeder schools to prepare prospective students for the entrance examinations. In July 1853, a school for boys opened in Cleveland House, managed by William Walsh, with John Milner as the principal. It was called the Collegiate Institution in newspaper advertisements. The school advertised that it would have an Upper School which prepared boys for the new University of Sydney and Lower School to train boys in mercantile pursuits<sup>59</sup>. The teachers were Church of England clergymen.

**Collegiate Institution, Sydney.**

**Principal :**  
**THE REV. JOHN MILNER, B.A.,**  
*Late Scholar of Queen's College, Oxford.*

**Vice-Principal :**  
**J. C. WILLIAMS, ESQ.,**  
*Of Queen's College, Cambridge, and late Mathematical Master of the York and Ripon Diocesan Training College.*

**I**N this Institution, which will be opened in July, the Education will be carried on in two departments, viz.—

**I. THE UPPER SCHOOL,**  
**II. THE LOWER SCHOOL ;**

the first being intended for those who are preparing for the Universities and the Learned Professions ; the second for General and Mercantile pursuits.

For further information apply to the Rev. W. Sowerby, Goulburn ; or to the Rev. J. Milner, Bedford House, Hyde Park, Sydney.

Figure 10 Collegiate Institution (*Goulburn Herald*, 11 June 1853)

Walsh and Milner's school only operated for one year, as the last advertisements referred to the last school term of 1853, so perhaps it was not a success<sup>60</sup>. In 1853, a watercolour painting of the house was completed by Lord Henry Douglas Scott-Montagu when he stayed with the Walsh family, showing the original front steps leading to Bedford Street<sup>61</sup>.

In 1854, Castlereagh Street South (later renamed Chalmers Street) was aligned and extended along the western boundary of the grant. Cleveland House was sold to Isaac Levey in 1855, and the clergymen moved out after this. A subdivision in 1855 greatly reduced the Cleveland Estate, leaving the house and its immediate outbuildings bordered by Bedford, Buckingham, Belvoir and Castlereagh Street South. From 1855 the house and its outbuildings were frequently listed under both Bedford and Buckingham Streets<sup>62</sup>.

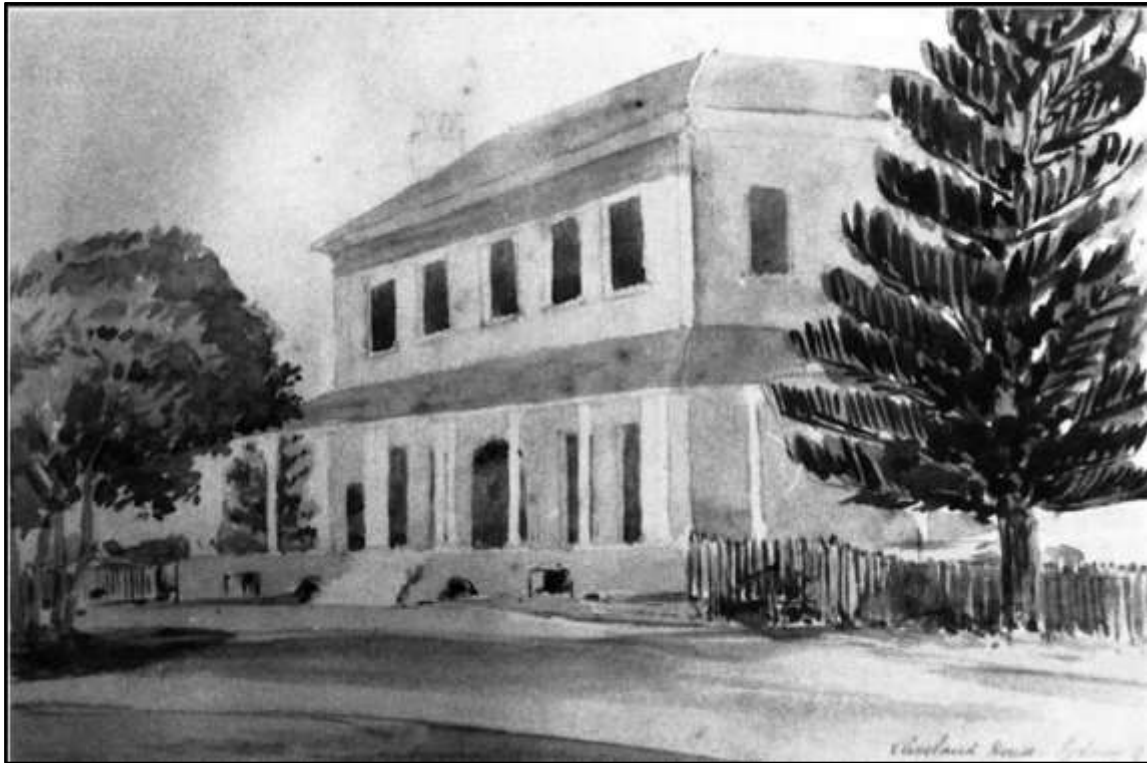


Figure 11 Lord Henry Douglas Scott-Montagu watercolour, 1853

### **Sydney Grammar School**

The establishment of the University in 1852 demonstrated the need for a central grammar school in Sydney to prepare students to enter the University. The response was the establishment of Sydney Grammar School under the *Sydney Grammar School Act 1854*. The school opened in August 1857 in buildings that were erected and occupied by Sydney College, and which immediately prior to its opening had been the temporary home of the University of Sydney<sup>63</sup>.

### **John Milner preaches again**

After the Collegiate Institution closed at the end of 1853, John Milner advertised the sale of all his household furniture at Cleveland House<sup>64</sup> and moved to 501 George Street. However, this house was not suitable for the private teaching he hoped to undertake<sup>65</sup>. But he was still an academic at heart, so he published a small volume titled *Collectanea Latina Minora* containing explanations of selected writings by Caesar, Cicero and Tacitus. This book was aimed at Latin students and was well received by the press<sup>66</sup>.

Milner departed Sydney in May 1854 for Europe, with the appreciation of the colony for his zeal and efforts on behalf of the Collegiate Institution, and for his two published books that benefitted high school and University Latin students. He also published literary articles in the *Sydney Morning Herald* during his stay<sup>67</sup>. The following year, he resumed his earlier career as ship's chaplain on the *HMS Orion* under Captain John Erskine, his old commander. This was widely seen as a reinstatement of his reputation after his poor treatment by the Church of England hierarchy in Sydney<sup>68</sup>.

Years later, he returned to Sydney as chaplain of the *HMS Galatea* when it called in to Sydney in January 1868 as part of the world tour by Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh. After steaming up to Brisbane for a week, the ship returned to Sydney. Prince Alfred was attending a picnic at Clontarf on 12 March when the Irishman Henry O'Farrell shot the Prince in the back at close range with a pistol, injuring him slightly. The highly embarrassed colonial authorities responded by building a hospital and naming it after Alfred, as well as renaming a street at The Rocks and part of the Cleveland Paddocks after the perforated Prince<sup>69</sup>.

At the time of the attempted assassination, John Milner was travelling in the country and preaching in the Goulburn area, and he was immediately called back to Sydney<sup>70</sup>. Later that year, he collaborated with the English marine painter Oswald Brierly to publish a book on the world trip, *The Cruise of HMS Galatea in 1867-1868, under the command of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh*<sup>71</sup>. After serving on several more ships, he eventually returned to England where he died in September 1897 after officiating as rector of Middleton-on-Teesdale in Durham.



## Protecting Cleveland House – 1850s

### Fire fighting in the colony

Fire was a major issue in the early days of Sydney. Most buildings were wooden, there was no permanent fire brigade, and when the fire crew turned up the water pressure was unreliable. Before the 1830s, most fires were fought by the occupants with buckets of water or even by knocking over a building before the fire could spread to its neighbours. The Australian Insurance Company began to insure against fire in 1836 and was the first organisation to address the issue. Fire buckets, ladders and axes were kept at premises in Sussex Street and on the wharves at Darling Harbour. Small firemarks (insurance plates) were attached to buildings to identify who was insured.

Other fire brigades began to appear, including the Barracks Brigade operating from the military barracks between George and Clarence Streets. But the military brigade proved to be woefully inadequate in 1840 when a fire at the Theatre Royal destroyed not only the theatre but a 100-room hotel, four houses and stables when the military hoses reached less than one storey, and the soldiers were caught busily looting the burning buildings. Following this fiasco, the first official fire brigade was formed and the police took over from the hapless Barracks Brigade. From 1842, fire engines were imported by insurance companies keen to better protect the insured properties. These had manual water pumps, so were only as good as the stamina of the men operating them.



Figure 12 Parramatta Fire Brigade 1871

Despite improvements in fire equipment, insurance-financed brigades still only attended fires at properties with their firemark. The need for new volunteer fire brigades who would attend all fires was starkly illustrated in 1853 when the Tooth and Co.'s Kent Brewery on Parramatta Street burnt for five days. Through the 1850s, the city water supply was improved by the Sydney City Council after complaints from firemen of insufficient water to fight city fires.

Up to the 1870s, insurance brigades and volunteer brigades continued to fight fires separately, and often in competition, as the Government paid a reward for the first brigade to arrive. The destruction of the magnificent Garden Palace exhibition building in 1882 finally forced the Government to pass the *Fire Brigades Bill*, which established the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and the days of separate brigades were numbered<sup>72</sup>.

## Insuring Cleveland House

Above the middle window on the first floor of Cleveland House is a firemark for the Liverpool and London Insurance Company. The plate displays the city of Liverpool's eponymous liver bird on the left (which is probably a cormorant) and a type of shellfish on the right.



Figure 13 Cleveland House firemark (left)

The Liverpool Fire and Life Insurance Co. was formed in 1836 in Water Street, Liverpool. In 1846, the company amalgamated with the London Edinburgh and Dublin Life Insurance Co. (instituted in 1839) to form the Liverpool and London Fire and Life Insurance Co. Liverpool and London merged with the Globe Insurance Company (established in 1803) in 1864 to form the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. Then in 1919 (presumably just in time to avoid a company name that was too long to fit on the letterhead), the company became a subsidiary of the Royal Insurance Company.

So Liverpool and London operated under that name between 1846 and 1864. The company operated in Sydney from 1854 when they constructed an insurance office in Barrack Square, Sydney<sup>73</sup>. The company operated to at least the end of the 1860s, after which they operated under different names due to company mergers. In 1856, the Victoria Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 expressed their gratitude in the press for a donation of fifty guineas from the insurance company in aid of a fund to build a new fire engine station<sup>74</sup>. This fire brigade was established to defend the Victoria Theatre against fires, and was one of a number of brigades set up by the large theatres.

## William and Henry Lumsdaine residence - 1856

### The Lumsdaines of Berwickshire

William Lumsdaine (1823-1902) and Henry Lumsdaine (1820-1911) were born in Hissar, India to an Anglo-Indian mother named Phoebe Herrinjee Khanumal Lumsdaine (nee Dorrene) while their father William was serving with the British army in India. In 1823, he inherited three Scottish estates on the death of his cousin John. After he died of cholera in 1830, his five children lived in the charge of an uncle, the Reverend Edwin Lumsdaine in Berwickshire, Scotland, and went to school there<sup>75</sup>. Under their father's will, each of the children inherited £1,000, roughly the equivalent of \$200,000 in 2008. This was held in trust for them until they came of age.



Figure 14 Reverend William Lumsdaine

William and Henry arrived in Sydney in 1836 with their sister Louisa and two brothers as wards of the Anglican Bishop William Broughton, who had been a friend of their father in India and an acquaintance of their uncle<sup>76</sup>. Broughton first came to Sydney in 1829 as Archdeacon of New South Wales, went back to England on leave in 1834 where he campaigned for more clergy in the colony, and returned to Sydney in 1836 to be enthroned as the first Bishop of Australia at St. James Church Sydney, just days after his arrival<sup>77</sup>.

### Building careers in the colony

The four Lumsdaine boys, Henry, Alexander, William, and John were educated at the King's School at Parramatta, which Bishop Broughton founded in 1831. The three older boys (Henry, Alexander and William) joined forces briefly to buy and farm a property at Bathurst, but this collapsed during the economic depression of the 1840s. Alexander became a Clerk of Petty Sessions. John returned to England to study medicine and became Deputy Surgeon General in the East India Company. Louisa returned to the United Kingdom and married, but not happily<sup>78</sup>.

William married Mary Ann Hunt at Parramatta in December 1844. Despite being raised in the Church of England, he was received into the Presbyterian Church in 1850 and inducted as the first minister of a new church at Richmond. An obituary after his death in 1902 speculated that this defection was due to a temporary estrangement from Bishop Broughton<sup>79</sup>. After three years, he came to Sydney as a missionary with the Reverend Alexander Salmon at a new church in Macquarie Street, which was opened in 1854<sup>80</sup>. Henry was appointed Chief Inspector of Distilleries in 1845<sup>81</sup>, and held that position for many years. In 1861, he was elected as a church warden at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Surry Hills. He was a public servant for most of his working life and maintained a close involvement with the Church in his local area.

### **Cleveland House residency**

Henry lived in Surry Hills during the 1840s<sup>82</sup> and early 1850s<sup>83</sup>, and William had recently returned to Sydney from a posting to Richmond. The brothers decided to live together with their families, and found that Cleveland House was available. By April 1856, the two families had taken up residence in Cleveland House<sup>84</sup>. A few months later in September, William was inducted as the first minister of the new Chalmers Presbyterian Church adjacent to the house. The church was named after the Reverend Thomas Chalmers, one of the founders of the Free Church of Scotland in a major breakaway from the Church of Scotland in 1843. However, the Lumsdaine brothers did not stay in Cleveland House long, and they left in February 1857.

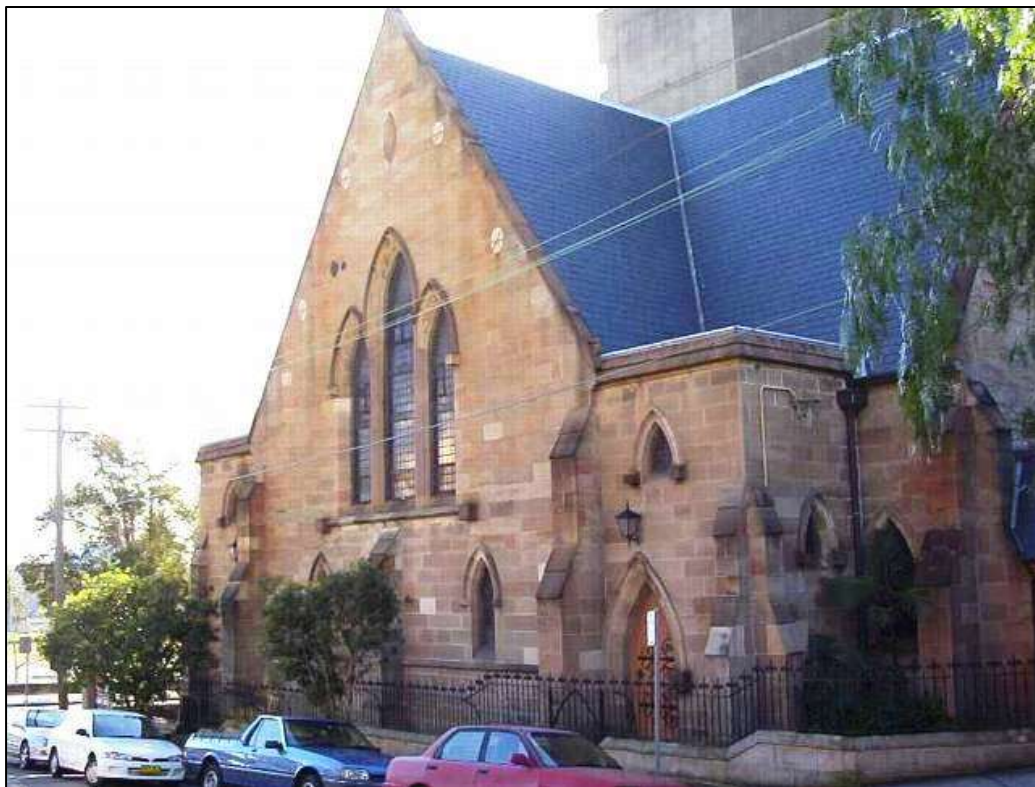


Figure 15 Welsh (formerly Chalmers) Presbyterian Church

### **Life after Cleveland House**

By November 1858, the Chalmers Church was heavily in debt. After efforts to resolve this did not succeed, William resigned as a minister of the Presbyterian Church<sup>85</sup>, and in February 1859 he severed all connection with this Church<sup>86</sup>. He returned to the Anglican Church in July 1859 when he was ordained as a minister of St. John's Church of England, Parramatta<sup>87</sup>.

In 1863, Henry expanded his bureaucratic empire by adding Inspector of Sugar Refineries to his responsibility for Distilleries under the *Bonded Distilleries and Sugar Houses Act* of 1862. But his empire resisted further expansion, because he was inspecting stills and sugar factories in 1879 when he was suspended by the Treasurer due to insolvency. He had gone into debt to some unscrupulous business characters, and the *Daily Telegraph* opined that as a “guardian and protector of the public revenue, he should have been free of such monetary matters”<sup>88</sup>.

The brothers Henry, John, William and Alexander Lumsdaine are shown (l to r) in the photo below.

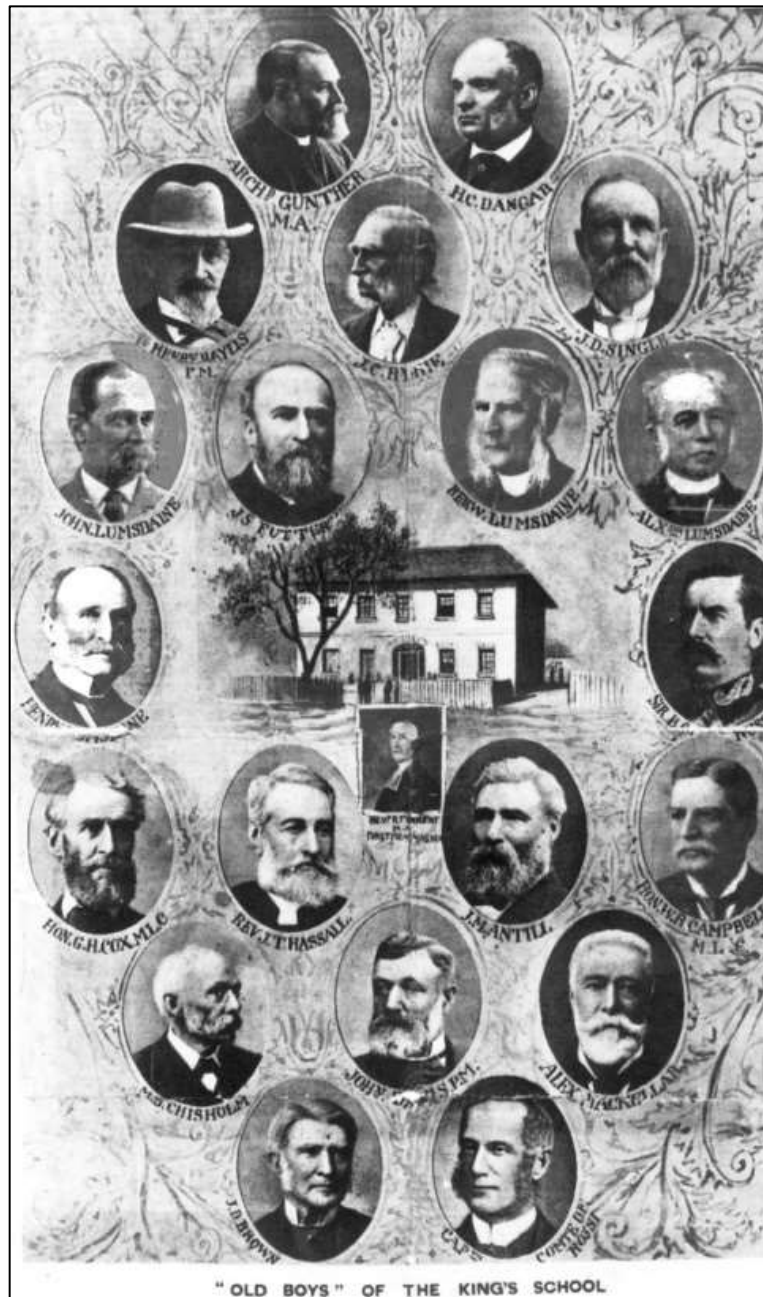


Figure 16 King's School Old Boys c1875



## Cleveland House Academy for boys – 1857-1865

### James Kean begins teaching in Sydney

James Kean (c1803-1878) and his wife Fanny arrived in Sydney in September 1852, and immediately started advertising lessons in the classics and modern languages while living at Cleveland Cottage in Cleveland Street, Chippendale. Mrs. Kean planned to conduct a day school for young ladies<sup>89</sup>.

He gradually expanded his teaching activities, and from November 1852 was running evening classes from premises in Botany Street, opposite the Wesleyan Chapel in Chippendale<sup>90</sup>. Then from January 1855, he was operating a day and boarding school for boys in a new large house in Bank Street in Chippendale. At this school they would be prepared for university, English public schools and professional or mercantile pursuits. References were invited from an impressive selection of notable Anglican clergymen and businessmen: Reverend William Walsh, Reverend Alfred Stephen, Thomas Mort and Edwin Tooth<sup>91</sup>.

### Cleveland House Academy

In December 1856, James Kean advertised that he planned to move the school to Sunbury House, a large new building on the corner of Castlereagh and Cleveland Streets<sup>92</sup>. This did not eventuate, but nearby Cleveland House was available from the beginning of March, after Reverend William Lumsdaine vacated it. The house boasted “twelve large lofty and well-ventilated rooms, all recently painted and papered. Apply Isaac Levey, 1 Wynyard Square”<sup>93</sup>.

James Kean must have furnished his school in Sunbury House prior to opening it there in the first term of 1857, but when the leasing arrangement fell through he hastily leased Cleveland House in March 1857 and notified prospective students of the change of location<sup>94</sup>. The new school began operation in the first term of 1857, and from June 1858 it was being advertised as the Cleveland House Academy<sup>95</sup>. In October 1859, a fourteen-year old boy named James Northwood passed away from natural causes overnight in the dormitory, having attended the school for three years. He was the son of Alderman Northwood<sup>96</sup>. James Kean refuted a newspaper’s claim that the dormitories were overcrowded<sup>97</sup>.



Figure 17 Ben Bolt the Champion, Joseph Fowles, c1863 ([www.aasd.com.au](http://www.aasd.com.au))

The artist Joseph Fowles (c1810-1878) was employed as drawing master at Cleveland House in 1862 and 1863, and later at Sydney Grammar School from 1867 to 1874. He acquired a reputation as a fine painter of animals, particularly horses, which were a lifelong passion of his. After his death in June 1878 at age 68, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* obituary referred to him as “the father of drawing in Sydney”<sup>98</sup>.

The school must have struggled to find students by the 1860s, as James Kean was declared insolvent in September 1865 and the school closed<sup>99</sup>. In its eight years of operation, many prominent citizens were educated in the school, including Archdeacon Francis Boyce (Anglican clergyman and social reformer), George Judah Cohen (banker and financier), Dr. William Violette (Superintendent of the Coast Hospital at Little Bay) and Samuel Hordern, who became the proprietor of the Anthony Hordern and Sons emporium in 1886<sup>100</sup>.

After James Kean left Cleveland House, probably in 1866, Cornelius Nightingale advertised the house for rent in December 1866<sup>101</sup>. The 1867 City of Sydney Rate Assessment Books list the occupant as William Merrett and the ratepayer as Maurice (called Morrie) Alexander<sup>102</sup>. *Sands' Directories* list the occupants as William Merrett in 1867 and William Nightingale, clerk, in 1868<sup>103</sup>. Maurice Alexander (1820-1874) was a merchant and Member of the Legislative Assembly (1861-1872) with an office in Margaret Street who worked with his father-in-law Isaac Levey<sup>104</sup>, and frequently advertised properties for rent in the newspapers. Alexander advertised that Cleveland House was for rent from April 1868<sup>105</sup> until August 1869<sup>106</sup>. The next month, he wrote to the Sydney City Council stating that Cleveland House had been unoccupied since May 1868, but that he had recently leased the house<sup>107</sup>.

## Prince Alfred/Patent Steam Laundry – 1870-1873

### Prince Alfred Steam Laundry

In March 1870, Henry Freeman wrote to the Sydney City Council asking for a better drainage connection<sup>108</sup>. He was the owner of the steam laundry that was being constructed along the Castlereagh Street frontage, and was living in Cleveland House with his family. In the 1871 Rate Assessment Book, Henry Freeman was listed as the owner of the Steam Laundry with Henry Snell the manager<sup>109</sup>.

The Prince Alfred Steam Laundry commenced operation in September 1870 in a newly-erected building adjoining Cleveland House with a frontage on Castlereagh Street (its size was 86 feet by 32 feet), managed by Henry Snell<sup>110</sup>. The laundry can be seen as the single-storey building to the right of the house in a photograph of the first Intercolonial Exhibition in Prince Alfred Park in 1870. From this time, the area occupied by the outbuildings was often used separately from the house.

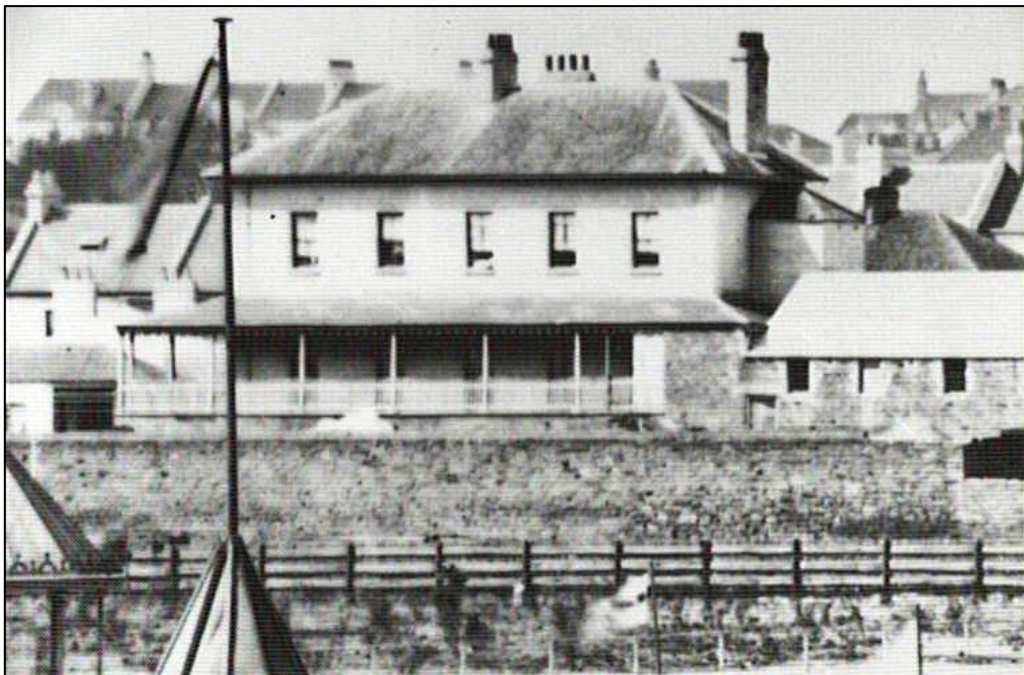


Figure 18 Cleveland House with laundry on right, 1870 (SLNSW)

Clothes were given a rough hand wash and then washed thoroughly in three washing machines by forcing steam through the water. After washing, the clean clothes were rinsed and blued. The steam also operated the wringing and mangling machines, enabling up to about 2,400 articles to be cleaned per day. As well as a large yard for drying clothes, there were appliances for drying them artificially on rainy days. One method was to place the clothes in a large centrifugal machine, which dried them by rotating at high velocity. The ironing room employed twelve to fourteen women. Altogether about thirty people were employed in the laundry<sup>111</sup>.

But by February 1871 the company must have experienced financial difficulties because all the laundry equipment was auctioned by the mortgagee<sup>112</sup>. The business was purchased by William Hanson, a mining agent and businessman of Belmore Chambers at 247 George Street, who lived in Cleveland House for the next two years<sup>113</sup>. During the next month, George Lee and Mr. Livingstone took over the management of the business on a five-year lease<sup>114</sup>. However, the plant and equipment must have been owned by William Blackman, because in September 1871 it was put up

for sale as part of his insolvent estate<sup>115</sup>. William Hanson then announced that George Lee had left the business<sup>116</sup>.

### Patent Steam Laundry

The laundry continued to operate, but from January 1872 was known as the Patent Steam Laundry Company<sup>117</sup>, and was still owned by William Hanson. In May 1872, the laundry exhibited some of its equipment and operations at the Intercolonial Exhibition across the road in Prince Alfred Park<sup>118</sup>.

But the laundry must have experienced more problems, because in February 1873, with three years to run on the lease, all the equipment was auctioned<sup>119</sup>. William Hanson and his family were still living there in June 1873<sup>120</sup>. The steam laundry closed soon after this, and the laundry building was advertised for rent in August 1873, principally to omnibus and manufacturing companies<sup>121</sup>. Some laundry equipment must have remained, as a Mrs. McDonald advertised in September 1873 that she would take in family washing<sup>122</sup>.

### The Intercolonial Exhibitions

The Agricultural Society of New South Wales was formed in 1822 in an effort to improve the quality of primary production by means of displays and competitions. The Society's first Show was held in 1823 at Parramatta, the agricultural hub of the colony, which at the time was struggling to provide for its population of 30,000, half of them convicts. The Society lapsed in 1834 but reformed in 1857 and the Shows continued annually in the government grounds at Parramatta until 1868. In 1869 the Society was offered the use of Prince Alfred Park where an exhibition building had been constructed<sup>123</sup>.



Figure 19 Inside the Intercolonial Exhibition, 1870 (Historic Houses Trust)

In 1870, the agricultural show was expanded into the Intercolonial Exhibition, a major exhibition of Australian produce to mark the centenary of Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay. The foundation stone for a grand new Exhibition Building was laid in March 1870, and the building was completed in August, in time for the opening on 30 August<sup>124</sup>. The exhibition ran for a month, and after it closed the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported enthusiastically on the event. It was pronounced a great

success, with a total attendance of 185,000<sup>125</sup>, including an estimated 30,000 visitors filling the grounds at one point. There were 130 exhibits of horses and 186 exhibits of cattle, mainly Durhams, Herefords and Devons. Inside the vast building were displays of horticultural specimens, including ferns, orchids, palms, cycads and other choice plants contributed by various amateur and professional gardeners and nurserymen. All the expanding produce of the colony was on display, both commercial and artistic.



**Figure 20 Intercolonial Exhibition grounds 1870 (SLNSW)**

The Exhibition showed the impressive progress made in the previous 82 years of colonisation, and was expected to give great impetus to the breeding of first class horses and cattle and to the use of modern machinery in the agriculture and mining industries<sup>126</sup>. Further Intercolonial Exhibitions were held in 1873 and 1875. In other years, Agricultural Society shows were held there. The businesses that operated in Cleveland House and its outbuildings during the 1870s frequently participated in these exhibitions and won several awards for their produce.

Cleveland House must have served as temporary accommodation for some of the officials, because in May 1873 Mr. J. G. Knight, Secretary of the Victorian Commission, wrote a letter to *The Argus* from the house after the exhibition closed to explain the delay in returning the exhibitors' goods to Melbourne<sup>127</sup>. The great exhibitions moved to the Garden Palace in the Domain with the International Exhibition in 1879. Agricultural Shows continued at Prince Alfred Park until 1881 when high rents forced the Society to move to Moore Park, where a Showground was built to house the Agricultural Show until 1998, after which it moved to its present site at Homebush<sup>128</sup>.

The Exhibition building housed the War Memorial from 1925 to 1936, when it moved to Canberra. There were suggestions in the 1940s that the building be used as an indoor swimming pool, but

when that proved too difficult, it was demolished in 1954 to make way for an outdoor Olympic pool. An ice skating rink was built behind the pool in 1959 and demolished in about 1996-1997<sup>129</sup>.

## Barrett & Co. Cordial Factory – 1873-1890

### Edward Hogben and the patented stopper

Edward Hogben (1835-1891) grew up in Kent, England and at fifteen was apprenticed to a grocery business in the port town of Hythe. In about 1858 he travelled to Victoria and worked there for three years in business. When the Central Otago (New Zealand) gold rush started with the Gabriel Gully find in 1861, he went there to try his luck, but later became a general storekeeper and auctioneer in Blenheim. Returning to England a few years later, he became a wine and spirit merchant on the Channel Island of Jersey.



Figure 21 Edward Hogben (Hurstville Council)

He became acquainted with Henry Barrett, who in 1868 invented and patented a stopper for aerated water bottles, and a machine for filling the bottles. Barrett & Co. was a successful maker of cordials and aerated waters (i.e., carbonated drinks) in England in the 1860s, with a branch in Jersey. Edward had so much confidence in the embryo invention that he purchased a half-share in the patent rights, and decided to single-handedly introduce the invention into the Australian colonies. He left Jersey for Australia, arriving again in Melbourne in March 1870. A few weeks afterwards, he advertised in the newspapers that he had applied for the patent of an improved apparatus for manufacturing aerated beverages, and that he was the inventor of an improved bottle stopper<sup>130</sup>.

Soon he had the patent at work in all the principal cities of Australia and New Zealand, with the notable exception of Sydney. In order to market the equipment in Sydney, he travelled there to publicise the inventions at the 1870 Intercolonial Exhibition at Prince Alfred Park. Throughout the year he tried to sell the patent to aerated drink manufacturers in Sydney, but without success<sup>131</sup>.

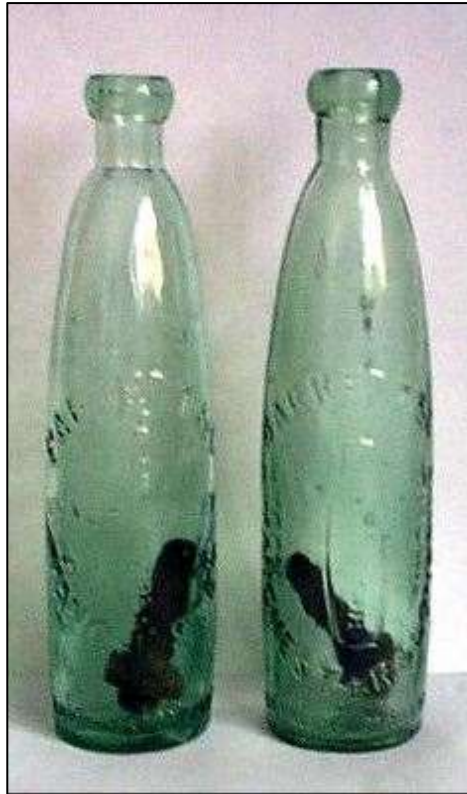


Figure 22 Barrett's patent stick stopper

Meanwhile in 1872 in England, Henry Barrett invented and patented an internal screw stopper made of vulcanised rubber. This device was a great success and quickly replaced corks in beer bottles in Britain<sup>132</sup>. Barrett & Co's main factory was in Dacre Street, Westminster, London, but also operated branches in Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, Jersey and other cities in Britain<sup>133</sup>. The company was very successful, and during the summer of 1872-1873 sold 3,000 dozen bottles a day at their London factory<sup>134</sup>.

### **Henry Barrett's aerated waters factory**

In England, Henry Barrett decided that if his patented equipment could not be sold to drink manufacturers in Sydney, he would set up a branch of Barrett & Co. there. So in October 1873 he travelled there with all the apparatus for an aerated waters factory in a number of ships<sup>135</sup>. In December, he advertised for carpenters to construct "Barrett's soda factory, Buckingham Street, near Exhibition"<sup>136</sup>. A few weeks later, nineteen year-old engineer George Cranfield arrived from London to help Barrett and Hogben set up the machinery in the new building behind Cleveland House. Cranfield made cordials and other drinks and kept the machines running, while Henry Barrett spent his time extolling the wonders of the machinery and the drinks to colonial bottlers, the public and the press<sup>137</sup>.



Figure 23 George Cranfield (Cranfield website)

The company advertised that they were selling all kinds of aerated water, ginger beer and cordial, and a French soda syphon<sup>138</sup>. In March 1874, Barrett & Co donated 120 dozen bottles of ginger beer to the annual picnic of the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children for the 800 children attending<sup>139</sup>. The company made similar donations for several years afterwards. Then in April 1874, Henry Barrett returned to England, having successfully set up the Sydney branch, leaving Edward Hogben to manage and expand the company in the Australian colonies<sup>140</sup>.

In April 1875, Barrett & Co. exhibited in the aerated and mineral waters category at the Sydney Intercolonial Exhibition<sup>141</sup>, at the Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition in August<sup>142</sup>, and the Brisbane Exhibition in 1876<sup>143</sup>, winning medals and certificates of merit. By 1877, Edward Hogben was advertising as a sideline a balsam of aniseed as “the surest remedy for coughs and colds”<sup>144</sup>. In October 1878, Barrett & Co. won silver and bronze medals at the Paris Exhibition<sup>145</sup>. In July 1883, Barrett’s Cordial Factory was put up for sale<sup>146</sup>, but it continued to manufacture aerated drinks from the site, so it may have simply changed its operations.



Figure 24 Barrett & Co. letterhead, 1889 (City of Sydney)

## Edward Hogben moves on

In April 1884, Edward Hogben left for England<sup>147</sup>, returning to Sydney in March 1886, when he started a grocery store that was not a success<sup>148</sup>, although he remained a managing partner of Barrett & Co. He moved to the Kogarah area in the south of Sydney, and became the first Mayor of the new Kogarah Council from 1886 to 1888<sup>149</sup>. In 1889, he wrote to the Sydney City Council, mentioning a new factory in Belvoir Street, which ran along the rear of the site<sup>150</sup>. Barrett & Co. continued to operate next to Cleveland House until 1890, when the operation closed down and “those extensive premises formerly used as Barrett’s cordial factory in Buckingham Street” were advertised for lease<sup>151</sup>. The Barrett & Co. factory can be seen below in the real estate ad from 1886.

s7-100/1

**9 MAGNIFICENT BUILDING SITES**

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MONTAGUE LEVEY, ESQ. FOR AUCTION SALE IN THE ROOMS WED. 10<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 1886

**HARDIE & CORMAN**  
AUCTIONEERS  
FREEHOLD TITLE

**BUCKINGHAM ST.**

**LANE**

**UPPER CASTLE REACH ST.**

**BEDFORD ST.**

Shed  
Office  
Yard 9  
Shed  
Yard 12  
8  
Cleveland House

Cinger-beer Factory (Barrett & Co.)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

PRINCE ALFRED PARK

Tramway

Exhibition Building

Stopping Place

**C.G. DONALDSON**  
LICENSED SURVEYOR  
under Real Property Act  
139, PITT ST

TERMS: 1/4 CASH BALANCE 1, 2 & 3 Years at 6%

JOHN BARNES, LTD.

s7-100/1

Figure 25 1886 subdivision sale advertisement

Edward Hogben died of heart disease in 1891 at his home in Kogarah, in his 56<sup>th</sup> year<sup>152</sup>. He was an energetic and enterprising man who in a relatively short life had been a grocer, gold miner, storekeeper, auctioneer, wine and spirit merchant, soft drink entrepreneur and manufacturer, Mayor of Kogarah and a Justice of the Peace. All of this activity was conducted across three countries, and demonstrated the wide range of opportunities available in the Australian colonies at the time.

The 1888 Rygate & West map below shows the result of the subdivisions of the Cleveland Estate up to that time: The Belvoir Street frontage contained the Cleveland Hotel a terrace of five properties, and the Castlereagh Street frontage south of Cleveland House contained four properties.

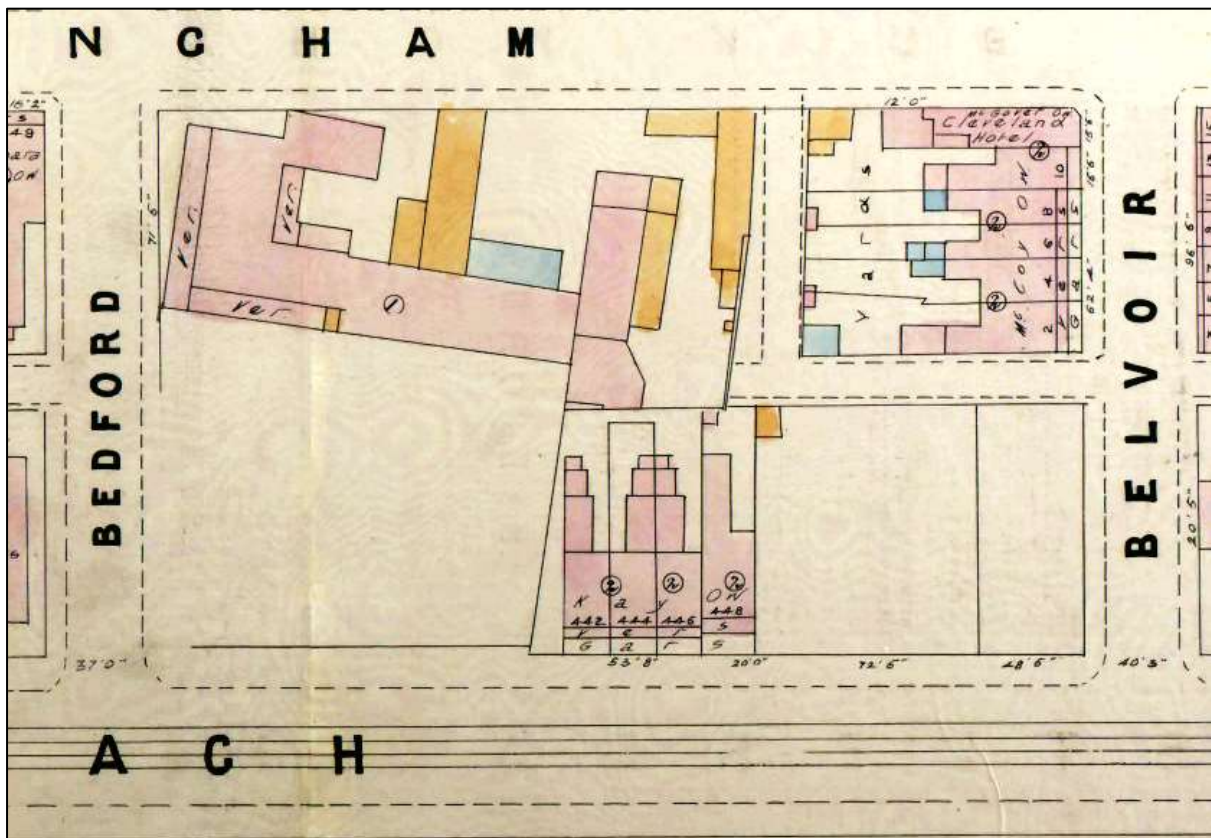


Figure 26 Cleveland House in 1888 (Rygate & West map 44)



## Sydney Grammar School boarding house – 1874-1883

### Albert Weigall revives Sydney Grammar School

The University of Sydney was inaugurated in October 1852 in the Sydney College buildings next to Hyde Park, beginning with an Arts Faculty which included science subjects. In August 1857, the University moved to the new site at Grose Farm and Sydney Grammar School took over the site to become a feeder school for the University.



Figure 27 Sydney Grammar School

Albert Bythesea Weigall (1840-1912) became headmaster of Sydney Grammar School in January 1867. When he took over, the school had only 53 boys and 9 masters, and the trustees told him it would probably be closed. Undeterred by this gloomy forecast, by the time of his death he had built it up to 696 boys and 26 talented staff who were dedicated to the school. He encouraged activities that developed *esprit de corps* and loyalty to the school, forming and leading the School Cadet Corps, fostering sport, publishing a school magazine, and starting music, debating and drama clubs<sup>153</sup>.

By the early 1870s, the increase in student numbers led to a need to accommodate boys near the school, especially those from country areas. Albert Weigall introduced the idea of boarding houses conducted by the school masters, and drafted regulations under which the Trustees could grant licences to masters to use their own houses as accommodation for boarders. The scheme was an instant success<sup>154</sup>.

### Charles Fache and Cleveland House

Charles James Fache (1839-1886) migrated from London to Melbourne in January 1859<sup>155</sup>. By 1864, he had moved to New South Wales and was Second Master (Deputy Principal) at Camden College School in Newtown<sup>156</sup>, where by 1866 he was taking in pupils as boarders in his home in Orimbah

Terrace, opposite the College<sup>157</sup>. In January 1869, he joined the staff of Sydney Grammar School as writing and commercial master<sup>158</sup>, and then in September he advertised for school boarders at his home in Stanmore Road<sup>159</sup>. By January 1873, he was the English Master and took in boarders at his residence in Cambridge Terrace, Newtown Road, facing the University<sup>160</sup>.

By 1873, the school was expanding its boarding facilities, and Charles Fache advertised for a house of 12 to 20 rooms not far from Hyde Park<sup>161</sup>. Cleveland House was leased, and in January 1874, he moved in and began accommodating around 20 pupils<sup>162</sup>. He was also conducting individual tutoring, and in 1873, one of his students Amy Juliet Crocker passed the public examinations in modern languages at the University of Sydney under his tutorship<sup>163</sup>, although women were not admitted to the University at the time. In 1881, the University Senate decided to allow the admission of women and in 1884 the Government passed the *University Amendment Act*, securing the legal rights of women at the University. The first female matriculants enrolled in the Arts Faculty in 1882 and graduated in 1885<sup>164</sup>.

There were enough boys boarding at Cleveland House to make up a variety of sporting teams, and in 1875 the school boarders played in a cricket competition at Moore Park as the Cleveland House Eleven<sup>165</sup>. The next year, rugby matches were played at Moore Park by a team of Cleveland House boarders against a team from the school<sup>166</sup>. By 1879, Sydney Grammar School was using three residences as boarding houses: apart from Cleveland House, Laurence Stephenson and Charles Goldie established Wimbledon Hall at 4 Olivia Terrace in Bourke Street Surry Hills, and Reverend David Moore operated Bessbrook House in Cleveland Street<sup>167</sup>.

In November 1880, Charles Fache handed over the management of the boarding house to Arthur Key Farrar (1857-1909), who advertised that he intended to run it "as far as possible on the principles of an English Public School"<sup>168</sup>. Farrar had been appointed to Sydney Grammar School as a master of modern languages in 1879<sup>169</sup>. In 1881, Charles Fache was living at Langley in Cavendish Street, Stanmore, and advertised that he was resuming his Saturday morning classes at his residence for ladies preparing for university examinations<sup>170</sup>.

In March 1883, Arthur Farrar advertised the sale of his household furniture, and Cleveland House was no longer used as a boarding house after this<sup>171</sup>. By 1884, Charles Fache had given up teaching and was a real estate agent, selling land in the new subdivisions of Fairfield and Guildford from an office in Elizabeth Street<sup>172</sup>. He died suddenly of heart disease in his office in October 1886, aged 47<sup>173</sup>.

From 1834 to 1883, Cleveland House had been occupied by three different schools and a school boarding house. This was during the era before State-sponsored education became available to all, and when the approach to education was focused on classical learning. Historian and author Philip Geeves tersely summed up the modern view of these establishments:

"Various academic entrepreneurs conducted select schools here for the children of wealthy colonists, teaching them accomplishments they were unlikely to need and drilling them in the grammar and syntax of dead languages"<sup>174</sup>.

## A tabernacle of bakers – c1877-1890

### George Hamilton - baker and butcher

George Hamilton opened a bakery and butcher's shop in one of the outbuildings next to Cleveland House in about 1877, with a Bedford Street address. His first newspaper advertisement was just before Easter that year, posing the rhetorical question "Will you be surprised to know that G. Hamilton is making the finest hot cross buns on Strawberry Hill!"<sup>177</sup>. The next month, he advertised his catering for the Exhibition at Prince Alfred Park with another rhetorical question "Will it surprise you to know that G. Hamilton is preparing to supply the Million with all kinds of Buns, Pies, Pastry, Sponge Cake, Canterbury Cake, etc.?"<sup>178</sup>.

Two years later, George Hamilton took home a sackful of prizes from the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition in the hotly contested Poultry, Pigeon and Canary section. In an article titled "Poultry and Pigeon Gossip", it was reported that he triumphed in several categories - Silver-spangled Hamburgs, Frizzled Fowls, Silver-spangled Polands, Antwerps, "Any other variety of fowls" (for a pair of white leghorns), and a respectable second prize in the red and yellow Turbits category. Clearly he was a man to be reckoned with in the world of chicken-showing<sup>179</sup>.

But by March 1887 the business had failed and the equipment was advertised for sale at auction<sup>180</sup>. The site was advertised for rent as a "bakery establishment"<sup>181</sup>, and was still being advertised in May 1888.

### Smith, Babb and Bailey - bakers

The bakers and pastry cooks J. B. Smith & Babb operated refreshment rooms at 504 George Street in early 1888<sup>182</sup>. Then the 1888 *Sands' Directory* records them operating at 2 Bedford Street, the same address used by George Hamilton the year before<sup>183</sup>. So they must have taken over Hamilton's premises, but not for long, because the partnership broke up in October 1888 and J. B. Smith carried on as the sole proprietor<sup>184</sup>.

Thomas B. Bailey was operating a bakery at nearby Little Buckingham Street until late in 1888, but he must have taken over from Smith & Babb soon after their partnership broke up, because he is the occupant of 2 Bedford Street in the 1889 and 1890 *Sands' Directories*<sup>185</sup>.



## Other Bedford Street occupants 1882-1966

These are the basic details of other business people who occupied the outbuildings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, mostly with Bedford Street addresses recorded in the *Sands' Directories*.

1882: 1, William H Richards, 3, Caroline Lees, grocer.

1887-88: Daniel and Albert McCarthy, wine and spirit merchants.

1894-1902: Peter Decker, fuel merchant.

1903: Herman Crouch, fuel merchant.

1904: 2, Edward Hawkins, fuel merchant.

1905: 2, John Clarey, fuel merchant.

1907: 2, Thomas Swords II, fuel merchant.

1908-12: 2, Aloysius Wilden, Engineering Works.

1913-15: 2, G. H. Beal and George Adams, coachpainter, etc.

1916-8: 2, G. H. Beal, cab proprietor.

1919-22: 2, Frederick Standen, cab proprietor.

1923-5: 2, Clifford A. Hodges, boot factory.

1926-30: 2-4, George Toppie, Cleveland Motor Garage.

1931-3: 2-4, Oxford Press, printers.

c1956-c1966: 158-164 Chalmers Street: Oxford Picture Framing Co.<sup>175</sup>

c1956: 168-180 Chalmers Street: Artificial Limb Factory, Repatriation Department<sup>176</sup>



## Herman Holtermann's German Club – 1886-1890

### World's largest reef gold discovery

German-born Bernhardt Otto Holtermann (1838-1885) left Hamburg in 1858 to avoid three years of military service and arrived in Sydney in August. He hoped to meet his brother Hermann there, but found that Hermann had gone to the goldfields. In 1861, he met the Polish miner Hugo Louis Beyers and they went to the Hill End area in search of gold. They had little success for five years, and Bernhardt was forced to find other work in the area.

But in October 1871 their luck changed spectacularly when they discovered the world's largest specimen of reef gold at Hill End, weighing 286 kg and containing an estimated 5,000 ounces of gold. After this, Bernhardt retired and in 1874 built a palatial house on the heights of St. Leonards, North Sydney, with a stained-glass window depicting him standing beside the nugget<sup>186</sup>. This house is now a part of Shore Grammar School. By 1884, he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly.



Figure 28 Bernhardt Holtermann with his gold nugget

At Hill End, Bernhardt met the travelling photographer Henry Beaufoy Merlin and his young assistant Charles Bayliss, and watched them at work. Merlin had the idea of taking a large series of photographs of the settled areas of New South Wales and Victoria and sending them overseas to encourage immigration to the colonies. Bernhardt welcomed this project, which on completion was billed as Holtermann's Great International Travelling Exposition. The collection won medals at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition and the 1878 Paris Exposition Universelle Internationale<sup>187</sup>.

Bernhardt Holtermann is chiefly remembered today for this vast collection of photographic plates which he sponsored and his family preserved. The photographs of Hill End and Gulgong in particular have made possible the reconstruction of those settlements in the style of their heyday during the 1870s<sup>188</sup>. In 1952, 3,500 glass plate negatives were found in a garden shed in Chatswood, and were transferred by Eric Keast Burke to the Mitchell Library in Sydney for restoration and preservation.

### **Holtermann's German Club**

After Sydney Grammar School left Cleveland House in 1883, Thomas Emerson operated a boarding house there in 1884<sup>189</sup>. Hermann A. Holtermann took it over in about 1885 and advertised board and residence, calling it Holtermann's Club House<sup>190</sup>. He continued advertising for boarders until November 1888<sup>191</sup>. Occasionally the Club advertised in German, mentioning German cooking ("Deutsche Küche")<sup>192</sup>. Philip Geeves writes that Bernhardt Holtermann was a member of the Club in 1885, the year of his death<sup>193</sup>. Hermann Holtermann was still living in Cleveland House in 1890<sup>194</sup> but by April he had moved out and the house was advertised to rent.



Figure 29 Ad for Holtermann's Club (*Bathurst Press*, 21 January 1888)

## S & D Reid, publishers – 1888-1891

### Literary supplements for country newspapers

From 1877 to 1888, *Cameron's Literary Supplement* was published by Cameron, Laing & Co, of 112 Flinders Lane East, Melbourne. During that time, 34 novels were serialised, 24 of them by Australian authors, including Marcus Clarke. The supplements were purchased by country papers from towns all over Victoria and other colonies of Australia and New Zealand, and provided a major and regular source of locally-written popular fiction to many thousands of readers<sup>195</sup>.

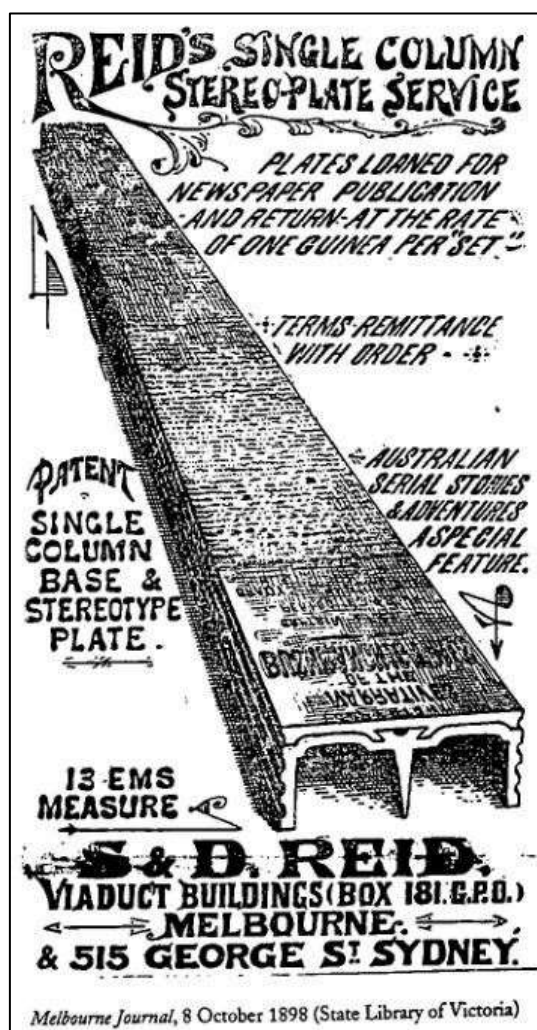


Figure 30 Stereotype plate (*Melbourne Journal*, 8 October, 1898)

In November 1886, brothers Stuart and David Reid took over Cameron, Laing & Co.<sup>196</sup> The Reid brothers held the patent for a method of mounting stereotype plates, which they rented out to newspapers to print the content directly in their papers<sup>197</sup>. In 1888, the two brothers decided to expand their publishing operation in New South Wales and opened a branch next to Cleveland House at 53 Buckingham Street. They advertised for staff for both the country and the town office<sup>198</sup>. *Sands' Directory* records that S & D Reid operated there in 1890 and 1891, using a Bedford Street address<sup>199</sup>. By 1913, they were called the Provincial Press Agency and had moved to 515 George Street, Sydney<sup>200</sup>.



## William Ezold's boarding and pianos – 1890-1891

### Ezold's piano warehouse

William Ezold, a native of Dresden, worked for the piano importers Nicholson and Ascherberg of Collins Street, Melbourne in the 1870s. In August 1877 he decided to move to Sydney and start his own business as a piano maker and tuner from his home at 215 Goulburn St, Surry Hills. By then he already had over twenty years' experience in the piano business in Germany, America and Australia<sup>201</sup>. Encouraged by the amount of patronage he received, he opened a piano warehouse at 46 Oxford Street six months later. He made his own pianos, and was also the local agent for the German piano brand Bechstein<sup>202</sup>.

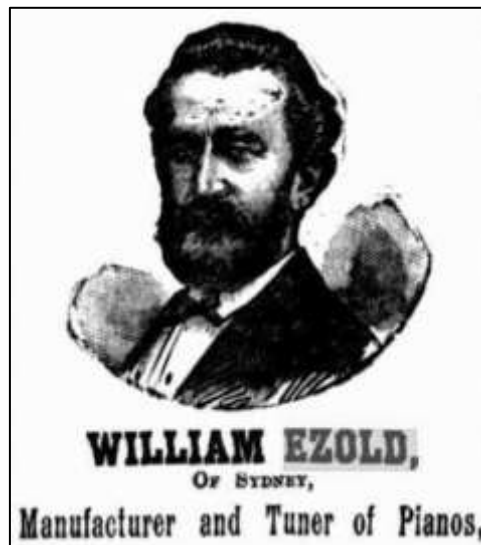


Figure 31 William Ezold (*Goulburn Penny Post*, 6 August 1889)

In 1879-1880, the Sydney International Exhibition was held at the Garden Palace in the Sydney Domain. This event had great importance as it brought world attention to Australia and its wealth of natural and cultural resources. It was also the first time many Australians had the opportunity to see new products and ideas from around the world<sup>203</sup>. An upright piano made by William Ezold was demonstrated at the Exhibition. The *Evening News* commented that it was “really a nice cottage instrument, of excellent tone and considerable power, and is also nicely finished. Mr. Ezold deserves great credit for his workmanship”. It won the First Degree of Merit in its category<sup>204</sup>.

Also on display was a grand piano made by the German Carl Bechstein and imported by William Ezold especially for the Exhibition (Ezold's name is marked on the instrument). It is one of the few remaining artefacts that can be positively identified as being exhibited at the event. It won first prize in the musical instruments section and has remained in Australia ever since, currently in the collection of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney<sup>205</sup>.

In 1880, William was joined in the business by his brother Emile<sup>206</sup> until 1882 when Emile started his own piano business in Evans Street, Balmain East<sup>207</sup>. In February 1882, the hazards of shipping were highlighted when the barque *Romeo* ran ashore one night near Gabo Island and was wrecked with the loss of all cargo, including a consignment of eleven pianos for William Ezold<sup>208</sup>.

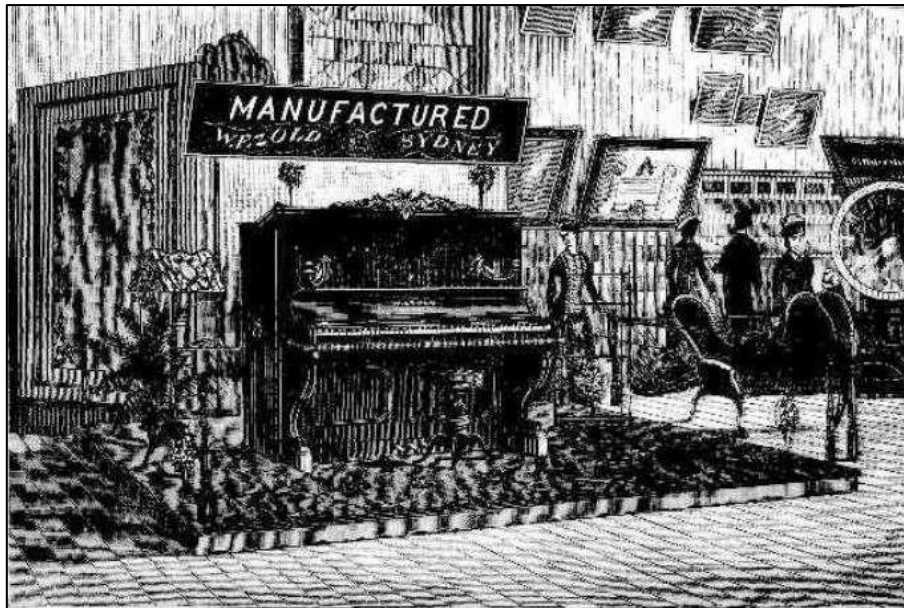


Figure 32 Ezold piano, 1879 International Exhibition (SMH)

### Pianos and German cooking in Cleveland House

In May 1890, William Ezold took over the Club House and boarding establishment at Cleveland House from Hermann Holtermann. It was advertised that “the well-known commodious boarding establishment has been lately refitted, with every conceivable comfort added to it”. It boasted a “first class table (Deutsche Küche), large airy rooms, charges moderate, handy for country visitors”<sup>209</sup>.

Ezold continued to advertise his services as a piano maker, repairer and tuner from the outbuildings behind Cleveland House until January 1891<sup>210</sup>, but by April he had moved the piano business to Denison Street, Waverley<sup>211</sup>. He eventually moved to Macksville in the northern part of New South Wales, where he became a dairy farmer and a Justice of the Peace. He died there in 1907<sup>212</sup>.



Figure 33 Ezold’s Bechstein piano, 1879 International Exhibition (MAAS)

## **Summons & Whiddon's cordial factory – 1891-1893**

### **Summons & Blackman in Hutchinson Street**

Everett Summons was the grandson of a convict, and some of his own sons went into the aerated waters business, including James, John and Charles<sup>213</sup>. From about 1873, James Summons operated an aerated waters factory in Hutchinson St, Surry Hills, near Fitzroy Street<sup>214</sup>. Robert Blackman became a partner in the firm in January 1879, which was renamed Summons & Blackman. Blackman died in July 1889<sup>215</sup>.

### **Summons & Whiddon take over the Barrett & Co. site**

Following the death of Robert Blackman, William Henry Whiddon (1858-1949) joined the firm in September 1890, and it was renamed Summons & Whiddon. The partners commenced operating a ginger beer, aerated water and cordial factory at 55 Buckingham Street, in the former Barrett & Co. buildings<sup>216</sup>. The business operated until November 1892 when the plant and machinery were advertised for auction<sup>217</sup>. The buildings next to Cleveland House were advertised for rent the next month, consisting of a factory, large yards, stables and sheds<sup>218</sup>.

In 1895, William Whiddon entered the New South Wales Treasury as a clerk. He eventually rose to become the New South Wales Commissioner of Taxation in January 1914, and then in 1931 became the first director of the State lottery<sup>219</sup>.



## **Alexander and Julia Robb's boarding house – 1891-1895**

### **Bachelor's retreat at Cleveland House**

Alexander Robb married Julia Ann Edwards in Sydney in 1882<sup>220</sup>, and Joseph F. Palmer married Julia's sister Ellen in 1879<sup>221</sup>. The Robbs took over the boarding house at Cleveland House in about October 1891<sup>222</sup>, and the Palmers were also living there<sup>223</sup>. Alexander also worked as a contractor. The next year, the house was being advertised as a "bachelor's retreat"<sup>224</sup>. Advertisements highlighted the attractions of the boarding house: "a good table, spacious rooms, verandahs, cricket, modern gym"<sup>225</sup>.

The Robbs operated the boarding house until December 1895<sup>226</sup>. After they left Cleveland House, they moved to northern New South Wales, where Alexander had performed contracting work in the past. Julia Robb died at Nimbin in August 1915<sup>227</sup>.



## Peach & Jones, Sydney Bottle Exchange – 1893-1903

### Illegal trafficking in empties

Before the modern era of recycling, most soft drink, cordial and beer bottles were manufactured with the company's trademarked name embossed on the bottle, and were meant to be returned to the original company after use so they could be refilled and used again. The bottles cost more to make than the contents<sup>228</sup>, and the makers considered that they were selling the contents to the customers, but not charging for the bottles because they expected to get them back. However, it was not unusual for the smaller manufacturers (especially in country towns) to buy any available brand of empty bottles from dealers, in order to save the large expense of making their own. The big city manufacturers were losing a great deal of money to the illegal bottle trade<sup>229</sup>.

The *Trade Marks Act* of 1865 was meant to protect trademarked items like bottles, but it had been too vague to allow offenders to be prosecuted. In December 1887, the Protection of Trades Marks and Exchange Association was formed to lobby the New South Wales Government to amend the Act so that the widespread trafficking in trademarked empties could be stopped. Edward Hogben (of Barrett & Co.) was appointed chairman with Albert Henry Brooks as secretary<sup>230</sup>.

The following year, the Association brought a number of test cases to court against aerated water manufacturers caught using other makers' trademarked bottles, but they all failed because the magistrates ruled that was almost impossible to prove "fraudulent intent" by the resellers. The defendants argued they had bought the empty bottles from dealers and collectors and could do what they liked with them, but the manufacturers claimed they had an agreement with the hotels and shops to sell the contents but not the bottles, which they expected the sellers to collect and return as empties<sup>231</sup>.

In an attempt to reduce this illegal trafficking, a Bottle Exchange was established at 44 Abercrombie Street Redfern in June 1890 to collect empty bottles, pay the collector a fee, and then redistribute the bottles to the rightful owners. In the future, the Exchange would be the only legally authorised receiving place for bottles, and a collecting and cartage fee would be paid<sup>232</sup>. The next month, Albert Brooks reported to the Association that in one month over 44,000 trademarked bottles had been brought into the exchange, and that most of them had been returned to the manufacturers<sup>233</sup>.

By 1892, Robert Atkyns Peach (1862-1948) had taken over from Brooks as secretary of the Association<sup>234</sup>. Peach was probably working for the cordial manufacturers Hume & Pegrum in Regent Street Chippendale when he married Lydia Ellen Pegrum in May 1887. She was the daughter of William Pegrum, one of the owners of the company<sup>235</sup>.

### Sydney Bottle Exchange

In April 1893, the Sydney Bottle Exchange commenced operation at 55 Buckingham Street in the recently-vacated Summons & Whiddon cordial factory behind Cleveland House, operated by Robert Peach and Thomas Hough Jones<sup>236</sup>. In May 1893, an amendment to the *Trade Marks Act* was finally passed by the Government to effectively deal with the enormous piracy in trademarked empty bottles. A picnic on Sydney Harbour was held by the members of the Association to celebrate this success. The drink manufacturers looked forward to their losses plummeting as a result of the stronger law<sup>237</sup>.

But it was not until May 1895 when, acting on a tip-off, Robert Peach travelled to Albury and found that the entire town was illegally using aerated water bottles from Sydney manufacturers. In a test of the new legislation, all four cordial manufacturers were taken to court. Three settled out of court

and the fourth was fined<sup>238</sup>. In 1896, Peach & Jones purchased the Cleveland House outbuildings they had been renting until then<sup>239</sup>. The bottle exchange operated until 1903 when it closed down<sup>240</sup> and the house and the outbuildings were purchased by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

## **Government Labour Bureau – 1896-1903**

### **Boom and bust**

After the severe depression of the 1840s, gold discoveries in 1851 in New South Wales heralded a long economic boom, which lasted into the late 1880s. The huge number of hopeful miners who arrived during this period and stayed to stimulate economic activity can be seen in Sydney's growth: from a population just under 40,000 in 1851, to 150,000 in 1871 then nearly half a million in 1901. Apart from gold, wool, wheat and minerals became major exports later in the nineteenth century. The London capital market underpinned the country's growing wealth, which was on view in the form of impressive public and private buildings, created in Pymont's golden sandstone.

However, over-expansion led to another economic depression. A prolonged period of dry spells known as the Federation Drought started with a widespread El Niño in 1888 and continued until 1902, driving many unemployed rural workers to the cities to find work. The inflow of British capital slowed after the collapse of the large Baring Brothers bank in London in 1890, after the bank had taken excessive risks on poor Argentinian and Uruguayan investments. Barings was bailed out by a consortium of other British banks, but the crisis caused great turmoil in the international financial system for some years, including in Australia. Industrial unrest such as the maritime workers' strike of 1890 and the shearers' strike of 1891 contributed to a sense of foreboding as the economy spiralled downward in the 1890s<sup>241</sup>.

### **Dealing with the banking crash**

Following an asset price collapse in 1888, companies that had borrowed money started to declare bankruptcy. A major banking crisis rapidly unfolded in 1893 as banks suspended their activities, notably Sydney's largest bank, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. By late 1895, 14 of Australia's trading banks had collapsed. High unemployment in the cities persisted until after 1903. The 1893 banking crisis was so severe because Australian banks had little regulation in their activities, they printed their own currency, there was no central bank of last resort, and they were not guaranteed by the Government against collapse. In Australia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were four large banks with over 100 branches each that together had about half of the banking business.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) was founded in 1911 by an Act of Parliament, largely to address these concerns. The new bank undertook both savings and trading business and received a Federal Government guarantee against failure. In 1920, the CBA became a central bank, taking over responsibility for issuing bank notes. This regulatory structure, with further improvements over time, allowed the Australian banking system to deal with later economic downturns, such as the 1930s Great Depression and the 2008 Global Financial Crisis with a greater degree of public confidence in the financial system than in the 1890s<sup>242</sup>.

### **Dealing with unemployment**

In an effort to deal with the rising unemployment, especially in Sydney and Newcastle, the New South Wales Government established the Government Labour Bureau in February 1892, with the former Newcastle mayor and politician Joseph Creer appointed Superintendent. It was located in a government building on George Street near Christ Church St Laurence.

The Bureau established shelters for the homeless, distributed Government-supplied blankets and rations along with publicly-donated clothing, to assist people impoverished by unemployment. It also established a register of the unemployed aimed at placing these people into work. Those with appropriate qualifications were sent to employers who had vacancies. Labour settlements on Crown

lands were established to provide accommodation and paid work for the homeless. Many men were encouraged to travel to the country to fossick for gold with free rail passes, miners' rights and rations<sup>243</sup>. Over 41,000 men registered for work in the next three years to January 1895<sup>244</sup>.



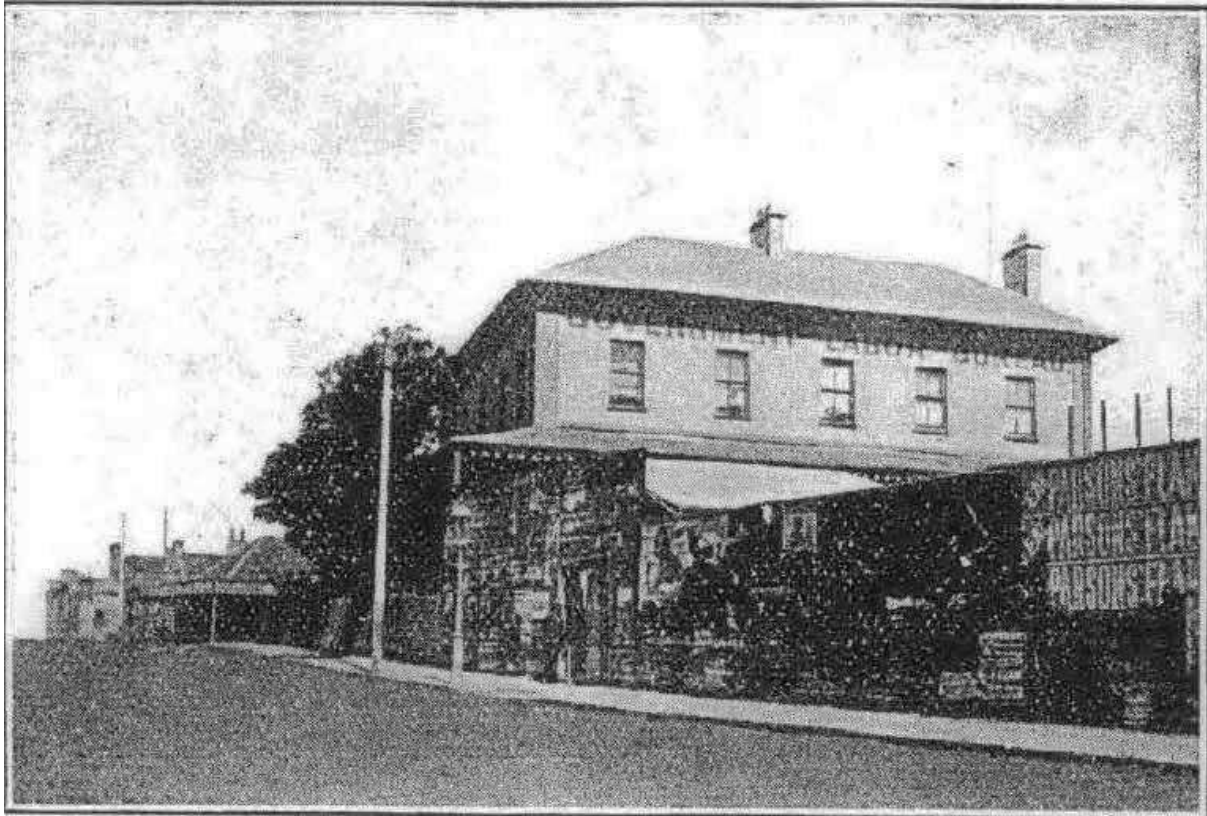
Figure 34 Joseph Creer (*Australian Star*, 11 April 1902)

### **Government Labour Bureau in Cleveland House**

In October 1896, the Labour Bureau moved to larger premises at Cleveland House to help deal with a steadily increasing number of applicants for work. The shelter shed from George Street was demolished and re-erected in the yard next to the house, providing shelter from the wind and weather to men waiting for employment<sup>245</sup>. It was reported that Cleveland House still had underground cellars, wall staples and other things reminiscent of convict days<sup>246</sup>. Notable Unemployment Relief projects in Sydney were the fencing of Centennial Park, building the Alexandra Canal at Shea's Creek, and building the Botany sewerage farm<sup>247</sup>.

In July 1900, following complaints about the large number of applications being made for work at the Bureau, and allegations of favouritism, the Government formed a board of Labour Commissioners to solve the unemployment problem, located at 42 Young Street, and directed by Mr. W F Schey<sup>248</sup>. The Commissioners were immediately given control of the Labour Bureau. In December 1901, Joseph Creer resigned as Superintendent, and Labour Commissioner Frank Brennan took charge of the Bureau<sup>249</sup>.

By June 1903, there were complaints about how the unemployed were being dealt with by the Bureau. People were not happy with the low grade of work (especially stone breaking), the very low pay (less than the minimum wage), the rotation system of allocating workers for only a few weeks, and the priority given to some workers over others (e.g. married men over single men)<sup>250</sup>. In July 1903, the Labour Bureau moved out of Cleveland House and was absorbed into the Labour Commission of New South Wales at 3-5 Cumberland Street<sup>251</sup>.



**Figure 35 Government Labour Bureau in Cleveland House (Annable)**

Despite these complaints, figures released in 1904 showed that the number of registrations with the Government Labour Bureau was 14,062 in 1895, but steadily declined to 1,975 in 1903<sup>252</sup>. So by the time the Government Labour Bureau left Cleveland House, the Depression was almost over and the Bureau had done its job.



## Mount Magdala refuge and convent – 1903-1946

### House of the Good Shepherd

The House of the Good Shepherd was opened in 1848 by the Irish Sisters of Charity in Carters' Barracks (on the corner of present-day Eddy Avenue and Pitt Street), to provide accommodation for destitute women and girls over the age of fourteen. It was run by Mother Mary Scholastica Gibbons (1817-1901), an Irish nun who arrived in Sydney in 1834 with her family. Mother Ignatius, the Head Superior, died after a short illness in March 1853 and Sister Mary Teresa Walsh died on the same day, leaving Mother Mary Scholastica alone at the Refuge without trained helpers. Archbishop John Bede Polding sent two lay people, the Misses Clarke to help, but Mother Scholastica still found it very difficult to continue the work of the refuge<sup>253</sup>.



Figure 36 Carters' Barracks 1870 (SLNSW)

Dr. Polding's solution was to found a new Order at the refuge. He went to Rome in 1854 with the outline of a new Institute sketched out in his mind, leaving Mother Scholastica in charge. Pope Pius XIX approved the idea, and Dr. Polding returned to Sydney early in 1856, bringing three young Benedictine nuns back with him. In February 1857 a new order called the Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded, led by Mother Scholastica, who trained the new Sisters to continue the work at Carters' Barracks. In 1866, the name of the Order was changed to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, to avoid confusion with the older-established order of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, who had arrived in Melbourne in 1862.

The Home received women and girls from the Courts and via voluntary placement. But in 1901, the Sisters had to leave the Pitt Street premises to make way for the new Central Railway Station, and the residents were transferred to St. Magdalen's Retreat in Tempe. The Order purchased the Toxteth Estate at Glebe Point from George Wigram Allen<sup>254</sup>, making it the headquarters of their Convent and St. Scholastica's College for girls.

### Mount Magdala Refuge in Cleveland House

In 1903, the Good Samaritans purchased the entire area of the original 1855 subdivision of Cleveland House (including the Peach & Jones property), except the two lots purchased in the 1886 subdivision<sup>255</sup>. In March 1904, the Sisters opened an imposing new four-storey building to the south of Cleveland House facing Buckingham Street, to house a refuge for women and a commercial

laundry<sup>256</sup>. The laundry and a needlework room on the ground floor were operated by the women staying at the refuge to provide an income for the Good Samaritans and occupations for the residents. The west wing of Cleveland House was used as a Convent for the nuns and was connected to the new building via an elevated link<sup>257</sup>.

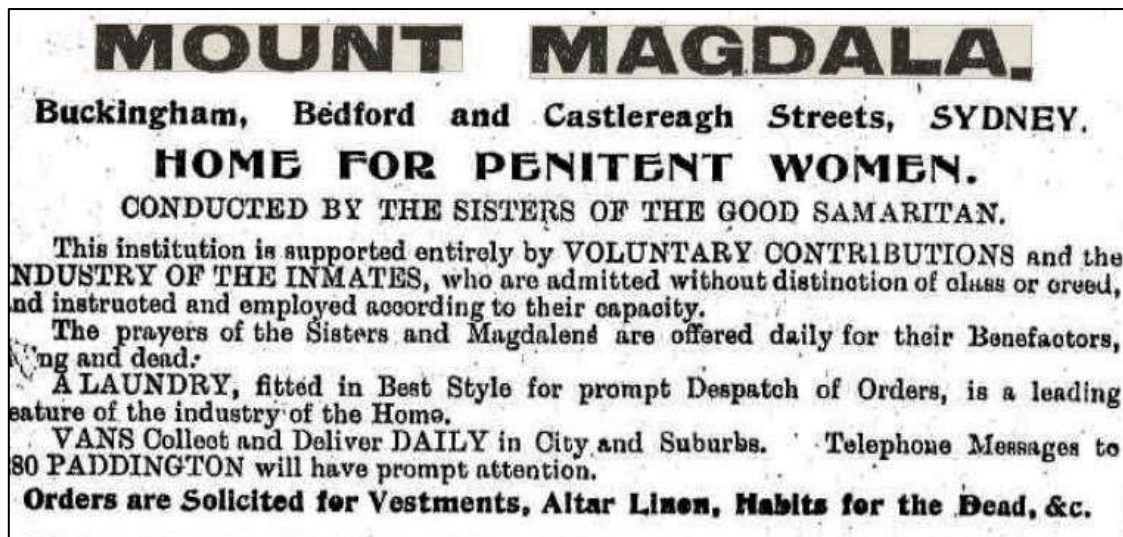


Figure 37 Advertisement for Mount Magdala laundry (*Catholic Press*, 8 March 1906)

The refuge was known as Mount Magdala or the St. Magdalen's Refuge, and accommodated up to 140 women. The aim was to provide women with a place of refuge in the city and restore them to friends or obtain suitable employment for them<sup>258</sup>. The ground floor was the laundry and needlework room, and the first floor contained a kitchen, dining room and recreation rooms. The upper floors were devoted to dormitories, infirmary and dispensary. The laundry was the only one in the southern hemisphere to use electricity to carry out the laundry work. Electrically-driven fans removed the hot air from the laundry and dormitory<sup>259</sup>.

From February 1905, the Refuge advertised its laundry service as Mount Magdala, and for the first year solicited orders for "vestments, altar linen, habits for the dead, etc."<sup>260</sup>. But the Refuge suffered great financial distress during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Income from the laundry had fallen off considerably, the equipment was in disrepair and the cost of living had risen, leaving the Sisters unable to meet the heavy weekly expenses, especially the very high cost of electricity for all the machines. They planned to put the property on the market, but after negotiations with real estate agents, this did not eventuate<sup>261</sup>.

### **A Home for aged women**

In 1936, the Good Samaritans decided to answer a pressing need for a Home for aged and infirm women<sup>262</sup>. The building was refitted for its new purpose: the ground floor laundry was turned into special rooms for frail women who couldn't climb the stairs to the dormitories<sup>263</sup>. The homeless women from the refuge were transferred to the St. Magdalen's Retreat at Tempe. The garden with flowers and vegetables remained, and by 1939 there were 52 residents at the Home. To replace the income previously obtained from the laundry, the residents paid a modest amount to stay there, although the Sisters were still heavily dependent on fund-raising activities, charitable donations and the occasional government support.

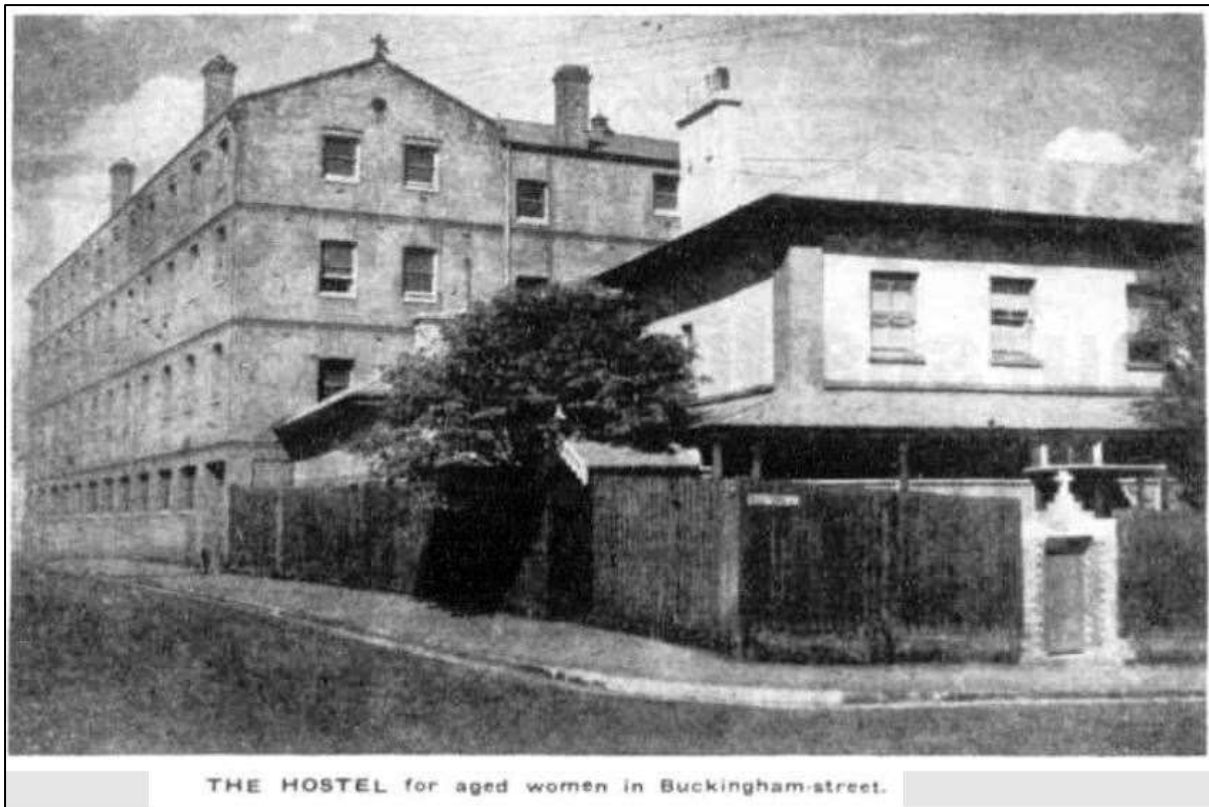


Figure 38 Hostel for Aged Women behind Cleveland House (*Catholic Weekly*, 27 March 1947)

Despite its best efforts, Mount Magdala was a financial millstone around the institute's neck from its beginnings, and in 1946 the Sisters decided to hand the management of the Home to the trained nurses of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who had arrived in Australia a few years earlier<sup>264</sup>. In 1948, a Good Samaritan Training Centre for girls was established at the former St. Magdalen's Retreat in Tempe, and the Order must have decided that that was what they were better able to do, rather than looking after aged and infirm women, who required more medical expertise than they were qualified to provide.



## Our Lady of Consolation Home – 1946-1958

### Medical services for women and children

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) were founded by the French nun Helene de Chappotin in 1877 in India as an institute to provide medical services to women and children. By the time of the death of the founding Mother in 1904, the institute was operating in 24 countries. In 1941, the Franciscans were established in Australia when they took over a Seminary in Banyo, Brisbane<sup>265</sup>. In July 1946, England and America sent six young Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to replace the Good Samaritans in their home for aged women in Buckingham Street<sup>266</sup>. It was used for the same purpose, and was called Our Lady of Consolation Home<sup>267</sup>. The Sisters took in elderly women who had no family to look after them.



Figure 39 Our Lady of Consolation Home (FMM history)

### Our Lady of Consolation Home at Cleveland House

The Sisters found that the property was in a bad state of repair. In the aftermath of wartime labour and materials shortages, there were urgent plumbing, painting and carpentering jobs waiting to be done. The laundry was also a serious problem because the Sisters did all their own laundry and the one old-fashioned washing machine had broken down<sup>268</sup>. In October, 1946, the Sisters set about raising funds for urgent renovations for the premises, with monthly dances, as well as card evenings, appeals and other activities<sup>269</sup>.

In February 1947, the Mother Superior told a fund-raising committee that the one thing she would dearly love to have was a lift, as it was difficult for the elderly women and the staff to move around the four-storey building without one, and the stairs were too narrow for a stretcher<sup>270</sup>. The residents are charged a small amount for their accommodation, but the Sisters were in a permanent state of fund-raising for several years. While the Government did not provide aged care facilities at that time, it still recognised the value of organisations such as the Franciscan Missionaries, and in September 1949, the Minister for Health, Mr. C. A. Kelly, MLA, announced that the Government was donating £5,000 towards the renovations that were being undertaken. By then, 91 women were being cared for at Buckingham Street<sup>271</sup>.



Figure 40 Nun and elderly resident (*Catholic Weekly*, 27 March 1947)

The residents were not confined in the Home, and those who were mobile enough were often seen going to the shops with a basket under their arm or walking in Prince Alfred Park. The Sisters tried very hard to make the Home a pleasant place for the residents to spend their last years. By August 1950, large-scale renovations were under way, including the much-anticipated lift. The cost estimate was at least £30,000, but the plan was to expand the facilities to accommodate 130 women. Plans for a new chapel on the ground floor were drawn up, but this was a project for the future<sup>272</sup>.

### **Transformation and finally a lift**

By August 1951, the renovations were well under way, and the Home was being transformed from its former rundown gloominess to a place of light, colour and modernity. The architect, Thomas Maloney of King Street, had planned an almost complete redesign of the interior of the building in order to make the best use of natural light and the space available. The lift had finally been installed, complete with hand rail and seat for the convenience of the less mobile residents. The aim of the

Sisters was to completely remove any “institutional” atmosphere. New amenities were a library, and facilities for the screening of films and the staging of concerts<sup>273</sup>.

Finally, by October 1953, the four-year transformation of the Home was completed, and the modernised building was opened by Archbishop O’Brien. The new chapel was still in planning stage, but a lack of funds had prevented this project from starting. Some of the nuns were trained nurses, and four honorary physicians visited the Home regularly to attend the sick. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary had opened seven houses in Australia since coming to this country in 1941, including caring for lepers in Fantome Island and an Aboriginal mission on Palm Island<sup>274</sup>.

With the number of residents increasing, in October 1959 the Home was moved to larger premises constructed on a former golf course at Rooty Hill in western Sydney, and residents were transported from Cleveland House to the new building<sup>275</sup>. The Home still operates from this location today.

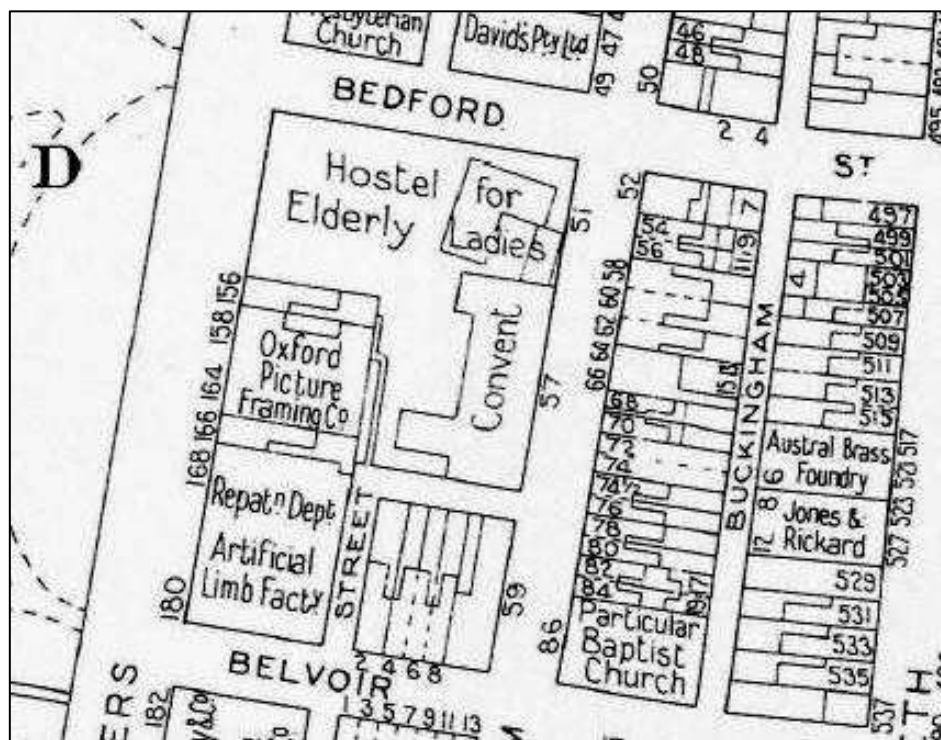


Figure 41 City Building Surveyor's Map, Sheet 15, c1956



## New South Wales Society for Crippled Children – 1958-1988

### The scourge of polio in Australia

Polio is a highly contagious viral infection that can cause lifelong paralysis and was once widely fatal. It is mainly spread through contact with infected faeces, leading to gastrointestinal infection which may progress to paralysis or meningitis. About 5% of people hospitalised with polio die from it, and half of the survivors suffer permanent paralysis. But in 90% of cases polio has no symptoms, and most sufferers may not have been aware (or told) that they had the disease, but could still infect others<sup>276</sup>.

Polio was first reported in Australia in the late nineteenth century, and within a few years it was endemic in the colony. The disease caused great fear in the community - there were bigger killers and more common ailments, but the prospect of permanent paralysis and disability was terrifying, particularly in a nation that prided itself on its outdoor, sporting lifestyle. Major epidemics occurred in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, and almost every Australian either knew or knew of someone with polio. Adding to the fear of the disease, nobody seemed to really know how it was contracted, and people with polio were often avoided or discouraged from mixing in society.

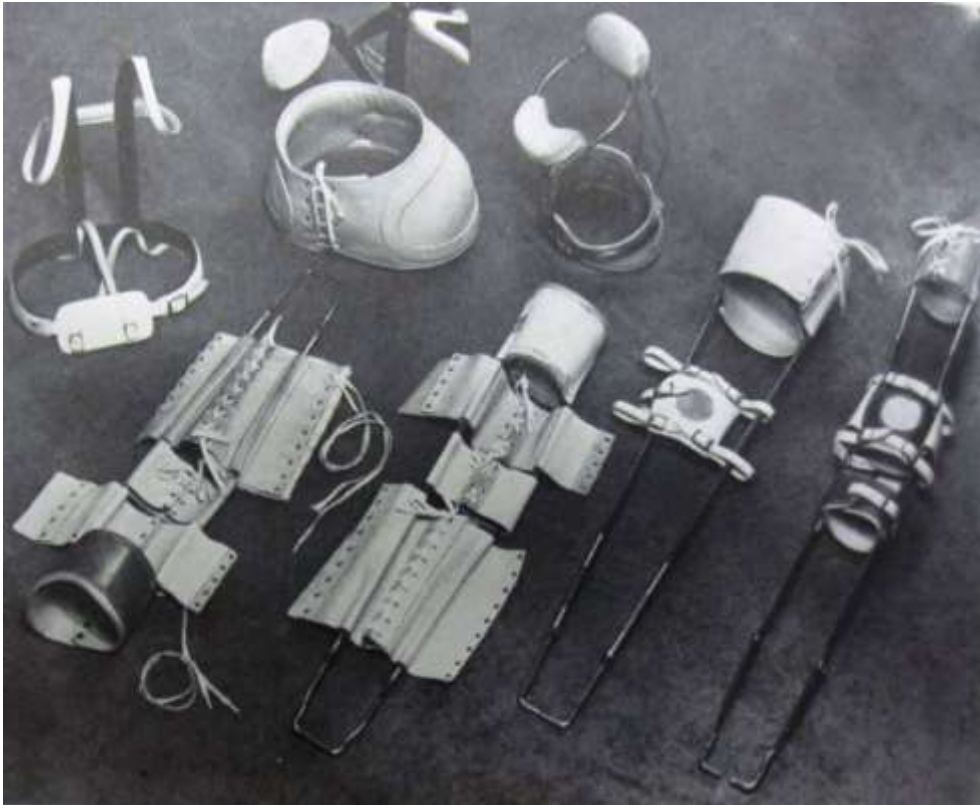


Figure 42 Appliances for polio victims (Society for Crippled Children archives)

But probably the worst aspect of polio was that nobody was sure how to treat it. There was no drug treatment, only braces on the legs to help sufferers move around. Those with paralysed lungs had to endure up to several years in an iron lung to keep breathing. Then in 1955, the American researcher Dr. Jonas Salk became a hero overnight when he announced that he had successfully trialed a vaccine against polio. When it arrived in Australia and children started lining up for their injections the next year, the age of the great polio epidemics was effectively over<sup>277</sup>.

It is hard to overestimate the huge impact of the Salk vaccine: by 1953, Australia had just come through its worst ever polio epidemic – at its peak about 10,000 young people, mostly children and teenagers, contracted polio in one year<sup>278</sup>. More than 1,000 young people died during the epidemics between 1946 and 1955<sup>279</sup>. In 1961 the Salk vaccine was superseded by a more effective oral vaccine developed by Salk’s colleague Albert Sabin. A minor outbreak of polio occurred in 1961-1962 due to a temporary shortage of vaccine after a contaminated batch was discovered.

With no drugs or any other cure, polio was very difficult to treat. Early management practices for paralysed muscles tried to rest the muscles and use splints to prevent the further tightening of muscles and connected tissues. But in the 1930s an Australian bush nurse, Sister Elizabeth Kenny (1880-1952), challenged this approach by devising a form of physical treatment using hot moist packs to relieve muscle spasms and early exercise to maximise the strength of unaffected muscle fibres. With the encouragement of the Australian government, she took this treatment to the United States in 1940, where her ideas slowly won acceptance, and by the middle of the twentieth century had become the hallmark for the treatment of paralytic polio. In combination with medications to reduce muscular spasms, Sister Kenny’s treatment is still used to treat paralytic poliomyelitis. The American actors Alan Alda and Martin Sheen have credited her methods with their recovery from childhood polio.



**Figure 43 Elizabeth Kenny, 1915**

The World Health Organisation declared Australia polio-free in 2000, but the disease is still very much with us: it is estimated that there are 400,000 Australian polio survivors, and Polio Australia says this makes them the single largest physical disability group in the country. Decades after they contracted polio, new symptoms can appear in many survivors as post-polio syndrome (PPS), even those who did not have symptoms when they were young. This condition has only recently been acknowledged by survivors and the medical profession, as polio had been off the medical radar for so long that PPS was being misdiagnosed as arthritis or other age-related conditions. Like polio itself, PPS has no cure, and requires management to relieve the symptoms<sup>280</sup>.

## **A society to support disabled children**

The New South Wales Society for Crippled Children was a charitable organisation founded in 1929 by the Rotary Club of Sydney as a result of a poliomyelitis epidemic. It was designed to support the growing number of children who suffered from polio, tuberculosis and other disabling diseases<sup>281</sup>. Rotarians had been doing this work via their Crippled Children Service Committee, but the increased need for services led them to establish a permanent body to expand on their activities. These included the provision of medical and surgical treatment, educational facilities, transport, vocational training, and the necessary surgical appliances for disabled children. About £15,000 and the office facilities being used by the Committee were available for the Society to commence work<sup>282</sup>.

The Rotary Club had about 1,000 children registered, of whom 453 had been examined at a series of clinics at Sydney Hospital, and 75% of these cases were listed as hopeful. The first task of the Society was to act as a clearing-house to provide treatment services to the many children who could be benefited or cured, but who had been neglected due to ignorance of available services, lack of financial means or lack of transport. The second task was the provision of proper education for these children. While this should properly be the work of the State, it had been impracticable due to difficulties in transport. Thirdly, vocational training would be provided to equip the children to follow some useful occupation<sup>283</sup>.

By 1950, the Society's activities in support of disabled children had expanded to include the Margaret Reid Orthopaedic Hospital in St Ives, the Strathallan Orthopaedic Hospital in Turramurra, the Beverley Park Hospital in Campbelltown, occupational therapy rooms in Sydney, four country clinics and three Orana clubs<sup>284</sup>.

## **The Orana Club – readjusting to normal life**

In 1944, the Orana Club was formed in O'Connell Street Sydney by parents and friends of disabled children, to provide social and educational opportunities for adolescents over 15 years old<sup>285</sup>. Orana is an indigenous word for "welcome", and the Club aimed to provide a welcoming environment to help disabled children adjust to everyday life after living so long in hospital. The Club was run by Ms. Jean Garside, who was recognised for her efforts with Membership of the British Empire (MBE) in 1968. Entertainment on Club nights included playing chess, reading, playing records, and film nights. The more active members played games of table tennis. Rotarians drove those who could not use public transport<sup>286</sup>. In the photograph below, Jean Garside is the third from the right in the back row.



**Figure 44 Orana Club, 1946 (Townsend)**

In 1950, the Orana Club moved to the basement of the MLC Assurance Company at Chatsworth House in Bent Street, Sydney. This had recently been converted from an air raid shelter to a new branch of the Society. It was equipped with Occupational Therapy facilities, a library, kitchen and a large handicraft centre to be used as a workshop<sup>287</sup>.

### **Cleveland House becomes the Society's headquarters**

In 1958, the Society for Crippled Children purchased Cleveland House and by the early 1960s had fully established it as their headquarters. Firstly, the house itself was converted for use as the administration centre for the Society's many activities. Then in 1961 the Strathallan Hospital moved from Turramurra to the second and third floors of the four-storey women's refuge building facing Buckingham Street, and became known as the Cleveland Hospital and Clinic for Crippled Children<sup>288</sup>. This allowed plenty of room for staff to examine and care for the young patients.



**Figure 45 Opening of new hospital ward, 1961 (SLNSW)**

The Orana Club occupied the top floor, and the Orthopaedic Appliance Section was located in part of the ground floor. With the co-operation of the Education Department, a small school was built in the spacious grounds. A boardroom and adequate space for daytime committee meetings also became realities. A small polio epidemic occurred in 1961-2, resulting in increasing registrations, but the facilities coped with the added load without difficulty. A highlight in 1962 was a visit to Sydney by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. At the Society's request, it was arranged for the procession to pass by Cleveland House. Many of the children were able to see the Royal couple at quite close range<sup>289</sup>.



**Figure 46 Splint room, Cleveland House, 1961 (SLNSW)**

Occupational therapy was always an important part of the Society's activities from the 1930s, especially in craft work. The department was moved from the MLC Building in Spring Street to Cleveland House, sharing a floor with the Orana Club. Facilities were provided for basket-weaving and for collecting used stamps. In August 1967, a new building was constructed on the vacant ground facing Chalmers Street, to provide a modern workshop to cope with the increasing demands for its services, and where more sophisticated industrial work was undertaken by the disabled.

A further step was to establish at Cleveland House a joint company called Hability Industries Pty Ltd, a sheltered workshop formed in conjunction with the Wheelchair and Disabled Association, where disabled people made furniture and toys for sale. The flower and vegetable garden, originally established by the Good Samaritans many decades earlier, was filled in and used as an accessible lawn area for the patients, and was later altered for parking.



**Figure 47 Sir John Northcott**

In 1986, Cleveland House and the surrounding buildings were sold to the developer Denerin Pty Ltd for \$3 million<sup>290</sup>. In 1995, the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children changed its name to the Northcott Society, a public company operating as Northcott Disability Services. The name was in honour of Governor Sir John Northcott, the Society's Patron during his term as Governor from 1946 to 1957. He was the first Australian-born State Governor of New South Wales<sup>291</sup>. From 2012, it has simply been known as Northcott, with headquarters at Parramatta<sup>292</sup>.

### **May Gibbs – benefactor of disabled children**

May Gibbs, MBE (1877-1969), was one of Australia's foremost children's authors and illustrators. She is best known today for the story *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepoot and Cuddlepie*, featuring two gumnut babies and their escape from the big bad Banksia men. She was born in Sydenham in Kent, England. Her parents migrated to Australia in 1881, firstly to South Australia and then to Western Australia, settling in Perth.



**Figure 48 May Gibbs (Sydney Mechanics School of Arts)**

When she was 23, she travelled to England to pursue art studies. She moved between the two countries for several years before finally settling in Sydney in 1913. She earned her living as an illustrator, and in 1916 published *Gumnut Babies*, the first of the Gumnut books she wrote and illustrated. Her work was extremely popular, and when the book *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* was published in 1918, it sold 17,000 copies on its first release.

May married Bertram Kelly in 1919, and in 1925 they built a house named Nutcote on the shores of Neutral Bay, Sydney. She died in November 1969, and bequeathed all her papers and copyrights to the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children (Northcott) and the Spastic Centre of New South Wales (now called the Cerebral Palsy Alliance). The residue of her estate, valued at over £42,000 was given to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)<sup>293</sup>.

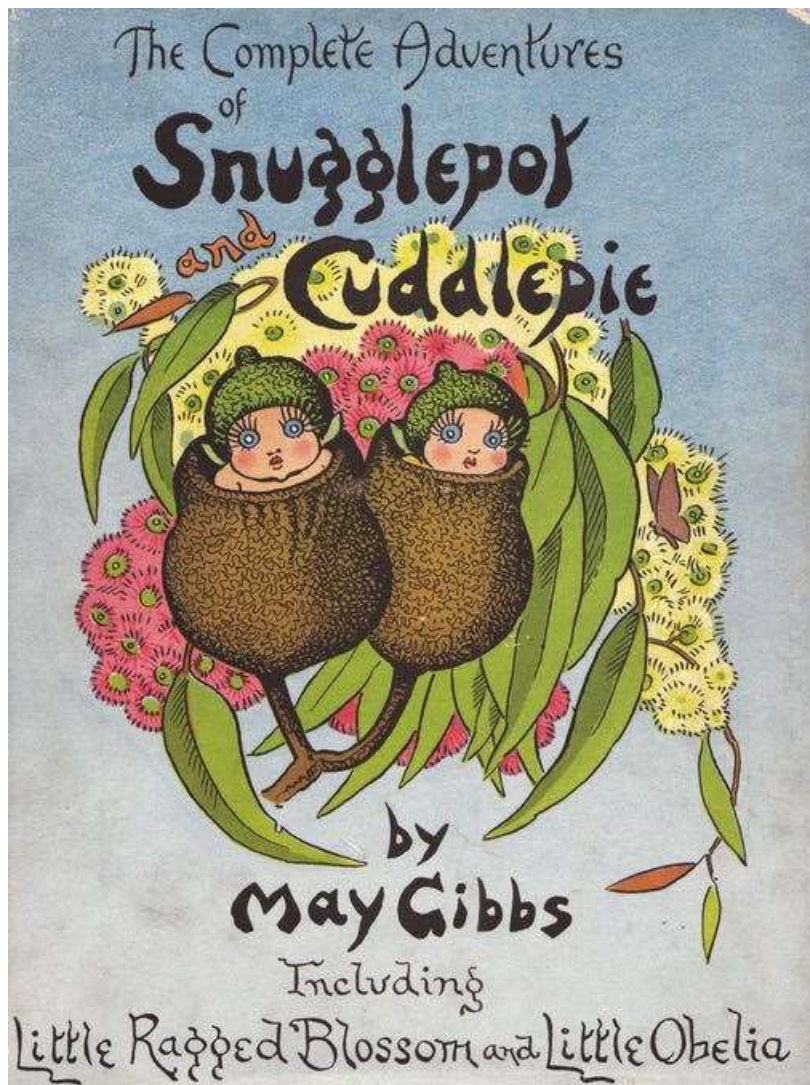


Figure 49 Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, the gumnut twins



## Denerin Pty Ltd – 1986-1988

### Cleveland House survives redevelopment

In 1986, the building development company Denerin Pty Ltd purchased the site from the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children, although the Society remained there until 1988. Then in 1988, Denerin subdivided the land into four allotments, with Lot 1 containing Cleveland House. In November 1988, the two buildings behind Cleveland House (the four-storey former refuge and the Society's school) were demolished to make way for a \$12 million apartment development on the three allotments to the south of the house. The developer's plans included a nine-storey building on Buckingham Street and an eight-storey building on Chalmers Street, which were completed in 1990 and are known today as Princes Gardens, at the address 156-264 Chalmers Street<sup>294</sup>.

The developer's approach was to give a conservative rather than high-tech appearance to the new buildings, to complement the nineteenth century architectural styles of Cleveland House and the neighbouring Welsh Presbyterian Church. The buildings were positioned to give the illusion of a single construction when seen from a distance. A right of way was created to allow vehicular access to the rear of Cleveland House. The house was protected by a permanent conservation order, and was purchased by LGS Enterprises Pty Ltd in November 1988<sup>295</sup>.



Figure 50 Princes Gardens apartments (Bresic Whitney)



## **LGS Enterprises – 1997-present**

### **LGS Enterprises**

For a few years after LGS Enterprises Pty Ltd purchased Cleveland House in 1988, the building was used by the solicitors Barlow & Co. and the Herda group of companies, which are involved in the import and export of dental supplies<sup>296</sup>.

From 1997, InVivo Communications (Aust.) Pty Ltd, a trading subsidiary of LGS Enterprises, has operated from Cleveland House. This is an Australasian-focused medical education company that works with pharmaceutical companies and medical organisations to provide strategic medical education. The company was founded by Lisa Sullivan in 1996 to cater to a burgeoning need for quality medical education. It has offices in Sydney and Singapore that develop and implement communication programs to meet the needs of clients across the world. Their services range from coordinating advisory boards and symposia to developing online education and training courses<sup>297</sup>.

### **Repairs to Cleveland House**

In September 2009, Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney, announced that the City Building Surveyor had notified her that the interior of Cleveland House was well maintained and that the owner has long-term plans to re-render and paint the property in colours approved by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. Then in March 2010, following a report from the Heritage Office, the owner was ordered to repair the roof, drainage system, gutters, downpipes and flashing to prevent water damage to the building. By the end of 2011, the exterior of the building was in poor condition with peeling paint and an air of general neglect<sup>298</sup>.

### **Restoration work - 2013**

As Cleveland House is listed on the State heritage register, the New South Wales Heritage Council can issue repair orders, conduct an assessment of building works and provide heritage funding assistance. The most urgent problem was that the verandahs surrounding the house had collapsed owing to subsidence caused by inadequate drainage. In August 2010, the Heritage Council issued an order on the property requiring urgent repair works. In the 2011-2013 New South Wales Heritage Grants program, the Heritage Council approved a \$50,000 grant for conservation works to the house. The work included the repair and upgrading of the verandah and stormwater system, and commenced in 2013<sup>299</sup>.

In April 2014, Jeff Madden and Associates, Architects, applied to the City of Sydney for approval of the above restoration work. This consisted of the installation of a new drainage system, a new concrete slab on the verandah, a new glass balustrade, and the installation of new sandstone flagging on a sand bed over the new slab. This would preserve the verandah, which would then essentially appear as first constructed<sup>300</sup>.

### **Restoration work - 2016**

By December 2015, the owner of Cleveland House applied to the New South Wales Heritage Council for reconstruction and restoration of the roofing, chimneys and walls<sup>301</sup>. This is being undertaken at present.



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