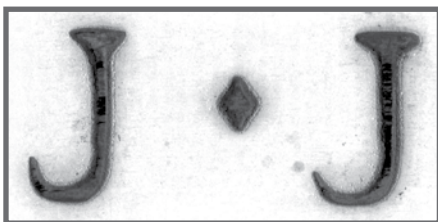


# HE MADE HIS MARK

## *Joshua Jeays*

Early Brisbane's Master Builder and Statesman



BERYL ROBERTS



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Early Brisbane's Master Builder and Statesman

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BERYL ROBERTS



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He Made His Mark

Subtitle:

Joshua Jeays – Early Brisbane Master Builder & Statesman

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication  
entry:

Author: Roberts, Beryl, 1944.

Title: He Made His Mark.

ISBN: 978-0-646-52180-0

Notes: Bibliography.

Includes index.

Subjects: Jeays, Joshua, ca. 1812-1881.

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Design and layout by Julie and Maurice Hillier

Cover design by Julie Hillier and Charlie Jeays

First published by Boolarong Press

**Roberts. Beryl, 1944-**

Other titles:

*Stories of the Southside*, Volume 1, 1991

*A Closer Look at Coopers Plains*, 1st Edition, 1993

*Grandma's Old Fashioned Book of Grammar & Spelling*, 1995

*Grandma's Old Fashioned Book of Tables*, 1995

*The Early History of East Brisbane*, 1997

*A Closer Look at Salisbury and Nathan Heights*, 2000

*Study a Cemetery*, 2001

*Sunnybank-Runcorn Heritage Trail*, 2001

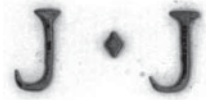
*Mudgeeraba Memories*, 2003

*A Closer Look at Coopers Plains*, 2nd Edition, 2005



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# DEDICATION



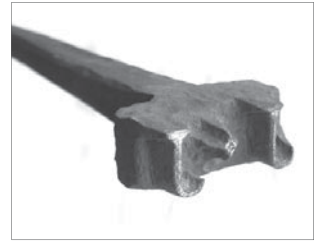
There is no doubt that Joshua Jeays made his mark on Brisbane during the founding days of our city and State.

The mark shown above is made directly from a branding iron (pictured at right) used by Joshua Jeays. It is thought that it was used to identify his tools. The branding iron is still in the possession of the Jeays family today.

This image is used on the first page of every chapter to represent the indelible mark that Joshua made.

His family is immensely proud of his achievements and the pioneering spirit that must have inspired and encouraged so many others.

This book is dedicated to the tenacity, enterprise and skill of all pioneers, but in particular, Joshua and Sarah Jeays, both of whom possessed an abundance of these essential qualities.



A view of Joshua's branding iron.

'Success is not rare, it is common. It is a matter of adjusting one's efforts to obstacles, and one's abilities to a service needed by others.'

Henry Ford

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### BERYL ROBERTS



Beryl Roberts

This book was researched and written by Beryl Roberts. Since the 1980s, Beryl has written and published 17 books, many based on the local history of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. A number of these publications, *A Closer Look at Coopers Plains* (two editions), *A Closer Look at Salisbury and Nathan Heights*, *Study a Cemetery*, and a number of heritage trail booklets, have been written, without payment, for the Coopers Plains Local History Group, which she helped form in 1990. Beryl is still a member of this group. A list of her publications is included on page *iv*.

Beryl is an experienced teacher with a Bachelor of Arts (Griffith University) and a Master of Letters (University of New England) based on a thesis on horse-drawn buses in Brisbane from the 1860s to the 1920s. She has lived in Brisbane much of her life and has a passion for investigating the past of Brisbane and Queensland. She has lectured and tutored in Queensland history and the human impact on the natural environment at Griffith University.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 1850s to the 1860s in Brisbane's past, in many respects, is quite scant of records and is an area of historical research that could do with a lot of investigation. With this Joshua Jeays research the absence of business records has made the fitting together of the 'jigsaw-puzzle pieces' quite challenging. In many regards this piece of research is really a beginning, and hopefully the family members may be inspired to keep gathering and delving.

The research for this book has browsed a wide range of resources and repositories, and for the assistance readily given throughout the intriguing discovery tour there are many people and repositories, listed here, to sincerely thank.

- Jeays and Lilley family members
- Annabel Lloyd, archivist at the Brisbane City Council Archives
- Katie McConnel, curator of Old Government House, QUT
- Val Dennis, historian at the National Trust of Queensland
- Rod Fisher and the Brisbane History Group
- Raymond Evans
- David Livett and the Enoggera & Districts Historical Society
- Royal Historical Society of Queensland
- Queensland State Archives, Runcorn
- Gold Coast City Council's Local Studies Library and facilities, Southport
- National Library of Australia's online access to early Queensland newspapers

It has been a privilege to be able to look into the life of Joshua Jeays and his family and some of the events of early Brisbane and the infant Queensland colony.

Like much of my historical research, it is never really put away with the sense of 'That's it!' If you have anything to enhance this research, please feel free to make contact with Judith Helen Shaw, PO Box 1074, Indooroopilly, 4068.

Enjoy the journey.

**Beryl Roberts**

May 2009



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## SPECIAL THANKS

The Jeays family acknowledges the support and encouragement of the staff at Old Government House and QUT in the production of this book.

The fitting use of Old Government House for the launch of *He Made His Mark* on 8 November 2009 was greatly appreciated.

This book was produced with funding from the Queensland Government's Q150 Community Funding Program.



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# FOREWORD

In 2007 I had the privilege of compiling a short script on the life of Joshua Jeays for a video supporting the Distinguished Constructor Award, which was made posthumously to him in that year. The Award, made by the Queensland University of Technology annually, recognises outstanding people who over the years have made a significant contribution to construction in the State of Queensland.

The more I found out about the man the more I became convinced of the debt owed by Queensland to such visionaries of the past: people who sustained a strong conviction in the future of the then fledgling State. Joshua Jeays was a leader in this regard.

The parlous condition of the State finances at the time did not deter Joshua in his position as Mayor from instigating bold civil projects. Typically, he was also prepared to suffer considerable personal disadvantage by accepting deferred payment for several years for the supply of the high quality stone needed for the construction of our landmark Parliament House. In his own right he built many quality buildings, ranging from Old Government House to the delightful *Bardon House*. These remain today as a testament to the quality of his work.

His vision in opening up the bayside suburbs of Sandgate and Brighton brought pleasant living and recreation to many families. It is appropriate that his descendants have been prominent in these suburbs since that time, and he would have been proud that the community spirit, so much a part of his character, lives on through them.

From my long association with construction, I appreciate the calibre of people like Joshua Jeays. Their stories serve to instil in present-day construction students a sense of being a part of a long tradition of integrity and competence that marks construction in Queensland.

We are grateful to Beryl Roberts for writing this book bringing to life a man who came from England with his family to make such a mark on the early days of our State.

**John Hornibrook**

Adjunct Professor

School of Urban Development

Queensland University of Technology.

May, 2009





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# INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered who you'd have on that fantasy dinner invitation list of any three people, dead or alive.....?

Our heroes change as our lives evolve, but parents and grandparents are often on that list. A lucky few get to know a great-grandparent, but beyond that, any knowledge of the heroes (and villains) from a family's past is often vague, if at all known.

Most of us were told about Joshua being a Mayor and his connection with some of Brisbane's early buildings, but to young minds that was 'way back in the olden days'. We just knew that somewhere in the past there was someone of reasonable importance, but not much more.

The catalyst for unravelling the mystery was the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Joshua and his family in Moreton Bay in 1853. Laurie and Albert Jeays felt the occasion should not go unnoticed and built a post-mounted plaque with an inscription of gratitude for 150 years of prosperity. On 23 February 2003, with a family crew of about 23 onboard, they sailed their yachts, *Wotama* and *Sherpani*, to Mud Island where they erected the memorial. This mid Moreton Bay location, on a sandy ridge behind the mangroves, acknowledged both the arrival point of the barque *Agricola*, and the family's association with the sea.

In August 2005, Queensland University of Technology had commenced renovating Old Government House. We made contact, and ever since QUT has embraced its relationship with the family. Under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake and Professor Peter Lavery (Director of Precincts), the comprehensive renovation of one of colonial Queensland's major buildings to its former glory is to be applauded, as are all the consultants, contractors and labourers on the project. The reopening ceremony on 7 June 2009 was without doubt a highlight of the Q150 celebrations.

In mid 2007, Judith Shaw (great-great-granddaughter of Joshua Jeays) and daughter of Betty Shaw (nee Jeays), made known her long-held desire to have a book written about the life of Joshua Jeays. She had made contact with well-known Brisbane author Beryl Roberts, and at a meeting on 1 September the project was launched.

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Independently of this, Joshua Jeays had been selected to be one of two annual recipients of the prestigious Distinguished Constructor Award. Expertly chaired by Adjunct Professor John Hornibrook, this project of QUT's School of Urban Development cleverly links the campus with the construction industry. At a formal ceremony on 18 October 2007, the name of Jeays joined those of Bradfield, Hornibrook, Theiss, Holland, Pigeon and Hutchinson.

Recognising the significance of the State's Sesqui-centenary Celebrations, the Queensland Government established the Q150 Community Funding Program. We were successful in securing a grant, and for their support of our grant application, we thank referees Professor Peter Lavery, Professor Susan Savage (QUT Assistant Dean, Faculty of Built Environment), Vicky Darling MP (Member for Sandgate), Stewart Armstrong (Executive Director, National Trust) and Bill Kitson PSM (surveyor and former curator, Dept Natural Resources Survey Museum).

There have been many contributors to the publication of this book, but none more so than Maurice and Julie Hillier (great-great-granddaughter of Joshua Jeays), whose desktop publishing skills have ensured a publication worthy of the man, and the celebration. Helen Jeays (great-great-granddaughter of Joshua Jeays) and I worked on administrative matters, while Judith Shaw and her sister, Elizabeth Shaw were invaluable in the editing and further research.

But ultimately the success of a book depends on its author, and in Beryl Roberts we made a sound choice. She has been a pleasure to work with, and her thorough research, background knowledge of early Brisbane and her story-telling skills have enabled her to weave a fascinating story of Joshua and his pivotal role in early Brisbane's history.

The curtain of vagueness that obscured that distant forebear has now been lifted, and the master builder and statesman finally revealed.

Now I know for sure my first choice for that dinner invitation list. As for the other two.....?

**Charlie Jeays**

(Great-great-grandson of Joshua Jeays)

November 2009

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# CONVERSIONS

## DISTANCE

1 mile = 5,280 feet	1.609km
1 yard	0.9144m
1 foot	0.3048m
1 chain= 22 yards (4 rods)	20.12 m
1 rod	5.03 m

## AREA

1 acre	4046.86 m <sup>2</sup> (0.405 hectares)
1 rood = 40 perches	1012.0 m <sup>2</sup>
1 rod/pole/perch (30.25 square yards)	25.3 m <sup>2</sup>

## VOLUME

1 gallon = 8 pints	4.55 litres
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## WEIGHT

1 ounce (oz.)	28.35g
1 pound (lb)	53.60g
1 ton	1.02 tonne

## MONEY

Using the Retail Price Index £1 from 1850 was worth \$171.28 in 2008.

1 (£) pound	20 shillings
1 (1/-) shilling	2 pence
1 guinea	£1/1/-

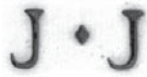
At decimalisation 14 February 1966

1 shilling	10 cents (c)
10 shillings	\$1
£1	\$2

<http://www.measuringworth.com/ukcompare/>

# 1. ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS 1859

This chapter describes the social, political and physical environment in which Joshua Jeays and his family lived.



## THE PROCLAMATION OF QUEENSLAND

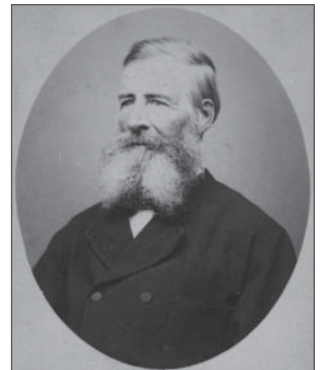
The middle of the 19th century in Australia was a time full of changes and opportunities for immigrants like Joshua Jeays and his wife and young children, who arrived in Moreton Bay in 1853 after more than three months sailing from England. Queensland had not yet been established. It was not a State, nor even a colony in its own right. The local region was still part of the colony of New South Wales.

For the 20,000 or so recorded residents who settled and worked throughout what would become the new British colony of Queensland, 1859 was a year of endings and beginnings. Brisbane Town would house the seat of government for this remote infant colony.

The colony of Queensland, proclaimed on 10 December 1859, was the last of the Australian colonies established by the territorial division of New South Wales.<sup>1</sup>

For many colonists, legal documentation and later, the proclamation acknowledging the Separation of Queensland from New South Wales, was the end of a protracted debate with both the British Government, half a world away, and the authorities in New South Wales. By the end of 1859, it was clear that the settlers of the newly created colony were beginning a new venture of colonial governance. They would soon discover that both the honour and the burden of locating the seat of government of the new colony of Queensland in Brisbane would

Joshua Jeays  
Brisbane City Council Archives



truly challenge the resourcefulness and energy of the excited town residents and those who would come to live here.

In April 1859 Queen Victoria decided to name the newest British colony *Queen's Land*, which soon became *Queensland*. Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Secretary in the British Colonial Office, had drafted the Letters Patent creating the colony of Queensland. An Order-in-Council on 13 May 1859 approved the Letters Patent and appointed Sir George Ferguson Bowen as Queensland's first Governor.<sup>2</sup> Bowen was at that time Chief Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands off the coastline of Greece.

On 6 June 1859, at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent, the legal documentation officially forming another British colony on the Australian continent. At this signing, a second Order-in-Council was made, empowering the Governor to make laws and provide for the administration of justice within the colony.<sup>3</sup>

The settlers of the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs districts first knew of the Queen's decision about three months after her signing when the coastal vessel *Clarence* chugged up the Brisbane River heading for Brisbane Town. Even before

View of Brisbane c 1860  
looking towards the north-  
east.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 017 01 0013





the *Clarence* docked the long-awaited news was out and the tiny outpost was buzzing. The word 'SEPARATION' had been painted in large letters on the hull of the *Clarence*. A 14-gun salute, a bell-ringing Brisbane resident and fireworks soon spread the news of the Queen's action. People came out of their houses and workers dropped their tools to gather at the wharf to confirm the great news.

Joshua Jeays would have been part of the spontaneous celebrations ignited by the arrival of the *Clarence*. He was an ardent, somewhat radical separationist who celebrated this long-awaited outcome like hundreds of other settlers of Brisbane and Ipswich. Separation was to bring to an end the protracted community action to create a northern colony distinct from New South Wales within Australia.

Early in 1859 evidence of endings and beginnings was palpable. The placement of the colonial border was finally resolved. The ongoing debate and often open dispute over the border between New South Wales and the proposed northern colony had been under way since the idea of forming a northern colony had been suggested in the 1840s. In the last years of the debate, Governor William Denison<sup>4</sup> laid claim to, and succeeded in retaining, the Clarence-Richmond River area and the New

View of Brisbane c 1883  
looking towards the east.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 017 01 0012



England regions for the colony of New South Wales. Once an approximate idea of the location of the southern boundary line for the new northern colony was known, the settlers of the Moreton Bay district, the Darling Downs and more northerly areas could gain a vision of the shape and size of the proposed northern colony.

Mapping the official border that would define the Separation was a dangerous task embarked on in April 1863 by Queensland surveyor Francis Edward Roberts and New South Wales surveyor Isaiah Rowland. They were instructed to perform a survey from Point Danger along the watershed of the McPherson Range and the Great Dividing Range west to the Dumaresque River. At the end of the surveying tasks the results of these two surveys were compared and used as a check on each other. The resulting line on a map was to be adopted as the border between Queensland and New South Wales.<sup>5</sup>

Brisbane members of the Moreton Bay and Northern Districts Separation Association – mostly squatters from areas such as Ipswich, the Darling Downs, Grafton and Armidale – met in Brisbane's old barracks in Queen Street on 8 January 1851 to petition Queen Victoria for separation and the continuation of the transportation of 'exiles'<sup>6</sup> as a labour source. On the very same day at Thomas Dowse's Auction Room, also in Queen Street, another meeting resolved to send a petition to

View of Brisbane c 1860  
looking towards the south-  
east.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 017 01 004



Queen Victoria urging Separation from New South Wales, but preventing the resumption of transportation of convicts in any form or condition.<sup>7</sup>

From the early 1850s through to 1859, within the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs districts, there had been considerable debate about Separation from New South Wales and the formation of a northern colony. Within this debate there emerged two main thrusts for Separation. The squatters and holders of large properties mostly used for grazing requested and expected the continuation of a convict labour force, while many urban dwellers strongly urged the cessation of transportation of convicts to the colonies.<sup>8</sup>

Action on the numerous requests for Separation came when Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent and initiated the procedures for the proclamation of the new colony of Queensland. The Order-in-Council would establish the Queensland colony with a Legislative Council of 11 nominated members and a Legislative Assembly of 26 elected members. However, certain protocols were necessary to fulfil the requirements. A governor was required to be present at the official reading of the Letters Patent in the prospective colony, and then arrangements had to be made to have the proclamation document printed and published before the colonising process was fully completed.

View of Brisbane c 1863  
looking towards the south.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 011 01 0002







Sir George Ferguson  
Bowen, first Governor of  
Queensland.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 16288

In 1859 these legislative processes and procedures, soon to be enacted, would impact quite dramatically on the life of Joshua Jeays. He would be elected to become one of the foundation aldermen on the first Brisbane Municipal Council, devoting his considerable skills, experience and energies for many years to the early development of both Brisbane and Queensland.

Confirmation of the imminent changes ahead of the settlers came with the unofficial news on 20 July 1859 that Sir George Ferguson Bowen had been selected as the first Governor of the new Queensland colony. The news of this appointment was greeted throughout the Moreton Bay district with the flying of flags and the discharging of cannon, firearms and fireworks. At a number of high locations around the Moreton Bay settlements a series of bonfires were set up and lit at night for all to see.

The excitement created by these beginnings had the 20,000 residents in the landscape that was to become Queensland buzzing. Sustained efforts to separate from New South Wales had finally been rewarded.

On 16 August 1859 information about the Proclamation of Queensland in the *London Gazette* of 7 June 1859 arrived in Brisbane confirming the unofficial news of the changes. Reverend Edward Wyndham Tufnell DD<sup>9</sup> would be ordained and consecrated as the Bishop of the new Queensland diocese.

For many Brisbane residents, 1859 was a particularly busy period. Not only was Brisbane to become a municipality, but it was to become the seat of colonial government. The Supplement to the New South Wales *Government Gazette* of Tuesday, 6 September 1859, detailed the Proclamation of the Municipality of Brisbane, which was to lead to the first Brisbane Municipal Council election:

*'...a Petition signed by four hundred and twenty householder residents within the Town of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, in the County of Stanley, in the Colony of New South Wales, praying that the same might be declared a Municipality under the provisions of the said Act, and stating that the number of the inhabitants of the said Town and Suburbs was five thousand, was presented to the Governor, the substance and prayer of which Petition were duly published in the Government Gazette, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act: And whereas no counter Petition signed by a greater number of householders resident within the said Town of Brisbane was received by the Colonial Secretary within*

*three months from the date of such publication: And whereas the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council has, in exercise of the powers conferred by the said Act, determined to declare by proclamation such Town of Brisbane to be a Municipality by the name hereinafter mentioned, and to define the limits and boundaries thereof in the manner hereinafter defined:*

*Now, therefore, I, Sir William Thomas Denison, the Governor-General, and Governor-in-Chief aforesaid, in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act, and with the advice of the Executive Council do by this my Proclamation declare that the District hereinafter described and named, shall be a Municipality within the meaning of the said Act, and that the limits and boundaries thereof shall be as follows, that is to say:-*

*The Municipality of Brisbane*

*Embracing the Town of Brisbane, in the County of Stanley, commencing on the left bank of the Brisbane River at the southern extremity of the north west side of the road dividing John McConnell's 13 acres 1 rood and 2 perches and 21 acres 3 roods and 4 perches, and bounded on part of the east by the north west side of that road, north easterly to the south corner of J.C. Wickham's 30 acres; thence on the north by the south west boundary of Wickham's 30 acres, and the south west side of the road which forms the south west boundary of James Gibbon's 86 acres and 33 acres, and T. Shannon's 13 acres and 19 perches, to the new bridge on the Eagle Farm Road; thence by lines north westerly, in all 37 chains and 24 links, up the north side of York's Hollow swamp to a point west of the old road to Eagle Farm, and opposite to the ridge which divides York's and Spring Hollows; thence by lines south westerly to and along the ridge and the ridge forming the southern watershed of York's Hollow, to a point north by compass from the north-east corner of the Jews' Burial Ground for North Brisbane; on the west by a line bearing south and forming the eastern boundaries of the Jews', Roman Catholics', Presbyterians', and Aborigines' Burial Grounds, to the north corner of D.R. Somerset's 2 acres and 38 perches, by the south west side of the road forming the north east boundary of that land, to a small creek which forms its south boundary, and by that creek to the Brisbane River, by a line south easterly across the Brisbane River, to the north extremity of the west side of Boundary Street, South Brisbane,*



Lady Roma Diamantina Bowen, wife of Sir George Bowen.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 63646



*being the north corner of John Crofts' 2 acres and by the west side of Boundary Street southerly to the south side of Vulture Street; on the south by the south side of Vulture Street, and of the road in continuation thereof easterly to a point due south, of the south east corner of W. Kent's 6 acres 1 rood and 13 perches, and on the remainder of the east by a line north to that point, by the west side of the road bounding Kent's land on the east, northerly to the Brisbane River, by its extension across the River, and by the left bank of the River upwards to the point of commencement.*

*And I do hereby, with the advice of the aforesaid, declare and direct, that such Municipality shall be called by the name of "The Municipality of Brisbane".*

*Given under my hand and the seal of the Colony, at Government House, Sydney, the sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine, and in the twenty third year of Her Majesty's Reign."<sup>10</sup>*

This proclamation was signed by both Sir William Denison, Governor-General in and over all of Her Majesty's colonies of New South Wales, and Charles Cowper, Premier of New South Wales at that time.

Prior to Separation, many Brisbane residents had become interested in the New South Wales Municipalities Act of 1858 and its associated advantages, and they subsequently petitioned the Governor of New South Wales for a system of local government for the town of Brisbane.

Brisbane was proclaimed as a Municipality in New South Wales prior to the Separation of Queensland. An election was held on 12 October 1859. At noon on the next day, James Gibbon, the Returning Officer, declared the results, with Joshua Jeays as one of the elected aldermen of the first Brisbane Municipal Council.

Just three hours later, at 3 pm on 13 October 1859, a meeting of the nine newly elected aldermen of the Brisbane Municipal Council was held at the Police Office in Brisbane. Their first task was to appoint a Mayor of the Municipality of Brisbane and John Petrie was elected unanimously. The declarations from the aldermen were taken before Arthur Clarke Kemball JP and then Mayor Petrie took the Chair. The Brisbane Municipal Council decided that its next meeting would be held on Monday

17 October, at 3 pm at the Post Office. Mayor Petrie was to ask the Government Resident, Captain Wickham, to procure, if possible, a room for Council meetings in the Court House. There was much to be done.

For the residents of Brisbane Town there was little time to prepare for the arrival of Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. He was expected to arrive in Brisbane on 6 December, so arrangements for the official reception, accommodation for the new officials and celebrations had to be organised rather quickly. This was a very important ceremony that needed to be planned and well organised. A reception committee of 30 esteemed residents<sup>11</sup> was convened on 24 September.

A temporary staging area was erected on the riverbank of the Botanic Gardens to enable the Governor and his entourage to comfortably disembark. A triumphal arch displaying the words 'Welcome Sir George' was constructed on the shore of the staging area. Above this sign was a circular frame displaying a representation of a square and compass. In the centre was a 'pyramid form' in front of which were the 'Scales of Justice'. The whole archway was surmounted by a palm and there was also a 'wreath interlaced with flowers and evergreens'.<sup>12</sup> Walter Hill, curator of the Botanic Gardens, and Brisbane Mayor John Petrie organised the building and decoration of the disembarkation wharf, the archway and a temporary pavilion positioned in the centre of the gardens that would be used by the Governor and other dignitaries, two days after the Governor's welcome.

The citizens of the colony were given a public holiday on the Monday 5 December, in preparation for the Governor's arrival the next day. A tremendous effort had gone into festive displays of 'bunting'<sup>13</sup> so that first impressions for Governor Bowen and members of the official party would be both positive and exciting, and would reflect the energy and enthusiasm of the colonists.

However, the coastal weather at the time of the Governor's departure from Sydney was turbulent and the *Cordelia*, the coastal steamer bringing the official party to Brisbane, returned to Sydney. The sea journey to Brisbane resumed two days later when the seas had calmed.

The late arrival of the Governor gave the organising party the extra time needed to ensure that Dr William Hobbs' residence, 'Adelaide House',<sup>14</sup> was completely ready for its new occupants. This home was to become the interim 'Government House' until arrangements could be made for a permanent suitable residence for the first Queensland



Queensland Separation medallion - Blue-glazed terracotta medallion marking secession from NSW. Robert Pott's pottery Brisbane 1859. Museum of Brisbane

Dr Hobbs' house, now  
the Deanery of St John's  
Cathedral  
Centenary Cavalcade 1959



Governor. Dr Hobbs' house was rented for three years to accommodate the Queensland Governor and his family. When the man-o-war steam frigate HMS *Cordelia* failed to arrive in Moreton Bay as expected on 6 December, a trooper was stationed to look out from the 'bluff at Sandgate'.<sup>15</sup> His orders were to ride to Brisbane as soon as the *Cordelia* rounded Moreton Island so that Brisbane Town residents could be ready for the official welcoming ceremony.

View of Newstead House  
and Bowen Hills.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 158622





At 6.30 pm on Friday 9 December the trooper from Sandgate cantered into Brisbane with news of the arrival of the *Cordelia*. Union Jacks were hoisted on the flagstaffs at the office of the Government Resident,<sup>16</sup> Captain John Clement Wickham,<sup>17</sup> and at his residence, Newstead, at the junction of Breakfast Creek with the Brisbane River.<sup>18</sup>

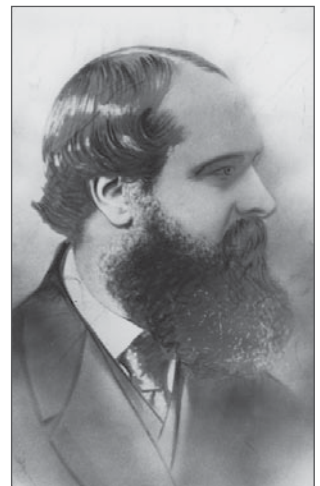
On the hot and dry Saturday, 10 December 1859, the Union Jack was hoisted ready as the small river steamers *Breadalbane*, *Bremer* and *Hawk* departed Brisbane at 9 am to locate the *Cordelia* at anchor in Moreton Bay. The shallow bar at the mouth of the Brisbane River required smaller vessels to transfer passengers and freight to the port of Brisbane from larger seagoing vessels that anchored in the deeper waters of Moreton Bay.

Aboard the *Breadalbane* were Robert Herbert, the interim Colonial Secretary, Captain Wickham, Colonel Grey and Ratcliffe Pring,<sup>19</sup> who were the officials to welcome the Governor. As well there were several ladies and gentlemen from the reception committee, with a band playing music.<sup>20</sup>

Herbert and Wickham were rowed by boat from the *Breadalbane* across to the *Cordelia* to welcome the Governor and his wife. Then the *Breadalbane* moved in to the lee side of the *Cordelia*. The Governor and the members of the official party were transferred to the *Breadalbane* to begin the journey up the Brisbane River. As the *Breadalbane* untied and moved towards the Brisbane River, a 17-gun salute was fired from the *Cordelia*. The *Shackamaxon*, anchored in Moreton Bay at the same time, also saluted the arrival of Governor Bowen. The *Bremer* and the *Hawk*, crowded with members of the welcoming party, escorted the *Breadalbane* up the Brisbane River.<sup>21</sup> The passengers aboard the steamships at the mouth of the Brisbane River 'cheered Sir George and his lady to their heart's content'.<sup>22</sup>

In Brisbane at 1.30 pm the elected members of the Brisbane Municipal Council met before proceeding to the landing platform set in place for the disembarkation of the Governor and members of the official party. Aldermen present were Mayor John Petrie, Patrick Mayne, Joshua Jeays, Albert Hockings, George Edmonstone, George Warren and William Sutton. Alderman Thomas Blackett Stephens was unable to be present as he was in Sydney on business and Alderman Robert Cribb could not attend due to severe illness.

The riverbank in and about the Botanic Gardens was packed with 4000 people to welcome Queensland's first Governor. As the *Breadalbane* pulled into the wharf seven guns were fired



Robert Herbert, first Premier of Queensland.  
State Library of Queensland Neg No. 68163

three times, providing a 21-gun salute, making it clear that this was a significant moment for this remote outpost – the official start of their own colony, separate from New South Wales at last.

Upon landing near to the Edward Street entrance to the Botanic Gardens, the Governor was received and officially welcomed by the members of the Corporation who had been handling the governing of the Moreton Bay settlement. They would soon be replaced by official colonial legislative bodies and the Brisbane Municipal Council. The recently elected aldermen of the Brisbane Municipal Council stood ready to greet and welcome the Governor to their small municipality, which was now to become the seat of government for Queensland.

At the completion of the preliminary disembarkation and welcome in the Botanic Gardens, Governor Sir George Bowen, his wife, Lady Bowen, Mr Herbert and Captain Wickham boarded the official vice-regal carriage and slowly began the procession, flanked by cheering crowds through the Botanic Gardens, down George Street, along Queen Street to the interim 'Government House' in Adelaide Street.

The commissioning of the Governor of Queensland on 10 December 1859.

*Centenary Cavalcade 1859 to 1959*  
p.13.

The members of the Brisbane Municipal Council, having assisted in receiving His Excellency, accompanied him in



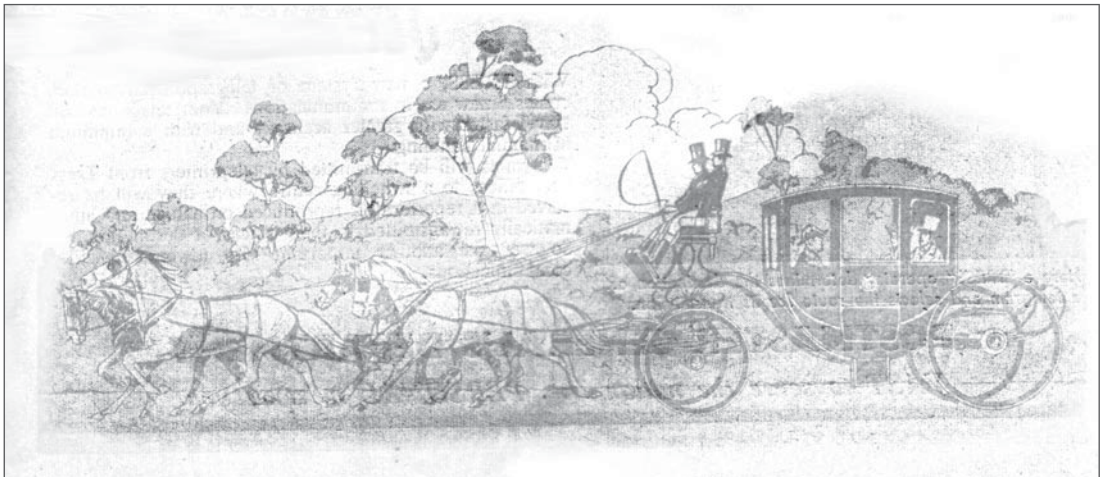
procession to Government House and were 'present at the reading of the Letters Patent from Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen appointing His Excellency Sir GF Bowen, Knight Commander of the Most Noble Order of St Michael and St George, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony and also the Proclamation of Separation from the Colony of New South Wales and were also witness to the Official Oaths taken by His Excellency'.<sup>23</sup>

Crowds cheered and waved flags as the official party proceeded along the route. Local residents and visitors to Brisbane followed the procession to Dr Hobbs' house. Soon after arrival at their new residence Governor Bowen and the official party came out on to the front balcony of Adelaide House to be greeted by continuous loud cheers from the huge crowd. A hush came over the gathering as Justice Lutwyche,<sup>24</sup> wearing the wig and robes of his judicial office,<sup>25</sup> officially administered the oath to the Governor. Colonial Secretary Mr Herbert<sup>26</sup> next read out the Queen's commission appointing His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen as Governor of Queensland.

The acting private secretary, Mr AO Moriarty,<sup>27</sup> then read the proclamation of the Letters Patent. Governor Bowen thanked the crowd for their hearty reception and indicated that he would meet at 10 am on Monday to commence his duties. This first official ceremony in the colony of Queensland ended in an enthusiastic outburst of resounding cheers from the gathered onlookers.

This ceremony was an ending for Captain Wickham as the representative of the British Government in Brisbane. Governor Bowen was formally commissioned to take over the administration of the new British colony and Wickham would hand over that task to him. A week of festivities followed the

Artist's drawing of the vice-regal coach used in the 1959 re-enactment of the Proclamation of Queensland. It is believed to be the actual coach used by Governor Bowen.  
*Centenary Cavalcade 1859-1959*





Governor's arrival. Tents lined the riverbank during the regatta and bands, music, spirits, confection, cricket matches, quoits and fireworks on Windmill Hill involved many local residents.

The New South Wales Government closed all bank accounts and the colony had 7½ pence in the bank!

On 29 November 1859 the New South Wales Legislative Assembly ordered that a copy of the Letters Patent be printed proclaiming the new colony 'Queensland' and appointing Sir George Ferguson Bowen KCMG to be Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Queensland. The Order-in-Council enabling the Governor of Queensland to make laws and to provide for the administration of justice in Queensland was also printed when the official documents were published in the *Queensland Government Gazette* on 10 December 1859.

Governor Bowen would find the small Brisbane township to be a somewhat disjointed sprawl of basic urban structures and a landscape that was almost completely devoid of physical infrastructure. Potholed and gullied tracks and dirt roadways readily became impassable in wet weather and were dust creators during dry periods. Public facilities were virtually non-existent. Slow, inadequate ferries crossed the Brisbane River. The central settlement of North Brisbane was poorly linked to the growing settlement hubs of South Brisbane, Kangaroo Point and Fortitude Valley. Ways of addressing cohesive development needed planning, financial expenditure and commitment, which would be expected from the new local authority that had very recently been established.

As the district's population increased with every migrant ship to Moreton Bay, larger infrastructure projects such as public water supply, drainage, sanitation services, waste disposal and transport became pressing needs. Having been neglected by the New South Wales authorities for so long, the community urgently needed carefully planned development to address the multitude of issues.

Queensland had finally been proclaimed a colony. The excitement of the arrival of Queensland's first Governor and the week or so of local festivities for the Proclamation would long be remembered. It was a significant moment of recognition of the efforts of those who had argued for these changes.

Joshua Jeays was one of the many committed and energetic colonists who would do whatever was necessary to establish a viable colony in this isolated outpost. Here is some of his story.

## Endnotes

- 1 From a paper presented by Colin Sheehan, 'The Imperial Constitution Acts and the northern districts of New South Wales', 9 August 2008, Royal Historical Society of Queensland's seminar, 'Setting the scene for Separation, Part Two, The processes, policies and personalities involved'.
- 2 Coote, 1859, p.222.
- 3 Coote, 1859, p.225.
- 4 Governor of New South Wales, 1855 to 1861.
- 5 Roberts, Beryl. *Stories of the Southside, Volume II*, unpublished.
- 6 Convicts transported from Britain to the British colonies. Meston, A. 1895, p.13, stated, 'Exiles were transported persons who received liberty on landing, and absolute pardon if of good behaviour for a certain period afterwards'.
- 7 Smout, 1959, p.53.
- 8 Smout, 1959, p.53.
- 9 Doctor of Divinity.
- 10 This information was attached to the inside cover of the first Minute Book of the Brisbane Municipal Council.
- 11 This is the list of the members of the reception committee for Governor Bowen: Judge Peter James Lutwyche, Robert Little, John Petrie, Shepherd Smith, Kingsford, Ebsworth, TS Warry, Theophilus Pugh, Nehemiah Bartley, Heussler, Brooks, Dr William Hobbs, Sheridan, JS Turner, Dr K Cannon, Douglas, James Swan, JB Moffatt, Somerset, Thomas Blackett Stephens, Peterson, Richards, Mason, Jordan, George Raff, Mackenzie, Dr George Fullerton, George Harris, Thomas Dowse, Pickering.
- 12 Smout, 1959, p.57.
- 13 Wide streamers made of coarse cotton or paper.
- 14 'Adelaide House' is now St John's Anglican Cathedral Deanery located at the top of the cliff face on Adelaide Street. In 1859, the front entry to 'Adelaide House' opened out on to a sloping garden that spread down to Ann Street before Adelaide Street was cut through to Petrie Bight.
- 15 Now Moora Park, Shorncliffe.
- 16 Located where the old Government Printers building now stands in William Street and Stephens Lane.
- 17 Captain Wickham had been Police Magistrate in the Moreton Bay Settlement from October 1842 and from 7 April 1853 he was the Government Resident working out of William Street.
- 18 The flags hoisted on the flagpoles were to signal residents of the impending arrival of Governor Bowen.
- 19 Ratcliffe Pring was the Attorney-General elect.
- 20 Smout, 1959, p.59.
- 21 Smout, 1959, p.59.
- 22 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 13 December 1859, p.2.
- 23 Taken from the Minute Book of the first Brisbane Municipal Council, 1859.
- 24 On 21 February 1859, Alfred James Peter Lutwyche was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Resident Judge of Moreton Bay. Alfred Lutwyche, George Bowen and Charles Lilley were all past students of Charterhouse School in England. (Paul Sayer, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, Brisbane History Group, pp.67, 69.)
- 25 Bartley, 1892, p.231.

- 26 Robert George Wyndham Herbert, a young English barrister, came to Queensland with Governor Bowen and was appointed Colonial Secretary in the interim Queensland Government.
- 27 Abram Orpen Moriarty was the Governor's Private Secretary from 15 December 1859 to 12 September 1860.

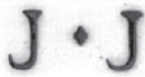
## 2. BRISBANE TOWN AND THE JEAYS FAMILY BEGINNINGS

### BRISBANE

- neglected by New South Wales Government
- first free settlement
- struggles to survive
- basic roads and businesses begin

### JOSHUA JEAYS

- early history in England, marries and becomes a father
- publishes two books, receives a medal for his second publication
- emigrates to Australia

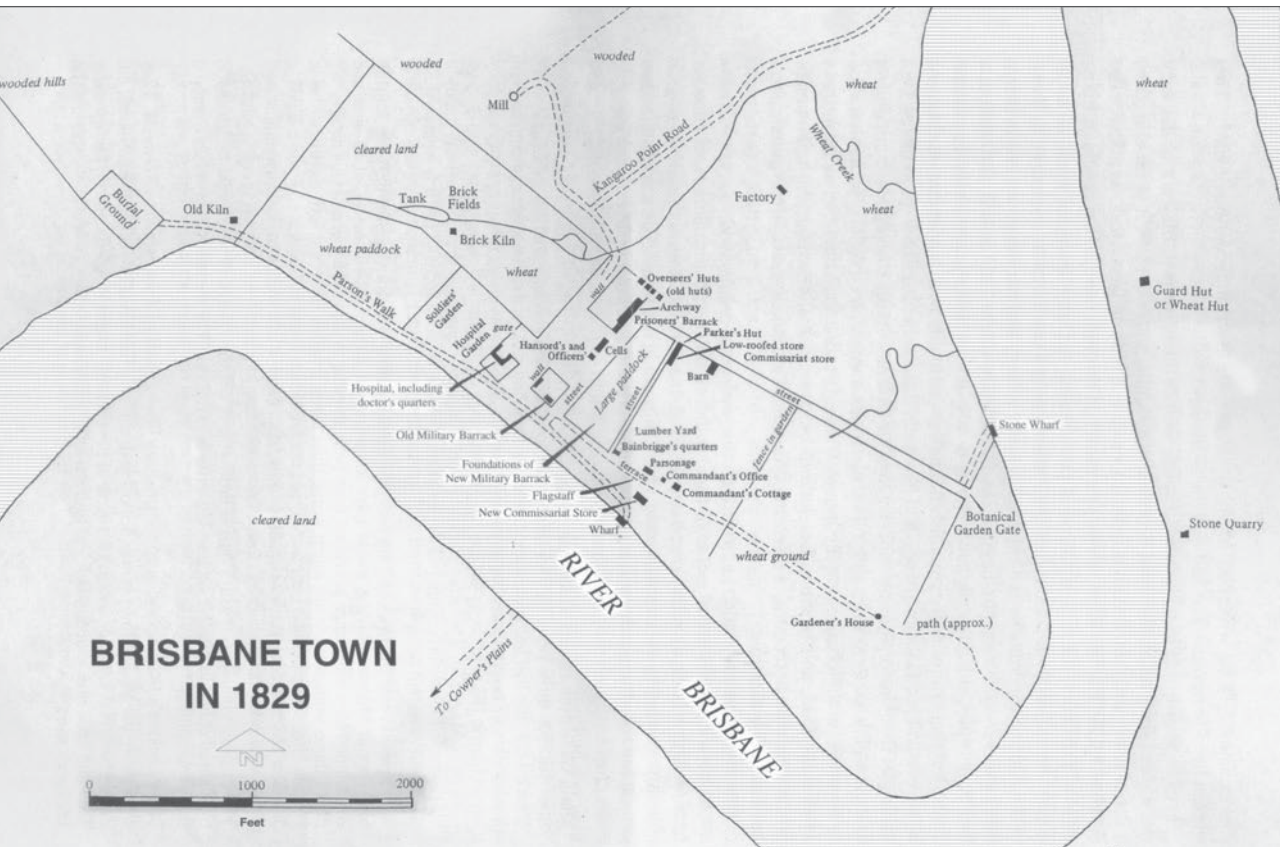


Not unlike the vibrant growth of mushrooms pushing up and eventually protruding from decaying leaf litter in a rainforest, the very basic township of Brisbane Town, somewhat sporadically, had emerged from among and out of the abandoned structures of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement. Disbanded as a convict outpost in 1839 after more than a thousand convicts had passed through, Brisbane had only a handful of convicts remaining to prepare the area for free settlement. Andrew Petrie, a free settler who had come to work in the convict outpost, was one of those who decided to remain and become part of the proposed free settlement with his family.

In the post-convict era, the Moreton Bay district was left to deteriorate until the area was surveyed, sold and opened up for free settlement in 1842. The early settlers weathered years of indifference and neglect from the Sydney-centric colonial government of New South Wales. The settlers' dissatisfaction with this treatment triggered the prolonged and at times intense debate about the merits of a separate northern colony.

Settlers and prospective settlers of the Moreton Bay district pressured New South Wales' Governor Gipps to commission a survey. Survey maps delineating saleable allotments were required prior to land sales and settlement. Robert Dixon, an experienced, competent and somewhat headstrong surveyor, was contracted to prepare an initial baseline survey of the Moreton Bay district in January 1839. With two surveying assistants, Granville Stapylton and James Warner, as well as 21 convicts, a flat-bottomed boat, horses, supplies and stores, Dixon departed Sydney on 29 April 1839 on the paddlesteamer *Sophia Jane*, bound for Brisbane Town.<sup>1</sup> It was a huge physical challenge to undertake such a survey in the virtually unknown and unexplored landscape, but Dixon was a man who relished such challenges. Working from that survey, specific areas were surveyed in greater detail and mapped into subdivisions in readiness for the 1842 land sales that dragged the abandoned convict outpost into a new era of free settlement. In the infant township of Brisbane, however, sales of land did not necessarily equate with land occupation and development.

Brisbane Town in 1829.  
Adapted from JG Steele, 'Brisbane Town in 1829', *Queensland Heritage*, vol. 2, no. 5 (Nov 1971), pp.15-23



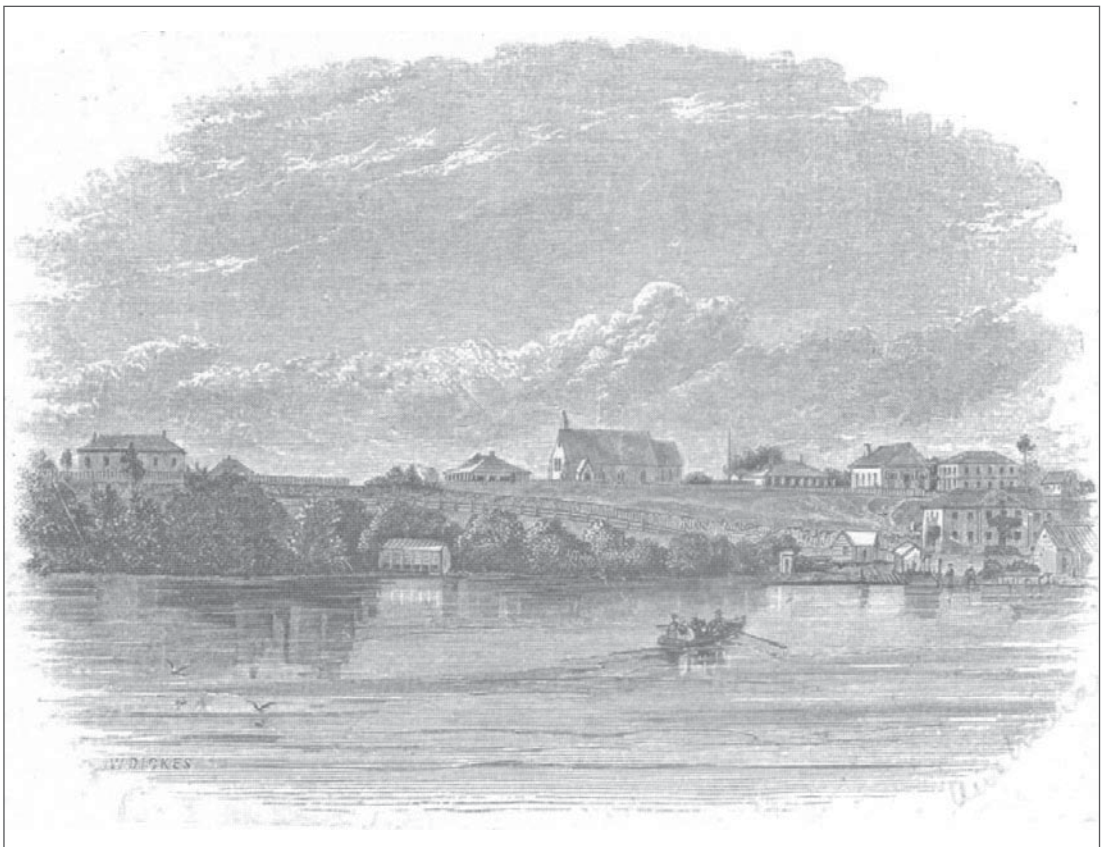
There were a few buildings in the infant township – the convict-built windmill, the Commissariat Store, the lumber yard, the old Female Factory, which had housed female convicts and their children, the convict barracks, the hospital and the graveyard. Tracks linked the main facilities and Cowper's Plains, Zion's Hill (Nundah), Eagle Farm and Limestone Hill (Ipswich).

Throughout the 1840s the earliest landholders and settlers in the Moreton Bay district struggled to create habitable shelters. They needed to develop an understanding of the subtropical climate patterns, and coping mechanisms for them, as well as to discover some of the natural resources of the district. Some settlers opened small businesses in the tiny, often remote, village-like settlements, while others undertook the backbreaking work of developing agricultural or pastoral enterprises further out from even these small hubs.

The optimistic attempts to create a community, some basic economic viability and an income stream half a world away from European society and market economics says much about the calibre of those who settled in Brisbane Town, Ipswich and

Brisbane from the south side of the river – an engraving by William Dickes for a British newspaper c 1865.

Sourced from Rod Fisher's *Boasting Brisbane* with permission.





the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs districts during those pioneering years of the 1840s to the 1870s.

The seeds of settlement that germinated from the earliest land sales in Brisbane and Ipswich grew dramatically with every shipload of migrants that came to Moreton Bay. Increased manpower, skills and energy during the 1850s rapidly increased the outpost's impact on the natural environment. Subtropical rainforest vegetation was cleared and basic houses and businesses were built, slowly at first, then with gathering pace as skilled tradesmen, labourers and their families arrived and settled. Wharves were constructed and more complex businesses established. Basic tracks and unformed roadways linked settlers within the small residential precincts. Arterial tracks spidered out from Brisbane and Ipswich to connect to other settlements in the Moreton Bay district and to pastoralists up on the Darling Downs. The most reliable and fastest passenger and freight movers during that era, steamship water transport services, became established and continued to encourage the developing economy. Slowly, slowly, Brisbane Town and Ipswich emerged.

Much needed to be done in the emerging Australian colonies. In Britain, migration campaigns urged skilled workers, families and young people to relocate to the British colonies on the Australian continent. The discovery of gold in the early 1850s motivated migrants immensely.

Into the somewhat primitive, remote settlement of Brisbane Town, in February 1853, came Joshua and Sarah Jeays and their four surviving children, 10-year-old Sarah Jane, four-year-old Joseph Joshua, two-year-old Charles Edwyn and infant Anne Elizabeth.

Joshua Jeays, son of carpenter Richard Jeays,<sup>2</sup> was born in Leicestershire, England, in 1812.

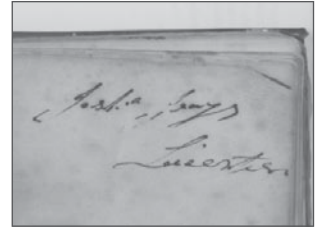
Loughborough, Joshua's home town, within walking distance of the village of Bardon, was where he grew up and learnt to read and write. It is likely that, as a lad of 10 to 12 years, Joshua went to work with his father to begin his career as a carpenter and builder. He may well have visited and worked in the nearby Bardon Hill quarry, as he developed skills with timber and stone construction during those early years of his working life. Typical English cottages of that era had stone walls with thatched, slate or shingle roofs, and basic wooden-framed windows, doorways and internal fittings. Young Joshua would have had many opportunities to gain construction experience with stone and brick, stone quarrying, timber construction and a range of roofing materials. The skills of internal carpentry, plumbing



and drainage would have been part of his apprenticeship and early skill development in Leicester.

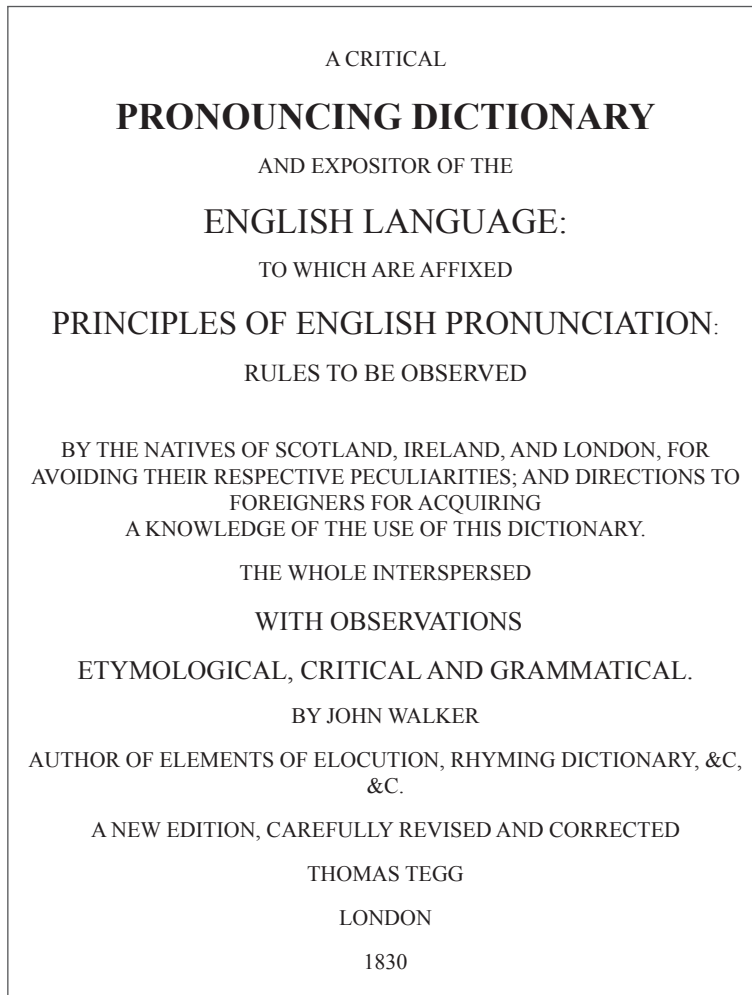
An intelligent lad with an eye for detail, Joshua readily took in ideas, investigated procedures and created techniques. He could sketch, and developed useful drafting skills. A lifelong interest in mathematics and astronomy was probably kindled in his early years. As a young man, energetic and physically fit, he developed an organised and hardworking approach to carpentry and construction so that he became skilful at tackling and completing quite complicated tasks.

One of Joshua's personal books was a 578-page dictionary, the title of which is shown below. To be in possession of such a book would indicate that Joshua had a genuine interest in self-education and in doing things well. It also confirms his attention to detail was not just in his building work.



Above: Joshua's signature in the front of one of his books. The title of the book is shown in the image at left. A book with such a complex title would suggest that the owner had a particular interest in the English language.

This book is in the possession of the Jeays family.



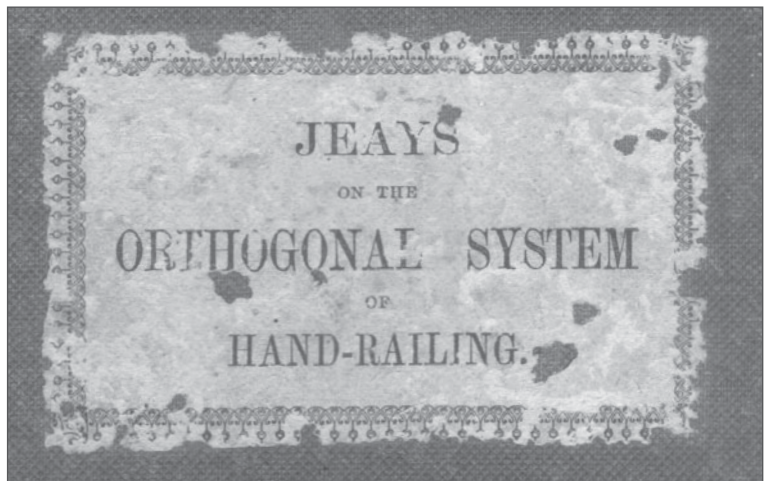
Sarah Edwyn, daughter of John Edwyn,<sup>3</sup> initially a shepherd, and later in life a farmer, was born in 1812 and lived in the tiny ancient village of Beeby,<sup>4</sup> about five miles north-east of Leicester. Not much is known about Sarah's childhood and upbringing. It is possible that she went to school, because she could read and write. Sarah would have gained skills in cooking, cleaning, childcare and general household skills from her mother and other female family members.

Just how and when Joshua Jeays and Sarah Edwyn met is not known. Whether it was Joshua's carpentry work that took him to Beeby or links developed through family or community activities, it would seem that Joshua and Sarah knew each other before he relocated to London to take up employment with a large building contractor in Chelsea. On 10 June 1839, the two were married in the Marylebone Parish Church in Middlesex. They were both 27 years old, and at the time of marriage Joshua's residence was recorded as St Marylebone, and Sarah's residence as Beeby, Leicestershire.<sup>5</sup>

First child of the marriage was a son, Joshua Jeays, born in the second quarter<sup>6</sup> of 1839 at Marylebone, close to Marble Arch. This baby probably died at birth or in early infancy as there is no further reference to him in the scant records that have been located.

The 1841 British Census records 'Joshua Jeays, cabinetmaker, and Sarah Jeays at 12 Elizabeth Street, South St George, Hanover Square (behind Buckingham Palace), Victoria Station'. In the third quarter<sup>7</sup> of 1841, a daughter, Sarah Jane, was born to Joshua and Sarah Jeays in St George, Hanover.

A second son, Thomas, was born to Joshua and Sarah in the fourth quarter<sup>8</sup> of 1843 in Kensington. No further records have

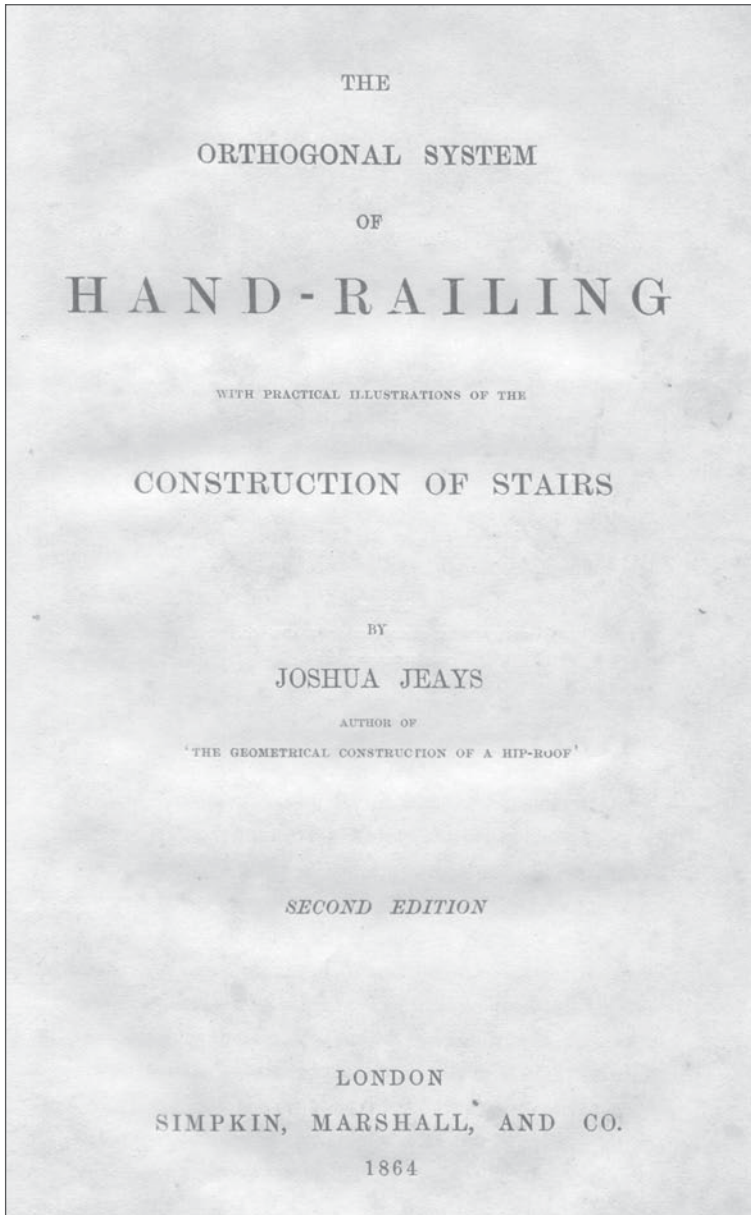


Title plate from the cover of Joshua Jeays' book *The Orthogonal System of Hand-Railing*.

A copy of the 1864 edition remains with members of the Jeays family today.

been found of this baby and it is likely that this child also died at birth or in infancy. Joseph Joshua was the next Jeays family member. Born on 29 December 1848 at 9 Green Street, Chelsea, his birth was registered on 1 February 1849 at St Luke's, Chelsea. A brother, Charles Edwyn Jeays, was born in 1850, also in Chelsea.

While Sarah Jeays was kept busy with the three surviving children, Joshua became an accomplished builder. Over the years he became a foreman in a large Chelsea construction



This large silver medal was awarded to Joshua Jeays in 1846 for his book *The Orthogonal System of Hand-Railing*.

The inscription on the front reads:

*'To Mr. Joshua Jeays  
MCCCCXLVI  
FOR HIS ORTHOGONAL  
SYSTEM OF HAND-  
RAILING'*

The inscription on the back reads:

*'ARTS AND COMMERCE  
PROMOTED'*

The medal is in the safekeeping of his descendants.

Title page from Joshua Jeays' book *The Orthogonal System of Hand-Railing*.



This silver medal was awarded to Joshua Jeays in 1839 for his book *Geometrical Construction of a Hipped Roof*.

The inscription on the front reads:

'To Mr. Joshua Jeays  
MDCCCXXXIX  
FOR HIS GEOMETRICAL  
CONSTRUCTION OF A  
HIP ROOF'

The inscription on the back reads:

'ARTS AND COMMERCE  
PROMOTED'

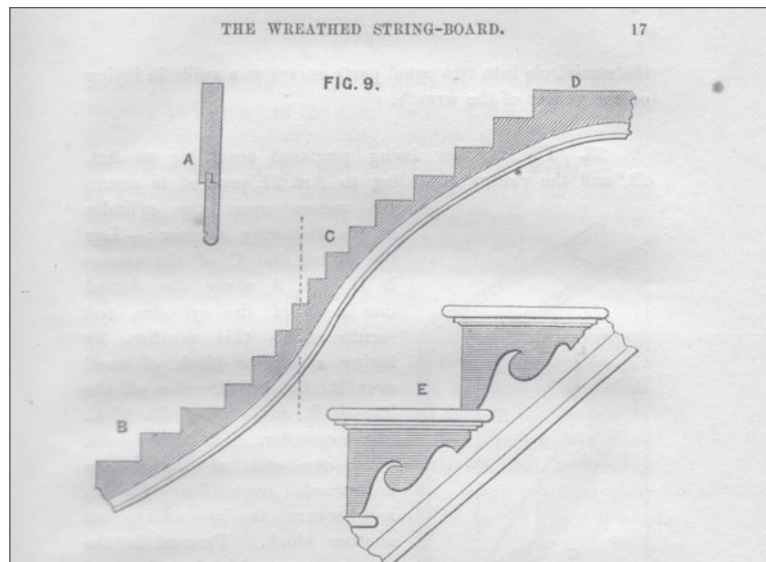
The medal is in the safekeeping of his descendants.

company – with a young family to support the increased income would have been useful.

Joshua Jeays saw a need to document some basic but important construction skills. He set about writing a text to assist with building skill development. In a short period he wrote two excellent books outlining design techniques and construction methods for carpenters and builders. His first published book was titled *The Geometrical Construction of the Hipped Roof*, and was published in London in 1839. This publication was well received, as hipped rooflines were the building design in common use at that time.

Joshua Jeays had also found that the method commonly used at that time for constructing internal staircases was difficult to follow and often resulted in poor and unsafe staircase construction. To address this shortcoming, he wrote his second book in 1846, *The Orthogonal System of Hand-railing with Practical Illustrations of the Construction of Stairs*. Both these books were marketed and sold in Britain, and a second edition of the book on hand-railing was printed in 1864 while Jeays was living in Brisbane. It is unlikely that Jeays received much monetary reward for his efforts, but such clearly written and illustrated texts were obviously needed in the construction industry at that time. The texts contained clear, easy-to-follow diagrams drawn by the author, and a series of fold-out plates detailing the steps required to achieve curved staircases.

Joshua Jeays' mathematical skills were put to good use in both of these publications. The 1864 edition of *The Orthogonal System of Hand-railing with Practical Illustrations of the*



One of the many illustrations shown in Joshua Jeays' award-winning book.



*Construction of Stairs* gives an insight into the character of the man.

Here is the preface of his book:

*'The construction of the hand-rail upon the principles of the Orthogonal System is more economical, and the face-mould is more easily applied to the plank. The principles of this system were laid by the author<sup>o</sup> before the Society of Arts, for which he was awarded the large Silver Medal. In the following pages, the problems necessary in the construction of hand-rails upon the principles of the Orthogonal System will be found to be solved in the simplest possible manner; for instance, the problem for determining the direction of the ordinates in the construction of the face-moulds is solved with four lines, which is less than one-third of the number employed by Nicholson<sup>o</sup> for the same purpose. The construction of the butt-joints of the hand-rail upon strict geometrical principles, the determination of the scroll from the logarithmical spiral, and several other new and interesting details, originating with the writer, will be found distributed throughout the work.*

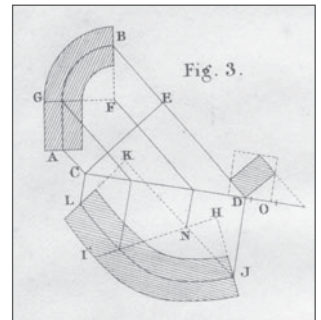
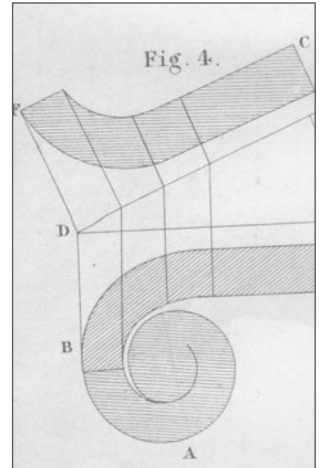
*In the department devoted to the construction of Stairs, the author must confess that little is added that was not previously known. It was only for the sake of obviating the necessity of referring the reader to other, and more expensive, works that this part was introduced. The main object of the writer being to give a system of hand-railing simple, economical, and upon correct principles: if, in the introduction of the Orthogonal System he has succeeded, his object is fully accomplished.'*

His award-winning book closes with this sentence:

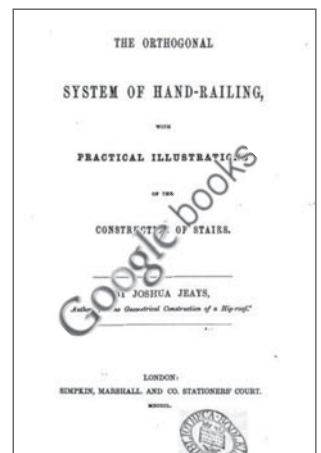
*It would be useless, however, to attempt to lay down rules for giving the forms of hand-rails, the two grand objects to be attained are ornament and adaptation to the purpose, neither of which must be sacrificed for the attainment of the other.'*

This philosophy continues to be relevant in many aspects of life today.

By the early 1850s Joshua Jeays had left the Chelsea construction company and gone into business for himself. The 1851 Census in Britain provides details of his family:



Detailed illustrations taken from Joshua Jeays' book *The Orthogonal System of Hand-Railing*.



His book was selected by GoogleBooks to be available for viewing online.

**1851 CENSUS**

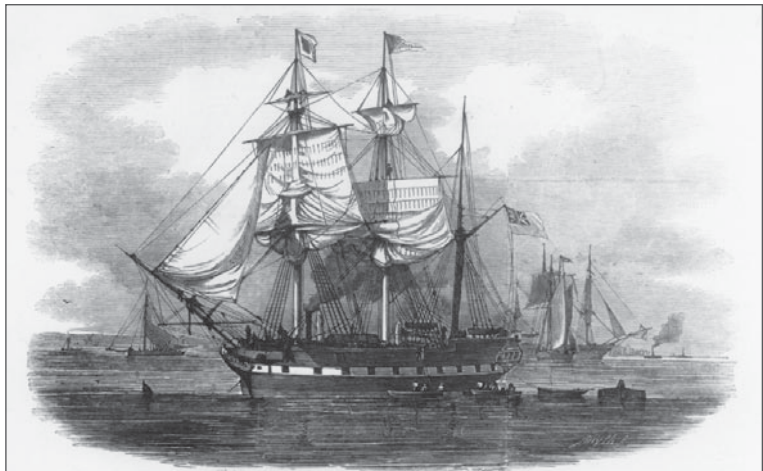
Joshua	39 years	carpenter born in Leicester
Sarah	39 years	born in Beeby, Leicester
Sarah Jane	10 years	born in St George
Joseph J.	3 years	born in Chelsea
Charles Edwyn	1 year	born in Chelsea, No. 5 Canera Place, Chelsea, Parish of St Luke, northside of Battersy Bridge.

Anne Elizabeth was born in the second quarter of 1852 in Chelsea when Sarah was 40 years old. By the end of 1852 the entire Jeays family was bound for Brisbane. Descendants believe that the Jeays family migration may have been due to health issues. Certainly there were tremendous opportunities for those prepared to turn their backs on London and head off into the unknown. Two of Joshua and Sarah's children had died in infancy during an era of high infant mortality. Pollution and poor sanitation in London might have been other incentives to emigrate. The real reasons for this major change of direction are likely to remain a mystery.

Joshua and Sarah Jeays emigrated with their four children to the Moreton Bay settlement of Brisbane aboard the *Agricola* at the end of 1852. Ships' manifests are a fine source of passenger information, recording place of origin, occupation and religious affiliation. Joshua's occupation was noted as a carpenter, and both Joshua and Sarah were recorded as being able to read and write. Their religion was given as Church of England and

The *Agricola* was similar to the three-masted barque shown here.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 191162





On such a small ship the passengers would not have enjoyed much privacy.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 191162

they came from Middlesex, as did a number of other emigrants on this voyage. See Appendix 4 for full details of the hundreds of passengers on the *Agricola*.

The 564-ton barque *Agricola* was built in 1839 at Sunderland shipbuilding docks, on the east coast of England between Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The ship's owner, Adamson of New York, registered the *Agricola* in New York. Once the ship's hull, rigging and main structure were completed in Sunderland, she was sailed to New York to be completely fitted out. The *Agricola* then returned to England to begin work as an emigrant bounty ship; her maiden voyage was in 1841.

A barque was a wooden three-masted sailing vessel with square rigging on all but the aftermost mast, which was fore and aft rigged. The *Agricola* was very small compared to today's passenger ships – the smallest P & O cruise ship today is the *Artemis*, 44,348 tonnage, with 594 passenger cabins.

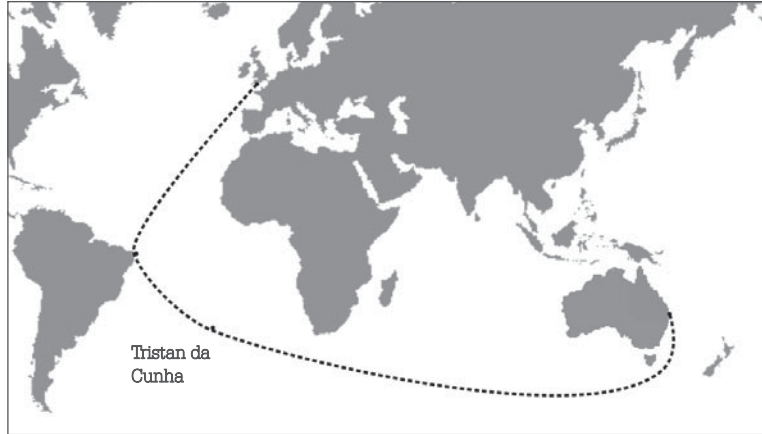
Passenger accommodation on the *Agricola* was very basic. Some cabins were available for paying passengers and families, but the majority of passengers slept and lived in racks of wooden bunks containing straw-filled mattresses and very little else. Males were in one section and females in another. Canvas hammocks were also hooked up for sleeping. An internal space containing heavy wooden tables and long stools was used for dining and other activities. Shipboard conditions for passengers and crew were cramped, with little privacy. Many passengers would never have been to sea before and would likely have suffered from seasickness.

The *Agricola* departed England from Torbay on 9 November 1852 with 263 passengers and a cargo of rum and beer, under the command of Captain John Bell.



The emigration route of the *Agricola* from Torbay (south-west England) via Natal (Brazil) and Tristan da Cunha Island to Brisbane.

Tristan da Cunha Island is part of a group of remote volcanic islands in the south Atlantic Ocean. It is a dependency of the British overseas territory of Saint Helena, 2430 km to the north. Ships visited Tristan da Cunha to take on water from a large waterfall and lake on the northern side of the island. At the time of the Jeays family's emigration there was a small community of fishermen living on the island. Tristan da Cunha is the most remote archipelago in the world.



The ship's route was across the Atlantic Ocean to the township of Natal, on the very eastern tip of Brazil, then south and east to Tristan da Cunha, before heading east, well south of the African continent, to cross the Indian Ocean. Through rough seas and gales Captain Bell and his crew brought the barque well south of Tasmania before they sailed directly north to Moreton Bay. Usually this voyage took 120 days, but the *Agricola* completed the trip in 109 days, or about 3½ months, arriving in Moreton Bay on 26 February 1853, where they anchored to await inspection before disembarkation.

The journey was not without adventure and considerable heartbreak. Sixteen children, most under the age of five, died on this voyage from England to Australia. A married couple, Thomas and Catherine Smith, and their eight-year-old son John died during the journey, leaving their remaining two children, 10-year-old James and six-year-old Mary, as orphans. One crew member was lost in a gale. One baby was born on the voyage, and was fittingly named Agricola Thomas.

On 3 March 1853, after Customs inspection, the passengers from the *Agricola* entered Brisbane. This is how the *Moreton Bay Courier* reported the arrival of the *Agricola*.<sup>11</sup>

The AGRICOLA arrived in the bay on Saturday last with 246 immigrants from England. She left Torbay on the 9th November, with 263 emigrants; and there have been 18 deaths (only 2 adults) and one birth, on the passage. The passengers are reported to be in good health. They consist of 122 married persons, 3 single men, 13 single women and 108 children. The callings of the adults are as follows: Agricultural labourers 31;

bricklayers 3; blacksmiths 2; bootmaker 1; carpenter 9; cornfactor<sup>12</sup> 1; coat maker 1; domestic servants 12; gardeners 5; mason 1; painter 1; policeman 1; shepherds 4; sawyers<sup>13</sup> 2; school master 1; sail maker 1; tailors 2. With the exception of ten, they are all stated to be English.

After the *Agricola's* arrival in Brisbane, an investigation was held by the Immigration Board, perhaps because of the number of deaths on the voyage.

A number of interesting articles pertaining to the *Agricola* appeared in the *Moreton Bay Courier*.

12 March 1853. Testimonial of Respect for John Bell, Esq.

We whose names are hereto annexed, emigrants on board the barque AGRICOLA, that sailed from Deptford October 23rd, 1852, have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the careful and efficient manner Captain Bell, his officers and crew, have conducted the vessel throughout the voyage, especially through the heavy gales we have encountered. We also wish to express our gratitude for kindness and readiness to assist in promoting the comfort and well-being of the emigrants generally; and they have our hearty well wishes in a safe return to England; and may long life and happiness ever attend them.

Signed by the whole of the passengers.

February 26th, 1852 (sic)<sup>14</sup>

Testimonial of Respect to T.H. Mayne, Esq.

We, the undersigned, emigrants on board the barque AGRICOLA, which sailed from Deptford, October 23rd, 1852, for Moreton Bay, New South Wales, beg most respectfully to present to T.H. Mayne, Esq. the Surgeon-Superintendent, our grateful thanks for his unwearied exertions in promoting our comfort and happiness during the voyage; and, also, to express our entire satisfaction

for the Immediate Attention he has given in all cases of Sickness and Accident.

This document contains the spontaneous expression of our feelings; and we all wish him health and happiness, and hope that many more who leave their native land may be fortunate enough in securing the services of such an efficient gentleman for their Surgeon-Superintendent.

Signed by the whole of the passengers.

February 26th, 1853.

The third page of the same paper carried two references to crew members of the *Agricola*:

BREACH OF MERCHANT SEAMEN'S ACT

- On Monday last Benjamin Evans, John Simpson, Thomas Pearce, Joseph Neville, George Gommell, Edward White, Robert Wright, Thomas McDonald and Thomas McGowan, seamen of the ship, AGRICOLA, article 1 from London to Moreton Bay and any port or port on the coast, for three years, were charged with refusing to do duty on board their ship. They confessed the offence, and positively refused to return to work. The Bench sentenced them to four week's imprisonment, and then to be returned to their ship.

On the same day Alexander Thompson and Thomas Johnson were brought up for deserting from the AGRICOLA. The former was returned to his ship, and the latter, refusing to do so, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.<sup>15</sup>

Another small article shows the probable motivation for the seamen to strike and desert ship:

ASTOUNDING NEWS! - We were informed on Saturday evening, from a reliable source, that another lump of gold quartz had been taken from the Canadian Gulley, Ballarat, weighing 248 pounds!<sup>16</sup>

On the first page of the same paper this advertisement appeared:

FOR LONDON  
 The AGRICOLA, 564 tons, J. Bell, Command-  
 er,  
 Will have quick dispatch.  
 Freight, including Lighterage<sup>17</sup>:-  
 For Tallow, 63s per ton; for Wool,  
 Five Farthings per lb.  
 Apply to Geo. Raff & Co.; or  
 Montefiore, Graham & Co.

A slightly modified advertisement in regard to the *Agricola's* departure appeared on the front page of the next five weekly publications of the *Moreton Bay Courier*, through April and May of 1853. In this advertisement, the sailing date is given as 1st June travelling via Sydney, and a higher rate is offered for tallow (68s per ton). Tallow, the fatty tissue or suet from sheep and cattle carcasses when boiled down, was widely used for making candles and soap. Further advertisements throughout June alerted readers to the fact that the *Agricola* was departing Brisbane on '17th instant' (17 June 1853), calling in to Sydney for more crew members, and with room to take a few cabin passengers to Sydney.<sup>18</sup>

The *Agricola* eventually departed Brisbane on 25 June 1853 with Dr Clegg, Mr A Raff and Mrs Russell with a child and servant as passengers. Dr Clegg disembarked in Sydney on 6 July. The *Agricola* arrived at Gravesend on 5 December 1853.

The return to England enabled the *Agricola* to take cargo rather than passengers, as noted in the *Moreton Bay Courier*:

EXPORTS  
 Per AGRICOLA  
 2000 hides,                   Montefiore Graham & Co.  
 111 bales wool,  
 45 casks tallow  
 230 casks tallow           G. Raff & Co.  
 131 hides,                   F.A. Forbes  
 44 casks tallow  
 49 casks tallow,           H. Hughes  
 23 bales wool,  
 1 case books  
 90 bales wool               M.H. Marsh



88 casks tallow	D. & J. McConnell
63 casks tallow	A. Hodgson
101 bales wool	H. Buckley
89 bales wool	Gore Bros.
26 bales wool	J. Harris
22 bales wool	Thos. Bell
Recapitulation:	
472 bales of wool, 926 casks tallow, 2131	
hides, 1 case books. <sup>19</sup>	

Impressively, the pioneering settlers of remote Brisbane Town had created some economic viability as evidenced by their ability to produce so much to export.

Joshua Jeays had left behind a vibrant but frantically busy and industrially polluted London as he transplanted his family into the seedling settlement of Brisbane Town. His decision to leave London and head for Moreton Bay was a truly fortunate one for the early development of Brisbane.

### Endnotes

- 1 Draper, 1989.
- 2 Jeays is also recorded as Jayes, in some English records.
- 3 Edwyn is also spelt as Edwin, in English records.
- 4 The 1811 Census records for Beeby have a population of 121 people in this small village surrounded by farms.
- 5 Taken from the Certified Copy of an entry of Marriage for Joshua Jeays and Sarah Edwyn.
- 6 The second quarter of a year is April, May or June.
- 7 The third quarter of a year is July, August or September.
- 8 The fourth quarter of a year is October, November or December.
- 9 Author: Joshua Jeays. A copy of Joshua Jeays' book *The Orthogonal System of Handrailing* is available online for viewing at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/orthogonalsyste00jeaygoog#page/n0/>
- 10 P Nicholson created the original application of a section of a cylinder with the rules of use for the construction of stairs, but its complexity meant that many builders made errors in its application, and constructed unsafe stairs.
- 11 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 March 1853, p.2.
- 12 A cornfactor was a person who dealt in corn.
- 13 A sawyer sawed timber for a living.
- 14 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 March 1853.
- 15 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 March 1853, p.3.
- 16 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 March 1853, p.3.
- 17 Lighterage referred to goods being taken to or from a ship using a flat-bottomed unpowered barge known as a lighter.
- 18 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 11, 18 and 25 June, 1853.
- 19 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 25 June, 1853 (sic).

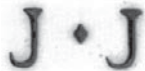
## 3. SETTLING IN 1853 -1855

### **BRISBANE**

- struggles to cope with housing shortages, but enters a period of rapid growth with a museum, a watch-house, the School of Arts, three banks and the Botanical Gardens
- a lighthouse and bridge are planned
- desire for Separation strengthens
- the beginning of sustainability, but some settlers leave in search for gold after Victorian gold rush.

### **JOSHUA JEAYS**

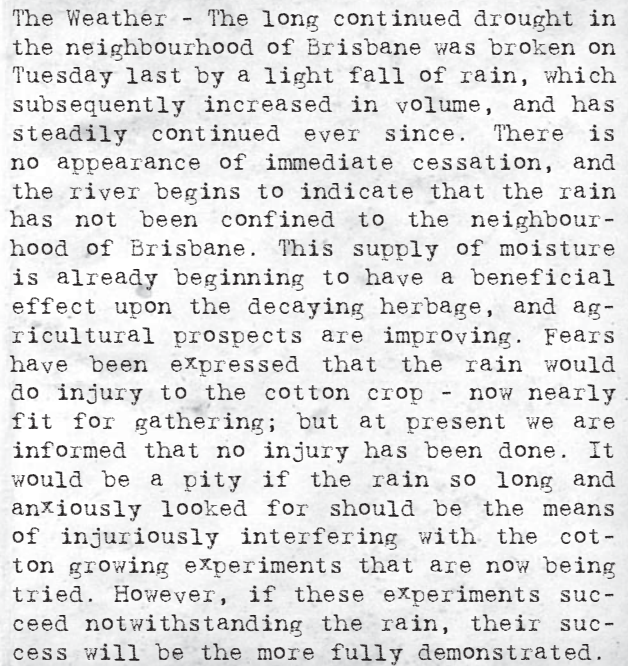
- buys a house and finds a quarry
- receives international recognition for his sandstone
- forms a business partnership and builds churches
- lectures at the School of Arts.



Relief at arriving was soon to be replaced by the realities of finding somewhere to live, settling in and obtaining work. Brisbane was not London! Joshua Jeays needed to find accommodation for his wife and children and to seek out employment opportunities. Central housing would suit work possibilities.

We will never know just what Joshua and Sarah Jeays and their four children did after disembarkation in Brisbane Town on 3 March 1853. We are fortunate to have photographic images from that time to help us picture the town and the sorts of things the family would do during that first year. The Jeays family would have been saying farewell to many of their travelling companions and the life they had known. The inclement weather as they finally disembarked could have dampened the excitement of their arrival.

The 12 March 1853 edition of *The Moreton Bay Courier* gives some idea of the weather conditions at that time in the Moreton Bay district:



The Weather - The long continued drought in the neighbourhood of Brisbane was broken on Tuesday last by a light fall of rain, which subsequently increased in volume, and has steadily continued ever since. There is no appearance of immediate cessation, and the river begins to indicate that the rain has not been confined to the neighbourhood of Brisbane. This supply of moisture is already beginning to have a beneficial effect upon the decaying herbage, and agricultural prospects are improving. Fears have been expressed that the rain would do injury to the cotton crop - now nearly fit for gathering; but at present we are informed that no injury has been done. It would be a pity if the rain so long and anxiously looked for should be the means of injuriously interfering with the cotton growing experiments that are now being tried. However, if these experiments succeed notwithstanding the rain, their success will be the more fully demonstrated.

Short-term accommodation was arranged, most likely in the very basic facilities of the Immigration Depot in William Street. During 1853 six shiploads of migrants, some 2093 new arrivals in all, arrived in Brisbane. The population increase was welcomed as it eased the labour shortage. Many newcomers found work soon after coming ashore. Those who were not immediately employed remained at the Immigration Depot until they obtained work, found a place to live or journeyed to other places. Single male arrivals were usually employed immediately as they were free to travel and easily accommodated. Married couples and single women often took more time to find employment and therefore tended to stay longer at the Immigration Depot.

The first official record of the Jeays family in Brisbane Town is in July 1854, when the North Brisbane Electoral List<sup>1</sup> shows Joshua as a householder renting in Albert Street for at least six months, paying a rent of £10 per annum or more. This made him eligible to vote. House blocks were not numbered so there is no record of exactly where the Jeays family rented in Albert Street.

In September 1854, Joshua Jeays purchased Allotment 9 of Section 16, Parish of North Brisbane, facing North Quay.<sup>2</sup> Jeays family knowledge suggests that this house and land was rented from Matthew Buscall Goggs<sup>3</sup> who was, at that time, living on his pastoral lease, Chinchilla Station. The arrangement was that Joshua Jeays would purchase the property from Matthew Goggs as soon as he became established in Brisbane. Goggs, also known as 'Goggs the Nipper', indicated that Joshua Jeays would never make a success in Brisbane and that this house would soon be back in his possession. He was proven wrong though, as Joshua and Sarah Jeays purchased the property within months, raised their family in this house,<sup>4</sup> and lived there for the rest of their lives. Jeays family members lived in this home until 1906. See Appendix 2 for further family history.

Interestingly, a title search of Allotment 9, Section 16, in the Parish of North Brisbane in the County of Stanley, found that John Markwell purchased this 1 rood 14 perch Town Lot from the Crown on 21 November 1853 for £54. Some of the later title records have been lost, so we cannot confirm whether Goggs

First temporary bridge across the Brisbane River circa 1866. The Jeays' double-gabled house is visible in the right-hand foreground on the river bank (circled).

State Library of Queensland Neg No.64881



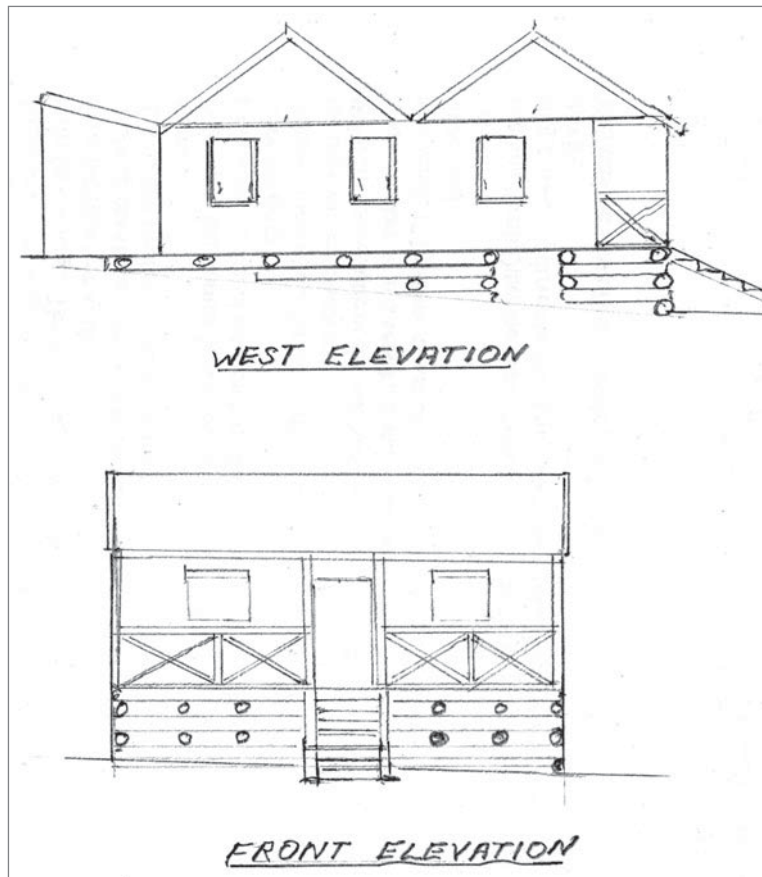


subsequently owned the land and house, then sold it to Joshua Jeays. Research certainly shows Joshua Jeays buying it almost 10 months later, in September 1854, with a house on the land.

The low-set house, set on horizontal hardwood log foundations facing the Brisbane River, was one of the early constructions in Brisbane.<sup>5</sup> The basic structure was a seven-roomed house with a double-hipped roof. The exterior cladding was timber, and in later years a corrugated iron roof replaced the wooden shingles. The allotment had been planted with a variety of plants and trees. Joshua was a good friend of Walter Hill, the first curator of the Botanic Gardens from 1855, who gave him many plants to try out on his property. Two large bunya pines were well established when the Jeays family purchased the house.

We can imagine Joshua spending his first days and weeks in Brisbane Town walking about the township to gain some impression of its layout and its people. For Joshua, conversations and meetings were opportunities to share his credentials and enhance his employment potential. Discussions with residents

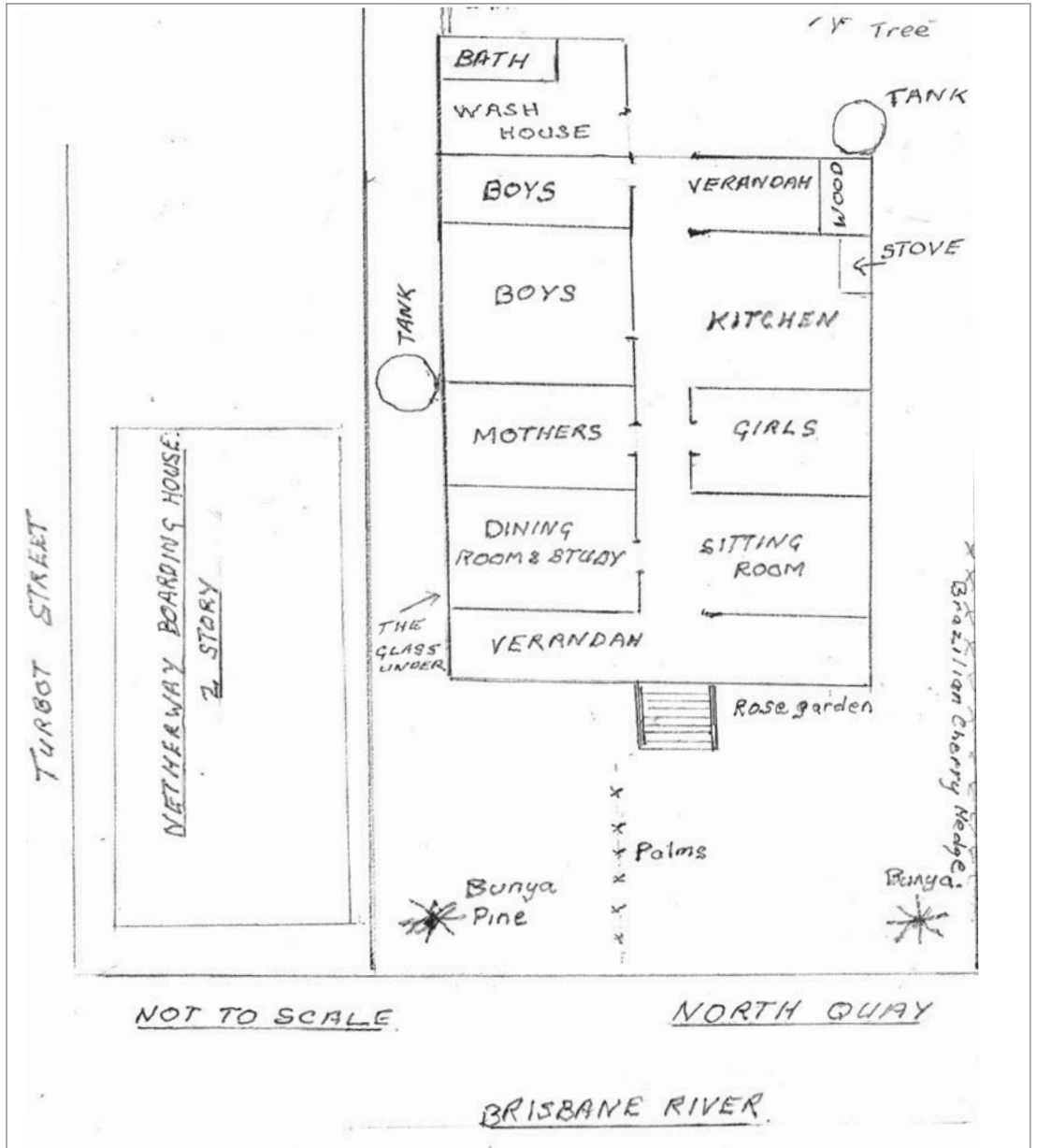
Elevations of Jeays' home at North Quay as remembered by Albert Frederick Jeays (grandson of Joshua), who lived there as a child. This drawing was produced in 1960.



and local builders would have provided information about Brisbane's building industry, current building styles and materials, as well as methods used in construction.

It is harder to imagine what the rest of the family was doing during the first few months. We know only that Anne Elizabeth Jeays, almost a year old, died in May 1853 – within two months of arriving in Brisbane – so one of the early, very difficult tasks for the family was to bury their precious infant daughter and sister. Whether Anne Elizabeth had sickened on the boat, so

Floor plan and site layout of Jeays' home at North Quay as remembered by Albert Frederick Jeays (grandson of Joshua). This drawing was produced in 1960.



that Sarah was preoccupied with her care throughout those weeks, or whether it was a sudden illness or accident, we will never know.

Whatever the circumstances surrounding Anne Elizabeth's untimely death, Sarah still had the important tasks of unpacking and re-creating a household routine so that Joshua could find work and the family could begin to adjust to the different living conditions. Accommodation might have been hard to find and expensive, but food was not only plentiful, it was also relatively cheap: meat sold at two pence per pound, potatoes were 2½ pence per pound and eggs sold for two shillings and sixpence per dozen.<sup>6</sup>

Sarah Jane would have helped her mother with the tedious, time-consuming and labour-intensive household tasks like cooking, cleaning and washing and ironing clothes. These were all manual tasks in those days. How long Sarah Jane remained at school is unknown.

There were limited avenues for entertainment, so evening walks or 'promenading' with the family in the community gardens and along the riverbank would have provided opportunities to discuss daily events and to become acquainted with other Brisbane residents. It is likely that the family attended St John's Church of England, as both Sarah and Joshua belonged to this denomination, and this is the church in which Sarah Jane was later married.

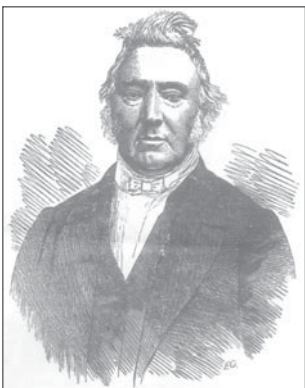
The *Fortitude* was the first of three ships organised by Dr John Dunmore Lang to bring immigrants to settle in the Moreton Bay Settlement in 1849. Upon arrival the passengers found that the Moreton Bay authorities did not expect them and there was nowhere for them to go. Most of them settled just north of Brisbane Town in Fortitude Valley.

Throughout the 1850s the dramatic and concentrated population increases created real challenges for the stretched resources of Brisbane Town. At the same time housing and infrastructure struggled to meet the demand. However, the positive impacts of an increasing population and developing economic, social and political infrastructures were emerging.

Accommodation in Brisbane in 1853 was generally in short supply and, consequently, expensive despite its poor quality. A self-perpetuating cycle of housing shortages caused by increased numbers of immigrants pushed building costs higher and encouraged exorbitant rents. This was a good time for a competent and experienced builder to arrive in Brisbane Town.

Reverend Dr John Dunmore Lang.

Engraving-Illustrated Sydney News 1867



The *Moreton Bay Courier* kept readers informed about events and developments in the settlement. Many brick and stone residences were sold and rented. A watch-house was needed.<sup>7</sup> The New South Wales Legislative Council (the governing body of the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs settlements at the time) approved expenditure of £3000 for the construction of a lighthouse on Moreton Island, £100 to repair the Brisbane Gaol<sup>8</sup> and £100 to the School of Arts.<sup>9</sup>

Just as the Jeays family arrived, the proposed village at Cabbage Tree Creek was named Sandgate.<sup>10</sup> By November 1853, the first allotments at Sandgate and Cleveland were auctioned in the largest land sale at that time in Moreton Bay.<sup>11</sup> Although Joshua Jeays did not participate in these early land purchases, Sandgate later became an important area for his investments, property development and community involvement. To this day, many descendants of Joshua and Sarah Jeays live and work in Sandgate. See Appendix 1.

During 1853 a number of events impacted on the communities of the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs regions and settlements further north. Searches for gold at Pikedale, Cunningham's Gap and the Burnett area were fruitless. Cotton growing, on the other hand, was yielding good quality and saleable, non-perishable produce for export to England. Agriculture was becoming important. The first Horticultural Show stimulated further interest in gardening and horticultural pursuits.

Brisbane began to produce items for its own needs, and to reduce its imports. Lemonade and soda-water machines were brought to Brisbane. Dr Hobbs developed dugong oil as a 'curative agent for consumption'. Enterprises for soap boiling, candle making, brewing and leather production were set up. Thomas Blackett Stephens, for example, established a fellmongery along Ekibin Creek, to tan animal skins into leather. This noxious and smelly process needed lots of water, so fellmongeries were usually established on a flowing creek away from the residential settlements. Sawmills were established, and three banks opened for business in the town.<sup>12</sup> Confidence was growing.

Joshua Jeays quickly became a member of the Brisbane School of Arts that had been established late in 1849. It became an important networking organisation as a place to meet people, share ideas, and keep in touch with the latest theories on scientific, cultural, technical and educational topics. At first, meetings were held in the Court House of the old convict barracks in Queen Street, then an allotment on the corner of Queen and Creek streets<sup>13</sup> was purchased and members constructed their own wooden meeting hall in 1851.



Many Brisbane citizens were members of the School of Arts. A lending library was developed with funds raised, and books were regularly added to the School of Arts' collection, which numbered 1171 volumes by the end of 1853. In addition, the School of Arts membership increased from 119 in 1853 to 154 members in 1854.<sup>14</sup>

As a long-time member of the School of Arts, Joshua Jeays presented talks, was a committee member, and no doubt made friends and developed useful networks from his involvement. An article in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 18 August 1855, shows that Joshua Jeays was to present the next lecture at the Brisbane School of Arts:

OPTICS AND ACHROMATICS

MR. JAYES (sic)

WILL deliver a LECTURE in the Hall of the Brisbane School of Arts on TUESDAY EVENING, the 22nd instant, at seven o'clock, on the science of OPTICS and ACHROMATICS, which will be illustrated by Diagrams.

Brisbane School of Arts. c  
1900.

State Library of Queensland  
Negative no. 17027.



Members and their Families admitted on pay-  
ment of 1s., non-subscribers 1s. each.

By request of the Committee

JOHN INNES

August 16, 1855. Secretary

A week later this report was written about Joshua Jeays' lecture:

*SCHOOL OF ARTS – A lecture was delivered at the Brisbane School of Arts last Tuesday evening, by Mr. Jeays, on the subject of optics and achromatics. The attendance was not numerous but the lecture was well received, and a vote of thanks given to the lecturer.<sup>15</sup>*

The *Moreton Bay Courier* was a very useful source of local and distant information. In July 1853 Joshua Jeays would have read with interest about the discovery of no fewer than eight previously unknown planets in the solar system.<sup>16</sup> Throughout his lifetime Joshua maintained an absorbing interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics, astronomy and the solar system. There is little doubt that he would have found the night skies of the southern hemisphere truly fascinating.

News of the Separation of the colony of Victoria from New South Wales reached Brisbane in August 1853.<sup>17</sup> In November 1853 yet another public meeting was convened in Brisbane at the Court House urging separation of a northern colony from New South Wales.<sup>18</sup> Separation was an issue that was never far from the minds of the northern settlers of New South Wales.

An editorial published in the *Moreton Bay Courier* late in 1853 forecast 'a prospective building boom in the Moreton Bay region' during 1854.<sup>19</sup> It is hard to see why. The area's roadways were basic tracks, mostly unformed, and full of holes and ruts that turned into bogs during heavy rain. The township had a poor and limited supply of fresh water. The postal system, particularly the services linking areas outside of Brisbane, was inefficient and unreliable.

During 1854, land sales in the Moreton Bay region were booming. In February 1854, 55 town lots in North Brisbane were up for sale, and by April all the remaining village allotments that had gone on the market in November were sold. In May, allotments

in Albert Street, in South Brisbane and in Sandgate were sold, and the November land sales in Enoggera Parish highlighted the growing interest in suburban settlement.<sup>20</sup>

Late in March 1854 Governor-General Sir Charles Fitzroy spent almost three weeks in the Moreton Bay district, where he saw for himself the physical conditions in the region. He no doubt gained some sense of the community's keenness to separate from New South Wales. During his visit he saw much of Brisbane and visited Ipswich before making a circuit of the Darling Downs, visiting Drayton and Warwick and returning via Cunningham's Gap to Brisbane. Fitzroy decided that the gardens established during the convict era would be restored for use as a public community garden.<sup>21</sup>

Clearly the governing authorities of New South Wales had neglected this struggling outpost. Considerable community initiative was evident in Brisbane during 1854, changing the township's dilapidated appearance and turning around community apathy. An increased number of brick homes of better structural quality were built.

From January to March 1854 District Surveyor James Charles Burnett drew up the plans to align these Brisbane city streets: Queen, Elizabeth, Albert, Edward, William, George, Adelaide and Eagle streets, as well as two South Brisbane streets: Russell Street and Stanley Quay. The road to Breakfast Creek was improved, linking it to the thriving village of Fortitude Valley, established by the *Fortitude* immigrants.<sup>22</sup>

In July 1854 the government authorities fixed the breadths for carriageways and footways within Brisbane.<sup>23</sup> Fencing off allotments along these street alignments was then possible.<sup>24</sup>

The impounding of stray goats and pigs and restricting the times when cattle could be driven through Brisbane streets went some way to developing a sense of pride in the township.<sup>25</sup> Brisbane took on the role of the area's chief town. The established port facilities were expanded. Brisbane's rapid growth ensured that it held the initiative in commercial enterprise, which enabled it to inevitably become the centre of the new colony.<sup>26</sup>

Very limited funding was provided for 'public works' and criticism of the local authority and government management became more precise and stringent.<sup>27</sup> Confidence was building and the local economy was strengthening. The first Moreton Bay Building Society made a profit and provided returns to their members, so they decided to form a second fund.<sup>28</sup> At the second show of the Horticultural Society of Brisbane an

attempt was made to establish an Agricultural & Pastoral Association.<sup>29</sup>

There was still a shortage of skilled labour during 1854 because of the increase in building activity. Many purchased allotments remained vacant. Building techniques of that time mainly involved manual labour and hand-held tools. Construction work was hard and slow and often more difficult in the subtropical climatic conditions. During 1854 the wages for masons and building workers were cut by more than one-third as the economy began to slip into recession.<sup>30</sup> This was the beginning of the major gold rushes, mostly in Victoria and New South Wales. The economy underwent major changes as many people left the towns to seek gold in the goldrush areas, living in tents.

From 1824 through the convict period into the 1850s, considerable searching of the Moreton Bay area was undertaken to find suitable stone deposits for construction work. John Petrie and others searched the Ipswich areas for stone quarry sites. A number of sandstone deposits were found. Goodna sandstone, with its light pink to light brown colours usually containing concentric banding with a medium grain size, was considered by the early stonemasons to be one of the best sandstones for building. A quarry site close to the Brisbane River was a great advantage for transporting heavy-cut stone.

Joshua Jeays was to become a supplier of famous sandstone used in buildings still standing today. Good quality building stone was an important asset at this time. Access to a source of high quality stone would give him a strong market advantage, so it is possible that Joshua Jeays made the search for materials one of his immediate priorities when he arrived in Brisbane Town.

Inconclusive evidence suggests it may have been as early as 1853 that Joshua Jeays began to search for his own quarry site. He found excellent sandstone at Woogaroo, commonly known today as Goodna, and was supplying this stone to building projects by late 1858. He purchased a 40-acre riverbank site that would officially become his quarry on 18 September 1861.<sup>31</sup> Joshua Jeays' quarry produced sandstone that would become regarded as superior to other local sandstones and was used extensively in many public buildings<sup>32</sup> until the late 1860s.

The high quality of the stone from Jeays' quarry was endorsed when a sample of his Woogaroo sandstone was sent first to the Sydney Exhibition and then to the London International Exhibition in 1862. At this international exhibition Joshua



The silver medal awarded to Joshua Jeays at the London Exhibition in 1862 for his Woogaroo sandstone. The inscription on the face of the medal reads:

*PULCHRA TE  
PROLE PARENTEM.  
QUEENSLAND OFFERS  
HER FIRST FRUITS TO  
BRITAIN*

The reverse of the medal reads:

*INTERNATIONAL  
EXHIBITION LONDON  
1862 PRODUCTS OF  
QUEENSLAND*

The inscription on the rim reads:

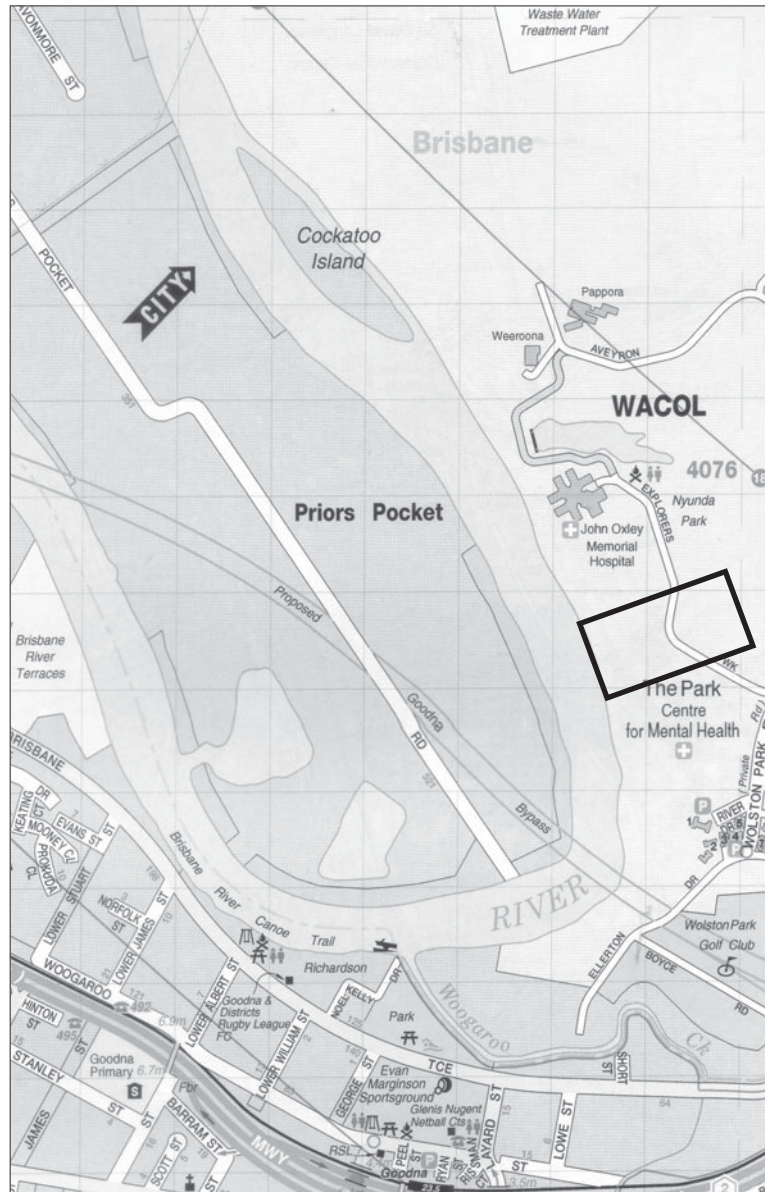
*TO JOSHUA JEAYS  
ESQ. FOR WOOGAROO  
FREESTONE*

This medal is in the possession of the Jeays family.



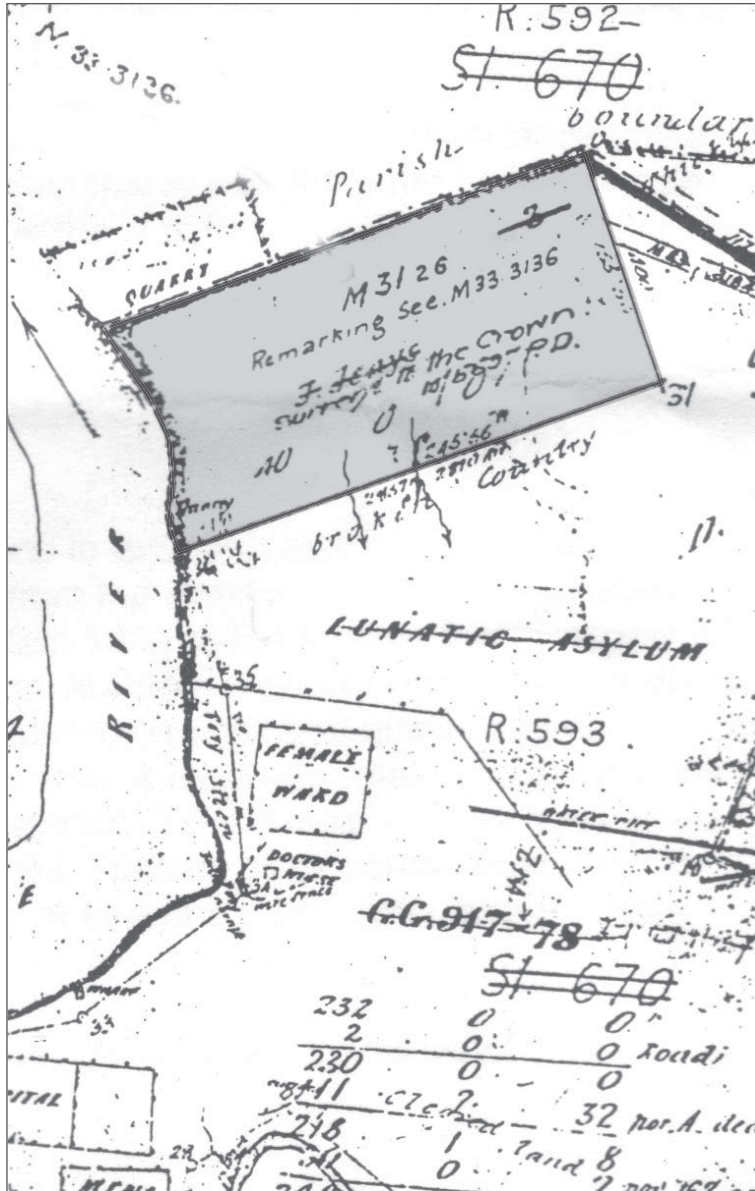
Brisbane UBD Street Directory 2008 overdrawn to show the location of Joshua Jeays' 40 acres that contained the Woogaroo No. 1 Quarry.

Parliament House Brisbane: Conservation of Stonework Ballard and Roessler/Q-Build Project Services June 1992



Jeays' sandstone was awarded two silver medals and one bronze medal.

Jeays' Woogaroo quarry site is a short distance upstream from Wolston<sup>33</sup> and some believe that he was involved in the supply of stone for the construction of *Wolston House*, an important property now held by the National Trust of Queensland. Sandstone very similar, possibly identical, to the sandstone from Jeays' quarry was used in the basement rooms that formed the foundations of the original house at Wolston.



Extract from 1878 land survey (catalogue No. C8.81 Parish of Oxley and Woogaroo, County of Moreton), District of Moreton) showing Jeays' holding.

Parliament House Brisbane: Conservation of Stonework Ballard and Roessler/Q-Build Project Services June 1992

The first owner of *Wolston*, Scottish doctor Stephen Simpson, left Sydney for Moreton Bay after losing his wife and child in childbirth in May 1840. He worked here during the end of the convict period, then was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Moreton Bay district when the area was opened up to free settlement in 1842. A doctor of medicine, a Justice of the Peace, a Police Magistrate and a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Dr Simpson purchased 640 acres of land at Woogaroo on 25 June 1851 for £1 per acre. He called the property 'Wolston' after his birthplace, and in

A recent tour of the original Joshua Jeays quarry site revealed the powder magazine—a storage bunker for the explosives used at the quarry.



1855 added four other allotments along the riverbank to his holding.

Simpson employed William Pettigrew, a *Fortitude* immigrant, as the property manager and gardener at *Wolston*. Pettigrew, who had skills in surveying and drafting, designed *Wolston House* and its outbuildings, and in 1852 he laid out the stockyards, stables, outbuildings, house and gardens.<sup>34</sup> It seems that somewhere between 1852 and 1853 the construction of *Wolston House* was under way as Simpson continued his excellent horse stud and cattle herd on this property. Since Joshua Jeays did not arrive in Brisbane until March 1853 it is unlikely that he was involved in the construction of *Wolston House*.

The early structure above the sandstone basement was a brick core of two rooms protected by a wooden-shingled roof. A detached kitchen was positioned nearby. The house was a basic structure: one room deep with French doors opening on to a veranda and no formal entrance.

With the intention of retiring in 1855, Dr Simpson worked at improving *Wolston* and sponsored his nephew, John Ommaney, to come out from England in 1853 and find a prosperous life in New South Wales. Simpson planned to pass on what he had accumulated to young John Ommaney.<sup>35</sup> Unfortunately, Simpson's intention was never fulfilled, as his nephew tragically died after a fall from a horse on this property in March 1856. Dr. Simpson put *Wolston House* and all his other properties up for sale in 1860 and returned to England.

William Pettigrew placed this advertisement in *The Moreton Bay Courier*, 25 April 1857:



TO CONTRACTORS

TENDERS will be received by the subscriber till noon of the 5th day of May, to erect the Stone Walls or the Brick Walls of a Dwelling House at Wolston.

Further particulars will be given by applying to

WM. PETTIGREW.

Brisbane, April 17th, 1857.

Joshua Jeays may have tendered for this contract.

Matthew Buscall Goggs purchased Wolston for his family in 1860. With a growing family eventually numbering 10 children, he subsequently extended the house by adding a sandstone section in the 1860s and an annexe constructed from cedar in the 1870s.<sup>36</sup> It is possible that Joshua Jeays supplied and constructed the sandstone extensions to *Wolston House* for Goggs, as it is family knowledge that they had become friends by this time. Two of Joshua and Sarah Jeays' grandsons would later marry two of Matthew and Anne Goggs' daughters.<sup>37</sup>

*Wolston House* at Wacol,  
1890.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No.21943





Joshua Jeays may have been involved with the sandstone construction of the large retail store for brothers John and George Harris in William Street early in 1854. This small item appeared in *The Moreton Bay Courier*, 18 February 1854:

Messrs J. & G. Harris's new stone store on the River Bank at North Brisbane is proceeding rapidly, considering the manner in which work is usually progressed here. This building is to be 30 feet by 40 feet in area, and 25 feet high, being the largest structure of the kind here.<sup>38</sup>

Like the sandstone at Wolston, the blocks used in the construction of Harris' store may have been from Jeays' quarry. Sir Raphael Cilento gave this opinion about sandstone used at various sites in early Brisbane:<sup>39</sup>

*. . . . Some of the stone of this 1850 - 1860 era, is irreplaceable because (it is) authentic, (and) has been saved and stored at Wolston House, for repair purposes.*<sup>40</sup>

The Jeays' quarry site is located within what is today the grounds of the Queensland Police Department's land that takes in the Wolston Park Hospital Reserve.

Joshua Jeays and Brisbane timber merchant<sup>41</sup> JW Thompson formed a working partnership as builders and contractors. They were engaged on a variety of constructions, including the gallery of St. John's Church and a new Wesleyan Church.

Very little is known about JW Thompson, but he could be the James William Thompson listed on the Electoral List as owning a house and residing in Edward Street.<sup>42</sup> He also owned property in South Brisbane, Enoggera and Cleveland.<sup>43</sup> This advertisement appeared in *The Moreton Bay Courier* on 19 April 1851:

CEDAR. CEDAR.

J.W. THOMPSON. Begs to inform builders and others requiring CEDAR, that he has removed

to the THATCHED HOUSE in Edward-street, back of Mr. Feeney's Cottages, where they may depend upon getting SEASONED TIMBER at the lowest price.

Thompson and Jeays are recorded as having donated £15 towards an unusual cause, which was announced in three December editions of the *Moreton Bay Courier*.

£513/11/- Reward

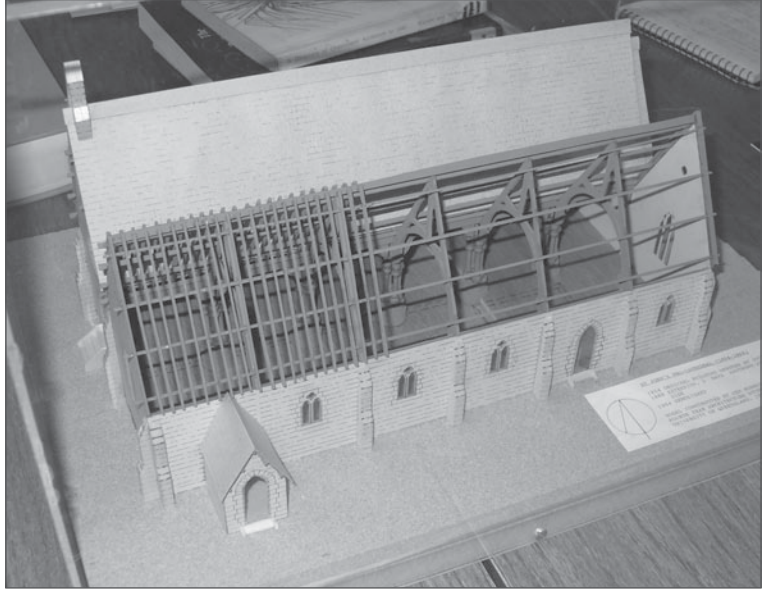
Valuable horse belonging to Mr. John McCabe was by some person or persons maliciously stabbed on the night of Saturday last, through which injury death ensued, the undersigned, in order to express their indignation at, and to prevent a recurrence of such barbarity, hereby offer the sums set aside opposite their respective names as a Reward to any person who shall give such information as will lead to the conviction of the offender.<sup>44</sup>

Their names and those of 115 others and the money they each pledged towards the reward was included below this newspaper statement.

The Church of England had struggled to establish itself in Moreton Bay from convict times. During a visit to Brisbane by Bishop Tyrrell from Newcastle in June 1848, plans to build a stone church to seat 250 people<sup>45</sup> were announced. Plans were drawn up by Sydney architect ET Blacket. In March 1849 the New South Wales Government made a grant of land between George and William streets, almost opposite the Commissariat Store, and the church was built.<sup>46</sup> As Brisbane's population grew, the St John's Church of England congregation grew quickly, and from 1850 the church could not accommodate all its members. Joshua Jeays was to be involved in the construction of a gallery to increase the seating capacity.

Subscriptions were collected from members of the congregation to pay for construction of the new gallery. On 29 October 1854, Bishop Tyrrell consecrated St John's Church. The contract to construct the gallery went to Thompson & Jeays for £128 and work was completed before the end of December 1854.<sup>47</sup> The entire building had cost £1470, with half of the money coming

A model of the extension to St John's Church.



from a government grant. The small church was extended in 1868 and became known as St John's Pro Cathedral.

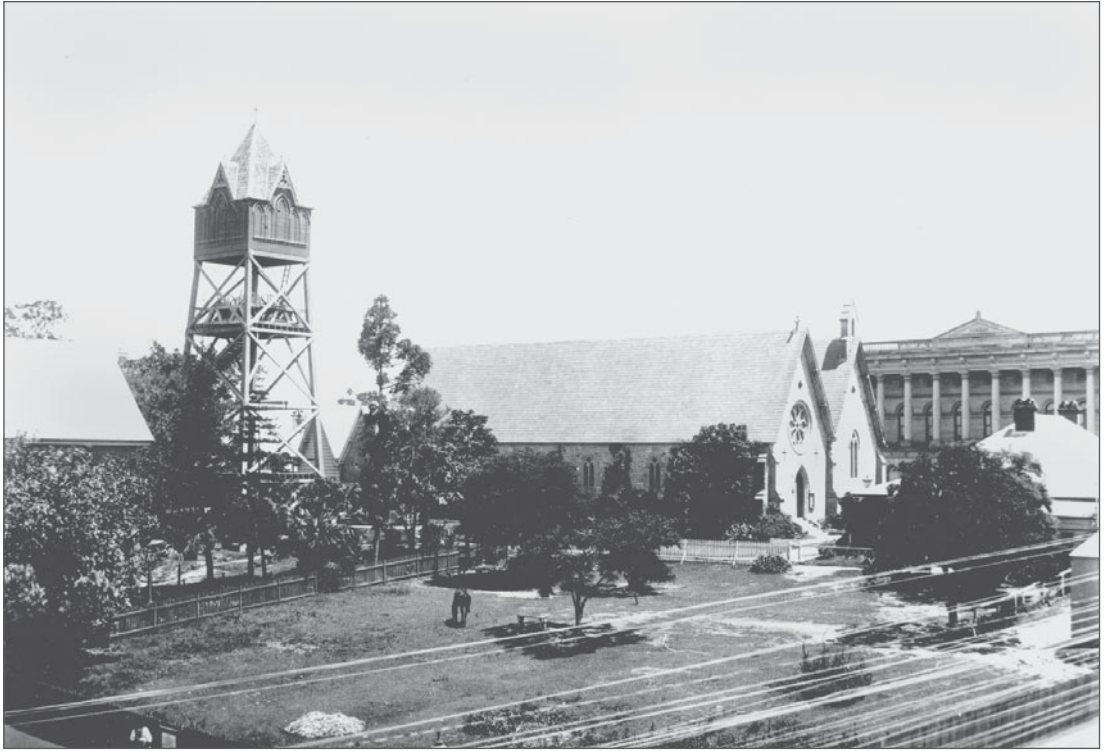
The original St John's Church extended from the buttress and gabled entry door on the left to end at the third buttress on the right before the small door set in the wall. Later additions to the church added to the length of the original church and then doubled the size of the church. St John's Pro Cathedral was demolished in 1904.

Meanwhile, since 10 March 1849, the Wesleyans of Brisbane had been meeting in a tiny brick and stone building just 35 feet long and 18 feet wide on their land in Albert Street and Burnett Lane. This building could seat 150 people, and had been constructed for £150 using bricks and stone from a demolished building at the corner of Queen and Edward streets. A small,

This plaque in the pavement near the statue of Queen Victoria in Queen's Park, bordered by William, Elizabeth and George streets, gives an idea of where St John's Church stood.







two-roomed parsonage had been built beside the church facing Burnett Lane. By 1853, however, services had to be held in the School of Arts hall so that everyone in the growing congregation could be seated. The Wesleyans decided in July 1855 that it was time to demolish the original church and manse, and to build a bigger structure on the same site.

St John's Pro Cathedral  
from Treasury Hotel,  
George Street c 1895.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No.61091

This advertisement appeared in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 28 July 1855:

WESLEYAN CHURCH

BUILDING COMMITTEE, BRISBANE

TO BUILDERS, MASONS, CARPENTERS, PLASTERERS, ETC.

TENDERS are invited for the PERFORMANCE of ANY or ALL of the work required in the erection of a LARGE STONE CHURCH, in Albert-street, according to plans and specifications, which may be seen on application to the secretary.

Parties tendering for the whole of the works, to state the price of each depart-



ment, respectively; and the periods in which they would undertake to complete the successive divisions of the building.

Contractors will be required to furnish approved security, to the extent of one-fourth of the amount of their respective tenders.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the Building Committee, to be lodged with the undersigned, on or before 13th August.

Wm. BROOKES, JUNR.

BRISBANE, July 27, 1855.

The response – or lack of response – to this advertisement prompted a second advertisement in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 25 August 1855:

#### NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH, BRISBANE

NO ELIGIBLE offer for the erection of the above, having been received, the Committee invites Tenders for the erection of the WHOLE WORK, either in STONE or BRICK; according to amended specifications, which may be seen on application to the Secretary.

Tenders will be received until 3rd September.

Wm. BROOKES, JUNR.

BRISBANE, 24th August, 1855.

Historian William Coote recorded:

*.... October the acceptance of the tender of Messrs. Jeays and Thompson, for the new Wesleyan Church in Albert Street for the sum of £1,650<sup>0s</sup>*

This major project was soon under way. The new church was to be a large building of stone, seating 500 people.

Discussion of the merits of building a bridge across the Brisbane River soon occupied the minds of early settlers. The idea was hotly debated. A pontoon bridge sufficiently high to allow river craft to pass under the platforms and the establishment of a company to fund the construction<sup>49</sup> were debated and proposed to the Governor. However, his disapproval and alternative suggestion of a steam ferry soon dampened this discussion.

During 1855 there were many achievements: a museum opened, the river mouth was surveyed by an engineering surveyor, and ideas were developed about the practicability and costs of dredging the river mouth to deepen the channel at the entrance of the Brisbane River.<sup>50</sup> Walter Hill became the first superintendent of the Botanic Gardens.<sup>51</sup> After complaints about the lamentable condition of streets and roads in Brisbane, moves towards petitioning the governing corporation were made to remedy the situation.<sup>52</sup>

On 14 July 1855, William Pettigrew's sawmill burnt down. Fire prevention and dowsing procedures were non-existent in those times. Little could be done to put fires out with hand-held buckets carried from the closest water source, apart from trying to contain a fire to stop it spreading to other buildings. The concept of establishing a fire brigade had not developed at this time. Losing such an important facility as a sawmill was not only a real setback to Pettigrew, but it had an impact on the local construction industry.

While Brisbane Town was remote from the activities in Europe and America, nonetheless, the small Brisbane River settlement often received news of events in other parts of the world.

Throughout 1855, Moreton Bay settlers were able to follow the events of the Crimean War through the many descriptive articles that appeared in the *Moreton Bay Courier*. The message was clear as the *Boomerang* steamed up the Brisbane River decked out in coloured flags, and flying the British ensign above the Russian flag from the ship's rigging: *Britain was winning the battle with the Russian forces*. Canons were fired repeatedly. The crew members of the *Boomerang* cheered excitedly and a brass band on board ship played popular tunes to herald the fall of Sebastopol. The news and the excitement were shared as the crowd gathered to greet the ship at Queen's Wharf.<sup>53</sup>

Brisbane might not be London, but it was no longer a tiny settlement cut off from the influence of the wider world. It had developed infrastructure to begin providing for its ever-increasing population with limited funds and resources.

A little less than two years after their arrival, the Jeays family had settled into a home of their own, and Joshua was in a working partnership earning an income. His construction projects were becoming more impressive and more complicated. Already, Joshua Jeays' contracting and construction experience and his award-winning sandstone were beginning to have an impact on Brisbane's built environment.

### Endnotes

- 1 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 8 July 1854, p.2, detailed the Stanley Borough's North Brisbane Electoral List.
- 2 Today at this same address, 183 North Quay, the Primary Producers' Building stands on the original allotment between Tank and Herschell streets.
- 3 A title search of this land could not verify Goggs' ownership as records after John Markwell's purchase have been lost.
- 4 Research has not revealed who built this basic house or how old it was.
- 5 Refer to the house plan.
- 6 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 7 May 1853, p.3.
- 7 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 26 March 1853.
- 8 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 July 1853.
- 9 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 July 1853.
- 10 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 19 March 1853.
- 11 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 November 1853.
- 12 The Joint Stock Bank, the Union Bank of Australia and the Bank of Australasia were established in Brisbane.
- 13 In 1878 this site was sold to the National Bank of Australia and the Brisbane School of Arts was renovated and moved into the old Servants' Home in Ann Street, which is now known as the Brisbane School of Arts building. (See photograph.)
- 14 Johnston, 1998, p.223.
- 15 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 25 August 1855.
- 16 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 30 July 1853.
- 17 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 13 August 1853.
- 18 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 November 1853.
- 19 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 22 October 1853.
- 20 Johnston, 1998, p.238.
- 21 Coote, 1882, p.160.
- 22 Johnston, 1998, p.235.
- 23 Johnston, 1998, p.236.
- 24 Johnston, 1998, p.235.
- 25 Johnston, 1998, p.237.
- 26 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.45.
- 27 Coote, 1882, p.162.
- 28 Coote, 1882, p.166.
- 29 Coote, 1882, p.165.

- 30 In 1850 in Hobart a stonemason earned £1/6/- a week and a quarryman's wage was from £4/16/- to £6 a week. The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 3 December 1854, p.2, listed rates of wages: married couples £50 per annum, shepherds £28-£35 per annum and female servants £20 per annum.
- 31 Deed No. 2544, Grantee: Joshua Jeays, 40 acres in area, Portion 3. SRS/4258/1, QSA.
- 32 Cross, 1991.
- 33 Deed No. 2544, Grantee: Joshua Jeays, 40 acres in area, Portion 3. SRS/4258/1, QSA.
- 34 Summarised from the Entry in the Heritage Register, Department of Environment from the Jeays family's files.
- 35 'Treasured Correspondence', article in the *Trust News*, January 2008, National Trust Queensland.
- 36 Summarised from the Entry in the Heritage Register, Department of Environment, from the Jeays family's files.
- 37 Edwyn Mitford Lilley married Kate Goggs and Charles Bertram Lilley married Anne Martha Goggs.
- 38 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 18 February 1854, p.2.
- 39 Cilento, 1978, p.12.
- 40 Cilento, 1978, p.12.
- 41 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.191.
- 42 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 8 July 1854, p.2, Stanley Borough's North Brisbane Electoral List.
- 43 QSA, Z1532, land sales 28 December 1864.
- 44 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9, 16 and 23 December 1854.
- 45 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 June 1848.
- 46 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 March 1849.
- 47 The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 30 December 1854, p.3.
- 48 Coote, 1882, p.179.
- 49 Coote, 1882, p.182.
- 50 Coote, 1882, p.183.
- 51 Coote, 1882, p.184.
- 52 Coote, 1882, p.185.
- 53 Coote, 1882, pp.179-180.





## 4. BRANCHING OUT 1856 -1858

### **BRISBANE**

- limited schooling
- immigration continues
- economy diversifies
- Lilley arrives
- surveying for railway
- the nine-hour day followed by the eight-hour day for stonemasons
- opening of floating public baths, New South Wales Supreme Court, Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Cape Moreton Lighthouse
- separation from New South Wales
- work begins on a new gaol
- Moreton Bay Building Society formed

### **JOSHUA JEAYS**

- completes the Wesleyan Church and the Ann St. Presbyterian Church
- begins constructing the Wharf Street Congregational Church
- gives daughter Sarah Jane in marriage to Charles Lilley
- purchases land
- dissolves construction partnership
- works on the Brisbane Powder Magazine

J • J

At the beginning of 1856 Joshua and Sarah Jeays and their three children were still residing at North Quay. The family had now experienced their fourth summer Christmas and, like many other recently transplanted residents, were still adapting to the reversal of the seasons in the Southern Hemisphere. Joshua was working hard and had become very familiar with

the workings of Brisbane Town. During this year both Sarah and Joshua Jeays celebrated their 44th birthdays.

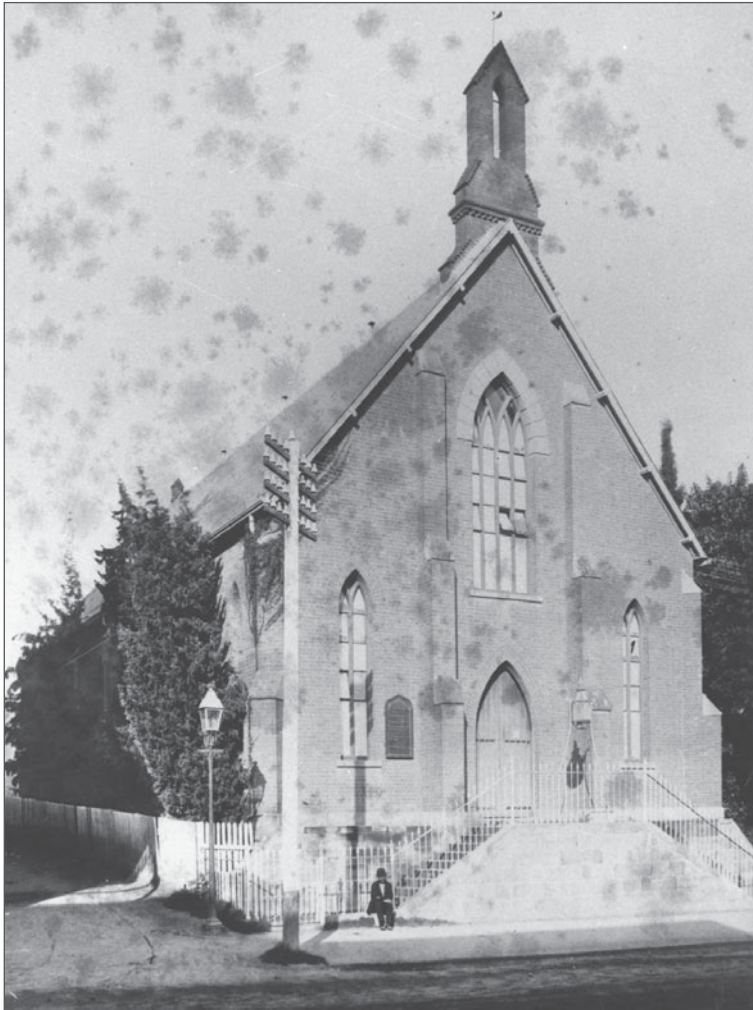
After arriving and settling in, the Jeays children would have attended one of the Brisbane schools until it was time to find a job. Generally speaking, education was mostly limited to reading, writing and arithmetic. Teachers were, for the most part, untrained. In Brisbane Town, at this time, secondary education was not an option and school was neither free nor compulsory. More than half of the children aged five to 15 years were unable to read or write. Forty per cent of children never attended any school. The 1861 Census revealed that of the 25,000 Queensland residents, 9227 could neither read nor write and 3680 could read but not write.<sup>1</sup> For the Jeays children, however, with two literate, educated parents, schooling was a given. The expectation was that they would learn to read and write competently and compute arithmetically.

Joshua Jeays, with his building contracting partner, JW Thompson, had successfully completed several contracts, and their considerable contracting and building skills were becoming known around the Moreton Bay district. Joshua Jeays had selected his Woogaroo quarry site by this time and he could well have begun quarrying and extracting sandstone. No doubt Thompson would have had all the timber required. It is not known how many were working for them at this time. John Daniel Heal, born in Bradford, Wiltshire, England, who arrived in Moreton Bay in 1853, may have been one of their employees in 1856. Heal worked as a stonemason for a few years before he became Joshua Jeays' foreman.<sup>2</sup>

At the end of November 1856, Thompson and Jeays completed their work on the construction of the Wesleyan Church in Albert Street, which they had begun in October 1855. The official opening of the second Wesleyan Church on 7 December 1856 represented the end of a very large construction task for Thompson and Jeays. This was a significant church building for that time and resulted in Joshua Jeays being contracted to build the Ann Street Presbyterian Church. Builders' reputations rose and fell based on both their finished products and on the procedures and efficiency used to complete tasks.

This substantial stone building was 80 feet long and 40 feet wide (about 300 square metres) and could seat 500 people. The front and rear walls of the church framed 15-foot Gothic windows and along each side of the length of the building were six 'lofty and symmetrical' windows.<sup>3</sup> The difficulty in obtaining stained glass for the upper mouldings of the windows was overcome by a Brisbane painter, glazer and paper-hanger, William Murray, who had a process of applying amber, purple

and blue colours to impart a beautiful effect to the building.<sup>4</sup> At the opening service of the new church, total offerings of £80 were collected, which was a large amount of money in those times.



Wesleyan Church in Albert Street, completed in November 1856.  
State Library of Queensland Neg No. 56618

The township of Brisbane in 1856 was taking shape. Immigrant arrivals increased the need for all kinds of construction. The design, planning and construction of houses, retail buildings and industrial structures was expanding and ongoing. The economy of the township, its hinterland and surrounding districts was growing, diversifying and creating employment opportunities.

Early in 1854 surveyor Burnett had drawn up plans for the alignment of the main streets in Brisbane. John James



Galloway, who took charge of surveying the Moreton Bay district after Burnett's death, drew up plans for the Botanic Gardens, and in January 1856<sup>5</sup> he added the boundaries for the 'Police' Towns to Burnett's plans of the main streets.<sup>6</sup> In April 1856 Galloway surveyed Queen's Wharf,<sup>7</sup> which still runs down to jetties just south of Victoria Bridge behind the Commissariat Store. He regularised<sup>8</sup> the land of the Customs Boat House<sup>9</sup> on 10 May 1856. The site for Brisbane's gaol was marked out in May, and by June 1857 Galloway had drawn up the first plans of Fortitude Valley.

Galloway produced many maps and plans of the Brisbane settlement in the two years that he was surveying the Moreton Bay area. This surveying and mapping was vital for Brisbane's progress. Land owners, developers, contractors and builders needed to know what allotments were available, and the designation of those allotments, in order to encourage and maintain the building momentum.

The constant sad state of the streets in Brisbane caused considerable community annoyance. At a public meeting in 1855 a committee was appointed to request from Governor-General Denison a grant for £5000 for street works.<sup>10</sup> Denison, however, took the view that the townspeople should deal with such matters themselves. In his response he also indicated that Brisbane could expect to become a Municipality during 1857, but it was not until July 1858 that the *New South Wales Municipalities Bill* was finally dispatched.<sup>11</sup>

When Victoria was granted responsible government as a separate colony in 1856 it renewed interest, debate and petitioning for a northern colony separate from New South Wales. Dr John Dunmore Lang, who had done a great deal to deliver large numbers of skilled migrants to the Australian colonies, attended meetings in Moreton Bay and petitioned Queen Victoria.<sup>12</sup> However the Queen's response was, for the present, to 'abstain from any measures for the purpose of Separation'.<sup>13</sup>

There was palpable friction about Separation from New South Wales between residents of Brisbane and those in Ipswich and the Darling Downs who were pushing for Ipswich and not Brisbane to become the major centre of the Moreton Bay district. Settlers around Grafton and Tenterfield became involved because they were not sure whether their districts would be in the new colony. The discussion continued unabated.<sup>14</sup>

On 24 August 1856 Dr John Dunmore Lang journeyed from Sydney to attend a public meeting in Grafton to discuss the issues of Separation. Lang then travelled overland to Brisbane

to deliver, in the Brisbane School of Arts on 11 September, another of his lectures on the Separation issues.<sup>15</sup> The Separation debate variously erupted and subsided throughout the 1850s.

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Charles Lilley, Joshua Jeays' future son-in-law, was an assisted emigrant on the *Ben Nevis*, which sailed from England and arrived in Sydney on 6 July 1856. During this voyage, Lilley took on the task of shipboard school teacher.<sup>16</sup> Keen to find employment, he travelled to Brisbane in August 1856 in the midst of the Separation agitation.

This well-educated young man who had been involved with activist activities in England would not have missed Dr Lang's September lecture in the Brisbane School of Arts. Lilley would have listened keenly to the debate and probably participated in it as well. Charles Lilley was to marry into the Jeays family and would play a significant part in the development of early Queensland.

Charles Lilley was one of the sons of bootmaker Thomas Lilley and his wife, Jane (nee Shipley). Born at Ouse Burn, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on 27 May 1827, Charles was orphaned at a young age and raised by James Shipley, his maternal grandfather, who was connected with the influential Mitford family and was the custodian of the New Castle.

In 1857 Lilley completed his articles of law with senior solicitor Robert Little in Moreton Bay, and soon after joined printer William Belbridge to lease the *Moreton Bay Courier* from James Swan. They used the newspaper to promote the Separation debate and a range of public issues. On 8 January 1858, Lilley joined the standing committee on Separation.<sup>17</sup>

Lilley soon became friends with Joshua Jeays, the two men discovering similarities of purpose at the meetings about Separation and the activities of the Brisbane School of Arts. Both Jeays and Lilley were regarded as having radical political viewpoints. Charles was a charming and honest man with an eloquent tongue and ready wit, who made friends – and sometimes enemies – easily, and was characterised by strong passions and iron determination.

Joshua Jeays' improving income stream enabled him to purchase Portion 114 in the Parish of North Brisbane on 17 November 1856.<sup>18</sup> This original selection is now a series of residential and light industrial subdivisions along Jeays Street, Bowen Hills. A small park in Jeays Street commemorates the original landowner.



Sarah Jeays and Charles Lilley as photographed on their wedding day on 10 April 1858.

State Library of Queensland Neg Nos. 111371 and 111372

It seems likely that Joshua Jeays purchased this land as the first of a considerable number of speculative purchases that he made from the late 1850s to the 1880s. As a possible family home site it was, at that time, somewhat remote from Brisbane Town where Joshua Jeays needed to remain for business purposes. The remoteness of Bowen Hills also would have made it difficult for the children's schooling. It is almost certain that this land purchase was intended for the use that was made of it: an investment for future subdivision and resale.

About 18 months after he arrived in Brisbane, Charles Lilley was welcomed into the Jeays family, when on 10 April 1858 he married Sarah Jane, 13 years his junior, at St John's Church of England.

*At St. John's Church, Brisbane, by special license, by Rev. E.K. Yeatman, Charles Lilley, Esq., late of University College, and of Lloyd Square, London and now connected with this journal, to Sarah Jane, only daughter of Mr. Joshua Jeays, builder, Brisbane.<sup>19</sup>*

Soon after his marriage, Lilley gave up the lease on the *Moreton Bay Courier* and returned to work in Robert Little's legal office. He had to earn an income to support his wife, and the newspaper, though increasing in circulation, was not making money. In November 1858, Lilley represented Little's firm in court for the first time.

Although Charles Lilley was a notable immigrant who arrived in 1856, overall there were fewer immigrants arriving in Brisbane Town that year than in previous years.<sup>20</sup> This was probably because 1856 was a period of doubt and depression in the area, mainly due to a long and severe drought.<sup>21</sup> Nonetheless, exports out of Moreton Bay increased steadily throughout the first nine months of the year.<sup>22</sup>

Newspapers reported that January 1857 was the hottest Brisbane weather in living memory and claimed that the mercury rose to the top of the thermometer: 120°F (49°C). In some localities temperatures as high as 130°F (54°C) were claimed, though this was in the sun.<sup>23</sup> Public baths were used as a means of coping with the hot summer weather and the high levels of humidity.

Brisbane's first communal baths, a basic enclosure set up in the Brisbane River close to Queen's Wharf, had been in use from 1849 to enhance health and hygiene. These baths were vandalised and closed in 1853. Taylor Winship then erected the

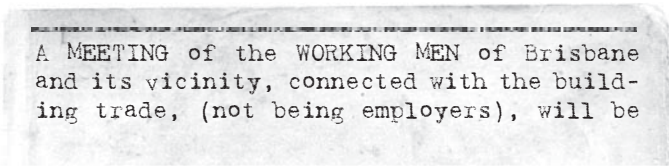
first floating baths, which were moored to the riverbank and could be moved as required. In 1856, Winship's floating baths were attached to the northern bank, close to the Jeays' family home, between where Ann and Turbot streets terminate today at North Quay. These baths were swept away in a flood in 1857 and Winship opened new floating baths off the foreshore of the Botanic Gardens later in 1857. However, these baths also had a short lifespan as they broke up in the summer of 1858–1859.<sup>24</sup>

There was no reticulated water connected into households at that time. All residential water was collected by hand from nearby springs and wells, or delivered to residences by water carriers from the nearest freshwater reserve using horse-drawn wagons. Water cost money, required effort, was precious and had to be used sparingly. It was not until metal roofing and water-collection tanks became common that household water became relatively freely available. Consequently, despite Brisbane's subtropical climate, personal bathing was undertaken occasionally, as a luxury, or as the situation required. A swim in the river was a good way for many people to improve their personal hygiene and cool down during the humid summers.

By the close of 1856 the Colonial authorities were examining several potential infrastructure developments in the Moreton Bay district. Surveying for the construction of a railway line to connect the coastal settlements with the Darling Downs was the talk of the Moreton Bay districts and hinterland.<sup>25</sup> This proposal did not proceed. The railway construction to the Darling Downs from Ipswich began in the late 1860s. A tender for the construction of a lighthouse on Moreton Island was accepted, and work began on this important structure.<sup>26</sup> The Cape Moreton lighthouse, an important asset for shipping in and out of Moreton Bay, was activated on 21 February 1857.

Throughout the Australian colonies from 1856 and continuing into 1857, there was considerable unrest among workers, with many calling for shorter working hours – particularly the stonemasons, who worked ten-hour days even in the heat of summer.<sup>27</sup> Sydney plasterers had recently won an eight-hour working day.

The *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 September 1856, carried this notice to Brisbane working men:



A MEETING of the WORKING MEN of Brisbane and its vicinity, connected with the building trade, (not being employers), will be



held at the Hall of the School of Arts on the Evening of WEDNESDAY, the 9th of September, to take into consideration the adoption of the short time movement.

From February 1857, competing Brisbane building contractors John Petrie, William Pettigrew, and Thompson & Jeays all adopted a nine-hour working day for their stonemasons. In August 1857, an eight-hour day campaign was launched in the Moreton Bay region and the shorter hours were granted to stonemasons the following year.

Queensland's first union of stonemasons was formed with 12 members on 18 January 1858. This was part of the campaign for eight-hour working days. The second union in Queensland, the cordwainers, was formed in 1859 on the occasion of Queensland's Separation from New South Wales.<sup>28</sup> From March 1858, Petrie & Sons were the first to adopt the eight-hour working day in Brisbane, and by the end of April the others had followed suit. It was not until 1861 that more Queensland unions won the eight-hour working day.<sup>29</sup>

On 21 September 1857, Joshua Jeays and JW Thompson dissolved their partnership.

*NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP*

*The undersigned, hitherto carrying on business in North Brisbane, Moreton Bay, as Builders and Contractors, have this day dissolved partnership.*

*J.W. THOMPSON*

*JOSHUA JEAYS*

*Witness – James Campbell*

*September 21, 1857.<sup>30</sup>*

The time had come for these two men to branch out on their own. Both were now well established. Thompson had a thriving timber retail company, provided plans and undertook contract work. Jeays was a builder, carpenter and contractor with skills in quarrying stone and building in stone, brick and timber, and he was experienced in and capable of large construction projects. There was still plenty of scope in Brisbane for men of their calibre, skills and energy.

After the partnership was dissolved, Thompson continued working in Brisbane, where he offered to prepare plans and specifications,<sup>31</sup> and in 1860 he unsuccessfully tendered to build Government House.<sup>32</sup>

With considerable forward planning, in January 1854, the Presbyterian congregation of North Brisbane had purchased three adjoining blocks of land in Ann Street for £197. A manse had been constructed on part of this land. In late 1857 when the congregation had succeeded in raising the required funds, construction of the Ann Street Presbyterian Church was able to begin. Joshua Jeays and his employed tradesmen were engaged to construct this building for a sum of £960.

After Jeays had finished laying down the underground sections of the site, the foundation stone of the simple stone church building was laid on 12 December 1857. The church was constructed with a steep-pitched gable roof, clad with wooden shingles. The side elevation of the church contained four lancet windows per elevation. The design included a bell tower.<sup>33</sup> It took a little over six months to complete. On the evening of 25 July 1858, the church that became known as the Ann Street Presbyterian Church was opened for worship by the resident minister, Reverend Charles Ogg. The ceremony was attended by Reverend Dr Nelson from Ipswich, and Reverend T Bell and other leaders of the local Wesleyan and Congregational communities. Lengthy speeches and psalm singing took up most of the celebration.<sup>34</sup>

On completion of the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, Joshua Jeays was presented with a Bible that had an inscription composed by the church office bearers written on the frontispiece. This precious Bible is still in the possession of the descendants of Joshua and Sarah Jeays.

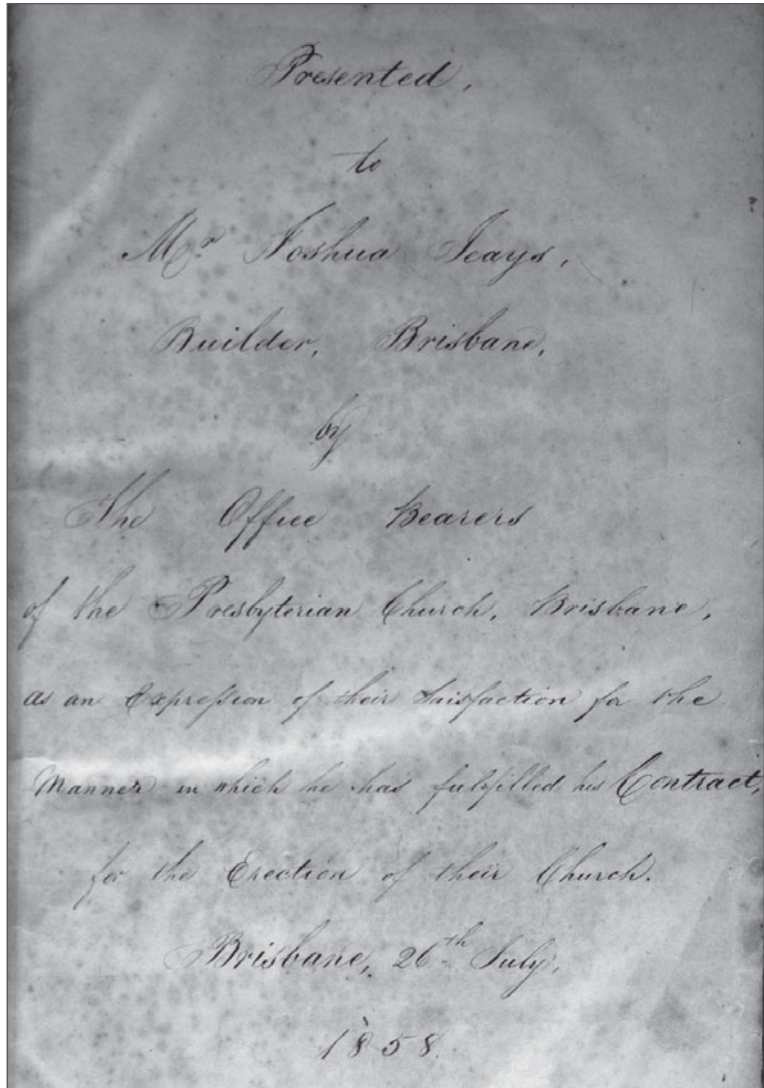
On 21 December 1871, a fire damaged much of the church, and part of the eastern stone gable wall had to be rebuilt. All internal furnishings and fittings, as well as the rafters and shingle roof, were lost. The church was rebuilt in 1872 to a design by architect John Richard Hall, reusing as much as possible of the stone from the original structure. Additional transepts and buttresses were added to the building later.<sup>35</sup> This church is one of the oldest still in use for public worship in Queensland.<sup>36</sup>

By early 1857, residents of the Moreton Bay district became confident that they were soon to be managing their own affairs, independent of New South Wales. Separation would happen, but the precise area of the proposed colony, its boundaries and

The frontispiece of the Bible presented to Joshua Jeays on the completion of the Ann Street Presbyterian Church.

The inscription reads:

*Presented to Mr Joshua Jeays, Builder, Brisbane, by The Office Bearers of the Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, as an expression of their satisfaction for the manner in which he has fulfilled his Contract for the Erection of their Church. Brisbane, 26th July 1858.*



the details of the setting up of the colony were still subject to conjecture.<sup>37</sup>

Reverend Dr John Dunmore Lang returned to Moreton Bay early in January 1857, lecturing at the Brisbane School of Arts on 'The advantage which must result to the Moreton Bay Districts from their Separation from the colony of New South Wales'.<sup>38</sup> A survey of the Moreton Bay district and Northern Rivers area to see who was for and against Separation was under way by the end of January.<sup>39</sup>

Brisbane Town was growing. On 16 February 1857 the Queensland Conservatorium of Music opened. Two months later, on 15 April, the 'New South Wales Supreme Court at



Ann Street Presbyterian Church.

State Library of Queensland Neg No. 108291. Source of original is unknown.

Moreton Bay' also opened in Brisbane, presided over by Mr Justice Samuel Frederick Milford. A New South Wales Act had established this court and its resident judge as having exclusive jurisdiction over cases in Moreton Bay, subject to appeal in certain cases to the Full Court in Sydney.<sup>40</sup>

A Clerk of Works, Charles Tiffin, aged 24, was appointed in Moreton Bay in May 1857. He arrived in June 1857 with his wife of six months, Mary Ann Tiffin, to take up his duties. After Queensland's Separation from New South Wales in 1859, Tiffin became Queensland's first Colonial Architect.

The steamer *Yarra Yarra* brought news to Brisbane on 13 September 1857 that on Separation from New South Wales, the southern boundary would be set at the 28° South latitude. Residents of the northern areas of New South Wales could start to understand the expanse of the newly evolving northern colony. A sense of confidence and an energetic belief in the development of Brisbane and the Moreton Bay and Darling Downs districts was evident by 1858. However, the pathway to continued development was neither smooth nor easy.

The continuing very hot weather experienced in January 1858 did not stop the Separation Committee organising a public meeting on 2 January in an effort to speed up Separation. The certainty of separating from New South Wales and establishing a new British Colony became entangled with the frustration of waiting for the bureaucratic processes required to complete the changes.



A temperature of 105°F (41°C) was recorded in the early days of January and, curiously, the wearing of a brown felt hat was blamed for a fatality caused by sunstroke.<sup>41</sup> A number of storms involving lightning at this time aroused serious community concerns about the township's storage of explosives. This is what the *Moreton Bay Courier* had to say about the lightning and storms:

It did not add much to our comfort to know that in a cottage in the main street our 'authorities' have placed a large quantity of gunpowder which might have been ignited by the lightning. If this dangerous material must needs be left in an exposed place, it would be well if our Government Resident or Police Magistrate would find a hole in the bush for it rather than a depot in the town.<sup>42</sup>

Public outcry about the location of the gunpowder storage in central Brisbane created action by the local authorities. The tender for the Powder Magazine emanated from Sydney, and the request for tenders was first published in Sydney newspapers. This advertisement appeared in the *Moreton Bay Courier* in late February and early March 1858:

Department of Land and Public Works,  
Sydney, 12th February 1858.

to Builders and Others

POWDER MAGAZINE, BRISBANE.

Tenders will be received at the Office of the Government Resident, Brisbane, until 12 o'clock on MONDAY, the 15th proximo, for persons willing to contract for the erection of a Powder Magazine, at Brisbane, Moreton Bay.

MICL. FITZPATRICK

Under Secretary.<sup>43</sup>

Joshua Jeays won the contract, as announced in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 7 April 1858:

POWDER MAGAZINE - The contract for the erection of the Brisbane Powder Magazine has been taken by Mr Jeays, Builder, Brisbane, for £294. We understand that the building will be proceeded with at once, and that the site is below the cliffs at Kangaroo Point, opposite the Government Gardens.

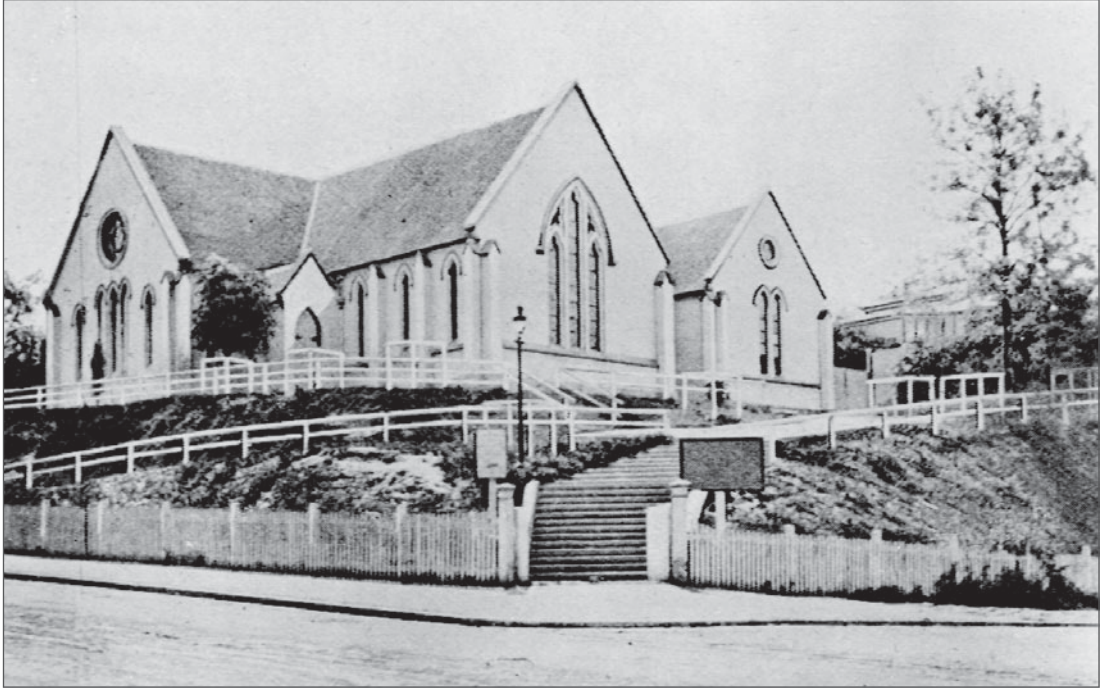
1858 was a very busy year for the Jeays family and the construction enterprise that Joshua Jeays had created in Brisbane Town.

The Government Resident, Captain Wickham, placed a tender notice to builders in the *Moreton Bay Courier* requiring repairs to the Brisbane Court House. At about this time JW Thompson, Jeays' former business partner, moved his timber retail and construction business to Edward Street near the Prince of Wales Hotel.<sup>44</sup> The *Moreton Bay Courier* of Wednesday, 20 January 1858, stated:

SUPREME COURT HOUSE:- The contract for the repairs and alterations to the Supreme Court House, Brisbane, has been taken by Mr. Thompson, builder, for £1520.

Obviously both Thompson and Jeays were separately very involved with their individual construction companies. During 1858 Jeays had completed the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, was working on the Brisbane Powder Magazine and gained the contract to construct the Wharf Street Congregational Church midway through the year.

Reverend George Wight was sent to Brisbane in 1857 by the London Colonial Missionary Society to establish a Congregational church there.<sup>45</sup> At the first meeting of the Congregational Church in the 'loft' of a building in the northern end of Queen Street on 23 May 1858 it was decided to build a new church at the corner of Wharf and Adelaide streets. This church, designed by Charles Tiffin, was to become the Wharf Street Congregational Church, and was also often referred to as the Independent Chapel.<sup>46</sup> Joshua Jeays, at a cost of £1498/8/7, erected the church, which opened for worship on 10 June 1860. In 1872 John Petrie worked on additions to this church.<sup>47</sup>



Wharf Street  
Congregational Church  
opened on 10 June 1860.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 17764

In May 1858 a number of events occurred in the Moreton Bay district and became part of local conversations. The important task of removing the bar at the mouth of the Brisbane River was still being discussed.<sup>48</sup> John and George Harris had imported a large clock from England and had it placed above their stores in a small turret fronting to the river.<sup>49</sup> This was the first timepiece placed in the public space of Brisbane Town. The Fall of Lucknow in India was reported in the English newspapers in late March, but was not reported in Brisbane newspapers until 24 May.<sup>50</sup> Communication to the remote British colonies in Australia was still by sea, even though work to create speedy cable communication with the rest of the world was not too far away.

Separation and the issues that surrounded the changes were never far from public discussion in these times, as the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 June 1858, stated:

You can't speak to any one on any subject, but you find that, somehow or other, the want of separation is affecting everyone, and everything, and that injuriously. It is a universal complaint; and delay is aggravating it immensely.

An advertisement in the *Moreton Bay Courier*<sup>51</sup> called for tenders for the construction of 'Wing A of the New Gaol, Brisbane'. John Petrie was contracted to construct the new gaol at Green Hills (Petrie Terrace), opposite Caxton Street. Construction began in October 1858 and it was completed and officially opened on 5 November 1860. Joshua Jeays supplied Petrie with stone from his Woogaroo quarry, which was transported down river by barge to Bennett's Bridge then transferred to a tramway that took it to the building site. In January 1862, tenders were called for the erection of a stone wall in place of the wooden wall at this gaol. Jeays' stone was again supplied.<sup>52</sup>

In 1867 the Brisbane gaol was moved to St Helena Island in Moreton Bay and later still to Boggo Road. The Petrie Terrace Gaol was demolished once St Helena was set up and functioning, and the stone from the original gaol buildings and walls was reused in the construction of the footings for the Alice Street fence of the Botanic Gardens, still standing today.

Some understanding of the pace of development of Brisbane Town at this time can be captured through this article published in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 26 June 1858:

PUBLIC PARK - We understand that a petition is in course of preparation for a reserve of forty acres for a public park. This is a timely move in the right direction. A little longer and we should have been pent up in town allotments for ever. It will include the watershed of the reservoir.

At last gold was found in the northern areas. Canoona Station on the Fitzroy River 30 miles west of Rockhampton was declared as a gold discovery site in June 1858.<sup>53</sup> Around 10,000 people rushed to this area once the news broke. On 7 October there were between 400 and 500 miners, on 15 October the count was down to 200 to 150 miners, and by the end of October the field was deserted!<sup>54</sup>

In 1858 Theodophilus Pugh produced the first of his *Pugh's Almanacs*, which he published each year, providing interesting and useful insight into the development of the new Queensland colony.

Soon the new northern colony would be formed to challenge the energy, abilities and commitment of these pioneers who were keen to create a thriving township for future generations.



Joshua Jeays was one of those pioneers. He had added a branch to his family tree with the marriage of his daughter to Charles Lilley, and he had branched out on his own with his construction business. Having contributed to the physical landscape of Brisbane Town with his impressive churches, next he was to devote his energies to begin improving the difficult conditions for his fellow settlers.

## Endnotes

- 1 Clinch, 1982, p.2.
- 2 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.94.
- 3 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 6 December 1856.
- 4 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 6 December 1856.
- 5 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 January 1856.
- 6 Brisbane Squatters, Settlers and Surveyors, Brisbane History Group, Papers No.16, 2000, p.124.
- 8 Regalised means to proclaim as Crown Land. This term was used mainly in the 16th century and was common when referring to the colonisation of the Pacific islands.
- 7 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 18 April 1856.
- 9 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 10 May 1856 and RHSQ Historical Papers Vol. XI, No. I, 1979-80, p.149.
- 10 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.60.
- 11 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.61.
- 12 Coote, 1882, p.192.
- 13 Coote, 1882, p.193.
- 14 Coote, 1882, p.193.
- 15 Coote, 1882, p.195.
- 16 The Lilley Family, [http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/library/exhibition/shapingqld/Lilley/Lill\\_05.htm](http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/library/exhibition/shapingqld/Lilley/Lill_05.htm)
- 17 Murphy and Joyce, 1978, p.73.
- 18 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 September 1857, p.2, provided details of the title deed for this land being ready for delivery at the Surveyor-General's Office, on payment of the authorised fee.
- 19 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 14 April 1858.
- 20 Coote, 1882, p.199.
- 21 Coote, 1882, p.200.
- 22 Coote, 1882, p.200.
- 23 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 17 January 1857.
- 24 *The Brisbane Courier*, newsletter of the Brisbane History Group, Volume 15, No. 3, August 2008.
- 25 Coote, 1882, p.202.
- 26 Coote, 1882, p.202.
- 27 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 21 February 1857, p.3.
- 28 Fraser and Weldon, 1983, p.245.
- 29 Fraser and Weldon, 1983, p.21.
- 30 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 26 September 1857, p.3.
- 31 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.191.
- 32 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 August 1860, p.2.
- 33 EPA website – Ann Street Presbyterian Church.
- 34 <http://www.annstreetpcq.org.au/churchhistory.htm/>
- 35 'Farewell to the Ann Street Church Hall', National Trust Queensland, Trust News, August 2008.
- 36 The National Trust of Queensland files show that the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, 141 Ann Street, was put on the National Register of the Australian Heritage Commission on 25 May 1999.
- 37 Coote, 1882, p.209.

- 38 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 10 January 1857.
- 39 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 January 1857.
- 40 Coote, 1882, p.210.
- 41 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 2 January 1858.
- 42 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 January 1858, p.2.
- 43 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 1858 – 27 February, p.3, 3 March, p.1, 6 March, p.1, 10 March, p.1, 13 March, p1.
- 44 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 13 January, 16 January, 20 January, 23 January, 27 January, 1858 p.1.
- 45 Brisbane History Group, 1994, Brisbane City Churches: Heritage Tour, p.9.
- 46 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.194.
- 47 Watson & McKay, 1994, pp.142-3.
- 48 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 8 May and 12 May, 1858.
- 49 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 26 May 1858.
- 50 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 May 1858.
- 51 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 23 June 1858.
- 52 Cross, 1991, RHSQ.
- 53 Meston, 1895, p.39.
- 54 Coote, 1882, p.218.

## 5. COLONY AND CAPITAL 1859

### **BRISBANE**

- improves essential infrastructure – roads, water supply and services – with limited resources
- investigates rates assessments; population increase creates need for churches
- first Judge sworn in; first Premier appointed
- Municipalities Act of New South Wales becomes law
- Proclamation of Queensland
- first Brisbane Municipal Council election

### **JOSHUA JEAYS**

- brings improved design and construction techniques to Brisbane's buildings
- becomes a member of the first Brisbane School of Arts, a Director of the first Moreton Bay Building Society, and an elected alderman on the first Brisbane Municipal Council
- buys land in Sandgate and welcomes his first grandchild.

J • J

For seven years Joshua Jeays had lived and worked in this neglected community. Coming from the bustling, polluted London metropolis to this remote outpost, he knew what would make a city. He had a wealth of ideas about how Brisbane could progress and become a thriving centre. The events that unfolded in 1859 in Brisbane Town gave Joshua Jeays more opportunities to make his mark on the future colony and its capital.

From the earliest free settlement times, Brisbane was a struggling township that had suffered the consequences of



neglect, poor planning and inadequate expenditure on basic utilities by the New South Wales authorities. Nonetheless, in 1859 it was to become the seat of government for the new colony of Queensland.

In 1859 the residential and commercial sprawl of Brisbane contained about a thousand houses and a small number of commercial sites. Just under a third of the dwellings were constructed of stone and brick, and the remainder were built from timber and clad in weatherboard. North Brisbane had the highest concentration of residences and was the business centre and port. The township sprawled rather haphazardly north to Fortitude Valley and the tiny outlying settlements at Nundah and Sandgate, then east to Kangaroo Point and south to South Brisbane. The northern residential hubs were separated from Kangaroo Point and South Brisbane by the large and unpredictable Brisbane River.

The roads were unformed, sanitation conditions were appalling and the water supply was a great concern. Health and public safety issues were ignored and the local residents coped as best they could with the unhealthy practices and lack of amenities.

The water supply was drawn from an unreliable swamp along Wheat Creek that could flow and overflow, remain a stagnant lagoon or dry up entirely, according to weather conditions. The water source was unfenced, so it often became polluted by people and wandering livestock. This small catchment was the main source of fresh water for drinking and cooking for most North Brisbane households.

The town had no drainage system. Heavy rainfall and storm run-off resulted in flash flooding, especially in Frog's Hollow along lower Edward Street, and swamping in South Brisbane. After rain the low-lying areas often filled up with water which, in time, stagnated, bred mosquitoes and became putrid.

Lack of drainage also caused major problems with the roadways. Roads and streets were rough and mostly unformed. The increasing use of horses and carriages, with the added impact of droving herds of sheep and cattle along the roads and tracks, made the main thoroughfares a smelly mess. Additionally, mud after light rain, rutting of the mud and erosion caused by water run-off all caused rapid deterioration of the roads.

Residents were responsible for managing all waste disposal: 'night soil' (toilet waste) and other household waste was dumped wherever individuals thought best, which meant it was often tossed into local creeks and the Brisbane River.

Business and industrial waste was treated just as haphazardly, with products from butchers, for example, usually left on the riverbank or tossed into the river for removal by scavenging wildlife and the tides. Waste dumped or left in the streets was occasionally swept – but more often blown by wind or washed by rain – into the hollows and creeks. People had little understanding of the outcomes of their actions and the township's waste disposal remained unhealthy for many years.

Brisbane's poorly planned layout and lack of essential public amenities such as sanitation and garbage disposal, left the local residents susceptible to disease. Back in England it was not until the late 1800s that improper sanitation was suspected as the cause of epidemics. In 1848 large numbers of people died of pestilences, especially cholera, which killed at least 130,000 people. In 1849 an English medical practitioner published the theory that cholera was spread by water contaminated with sewage.<sup>1</sup> In 1866 Tiffin invented the earth closet at the new Houses of Parliament and at the Brisbane Hospital. Tiffin's new registered self-acting earth closets were later manufactured by the local cabinetmaker, John W. Carey.<sup>2</sup> Oozing cesspits were outlawed and earth closets became the approved method of disposing of night soil.

Building construction in this isolated settlement, however, was improving during the 1850s. Skilled migrants such as Joshua Jeays had generally improved the structure and design techniques used in the construction of residential and commercial buildings, as well as the important structures like wharves and loading areas. As community groups and churches formed and the population increased, the need for meeting halls and church buildings gradually emerged. A number of poor quality convict-built structures remained and initially, where practical, they were used for these meetings and offices.<sup>3</sup> Halls and churches were built and became part of the township's changing landscape. Building was certainly something that Brisbane residents knew how to organise for themselves.

The first Moreton Bay Building Society had made a profit and provided returns to their members so they decided to form a second fund.<sup>4</sup> This *Moreton Bay Courier* news article, 5 January 1859, reported:

The business of the "first Moreton Bay Building" Society during the past year has extended over a sum of not less than £8,759, and the transactions of the three years of its existence amount to £22,384. So large a sum as this must have exerted a manifest influence upon the progress of this rising community; indeed, it is scarcely possible to direct the eye to any quarter without perceiving the numerous edifices whose erection are principally owing to the agency of the Society.

In January 1859, therefore, the second Moreton Bay Building Society had been formed. A meeting of society members was held at the Police Office to hear the financial statement and to elect directors to replace those who retired in rotation. The financial statement was found to be satisfactory. Messrs McNaught and Jeays were elected directors to fill the retiring vacancies and seven shares of £50 were sold to members at an average interest of 11.5% per annum.<sup>5</sup>

By early 1859 Joshua Jeays was doing well with his construction and quarrying enterprise. He had successfully completed a number of important buildings in Brisbane Town, and he was making enough money to become a serious land speculator. In late 1858 and the early part of 1859 he invested in Sandgate land, buying up virtually all of the Brighton area.<sup>6</sup> The initial land sales in Sandgate had occurred in 1853, just as the Jeays family was arriving in Brisbane Town. By 1858, when the second land sale in the area came on the market, there were 25 people living at Sandgate. Jeays bought extensive areas of Sandgate, including 109 acres of Nashville, the site of the present Sandgate shopping centre, and 124 acres, which today would be bordered by Deagon Street, Wakefield Street and Flinders Parade.<sup>7</sup>

Joshua Jeays' reputation as a competent builder was becoming known. He did not use newspaper advertising to promote his business, but his name often appeared in the local newspaper in connection with land purchases, tenders gained and similar articles. Jeays belonged to a church congregation, probably St John's Church of England. He was a member of the Brisbane School of Arts and a director of the Moreton Bay Building Society. These involvements were the networks where Jeays met people and made friends. From these links he gained an understanding about the local issues and potential solutions. In turn, his community involvements enabled people to get to

know him, what he did and what he thought about local issues and conditions. Jeays was not a person to publicly promote himself. Today he would have been referred to as 'a quiet achiever'.

Joshua and Sarah Jeays were comfortably settled in their home at North Quay. Joshua had plenty of work and his income was increasing. Their boys were growing up in the ever-expanding Brisbane township and daughter Sarah Jane was settling happily into married life. Her husband, Charles Lilley, was also doing very well: early in January 1859 he was admitted as an attorney, solicitor and proctor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.<sup>8</sup>

Lilley established his legal office beside The Wesleyan Chapel, built by Joshua Jeays, as shown in this advertisement in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 12 January 1859:

MR. CHARLES LILLEY,  
ATTORNEY, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCE  
AND PROCTOR,  
NEXT TO THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL,  
BRISBANE

The first grandchild of Sarah and Joshua Jeays, Edwyn Mitford Lilley, was born four days later on 16 January 1859. Mother and son were healthy, and all were thrilled about the birth, announced in the *Moreton Bay Courier*:

BIRTHS  
At Brisbane, on the 16th instant, Mrs Charles  
Lilley, of a son.<sup>9</sup>

Joshua and Sarah Jeays had left all family links behind in England and now the next generation of their family was being created on the other side of the world. These were very happy times for the entire Jeays family.

Both political and legal aspects of Brisbane's development were integral to the growth and changes that were about to happen. On 22 February 1859 it was gazetted that Mr Lutwyche was sworn in as the new judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales at Moreton Bay.

Cadastral map of Sandgate showing the holdings of Joshua Jeays in 1876.







Action to secure self-management in Brisbane Town began when the Municipalities Act of New South Wales became law in October 1858. This legislation required that a petition, signed by at least 50 prospective ratepayers, be submitted to begin the process of forming a municipality in New South Wales. The initial petition would be considered if no counter-petitions containing more signatures than that petition were received. A municipal council would need to be formed, and this had to have between six and nine elected aldermen, a third of whom would be required to retire annually.

Municipal councils were to be responsible for the management of roads, streets, bridges, ferries, wharves, jetties, piers and public thoroughfares. They would also maintain public cemeteries within their jurisdiction. The provision of water supplies, sewerage services, sanitation disposal and lighting systems were also to be undertaken by the council.

The councils had a range of powers and capabilities. They could create and enact by-laws for the prevention and extinguishing of fires, suppression of nuisances, preservation of public health and decency, regulation and licensing of porters and public carriers, slaughter of animals, sale of meat, markets, fairs and sales. They could establish hospitals, asylums, public libraries, museums, botanic gardens and public places for recreation.

To enable councils to perform such duties, an income stream was necessary. Councils were able to develop a revenue base from three sources: by collecting rates from landowners, from limited loans, and from payments to councils from consolidated revenue by way of an endowment fixed upon a sliding scale.<sup>10</sup>

The *Moreton Bay Courier*<sup>11</sup> urged townships like Brisbane and Ipswich to petition the New South Wales Government to become municipalities because these townships desperately needed reforms and had able men ready to take on the necessary positions to get municipal councils up and running.

There was a dilemma. Should townships that might soon be part of the new northern colony become incorporated municipalities under the legislation of New South Wales, or should they wait until local government legislation passed through the legislative processes of the soon-to-be-established Queensland colony? Debate in the newspapers and at public meetings in both Brisbane and Ipswich ensued.

Once residents realised that municipal councils could be incorporated, and started to weigh up their obligations and the implications of the changes that would occur, the emphasis changed somewhat. There was less affirmation of principles

and less assertion of local collective rights. Concerns arose over having to pay rates and the burden that the payment of rates would have on residents, businesses and landowners. The suitability of potential council candidates was also raised as an issue.

A rigorous debate was held at a public meeting on 13 December 1858 in the Brisbane School of Arts to discuss the desirability of petitioning for the incorporation of Brisbane and the establishment of a Brisbane Municipal Council. A need to fix the boundaries of Brisbane was another topic for discussion. The processes for the holding of the first civic election were teased out at this large and noisy meeting. There was no real idea or understanding of the land rating process or how much landowners might be expected to outlay; nor was anyone clear how many employed council officers might be required to undertake and manage municipal council requirements.

The overriding and distressing issues of the rundown state of Brisbane Town and the lack of amenities were discussed and debated. The ferry approaches that were used daily by many people were dangerous. The hazardous conditions of the streets and thoroughfares impeded road use. Swamps about the township needed draining and the reservoir was leaking. There was much to do and it was unlikely that much would change if the present system remained. Discussion of some of these public issues pushed the consensus of the public meeting towards petitioning for incorporation.


After so many years of delay and frustration about Separation, residents recognised that the new colony might not eventuate. Brisbane, if it waited for colonial government, might continue indefinitely in its present state of neglect. The Municipalities Act provided a means for Brisbane citizens to gain control of their local affairs, and work at resolving their local issues. They could act immediately and improve conditions within the town.

A letter from the governing authorities in New South Wales to the Government Resident at Brisbane, Captain Wickham, made it abundantly clear that the New South Wales Government would continue to provide financial aid only if Brisbane residents adopted incorporation as a municipality.<sup>12</sup>


During the first few months of 1859, very little rain had fallen in the Moreton Bay District and many other northern areas. In the Richmond and Barcoo districts, crop yields were expected to be reduced. There was much discussion about Brisbane's inadequate water supply and the need to find other possible water repositories.<sup>13</sup>




**THE FIRST**  
**MAYOR & ALDERMEN**  
**OF THE**  
**CITY**  
**COUNCIL.**




R. CRIBB




W. S. SUTTON




JOSHUA JEAYS




JOAN PETRIE, MAYOR.




THOS. B. STEPHENS.



ALBERT J. HOCKINGS



P. MOYNE



GEORGE EDMONSTONE

Eventually, on 25 May 1859, a petition signed by 420 households to incorporate Brisbane was submitted and duly approved by the governing authorities of New South Wales before it was printed in the *New South Wales Government Gazette*. The Municipality of Brisbane was proclaimed on 6 September 1859. The next task was to hold the very first poll and elect the aldermen who would take on the onerous task of repairing and regenerating Brisbane Town.

Opposite – The Mayor and First Aldermen of the City Council poster.

Brisbane City Council Archives

The first Brisbane Municipal Council election was held on 12 October 1859 with 37 candidates standing for nine positions as aldermen. The nine successful candidates were:

<i>John Petrie</i>	<i>325 votes</i>
<i>Patrick Mayne</i>	<i>274 votes</i>
<i>Thomas Blackett Stephens</i>	<i>203 votes</i>
<i>Joshua Jeays</i>	<i>166 votes</i>
<i>Albert John Hockings</i>	<i>126 votes</i>
<i>George Edmonstone</i>	<i>125 votes</i>
<i>Robert Cribb</i>	<i>107 votes</i>
<i>George Warren</i>	<i>98 votes</i>
<i>William Samuel Sutton</i>	<i>95 votes</i>

The aldermen included both well-known businessmen and relatively unknown long-time residents who had achieved much personally due to their own energy and resourcefulness. Very few of the future civic leaders had a good education, but they had a diversity of experience, both in Brisbane and elsewhere, that would stand them in good stead.

Poll results were publicly announced at 12 noon on 13 October 1859. The Brisbane Municipal Council met just three hours later in the Police Office. Alderman Mayne proposed, seconded by Alderman Sutton, that Alderman John Petrie be appointed Mayor of this Municipality. This motion was carried unanimously, and John Petrie became the first Mayor of Brisbane. John Petrie, who was then 37 years old and running a successful building firm, was the oldest child of Andrew and Mary Petrie, who had brought their young family to the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement in August 1837. In this first Brisbane Municipal Council meeting, John Petrie was sworn into the office of Mayor before Arthur Clarke Hemball. Petrie then took



**MUNICIPAL REQUISITION.**  
**Mr. Joshua Jeays.**

SIR,—We, the undersigned Burgesses of the Borough of Brisbane, request that you will come forward as a candidate for the Brisbane Municipality at the ensuing elections under the Municipal Act.—

We are Sir,  
 Your obedient Servants,  
 James Swan William Murray  
 James Campbell J. Baynes  
 Thomas G. Drew Beuben Oliver  
 James Collins M. Wallace  
 Patrick Mayne J. Innes  
 George Byrne.

(REPLY.)  
 To Mr. James Swan, Mr. Murray, and the other Gentlemen signing the above Requisition.

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your request I have the honor to offer myself to the electors of the Municipality of Brisbane as a candidate for election to the office of Alderman. Should I be elected, I shall assiduously devote my time and attention to the promotion of such practical objects as may be deemed beneficial to our community.

I am, Gentlemen,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 J. JEAYS.

Brisbane, Sept. 30, 1859.

A copy of the newspaper notice where Joshua Jeays was requested to be a candidate for the upcoming election and his reply.

The wording of his reply gives us a glimpse into the character of the man; it reads:

*'Gentlemen, in accordance with your request I have the honor to offer myself to the electors of the Municipality of Brisbane as a candidate for the election to the office of Alderman. Should I be elected, I shall assiduously devote my time and attention to the promotion of such practical objects as may be deemed beneficial to our community.*

*I am, Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

*J. JEAYS.*

*Brisbane, Sept. 30, 1859.'*

*Moreton Bay Courier 5 Oct. 1859*

the chair and opened the proceedings of the meeting, which lasted two hours.

Many of the aldermen of the first Brisbane Municipal Council were to remain active in municipal life over several years, and Petrie, Stephens, Edmonstone and Jeays were all to take mayoral office in turn. Stephens and Edmonstone would also become representatives in the early sittings of the Queensland Government that formed in 1860.

At this first Council meeting, discussion centred on the limited funds that were allocated to establish all basic facilities. It was decided to meet next on Monday 17 October, at 3 pm in the Police Office. Petrie was to ask for the use of the Court House as the Council's meeting room and it was decided that they would meet every Monday afternoon. A number of subcommittees were formed to investigate the most pressing issues.<sup>14</sup> It was also resolved to ask other mayors in councils such as Sydney and Newcastle for copies of their Standing Orders and By-Laws to assist the Brisbane Municipal Council's subcommittees to develop suitable procedures for this infant council.<sup>15</sup>

Robert Cribb was the only alderman absent at the second meeting of the Brisbane Municipal Council on Monday 17 October. The Police Magistrate had kindly offered the use of his room and furniture for the council meetings until suitable offices were available. Cribb offered furniture for the Brisbane Municipal Council, but at this stage it was not needed. Petrie, Stephens and Edmonstone formed a subcommittee to frame the Standing Orders for regulating the proceedings of the council. Petrie was asked to 'at once procure' a Minute Book, a Letter Book and 500 copies of the Summons for Council Meetings.

The Acting Town Clerk read a copy of the Standing Orders adopted by Randwick Municipal Council. These documents, with similar ones from Wollongong Municipal Council and a manuscript of the South Barwon Municipality in Victoria, were given to the Standing Orders subcommittee. Committee members were in for a lot of reading.

An advertisement was placed in the local newspapers by the Council asking for tenders for the immediate valuation of all assessable properties within the Brisbane Municipality. Mayne moved and Jeays seconded that another advertisement should be placed in the local newspapers for tenders to take the levels (survey) of the township at once. These two tasks were extremely important beginnings for the Council's work. The Council desperately needed to develop its income base from rate payments, so assessing the rateable properties needed to be undertaken with haste. Similarly, without proper levels it

was difficult for builders to position buildings correctly, which could lead to serious problems that would be expensive to rectify.

The essential Water Committee, made up of Petrie, Hockings, Jeays and Stephens, was given the task of inquiring into and reporting on the best means of procuring a permanent water supply for Brisbane Town. The Water Committee was also required to provide a progress report as soon as possible, with references to measures required to be undertaken due to the present state of the reservoir.

On the Thursday after this Council meeting, Brisbane and the surrounding districts were hit by a terrifying hailstorm, that which destroyed crops and caused serious damage to property.<sup>16</sup> Weather forecasting was not part of everyday life at that time.

All the aldermen's Council work was unpaid. The challenges these aldermen had to face are difficult to imagine today. They had no offices to work in, no staff to document information and no-one to undertake the groundwork and investigations. They had to keep their own households functioning and earn their own livings, as well as undertake the council tasks and provide weekly reports. This was an era with no electricity, no motorised vehicles and no telephones. Tasks were written up by hand with pen and ink, with limited copying facilities. Joshua Jeays' son was to use an improved copying system patented in 1885. (See Appendix 1 for details.)

At the next meeting of the Brisbane Municipal Council a special committee made up of Stephens, Hockings and Warren was appointed within the Council to take on the arrangement, control and management of receiving Governor Bowen when he arrived in December. Although somewhat overwhelmed, the aldermen of the new Brisbane Municipal Council nevertheless responded positively, and immediately began to make arrangements for the city's welcome to the first Queensland Governor.

At this meeting the tenders for the advertised tasks of assessment of rates and taking the levels of the streets were opened – under protest from Robert Cribb who moved that the opening of tenders should first appear as a Notice of Motion at this meeting and then be opened at the next meeting. Mayor Petrie took the sense of the Council and ruled that the tenders be proceeded with, and they were duly opened and read. There were two tenders for the assessment of property – one from Thompson & Dowse for £65 and one from WI Innes for £170. Messrs Thompson & Dowse costed out this task at £20 within

the old town boundary of North Brisbane, £25 without the old town boundary of North Brisbane and £20 for properties at South Brisbane and Kangaroo Point. The Thompson & Dowse tender was accepted. Two tenders were opened for the taking of the levels of the town, one from William Pettigrew and another from Rowsley. Both were costed at £3/10/- per mile. It was decided that these were not eligible tenders, that fresh tenders were to be asked for and that the tendering process was to remain open for a fortnight.

Also at this meeting, the Water Committee's task to secure a permanent water supply was extended to the other side of the Brisbane River. Edmonstone moved that application be made to the New South Wales Government for the ferries to be handed over at once to the Brisbane Municipal Council, with a request that the balance of monies on hand for this year be handed over at the same time.

By the next Brisbane Municipal Meeting the new Council had begun work on a number of important tasks. Arrangements to gain supplies of *Government Gazettes* and copies of Municipality Acts were undertaken. Stephens moved that an example of a design of a municipal seal be procured from Sydney.

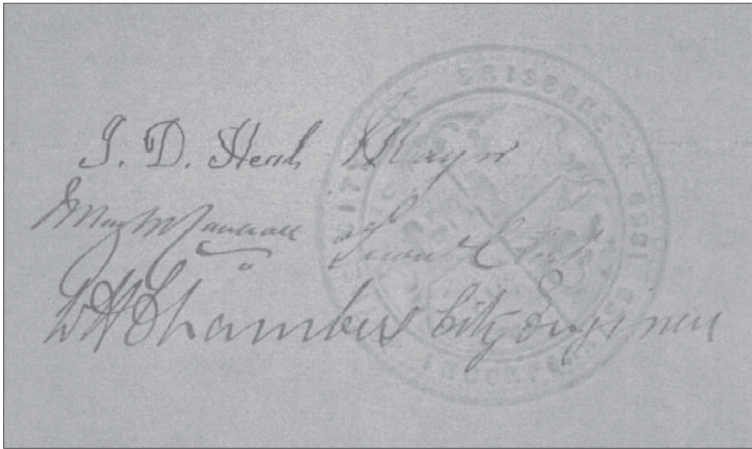
The Finance Committee, made up of Mayne, Stephens and Hockings, was tasked with opening a council bank account immediately. Jeays moved that the Finance Committee immediately provide all the necessary books and forms required in the assessment and rating of the Municipality. Edmonstone moved and Hockings seconded the removal of trees in George Street and Stephens, Hockings and Warren were to make up a Special Committee for the proper reception of the new governor. Only Alderman Cribb was absent from this meeting.

From the outset, the working procedure of the Brisbane Municipal Council was to form subcommittees to investigate issues, report to the council and then to undertake the agreed tasks. Money was an immediate and ongoing issue.

At the next Council meeting aldermen were pleased and grateful to have received a Map of the Municipality from the New South Wales Secretary of Lands. Reports from all the subcommittees were read and accepted. Two additional committees were formed: a Legislative Committee, made up of Edmonstone, Cribb, Sutton and Warren, and an Improvements Committee, made up of Petrie, Jeays and Stephens.

At the 14 November 1859 meeting of the Brisbane Municipal Council the first Seal of Brisbane, designed by Charles Tiffin,

was received by the council, and thanks were sent to him. The Legislative Committee reported that they were looking into the Hay Market and Market Wharf, the Improvements Committee was working on the levels, and the Special Committee was arranging the Governor's arrival and preparing an address to the Governor. Mayne moved that not more than £500 be expended on piecemeal repairs to the reservoir and that this work should be under the supervision of the Improvements Committee and not put to tender.



The first Brisbane seal.  
Brisbane City Council Archives.

The Council meeting of 21 November 1859 confirmed a move by Jeays to empower the Improvements Committee to open and preserve in an efficient state all the natural watercourses now serving for drainage. Jeays also urged that the Improvements Committee take into consideration the permanent drainage of the Municipality. Stephens moved that the appointment of a Town Clerk on an annual salary be advertised in the local press. The Council agreed on a salary for the Town Clerk of £260 a year, although this was reduced to £220 a year at Brisbane Municipal Council's meeting on 27 February 1860.

The Brisbane Municipal Council met at 1.30 pm on Saturday, 10 December 1859 to proceed to meet His Excellency Sir George Bowen on his landing at the wharf near the intersection of Alice and Edward streets in the Botanic Gardens. The aldermen accompanied the Governor in procession to Government House, where the Letters Patent from Queen Victoria were read out to a large and excited crowd.



Robert George Wyndham Herbert, on 10 December 1859, became the Premier of an interim Queensland Government. He also acted as the Colonial Secretary until arrangements had been made to choose Queensland's first Parliament. Judge James Peter Lutwyche, who had been appointed resident judge of the Supreme Court at Moreton Bay just prior to Separation, became the first judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

On Monday 12 December, at 9.30 am at a pavilion erected in the Botanic Gardens, Governor Bowen met with the General Reception Committee and the Brisbane Municipal Council. Judge Lutwyche read an address to the Governor from the General Reception Committee. This was followed by an address from the Brisbane Municipal Council read by the Acting Town Clerk to Governor Bowen:

*May it please Your Excellency:*

*We the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Brisbane, would take the opportunity of Your Excellency's arrival to express our affection and loyalty to the person and throne of our beloved Sovereign.*

*It is with no small degree of pride and pleasure that we welcome Your Excellency as the first Governor of Queensland, to the future capital of this beautiful and rising province and we sincerely trust that Your Excellency may long be spared to exercise the August Functions entrusted to you.*

*We feel that Your Excellency's arrival amongst us will materially tend towards the improvement and prosperity of this City and that we shall have the advantage of Your Excellency's experience in carrying out those public works the execution of which will mainly rest with Your Excellency's Government.*

*That Your Excellency and family may enjoy health and happiness in this fertile and richly gifted land the youngest offspring of Great Britain is the sincere prayer of Your Excellency's obedient servants.*

*Signed John Petrie, Mayor*

*and the rest of the Council.<sup>17</sup>*

His Excellency, Governor Bowen, was pleased to read this reply:

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen:*

*I request that you will accept my warmest thanks for the cordial and generous welcome to Brisbane. From my reception here I have received deep personal gratification and the most favourable impressions of the loyalty and good feeling that animate all classes of the Community.*

*I esteem it no ordinary privilege to be permitted to watch over the progress of this City and Colony at a period so full of promise as that of the inauguration of local self government. My object here, as in other principal settlements in Queensland (all of which I hope to visit within the next 12 months) will be to see and judge for myself, to ascertain the real wants and wishes of the inhabitants of all classes in order that the views and measures of the Governor may harmonise with the voice of the people. Candid expressions of opinion and full information on all important topics of local interest in the Addressed which may be presented to me will materially conduce to this end. You may rest assured that all suggestions emanating from public bodies such as the Municipality of Brisbane, will at all times command my attention and respectful consideration.*

*It has invariably been held by the highest authorities that the system of local Government by Municipalities has been one of the main elements of our national greatness and of the stability of the British Constitution. I rejoice therefore that the City of Brisbane has set the example of applying for incorporation; an example which I hope will be extensively followed throughout Queensland. I am anxious to draw general attention to the conclusions on this subject arrived at after deliberate consideration by the practical and experienced Statesmen who form the Privy Council of Great Britain in their Report on the Political Institutions to be granted the Australian Colonies, which was represented to the Queen in 1849, I read as follows:*

*"We are of the opinion that the existence in Australia of Municipal Bodies in a State of efficiency is scarcely less necessary to the public welfare than the existence there of representative legislature. A large part of the benefit to be derived from such legislatures seems to us to depend on the simultaneous establishment and co-existence of incorporated Municipalities. It is*

*the only practicable security against the danger of undue centralisation. It is the only security for the vigilant and habitual attention by the local legislature to the interests of the more remote localities. It is by such bodies alone that in those secluded societies public spirit is kept alive, and skill in the conduct of public affairs acquired and exercised. It is in such corporations that that the Colonists are trained to act as legislators in a larger sphere. By them and by them alone can any effectual resistance be made to the partial and undue dedication of the public resources, to the advantage of Districts peculiarly fortunate in the zeal and authority of their representatives in the Legislature."*

*These, gentlemen, are wise and weighty words, still this, like all other political questions in a free country must ultimately be decided by the people themselves. Far be it from me to attempt to press on inhabitants of any portion of this Colony unwelcome duties under the name of Municipal privileges. It had been rightly observed that "if such duties are not undertaken with alacrity and performed with zeal and controlled by the public vigilance and rewarded by public applause, they could be undertaken to no good purpose".*

*But Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen you may very probably consider that I have already said too much; while I myself am painfully conscious that I have said too little on a topic of such vital importance. I will therefore conclude by again thanking you, in the name of the Queen, for your loyal greeting to Her Majesty's first Representative among you; and by assuring you that you will at all times find in me a most willing coadjutor in all public works and measures that can conduce to the improvement and prosperity of the Port and City of Brisbane.<sup>18</sup>*

The regular Meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chambers in the Police Office at 3 pm on this day. Correspondence from Thompson & Dowse indicated that they had completed and were handing in the valuation books. Candidates for the position of the Office of Town Clerk were considered and William Martin Boyce was appointed as the first Town Clerk of Brisbane, a post that he would hold from December 1859 to 1861.



Soon after this Council meeting, Town Clerk Boyce put out this notice to the future ratepayers of Brisbane:

*BRISBANE MUNICIPALITY*

*Notice to Ratepayers.*

*All persons who have been assessed or are liable to assessment for Municipal Rates, are requested to ascertain that their names are duly entered on the Ratepayers' Roll, which is open for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, and will be closed for publication on 31st January, 1860.*

*Persons whose names are not on the Ratepayers' Roll, when published, or who are arrear in rates, will not be permitted to vote at the ensuing Municipal Election for Aldermen or Auditors.*

*By Order of the Mayor,*

*WILLIAM BOYCE*

*Town Clerk.<sup>19</sup>*

The Council announced the upcoming election of three aldermen who would retire in rotation and be eligible for re-election:

*BRISBANE MUNICIPALITY*

*Nominations of Aldermen.*

*Agreeably to Sec. 12 of the Municipalities' Act of 1858, I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Ratepayers will be held at the Police Office, on Tuesday, the seventh day of February, 1860, for the purpose of nominating three Aldermen to serve in the Brisbane Municipal Council in the room of*

*Robert Cribb Esq.*

*George Warren Esq.*

*Wm. Samuel Sutton Esq.*



*who retire by rotation, and are eligible for re-election.*

*(Sgd.) JOHN PETRIE*

*Mayor and Returning Officer.<sup>20</sup>*

Election rights were open only to male ratepayers who were not in arrears with the payment of their rates.

By the end of 1859, in just three months, the Brisbane Municipal Council had spent £157 on public works, £47 on salaries and £35 on the corporation's seal.<sup>21</sup> This left the Council with no funds. The new interim Queensland Government provided the Brisbane Municipal Council with a loan of £100 to tide them over and repair the reservoir. The Australian Joint Stock Bank allowed the municipal council an overdraft to finance its commitments.<sup>22</sup>

The population of Queensland at the time of Bowen's arrival was 23,520. The population statistics for the Moreton Bay Region and Brisbane show the population growth due to natural increase and from continued migration to the new colony and the ever-increasing size of the metropolitan area:

<b>Population growth within the Moreton Bay Region and Brisbane</b>			
Census Date	Population		Area of the Brisbane Metropolitan Area
	Moreton Bay District	Brisbane Metropolitan Area	
1856	8,920	3,840	3.87 square miles
1861	13,180	5,900	5.35 square miles
1864	24,330	11,920	5.65 square miles
1868	33,000	15,540	7.61 square miles
1871	38,226	18,180	9.52 square miles
1876	51,542	28,369	12.13 square miles
1881	62,083	37,127	17.00 square miles
1886	101,272	68,240	28.38 square miles

Data from *Development within the Brisbane Statistical Division 1856-1966*.

As well as population statistics for the new colony of Queensland, records show that there were 20,000 horses, 300,000 cattle

and two million sheep.<sup>23</sup> Cultivation, backbreaking work using horses in this subtropical climate, covered less than 2000 acres.

Times were changing rapidly in Brisbane and now there was a new separate British colony. This was a huge achievement for this small population with few resources and inadequate income. The defining feeling of the local residents was one of enthusiasm.

**Endnotes**

- 1 Seamen 1973, pp 48-56.
- 2 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.192.
- 3 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.137.
- 4 Coote, 1882, p.166.
- 5 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 January 1859.
- 6 Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, Brisbane History Group, 1995, p.6.
- 7 Jeays, David, *The Jeays Family and Sandgate*, 2000.
- 8 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 January 1859.
- 9 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 19 January 1859.
- 10 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.62.
- 11 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 13 November 1858.
- 12 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 29 December 1858.
- 13 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 24 March 1859, p.1.
- 14 Minutes of the Brisbane Municipal Council 1859/10/13-1864/02/15, p.1.
- 15 Bernays, 1925, p.173.
- 16 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 22 October 1859.
- 17 From documents attached to the front inside cover of the first Minute Book of the Brisbane Municipal Council.
- 18 From documents attached to the front inside cover of the first Minute Book of the Brisbane Municipal Council.
- 19 From documents attached to the front inside cover of the first Minute Book of the Brisbane Municipal Council.
- 20 From documents attached to the front inside cover of the first Minute Book of the Brisbane Municipal Council.
- 21 Greenwood & Laverty, 1859, p.90.
- 22 Greenwood & Laverty, 1859, p.90.
- 23 Coote, 1882, p.229.

## 6. ALL WORK AND NO PLAY 1860

### **BRISBANE**

- gains early infrastructure: water supply, roads, rates, ferries, public spaces, river dredging, cemetery, postal services, fire services, schools, bridges, mapping
- first election of Queensland Parliament.

### **JOSHUA JEAYS**

- serves on many committees, advocates many improvements to infrastructure and urges rate assessment to create income
- called up for jury service
- awarded contract for Government House
- supplies stone for gaol.

J • J

Jeays' heavy Council workload, his business construction commitments and his community involvements give some insight into this man's tremendous energy in these early years of Queensland. Jeays knew Brisbane Town in drought and in flood. He knew its people and the problems they had with the inadequate conditions of the township. His work experiences in Leicester and London gave him a vision and some understanding of Brisbane's future potential. These experiences would have helped him to resolve the issues facing Brisbane.

As an elected alderman, Joshua Jeays attended the weekly meetings of the Brisbane Municipal Council. He attended all but 10 of the 54 Council meetings convened in 1860. His absences in May and August were due to his being called up for compulsory jury duty.



Membership of both the Improvements Committee and the Water Committee greatly increased Jeays' personal workload for the Council. His construction business was making good progress, and his quarry continued supplying stone for the Green Hills (Petrie Terrace) Gaol, which was officially opened on 5 November 1860.

Queensland's independent, squatter-dominated Colonial Government was established during 1860. The inadequately funded and under-resourced Brisbane Municipal Council desperately sought support and assistance, initially from the interim Government and then from the first elected Colonial Government. Grants of land from the Colonial Government were required for water reserves, a cemetery, a town hall and a cross-river bridge site. Assistance was needed with surveying, planning, bridge construction and road linkages to other settlements. The bar at the mouth of the Brisbane River needed to be dredged so ships could dock at Brisbane's wharves. Only then could Brisbane efficiently and effectively fulfil its responsibilities as the main port in the region. The Brisbane Municipal Council could do very little about any of these major works projects without the agreement and support of the evolving Queensland Colonial Government.

Queen Street looking south-west from Edward Street, 1864.

State Library of Queensland Neg No.139497



Water supply was an urgent issue. Brisbane's main water reservoir in 1860 was supplied by damming the Tank Stream. This small dam had been established in 1829 during the convict era and was now inadequate for North Brisbane's increasing population. For some time this leaking reservoir



Photograph showing the Tank Stream dam in the foreground c 1862, most likely by John Watson.

State Library of Queensland Neg No.38299

had been a community issue and there was an urgent need to fix the dam and clean the contaminated water. Repair of the reservoir seepage would be costly because the dam contained an accumulation of mud and filth that required removal. A further complication was that the reservoir land was owned by the Colonial Government, over which the Council had no jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup> The Brisbane Municipal Council first had to gain approval for this work from the interim Colonial Government. The Council's Improvements Committee decided to add a further £200 to the £500 that had already been allocated for the reservoir upgrade to ensure that the repairs and clean-up tasks were completed properly.<sup>2</sup> By April 1860, the contractors had completed the fencing of the reservoir to keep wandering livestock out of the public water supply.<sup>3</sup>

Establishing a reliable and safe water supply for Brisbane residents was not an easy task. Brisbane Town needed a larger reservoir in a higher position so that water could be gravity-fed to the township. This would cost money and needed to be undertaken by skilled personnel. At this time, the flow behaviours of the local water sources was not well understood and underground aquifers had not yet been explored. Another major issue was the lack of technical expertise to design a suitable reservoir that would perform satisfactorily and justify the cost involved.<sup>4</sup> By July 1860, the Brisbane Municipal Council was urging the Surveyor-General to select a suitable site for a permanent water reservoir for North Brisbane.<sup>5</sup>

From earliest convict times through to free settlement, Brisbane's roads were unplanned. The population increase of the 1850s had created more road usage. The emergence of horse-drawn vehicles in the settlement drew attention to the poor, usually unsafe state of roads both in Brisbane Town and out to other settlement hubs. Rates and roads were important early issues on the Council's ever-increasing 'works' agenda. Rates were needed to provide essential Council income and roads were necessary to enable the town and district to function. Both Jeays and Stephens strongly urged an early resolution of a rate assessment system using a uniform principle as the basis for property valuations<sup>6</sup> and an efficient method to collect rates from Brisbane landholders. Petrie, Cribb, Jeays and Mayne formed a special committee to revalue the assessable property within the municipality and to name any roads, streets and lanes within the city boundaries that had not already been defined.<sup>7</sup> Rate monies would go some way to providing finances for improvements to Brisbane's essential roadworks and drainage systems.

The Brisbane Municipal Council's Rates Book of 1860 contains details of the rates payments made by Jeays and Lilley. Jeays' North Quay allotments were valued at £45 and £36 per annum and the entries in the Rates Book show that he paid £1/2/6 and 18/- on 11 June and the same again on 19 November 1860.<sup>8</sup> The Lilleys were residing in Wickham Terrace in 1860 and the valuation on their property was £50. As a consequence they paid rates of £2/10/- on 26 June and £1/5/- on 6 December 1860.<sup>9</sup> The Rates Book entries for 1860 do not list house numbers.

The aldermen of the first Brisbane Municipal Council did not have to look far to realise that Brisbane's roads needed major work. Road improvements, with the inclusion of drains, would need considerable financial outlay, surveying and planning and a great deal of time and physical effort. This was the era of the horse and cart, shovels and picks.

The lack of funds and the pressing need to get work done in the township had the Brisbane Municipal Council discussing the idea of using prisoners from the Brisbane Gaol on labour-intensive civic tasks. The Council was worried about public opinion.<sup>10</sup> By the end of April, the Colonial Government had authorised 16 hard-labour prisoners with a prison guard to work for the council, no more than two miles distant from the gaol.<sup>11</sup> In May, after a Notice of Motion from Robert Cribb, the Brisbane Municipal Council decided that threepence a day would be put aside for each prisoner who worked on Council tasks. The total amount of this money would also be noted on a certificate of good conduct covering the Council work period,

and be available for the prisoners upon their discharge from prison.<sup>12</sup>

Stormwater runoff and drainage had generally been overlooked in the early establishment of roadways. Where purpose-built drainage facilities existed, they were usually inadequate and poorly constructed. Roads without level gravel surfaces and lacking both culverts and drains were not only poor to begin with, but they also deteriorated quickly. Drainage problems also compounded health problems caused by the common, unsanitary practices of most people in the 1840s and 1850s, particularly with regard to waste disposal. Subtropical Brisbane at this time was not a healthy place to live. There was no doubt that improvements to roads and drainage would also have beneficial effects on the health and wellbeing of residents.

Another pressing issue for the Brisbane Municipal Council was Brisbane's ferries. Ferries provided essential cross-river connections between North Brisbane and settlements south of the river. The ferries of those times were basic wooden rowboats or skiffs, and platform barges or punts were manoeuvred across the river by hand. Passengers were taken across by rowboat. Livestock and horse-drawn vehicles were carried across on flat-topped punts. River crossing was a slow process and people often had to wait at the docking areas unprotected from the weather.

Alderman Hockings moved that 'shingled sheds for the protection of goods and passengers be erected at each side of the river at South Brisbane ferry and old Kangaroo Point ferry'.<sup>13</sup> He also wanted urinals and closets to be erected at each side of the same ferries.<sup>14</sup> Hockings further recommended that 'a small drafting yard be erected at the Kangaroo Point ferry, and a similar yard on the Ferry Reserve at South Brisbane with a sloping jetty to facilitate the transit of sheep and cattle'<sup>15</sup> on and off the ferries. Jeays proposed a Special Committee made up of Hockings, Cribb and Sutton to develop by-laws for regulating ferries and to provide an estimate of probable costs to update the ferry system.<sup>16</sup>

The broader picture of public space and open land was an aspect of the Municipalities Act that the Council discussed early in January 1860. The Brisbane Municipal Council considered making a by-law 'for regulating the right to be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Municipality over land lawfully set apart as a common for the depasturing of sheep, cattle and horses or other animals belonging to such people'.<sup>17</sup> This was the era before lawnmowers when livestock were used to crop the vegetation growing in house blocks, along street verges and in vacant grassy paddocks.

Perhaps it was the complaint from George Dawson of the nuisance 'pigs and goats being permitted to be at large'<sup>18</sup> and similar complaints about straying animals that encouraged the Council to decide to set aside two 'commons' – a northern site between the North Boundary of the city and Enoggera Creek and a second common for the public, south of the river, for the inhabitants of South Brisbane and Kangaroo Point.<sup>19</sup>

In early 1860 the Brisbane Municipal Council found itself in an inescapable bind. Tasked with important and urgent works, most of which required input from the new Colonial Government, the eager aldermen had to content themselves with planning and organising, since for the first six months of 1860 the interim and mostly inexperienced Colonial Government was in a caretaker role. The temporary governing body was neither willing nor able to make major decisions before the May elections of Queensland's first Legislative Assembly.

On one issue, however, they might be able to make progress. Back in 1856, the New South Wales Government had voted to spend £10,500 to purchase from England a steam dredge and other appliances for clearing and improving the rivers and harbours of what would become Queensland. Alderman Stephens moved that a Memorial<sup>20</sup> be presented to the Queensland Colonial Government urging immediate purchase and use of a steam dredge and equipment to clear the Brisbane River bar. A deputation made up of Mayor Petrie, Alderman Stephens and Alderman Cribb took this Memorial to the interim Queensland Government in February 1860.<sup>21</sup>

Colonists were considering the electoral processes for the new Colonial Government early in 1860. To constitute the first Legislative Assembly (Lower House), Sir William Denison, Governor of New South Wales, was directed to fix the number of electoral districts, members, qualification for the franchise or right to vote for the Queensland colony. On 20 December 1859, Denison issued a Proclamation setting up 16 electoral districts returning 26 members. To stand for election as a candidate for the first Queensland Legislative Assembly a person had to be 21 years old, hold British citizenship, possess a freehold estate of a clear annual value of £100 or clear capital of £2000 and be prepared to serve, if elected, in the Parliament for five years. To have the right to vote in this first election in Queensland, electors had to be at least 21 years old, be natural born or a naturalised male British subject, have held, for at least six months, a freehold estate of £200 value, or be the occupier for at least six months of a dwelling house of value £20.<sup>22</sup>

Close family connections with Joshua Jeays kept Charles Lilley in touch with the Municipal Council's concerns, the efforts



undertaken and the barriers (mostly with the new Queensland Colonial Government) that seemed to be stalling civic advancement. By February 1860, the electors of the electorate that took in the Fortitude Valley area were encouraging Lilley to stand as a candidate in the first elections of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Lilley set about reviving the defunct Liberal Association and was elected to the seat of Fortitude Valley by the small margin of three votes.

At the end of 1859, Governor Bowen had set up a 'tentative executive' with Robert GW Herbert, Ratcliffe Pring and RR Mackenzie, the Colonial Treasurer. Robert Herbert, private secretary to Governor Bowen, took control as the nominated caretaker to prepare for the first parliamentary election in May 1860.

The election for the first Queensland Legislative Assembly was held on 20 May 1860. The first ministry of the first Queensland Parliament consisted of Robert GW Herbert (Premier), Ratcliffe Pring (Attorney-General), RR Mackenzie (Treasurer), St George R Gore (Secretary for Lands and Works), with Maurice Charles O'Connell, JJ Galloway and Dr William Hobbs as ministers without portfolios. Elected members of the Legislative Assembly were: Gilbert Elliott (Speaker), Arthur Macalister (Chairman of Committees), Charles W Blakeney, AD Broughton, Henry Buckley, Charles Coxen, George Edmonstone, John Ferrett, Charles Fitzsimmons, Frederick A Forbes, CR Haly, Henry Jordan, Charles Lilley, Thomas de Lacy Moffatt, William L Nelson, Patrick O'Sullivan, George Thorn (Senior) and John Watts. They were summoned to meet at Brisbane in the old convict barracks in Queen Street on 22 May 1860. On the same day, Governor Bowen appointed Dr Stephen Simpson, Henry B Fitz, George Harris and Daniel F Roberts to the Legislative Council.<sup>23</sup>

On 29 May 1860, Governor Bowen formally opened the first Queensland Parliament with two houses – the Legislative Assembly with 26 elected members and the Legislative Council with 15 members appointed by the Governor.

During the first session of the first Queensland Parliament in 1860, it was resolved to open proceedings with prayer. This motion by Henry Jordan, the member for North Brisbane, was carried by 20 votes to two. The two dissenters were Charles Lilley, the member for Fortitude Valley, and Patrick O'Sullivan, the member for Ipswich. Lilley's objection was that under their liberal constitution they might soon have a Jew 'or even a Chinaman' returned to the Assembly and they could not reasonably ask such persons to join in the concluding portion of the prayer where the words 'Jesus Christ' occurred. He also

objected that they might not always have a sovereign on the throne whose virtues were such as to invoke their religious aspirations for the continuance of his reign.<sup>24</sup>

Lilley was becoming a well-known figure in Brisbane, and after his election to the lower house his political efforts would resonate throughout Queensland. Lilley's public image was used in this advertisement that appeared in the *Moreton Bay Courier*, 16 August 1860:

FREEHOLD ALLOTMENTS, near the residence of  
C. Lilley, Esq., M.L.A. from £20 each -  
nine month's (sic) credit. Title, Crown  
grant.  
ARTHUR MARTIN,  
City Auction Mart.

Lilley's election to Queensland's first Legislative Assembly was to be the beginning of his almost 14 years in the Queensland Parliament where he would hold a number of important ministries and powerful positions. A clever and articulate debater, Lilley introduced many significant legislative initiatives in the Queensland Colonial Government. His determination did not always achieve his expected outcomes and there were many serious debates, arguments and sometimes back-flips during his political career. A number of political commentators suggest that Charles Lilley was a man ahead of his time. He had a vision that others of that time could not fully conceive. Although this sense of frustration persisted throughout his political career, Lilley remained the member for Fortitude Valley for the rest of his political life and was known as 'Lilley of the Valley'. He ventured into money lending, as an advertisement in the *Moreton Bay Courier* of 12 June 1860 reveals:

£500 TO LEND, on FREEHOLD PROPERTY.  
CHARLES LILLEY.

With the new Queensland Parliament finally installed and finding its feet, the Brisbane Municipal Council could now start to get its works program moving. August 1860 was to be a very busy month. The Mayor and a number of aldermen were unable to attend Council meetings due to performing jury

duty in the Court of Petty Sessions.<sup>25</sup> Also during this month the tenders for the building of Government House were being processed.

The workload of the Brisbane Municipal Council kept increasing and diversifying, and some goals were achieved. In 1860 Queensland issued its first postage stamps in three values, all portraying Queen Victoria's profile. An iron letter receiver, or post box, was also erected in Brisbane.<sup>26</sup> The Brisbane Municipal Council strongly suggested to the Postmaster-General<sup>27</sup> that post boxes could also be erected in Fortitude Valley, South Brisbane and Kangaroo Point. The Colonial Government agreed to this.<sup>28</sup>

The General Post Office at that time was a convict-built building. Brisbane mail services were delivered in and out of the township by sea. Mail distribution to places outside of Brisbane was undertaken by mail contractors by coach and on horseback. Mail in residential settlements was not delivered individually to each household. Residents were expected to collect their mail and parcels directly from the post office.

The Council was also requesting from the interim Colonial Government that a site be selected for a general cemetery, no

Postage stamps of one penny and two penny denomination.

Images supplied by the author, Beryl Roberts



The first General Post Office to the left of the Town Hall, 1868.

State Library of Queensland Neg No. 13588

smaller than 200 acres and not less than one mile from the town boundaries.<sup>29</sup> The Council inspected and approved a plan for laying out an area for the Botanic Gardens and a Government Domain.<sup>30</sup>

*When the parliament first met, it considered that its top building priority was to house the Queen's representative in a suitable manner. On his arrival, the Governor had been installed in a rented house and this could not be allowed to continue.<sup>31</sup>*

In 1860, Governor Bowen allocated £12,000 to fund the construction of a purpose-built Government House in Brisbane. On 4 July 1860 Charles Tiffin, Colonial Architect, was directed to prepare the necessary plans for Government House for the Governor's approval.<sup>32</sup> Tiffin requested from the Under Colonial Secretary, Abram Moriarty, a competent Clerk of Works to superintend this work and make detailed drawings of the proposed Government House. Foreman of Works James Sherwin was appointed to that position.<sup>33</sup>

The 29 January 1855 Plan of the Botanic Gardens (being established by curator Walter Hill) shows how the land south of Alice Street had been surveyed and subdivided into the Government Domain, a public recreation reserve and residential subdivision. These land-use plans had been approved by the New South Wales Government and it was the efforts of Brisbane residents who successfully petitioned the government in Sydney to use the township allotments that had been marked out for sale and reserve the area for a future Government House.<sup>34</sup>

The plans for Government House were approved by Governor Bowen and then the job was opened to tender. The *Moreton Bay Courier* produced this piece of investigative journalism:

#### Local Intelligence

GOVERNMENT HOUSE - We learn, upon enquiry, that five tenders were sent in for the erection of Government House, the particulars of which were as follows; - 1. Joshua Jeays; all stone £12,000, stone and brick £11,000, brick and stone £9,300; to be completed in 18 months. 2. W. Trotter; all stone £10,385, stone and brick £10,164,



brick and stone £9,425; to be completed in 14 months. 3. James Teevan; all stone £14,908, stone and brick £14,685, brick and stone £13,514; to be completed in 14 months. 4. John Petrie; all stone £13,700, stone and brick £13,300, brick and stone £12,100; to be completed in 20 months. 5. J.W. Thompson; all stone £16,223 11s 6d, stone and brick £14,600 11s 6d, brick and stone £11,029 11s 6d; to be completed in 14 months. Mr. Trotter's tender, being the lowest, was accepted, but some slight modifications of the plan are to be made, in order to reduce the cost to the limit of the grant made by the Assembly for the work.<sup>35</sup>

Trotter's tender was successful, but he withdrew the contract because he realised that his tendered price was too low.

*GOVERNMENTHOUSE – We understand that the Messrs. Trotter have thrown up their contract for the erection of this building, and that fresh tenders will be immediately called for. The reason is said to be that the contractors were convinced that the work could not be done without loss at the price which they had agreed.<sup>36</sup>*

After some retendering, the contract to build Government House was awarded to Joshua Jeays. His original tender was for £12,000. In a memorandum dated 23 August 1860, Governor Bowen commented:

*The lowest tender is that of Mr. Jeays £10,500 – to be finished in 18 [afterwards reduced to 16] months.*


*The Colonial Architect recommends its acceptance.*

*I suppose it is best to do so. Send round this memorandum to the Council at once....<sup>37</sup>*

Before construction of Government House began, the grounds were laid out by Walter Hill – his only known residential garden designs. A kitchen garden was established so the Governor's family would have fresh fruit and vegetables. A 'reservoir',



Council.  
 Memorandum. (Govt. House.)



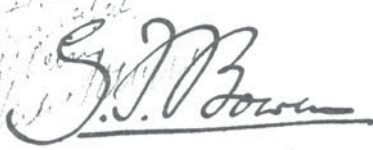
The lowest tender is that of W. Jeays.  
 £10,500 - to be finished in 18 (afterwards  
 reduced to 16 months).

The Colonial Architect recommends  
 its acceptance.

I suppose it is best to do so.

I send you this memorandum to  
 the Council at once. Mr. Tiffin will  
 have the bond executed forthwith, when  
 the Council shall be approved.

August 23. 1860.



Handwritten copy of  
 the memorandum from  
 Governor Bowen dated 23  
 August 1860.

Colonial Secretary's Office 24908,  
 General Correspondence Records  
 COL/A7

3 Sept 1860-1 Oct 1860

which later became an ornamental pond, was also constructed  
 as a water source.<sup>38</sup>

Work on Government House began promptly and by 10  
 November 1860, Jeays had received his first advance of  
 £657/14/-<sup>39</sup> for work on the project.<sup>40</sup>

Bishop Tufnell, who had been ordained in Westminster Abbey,  
 arrived in September 1860 to take on the role of the Anglican

Subsidiary of Embankment opened this  
twenty third day of August 1860, for  
the meeting of Government House, Brisbane.

—

Lot James Tison - 14 months - to 10,500.  
 Lot 2 John Strick - 14 months - to 11,000.  
 Lot 3 Joshua Jays - 18 months - to 10,500.

Colonial Secretary's Office  
 Brisbane, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1860.

Approved & signed by  
 Charles Tiffin  
 Col. Secy.

Copy of a handwritten letter from Tiffin dated 23 August 1860 outlining the quotes for the second tender for Old Government House.

Colonial Secretary's Office 24908,  
 General Correspondence Records  
 COL/A7 3 Sept 1860-1 Oct 1860

Bishop of Brisbane. He was enthroned on 4 September and began his diocesan duties in Queensland south of the 21st parallel (just north of where Mackay is today). Early in September, the Colonial Government passed an Act to provide for primary education and the establishment of grammar schools.<sup>41</sup> Charles Lilley would become integral to the establishment of Queensland education from this time.

Public works continued at a frenetic pace and Jays was right in the middle of the action. Council issues continued into November 1860. The Council resumed its urging of the Colonial Government to dredge the mouth of the Brisbane River.<sup>42</sup> Just one week later, news that the Government had accepted tenders for a steam dredge was announced.<sup>43</sup> Surveyor James Warner's tender to supply a map of the City of Brisbane was not to exceed £10.<sup>44</sup> The Town Clerk, William Boyce, was directed to call attention to ratepayers in arrears of rates. Default would initiate legal proceedings for recovery of arrears.<sup>45</sup> Christopher Porter took on the tasks of City Surveyor for an annual wage of £200 per annum.<sup>46</sup> The Council applied to the Colonial

Government for a Fire Engine Station and offered to build the station if the Government would supply the land.<sup>47</sup>

Joshua Jeays indicated that a box drain placed in the creek at the junction of Albert and Margaret streets would enable the easier passage of drays on the roads.<sup>48</sup> This idea was discussed in the Council meeting and agreed to. Close to the end of November the Government was requested to deploy Marine Surveyors to survey, without delay, the river between North and South Brisbane to ascertain the most suitable site for the erection of a cross-river bridge. Marine surveys needed to be undertaken and drawn up in sections so that the formed bed of the river, the height of the banks and the nature of the bottom, whether mud, gravel or rock, were detailed.

The City Surveyor was also requested to give his opinion and provide suggestions on the form of bridge most suitable for the site. He was asked to take into consideration the present and future requirements for the proposed bridge, and also supply an estimate of the probable cost.<sup>49</sup> Ferries were on the Council discussion agenda once more. Tenders were to be called for sheds at the steps to the ferry jetties.<sup>50</sup> Mayne and Jeays were requesting urgent repair of the Main Road heading from Kangaroo Point to Ipswich within the town boundary.<sup>51</sup>

During December 1860 discussion resumed about surveying for the site of a bridge across the Brisbane River.<sup>52</sup> By the end of December the Colonial Secretary informed the Council that a Marine Surveyor had been instructed to survey and report on the best site for the bridge.<sup>53</sup> The Colonial Government also responded to the Council's Fire Station requests stating they were not prepared to give land at present for the erection of a fire station. However, they suggested a suitable place should be prepared at the old Gaol Hill for the reception of the fire engine that was expected to soon arrive from Sydney.<sup>54</sup>

Joshua Jeays began investing in land independently and with Charles Lilley. He purchased land in the Tingalpa land sales in May 1860<sup>55</sup> and in December 1860 purchased a 10-acre block.<sup>56</sup> His land purchases continued into January 1861 with the buying of four more acreage blocks.

In Jeays' family life, his second grandson was born on 17 June 1860. All were elated with the arrival of Charles Bertram, a brother for Edwyn Mitford, the second of the 13 children to eventually make up the Lilley family.

Joshua Jeays, aged 48 years, was approaching old age for those times. 1860 had been a frenetic period in his working life, with his heavy commitment to Council activities in addition

to his construction business. No-one would dispute Joshua Jeays' work ethic, energy and enthusiasm. Knowing a little about Jeays' involvements during 1860 gives some idea of the calibre of the man.

## Endnotes

- 1 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 30 January 1860, p.38.
- 2 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 6 February 1860, p.40.
- 3 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 April 1860, p.63.
- 4 Whitmore, R L 1997, p.2.
- 5 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 July 1860, pp.83 and 84.
- 6 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 26 March 1860, pp.52 and 54.
- 7 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 5 March 1860, p.50.
- 8 Rates Book of Brisbane Municipal Council, 1860, p.44. QSA SRS/4258/1.
- 9 Rates Book of Brisbane Municipal Council, 1860, p.49. QSA SRS/4258/1.
- 10 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 20 February 1860, p.46.
- 11 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 30 April 1860, p.66.
- 12 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 14 May 1860, p.69 and 21 May 1860, p.70.
- 13 Shingles were the wooden tiles used on the rooves of most buildings at that time.
- 14 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 April 1860, p.63.
- 15 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 April 1860, p.65.
- 16 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 12 March 1860, p.52.
- 17 Municipalities Act of New South Wales, Section 76, 1858.
- 18 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 9 January 1860, p.32.
- 19 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 2 January 1860, p.31.
- 20 A Memorial, according to the *Macquarie Dictionary*, was a written statement of facts presented to a sovereign, a legislative body, etc., as a basis of, or expressed in the form of, a petition or remonstrance.
- 21 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 6 February 1860, pp.40, 41 and 44.
- 22 *Brisbane Centenary 1823 -1923*, p.89.
- 23 Cilento, 1959, p.30.
- 24 Lack, 1960, pp.738 and 739.
- 25 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 August 1860, p.86.
- 26 Fraser, B & Weldon, K 1983, p.121.
- 27 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 14 May 1860, p.69.
- 28 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 4 June 1860, p.73.
- 29 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 July 1860, p.84.
- 30 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 30 July 1860, p.85.
- 31 *Heritage Australia*, Winter 1984, pp.54 and 55.
- 32 Series Id 5333 Miscellaneous Letterbooks 10 December 1859 – 11 August 1860 Item Id 861035.
- 33 Series Id 5333 Miscellaneous Letterbooks 10 December 1859 – 11 August 1860 Item Id 861035.

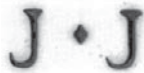
- 34 Hogan J, 1978, p.14.
- 35 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 August 1860, p.2.
- 36 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 18 August 1860, p.2.
- 37 'Building Old Government House', Old Government House Notes, 1995, National Trust of Queensland, p.1.
- 38 COL A7 60/1564.
- 39 12726 Cash Book of the Colonial Architect 1 February 1860 – 27 December 1872.
- 40 QSA ARC/49.
- 41 Meston, A 1895, p.24.
- 42 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 13 September 1860, p.95.
- 43 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 20 September 1860, p.96.
- 44 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 17 September 1860, p.96.
- 45 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 September 1860, p.98.
- 46 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 October 1860, p.101.
- 47 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 12 November 1860, p.107.
- 48 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 19 November 1860, p.108.
- 49 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 26 November 1860, pp.108 and 109.
- 50 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 26 November 1860, p.110.
- 51 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 26 November 1860, p.110.
- 52 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 3 December 1860, p.112, Letter to Colonial Secretary.
- 53 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 December 1860, p.117, Letter from the Colonial Secretary.
- 54 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 3 December 1860, p.112, Letter from Colonial Secretary.
- 55 Lot 52, Allotment 1, and Lot 56, Allotment 5, both of Section 4, County of Stanley, Parish of Tingalpa, Village of Lytton, 1 rood 20 perches, paid £14 and £9/5/- respectively. (Z1527 QSA).
- 56 *Queensland Government Gazette*, 1860, p.507.



## 7. BUILDING HOUSES 1861-1864

### JOSHUA JEAYS

- completes the first major building project of the newly formed Government of the Colony of Queensland, and *Romavilla* and *Bardon House*
- provides stone for Parliament House and is elected as Brisbane's fourth Mayor.



Having demonstrated his skills in the 1850s building houses of worship, in the 1860s Joshua Jeays constructed Brisbane's most prestigious dwelling, the public/private space of Government House. He bravely took on major projects, despite the basic infrastructure of Brisbane Town at the time.

This chapter concentrates on his construction projects. He was involved in building Government House, *Bardon House*, *Romavilla* and prefabricated housing for the remote outpost of Somerset on the northern tip of Cape York. Stone from Jeays' quarry was also used to construct Parliament House during this period. During this time he was also busy as an alderman on the Brisbane Municipal Council, and as Mayor in 1864. As well, he continued to be very involved in the Brisbane community.

The contract to build Government House – the most important house of its time in Queensland – was a large task taken on by Joshua Jeays in August 1860. Government House was designed for three equally important functions: the official office of the Governor, a private family home, and Brisbane's finest social venue.<sup>1</sup>

Very high expectations were placed on this contract by both the Government and the general public, and as a result this project would remain under constant scrutiny throughout its

construction. The project's budget and timelines were tight, and would require vigilant management.

As a skilled and experienced builder, Jeays employed good tradesmen with a variety of skills to undertake the tasks required by his building contracts. Jeays had men at his quarry selecting and extracting stone to prepare it for delivery to building construction sites. He also had stonemasons at his construction sites preparing and laying stone. By 1861 Jeays had a large construction company. One of his most important employees was John Daniel Heal, who had arrived in Moreton Bay in 1853. Heal worked as a stonemason for a few years before becoming Jeays' foreman.<sup>2</sup> Jeays placed a lot of responsibility for the quality of the stonework construction on John Heal, who managed the building of Government House.

By the beginning of 1861 Jeays' construction team had prepared the site and was well under way with the foundations of this prestigious building. The facing on the exterior walls of the shell of Government House was constructed from dressed sandstone. A 'rubble' core of rough stone made up the inner section of the walls, which were then plastered to form the internal walls. Jeays cut this sandstone from his Woogaroo quarry, which was then the largest quarry in the Goodna-Woogaroo area, containing the best stone.

View of Old Government House prior to the upstairs verandahs being covered. c 1863.  
State Library of Queensland Neg No. 3801



The ground floor of Government House included an entrance vestibule and hall, drawing, dining and morning rooms, a library and the Executive Council Chamber.<sup>3</sup> The main vestibule and the hallway extending upwards through the two storeys of the house to a skylight above was a particularly fine part of the building. Sliding panels on either side of the hallway could be opened to create a continuous space using the dining room, hallway and drawing room. This flexibility enabled the area to be used as required for large official functions and social occasions such as balls, as well as for more intimate meetings and gatherings.

The first level of the house was the family section, with access to the servants' rooms. It contained nine bedrooms, a dressing room, a sitting room and quarters for the aides. Like the rest of the house, cedar joinery was used in this functional section, but the mouldings were smaller and plainer than in the main part of the house. The rooms in this private family area were smaller, with lower ceilings than the ground floor's public areas.<sup>4</sup>

By April 1861 the walls of the main section of the building were nearly levelled up and it was hoped that this part of the building would be completed for the Queen's Birthday ball in May.<sup>5</sup> However, there were delays when the allocated money ran out halfway through the project and Parliament had to find more funds.<sup>6</sup> A second contract was let to Joshua Jeays for the erection of 12 more rooms on the north-west or rear of the present building.<sup>7</sup>

In October 1861:

*The slate roof is completed, and also the lead flat on top... The arcade around the lower storey is in course of construction, and it is proposed, above this, to form a balcony opening from the windows of the first floor. The plastering of the interior is in progress...<sup>8</sup>*

The interior walls of the house were made of solid brick that was probably locally fired.<sup>9</sup> The back portions of the building were constructed of porphyry taken from O'Connell Town quarry. The use of porphyry on the rear walls indicates that future extensions to the building from that side could easily have been undertaken.

Both the joinery and the floors in the main reception rooms – the hall, dining room and drawing room – were constructed from



Detail of the upstairs balustrading at Old Government House, September 2009.

**WANTED JOINERS, at new Government House. None but good workmen need apply. JOSHUA JEAYS.**

Advertisement placed by Joshua Jeays wanting joiners for Government House. It reads: 'WANTED JOINERS, at new Government House. None but good workmen need apply. JOSHUA JEAYS'.

*The Courier*. Brisbane Queensland. Thursday 5 September 1861. p3.



Detail of a column capital at Old Government House, September 2009.

local red cedar. Other floors were made of pine.<sup>10</sup> The marble chimney pieces were brought by sea from Sydney. Interior walls, which were papered in 1864, were plain, pink-coloured, polished plaster.

Originally, Government House had verandas on the lower level only and these were mainly arcaded stone arches.<sup>11</sup> The upper level-doors and low windows opened out on to spaces that were uncovered and unprotected from the weather. Tiffin's plans did not include upper-floor verandas.<sup>12</sup>

By December 1861, while Joshua Jeays was completely focused on the construction of Government House, John Petrie was constructing the outbuildings, the stables and the guard house, and Walter Hill was organising the layout of the gardens and landscaping features.

An item in the *Queensland Daily Guardian* recorded the progress:

*Under the Colonial Architect the new Government House continues to advance towards completion. The decorations of the interior are finished on the upper floor, the arcade needs only the iron railing, and the foundations are ready for the piazza on the north side. The stabling is almost complete and the masons are at work on the Guard House. The entrance gate is not yet commenced.*<sup>13</sup>

Over a span of 21 months, Joshua Jeays and his team had built one of Brisbane's icons.

Brisbane was proud of the colony's first significant new building and visitors were impressed.<sup>14</sup>

*"Old" Government House, completed in 1862, is a Classic Revival building with Italianate detailing. This significant architectural style reflects early attempts at making a design suitable for a subtropical climate. It is considered to be one of Charles Tiffin's finest works.*<sup>15</sup>

*The House was fitted out with imported marble mantelpieces, chandeliers and carpets. .... The general verdict was that it was a structure ...highly creditable to the colony.*<sup>16</sup>



Governor Bowen and his family moved into Government House on 26 April 1862.<sup>17</sup> Sir George and Lady Bowen had a 16-month-old daughter, Adelaide Diamantina, known as Nina. Three more children, Zoe Caroline, Agnes Herbert and George William, were born in Brisbane.<sup>18</sup>

*Government House has now been occupied by his Excellency Sir GF Bowen, her Ladyship, and suite, for the last month. The building itself...appears to be well adapted in point of coolness and ventilation to the climate of this colony; the rooms being large, lofty and airy, and furnished in a plain but exceedingly tasteful manner.*

*The formation of the grounds and the manifest improvements caused thereby, are matters which reflect the highest credit on Mr Walter Hill, the Director of the Botanical Gardens, under whose supervision the work was carried out. It may be questioned whether a more finished piece of workmanship can be found in any of the colonies than that which has just been completed around Government House; and even now, with the total absence of flowers and shrubbery, the elegance of the design takes the eye of the visitor at once.*

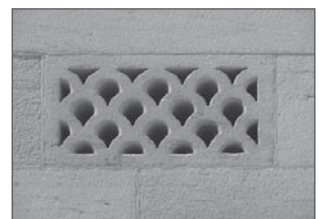
*The walks by the river side are laid down with care and taste, and when the nakedness of the outer ground is relieved by a few trees and plants, the view will be greatly improved. The principal attraction, however, lies in the enclosure immediately around the vice-regal residence. On each side of the house is a raised terrace, half moon and crescent shaped, neatly covered with sods of grass, and traced out in various designs for the cultivation of flowers and plants. A fence of hardwood and wire, neatly constructed, encloses this ground, and it is proposed to lay out a row of shrubs and trees inside this fence. In its present barren condition the aspect of the grounds is somewhat dreary; but the coming summer will make a very material difference to their appearance.<sup>19</sup>*

The Governor was pleased with his new residence. Soon after occupying the house Bowen described Government House in a dispatch as:



Detail of an upstairs balcony at Old Government House, September 2009.

Detail of a sandstone vent in an exterior wall at Old Government House, September 2009.





A rare image of the back service/servant section of Old Government House showing some unidentified servants.

Image courtesy of Old Government House (Daintree photograph)



*handsome and commodious...beautifully situated on a promontory surrounded on three sides by the river Brisbane, which is here as broad as the Thames at Westminster. It stands in a private domain of about 30 acres, and is further separated from the city of Brisbane by the Botanic Gardens...<sup>20</sup>*

*The first big event that the Bowens held in the beautiful new Government House was a ball for the Queen's birthday with 400 guests and a military band. The music provided a delightful setting for swirling silk ball gowns and dashing uniforms in the candle-lit rooms. The splendour of this event was duly reported in the newspaper as a 'spectacle such as had never before been witnessed in the Colony'. .... By great good fortune the House has exceptionally good acoustics.<sup>21</sup>*

Detail of the tile hearth in front of one of the upstairs fireplaces in Old Government House, September 2009.



Over the years Government House was used for many receptions and garden parties, although the lack of a ballroom was always problematic.

Government House was gifted to the University of Queensland as its foundation building on 10 December 1909, although Sir William MacGregor, the Governor at that time, lived there until July 1910.<sup>22</sup> He then moved to *Fernberg* in Bardon, which became the new official residence of the Queensland Governor. Today *Fernberg* is the home of the Queensland Governor and



the building is referred to as Government House (to distinguish it from Old Government House).

A Cotillion (social event where young ladies are introduced to society) at Old Government House.

Image supplied by Old Government House

*In 1911, the first university lectures were held in Old Government House as it was now known. Three faculties had been established: Arts, Science and Engineering, and the rooms of the former governor's residence were variously occupied. The Governor's library became the Biology lecture room, the Drawing Room the University library, and Mathematics was taught in the Governor's bedroom.*

Old Government House did not prove to be an ideal venue for the university. In 1922 Professor Priestly, the Mathematics professor, summarised the situation:

*"We are housed in a building inadequate in size and unsuitable in design. It is riddled with white ants; leaking rooves are frequent, and falling ceilings not unknown".*



Detail of the balustrading at the bottom of the main staircase in Old Government House.

The unsuitability of the building and the Gardens Point site was officially acknowledged in the Senate's 1926 decision to move the university to a new and much larger site at St. Lucia.

In the 1960s, Old Government House, increasingly run-down, was saved from proposed demolition by the National Trust of Queensland's listing as one of Queensland's key significant heritage buildings. Official recognition of its heritage value came in 1978 when the National Trust listing was ratified and the house became the first building to be protected by heritage listing in Queensland. From 1973 to 2002, the National Trust of Queensland undertook extensive restoration work.

In 2002, an agreement was signed to ensure the future conservation, management and use of Old Government House. The Queensland University of Technology accepted responsibility as custodian and undertook the \$15 million restoration of Old Government House and the accompanying grounds. After being closed for almost two years, Old Government House was officially reopened to the public as part of Queensland's sesquicentenary celebrations on 7 June 2009 by the Premier of Queensland, Anna Bligh, in the presence of the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley. As one of Queensland's most important heritage buildings, Old Government House is now open to the general public and houses a range of interpretative displays and multi-media exhibits that tell the colonial story of the house, its design and its construction and who lived and worked there.<sup>23</sup> It was a moving experience for Joshua Jeays' great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren who attended.

Throughout 1861, while Government House was being built, Joshua Jeays was busily buying land. During January he gained the titles of four land parcels in the Brisbane area, totalling 49 acres 1 rood 30 perches of land.<sup>24</sup> In May he added a further 10 acres 2 roods.<sup>25</sup> On 18 September, Jeays finally obtained the title deed to his 40-acre Woogaroo quarry site as well.

Surveyor Henry C Rawnsley completed his survey of land on the northern side of Cooper's Camp Road, a part of the Enoggera Divisional Board, on 3 September 1862. An auction of this land on 12 November 1862 resulted in only three buyers purchasing all the surveyed land in what was then vaguely referred to as Upper Paddington and today largely takes in the suburb of Bardon. Joshua Jeays purchased 39 acres for £78, Francis Lyon secured 38 acres and the remaining 143 acres was bought by Edward Wyndham Tufnell, Brisbane's first Anglican Bishop.

In May 1863, Joshua Jeays also bought Francis Lyon's Portion 300, near Ithaca Creek, to build a beautiful home for his beloved



wife, Sarah. Her health was delicate and she had apparently expressed the desire to live in a country setting. What could be more country than Upper Paddington in 1863!

Joshua Jeays designed his home, *Bardon*, (named after his home town in England) and soon began construction on the gently sloping land with beautiful views. The same stone as used in the construction of Government House was apparently used in this remarkable Victorian Gothic design, which was the fashionable English house style at that time. This first residence of the area was built carefully on the remote bush property. The exterior walls that rose up to hold steep gabled roofs, were built from rough stone with segments of fine tooled and moulded buff freestone. Originally hand-cut wooden shingles covered the steeply sloping rooves of the home. The multiple chimneys and many steep gables, punctuated with casement windows, gave this distinctive house a nostalgic charm which is still evident 150 years on.

The casement windows, some merely thin slits in the stone walls, and the lower-level small verandas provided opportunities for residents and visitors to view the landscape. Two of the three bedrooms contained bay windows and French doors to make the most of the fresh air and the views. The interior

*Bardon House* c 1930.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 63319



woodwork was mainly constructed from beautifully fashioned cedar. Window seats were positioned in each bay window and cupboards were built into recesses. Polished floors were made from wide brush-box timber.

*Bardon* was nearing completion when Sarah Jeays died on 26 July 1864. Throughout June and July Dr William Hobbs had been caring for Sarah, as her health deteriorated quite rapidly. She died of dropsy (a condition in which an accumulation of excess fluid causes widespread swelling in the tissues of the body) at the age of only 52 years. Sarah Jeays was laid to rest in the Church of England Cemetery at Milton after a service held by John Bliss. In 1913, when that cemetery was to be covered over, Sarah Jeays' remains were interred in the Toowong Cemetery.

Joshua Jeays was devastated by the loss of his wife and never lived in the house he was building for her. He continued to live at North Quay for the remainder of his life with his son Joseph.

Present-day view of *Bardon House* in the grounds of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bardon.

There is considerable uncertainty about what use was made of *Bardon* upon its completion. We have no records of its use until 1869, although it seems most likely that for those five years it





was used as a country house for Sarah Jane and Charles Lilley, and their increasing family.

From 1869 there are continuous records showing the use of *Bardon*. Thomas Harlin, the first Headmaster of the Brisbane Grammar School, rented the home for a year, and then Thomas McIlwraith rented the home for a further eight years. In 1878, John Stennett rented the property, and upon the death of Joshua Jeays, in 1881, *Bardon* was left to his three children, Sarah Jane Lilley, Joseph Joshua Jeays and Charles Edwyn Jeays. Charles Edwyn Jeays subsequently became the sole owner of the property, and when he died in 1887, Edwyn Mitford Lilley, Joshua and Sarah's first grandson and Charles Jeays' nephew, was left the property, which he retained until 1911. In 1925, the Catholic Church purchased *Bardon*, and although it retains the Gothic style of its original design a number of changes over the years, such as enclosing verandas and replacing the shingled roof with metal roofing, are obvious. Today *Bardon House*, as it is usually called, is heritage listed with the National Trust of Queensland and is one of the precious remaining 1860s structures of Brisbane. It is situated in the grounds of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bardon.

A plaque attached to the front of *Bardon House* reads:

*THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1863 BY JOSHUA JEAYS,  
AN ALDERMAN OF THE FIRST BRISBANE MUNICIPAL  
COUNCIL IN 1859 AND MAYOR OF BRISBANE IN 1864.  
HE NAMED IT BARDON AFTER BARDON HILL IN  
LEICESTERSHIRE ENGLAND.*

In 1859 when the Colony of Queensland formed and became separated from New South Wales, the first Parliament of the new Crown Colony of Queensland sat for more than eight years in the old convict barracks building in Queen Street.<sup>26</sup> The first elected Queensland Parliament met on 22 May 1860 in Queen Street until Queensland's Parliament House was erected in George Street.

A commission of parliamentary members was appointed to prepare for the construction of the purpose-built 'Parliament Houses'. The site had already been set aside on the south-western corner of the intersection of Alice and George streets, aligned with and a little north of Government House and opposite Queens Park, a 10-acre strip along Alice Street, and the adjoining Botanic Gardens.<sup>27</sup> Queen's Park later became a separate sports ground, then was amalgamated with the Botanic Gardens in 1919 and transferred to the Brisbane City Council in 1925. Today there is a Queen's Park in Brisbane bounded by George, Elizabeth and William streets.



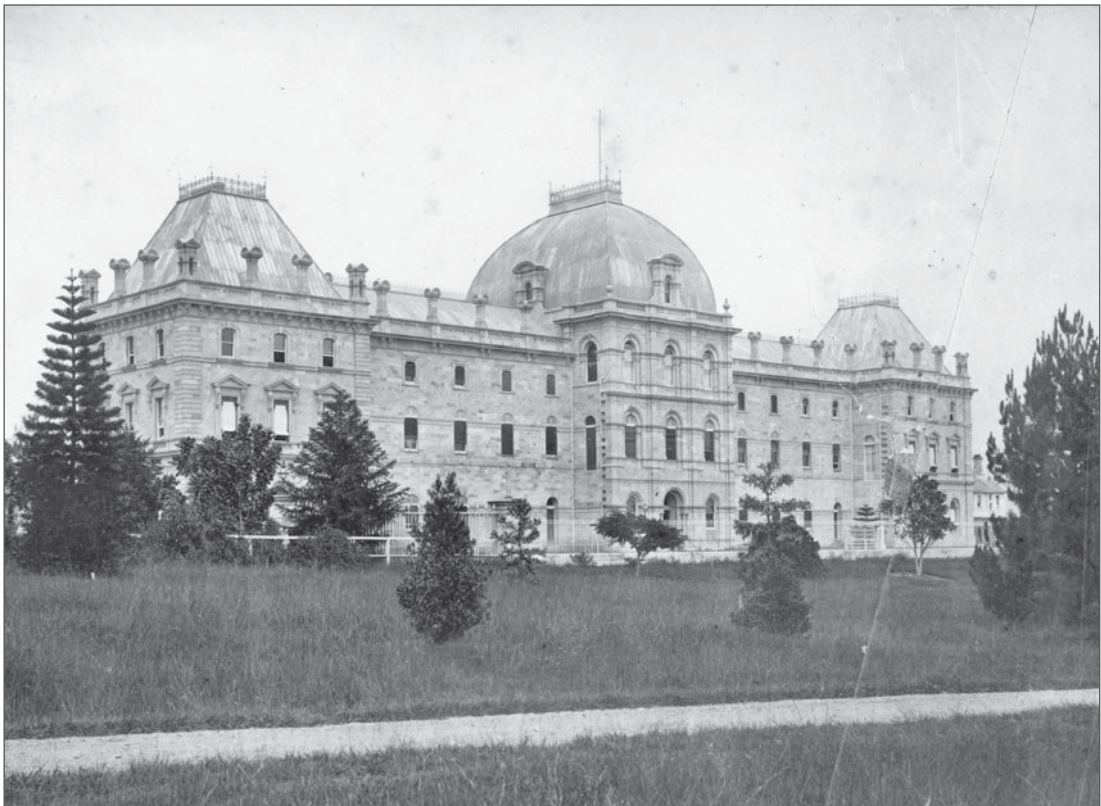
Plaque on the front of *Bardon House*.

Architects across Australia were invited on 14 December 1863 to submit designs for the Queensland Parliament House building. The cost limit for the construction was set at a maximum of £20,000 and the designs were to be submitted by 31 March 1864.<sup>28</sup> A payment of 200 guineas was offered for the winning design. Eleven entries were submitted for the design award, and the design submitted by Charles Tiffin, Queensland's Colonial Architect at that time,<sup>29</sup> was chosen.

The design was accomplished, well-suited functionally to the needs of Parliament and with carefully considered proportions and details, all in keeping with the classical precedent and world standards.<sup>30</sup> In addition, Tiffin managed to bring something extra to the building – a tropical feeling – that sets the design apart. It had a sense of importance that is evident in the building's size, classical design and fine stonework. This was also strongly expressed in the roof forms and the highly decorative stone pinnacles, which have since been removed.<sup>31</sup>

On 15 September 1864 tenders were invited for the construction of the Parliament House building aligning with George Street. This section was to be built first and used while the Alice Street section was under construction. Tenders closed on 5 October

Parliament House,  
Brisbane, c. 1870, by  
Richard Daintree.  
State Library of Queensland  
Neg No. 189114



1864, but they were all deemed to be too high, and none was accepted.<sup>32</sup>

Instead, Charles Tiffin was appointed director of works for the construction of the George Street section of the building. Tiffin took on the government project, without a Government Works Department, and was the pivotal person in all aspects of the project. He engaged Thomas Taylor, another experienced architect, to complete the working drawings so that the construction work could begin. Taylor had worked for the Scottish architects Burn and Bryce in both London and Edinburgh, then practised architecture for 10 years in Melbourne, before coming to Brisbane after 1858.

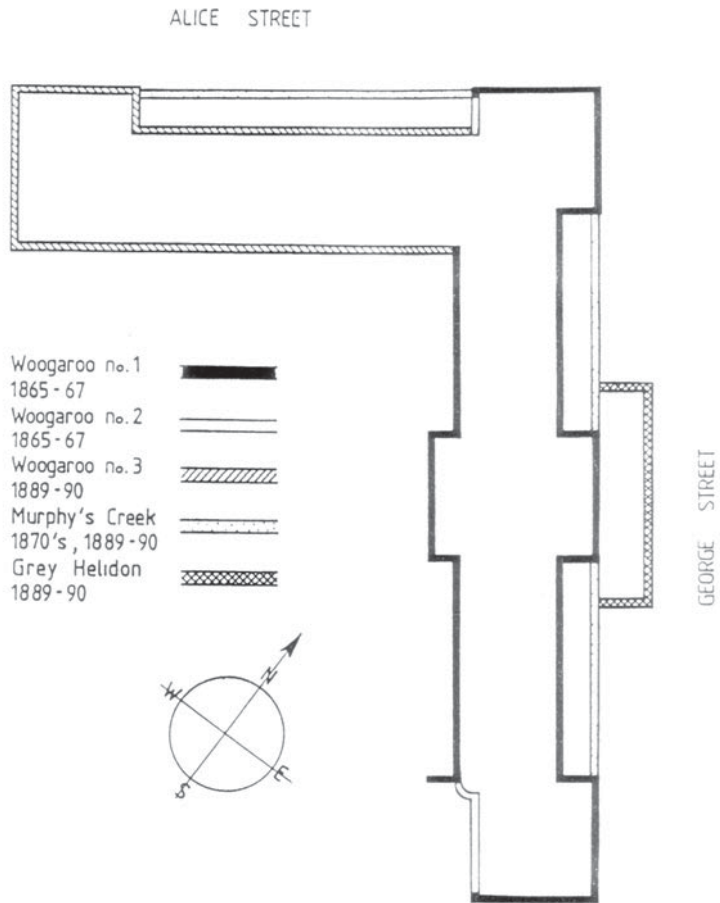
Tiffin employed John Daniel Heal and H Munro as the foremen of works<sup>33</sup> on the construction of Parliament House. John Heal had been working as Joshua Jeays' foreman, managing the erection of Government House. Once he moved to government employment, he went from Master of Works in 1863 to temporary Foreman of Works in the Colonial Architect's Office from 1865 to 1867, where he was in charge of the masons on the Houses of Parliament. Heal later became a leading Brisbane contractor, and an alderman in the Brisbane Municipal Council from 1870–1875, and Mayor in 1879–1880.<sup>34</sup>

In an excerpt from Heal's letter to Charles Tiffin offering his services as 'foreman of stonemasons on the new Government Buildings', Heal states that he is so well known to Tiffin that he 'need scarcely remind you that I was foreman of works on the Government House and Gaol wall, for J. Jeays Esq'.<sup>35</sup>

Early in 1865 the foundations for the George Street section of the Parliament Houses were begun. Queensland Governor George Bowen laid the foundation stone on 14 July 1865 in front of a large crowd and in the presence of the members of both Houses of Parliament.<sup>36</sup>

At the time of the construction of Parliament House, the best sandstone in Brisbane was being supplied from quarries in what is now the Goodna area. Breakfast Creek stone and sandstone from the Helidon District were not yet in use.<sup>37</sup> It is not surprising therefore that when Tiffin called tenders for the supply of sandstone in November, he accepted the cheapest tender price, which was submitted by James Graham, who operated a quarry in the Goodna district. Graham's quarry, however, proved to be unsatisfactory both with regard to quantity and quality of stone and his contract was terminated. The next lowest tenderer, Clayton and Peel, supplied only a

Plan showing the extent of the six principal building stones. Woogaroo No.1 and No.2 stone came from the quarry of Joshua Jeays. Parliament House Brisbane Conservation of Stonework. Ballard and Roessler 1992

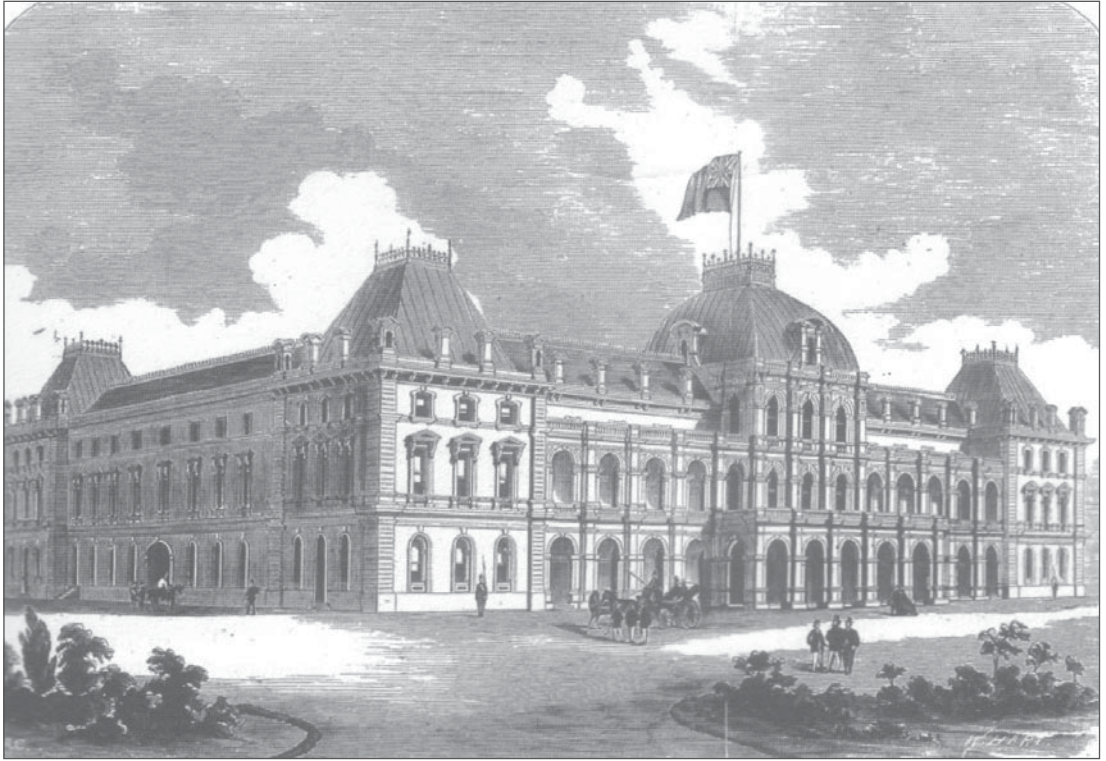


relatively small amount of stone from a quarry somewhere at Goodna before abandoning their contract. Tiffin concluded:

*As none of the tenderers for stone were likely to do better than the first two contractors, I see no other course open than to commence quarrying by day labor, which I did by making arrangements to rent a partly open quarry of Mr Jeays giving him £50 for entrance and £150 a year rent...<sup>38</sup>*

A letter from Joshua Jeays to Tiffin refers to 'this morning's interview' and an offer to 'let a portion of my stone quarry at Woogaroo, namely five chains frontage to the river by five chains deep'.<sup>39</sup> Tiffin recorded, 'I have had abundance of the best stone and the work has proceeded at an unprecedented rate in this colony'.<sup>40</sup> However, he also wrote:





*I regret however the one drawback to the quarrying, namely its great expense. The Foreman of Works' estimate on the price of the stone as per Graham's as well as Clayton and Peel's tenders, will not cover the extra cost of stone.<sup>41</sup>*

Alexander Innes, a Scottish quarryman, came to Brisbane from Sydney in 1859 and worked for John Petrie at the Breakfast Creek Quarry, before later becoming the foreman of the Woogaroo Quarries. He held this position until the work on the new Parliamentary Buildings was completed.<sup>42</sup>

Stone from Joshua Jeays' quarry was used for the first construction phase, the George Street section, of Parliament House from 1865 to 1867. Between mid 1865 and early 1867 a total of 43,339 cubic feet of stone<sup>43</sup> was obtained by Tiffin from Jeays' quarry by employing day labour. It would seem by these figures that Jeays was virtually giving this excellent stone to the project and yet Tiffin still considered the stone's cost to be exorbitant, having shaped his expectations on the unfeasibly low tenders offered by Graham and Clayton and Peel.

Queensland's House of Parliament. Wood engraving by Walter Hart from drawing by Albert C Cooke, both of Melbourne. The wing on the left hand side of the illustration was part of the original drawings but not built at this time.

*Illustrated Sydney News* 1865. Sourced from Rod Fisher's 'Boosting Brisbane' with permission.

There were many delays during the laying of the foundations, first in securing an appropriate supply of stone, then in working it. Stone from Jeays' Woogaroo quarry was transported by river vessels and unloaded in the Domain. This freestone was used on the front and side walls of the structure and 'the rubble stone arising from the quarry from the cut masonry' was used in the back walls.<sup>44</sup> Delays occurred both in quarrying the stone and in cutting it into the necessary shapes. There were also a number of industrial strikes by workmen on this building site. These delays all increased the cost of the building.

After the stones were painstakingly and skilfully cut, each stone was mortared into place. Water from a pond in Queen's Park near Albert Street which, at that time, extended the whole length of Alice Street from riverbank to riverbank, was used for mixing the mortar.<sup>45</sup>

In the early stages of construction Tiffin recorded:

*Notwithstanding the foresight exercised so as to be ready with plenty of stone for the work after the foundations had been laid, I found that by the end of April there were only about 4500 feet of stone altogether, a great portion of which was quite unfit for mouldings, whereas there ought to have been at least 15,000 feet ready at this time. The consequence, as is well known, was that no work was done for twelve weeks, when it was thought that the Government had no intention of proceeding with the building.<sup>46</sup>*

Slates for the roof of Parliament House were imported from England. They were carefully laid out on the roof structure before the dome section was completed. It was then obvious that the flat slates could not be used on the dome curves and all the slates were removed and the entire roof was covered with zinc.<sup>47</sup>

Stonemason Valentine pointed out that ...'the stone [Jeays' quarry stone] stands the weather, works and cuts out well, and is durable in any position'. He urged that...'In the event of the extension of Parliament House I would suggest completing the building with the same material'.<sup>48</sup> All the experts agreed that the Jeays' quarry produced excellent stone.<sup>49</sup>

In the spacious interior of Parliament House generous use was made of the finest Canungra cedar, polished and rubbed to a satin finish. The main circular staircase was erected by a

method that had never been used before.<sup>50</sup> This may well have involved the techniques developed by Jeays as outlined in his book *The Orthogonal System of Hand-railing with Practical Illustrations of the Construction of Stairs*.

Even though the George Street section of Parliament House was incomplete, the building was officially opened on 4 August 1868 and the first session of Parliament was held in the building. John Petrie, the contractor for the plastering, had to clear a space among the debris in the partly completed Legislative Council Chamber for the opening ceremony.<sup>51</sup> Furniture from the two Chambers in the old Court House was used in the new Parliament House.<sup>52</sup>

Ten years later in 1878, John Petrie gained the contract to complete the George Street section of the building at a cost of £7653. This work was finished before the end of 1880. By then the total cost of the building of the Queensland Parliament Houses had reached £62,435.<sup>53</sup> Clearly, Tiffin's visionary design came at a price.

Stone from Jeays' quarry was not used in these additions or in the Alice Street side of the Parliament Houses. Even today it is easy to pick the different stones that have been used from their colour variations.

Stonemasons working on an early Brisbane building.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 158661



Despite the high quality of the stone, there were some issues with Jeays' quarry. Apparently the stone bed at the quarry was covered with 60 foot of spoil.<sup>54</sup> The problem was that there was no readily accessible place to dump the spoil – except into the river, which was unacceptable.<sup>55</sup> Quarryman Alexander Innes suggested that the Government buy the quarry and dispose of the spoil on the adjacent ground, which it already owned.<sup>56</sup>

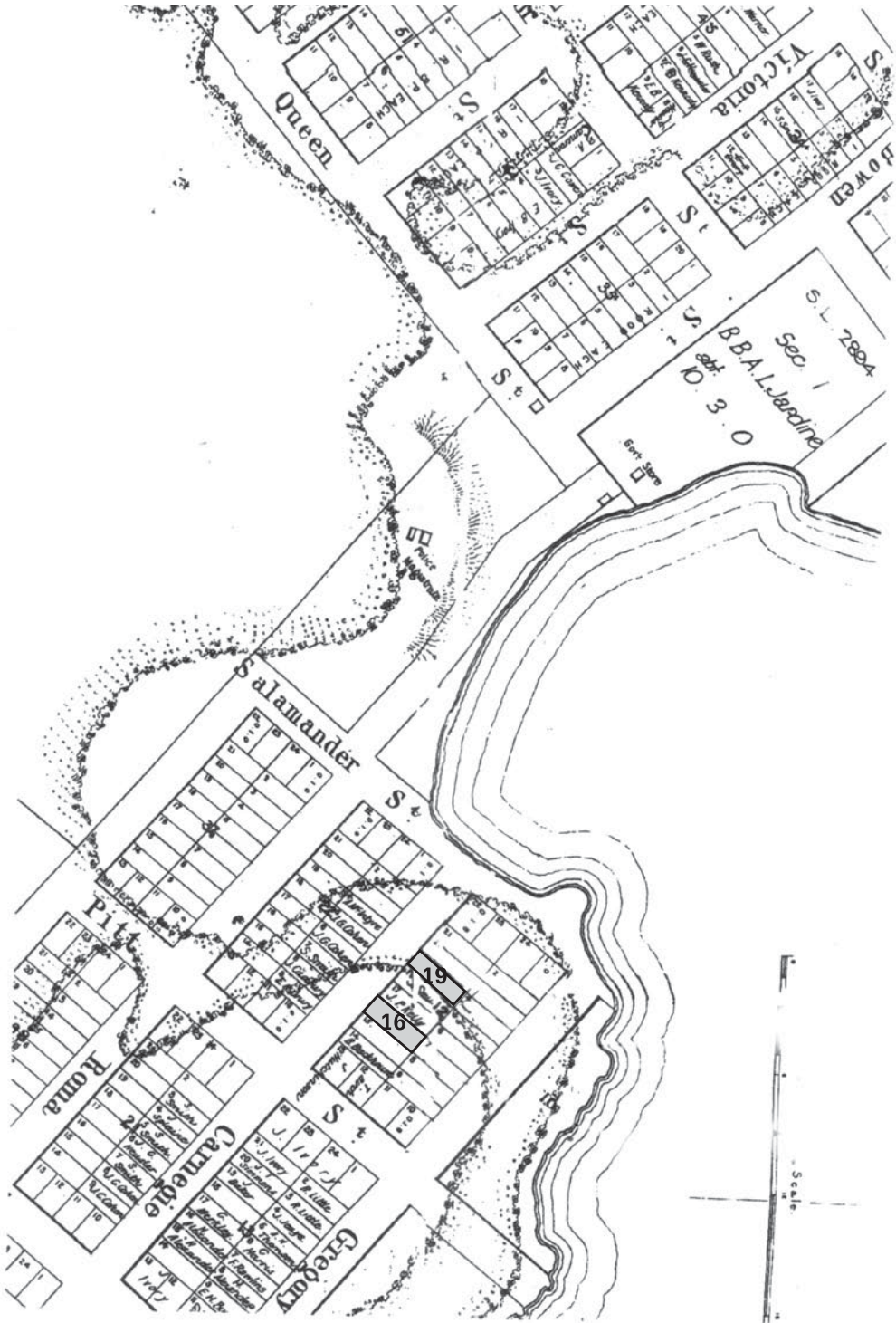
When the decision was made on the construction of the George Street extension, however, stone from the quarry of Smith and Rees, close to the Jeays' quarry site, was employed. This was a somewhat unusual choice given that all the experts pointed out that the stone was not uniformly first class and that care and discretion would have to be taken in its selection. The stone was similar in appearance to Jeays' stone, but a little coarser in grain size.

Parliament House was the second major building project for the new Colony of Queensland. From its inception this building had symbolised the Colony's separate identity.<sup>57</sup> It was an ambitious building that spoke eloquently of the new Colony's hopes and ambitions.<sup>58</sup> In the context of its time, it was extraordinarily ambitious. Even today, it is a grand building.

Parliament House is the largest and arguably best building by Queensland's first Colonial Architect, Charles Tiffin. The building is a monument to Tiffin's skills and those of his colleagues and successors and, not least, the tradesmen who built it.<sup>59</sup> This beautiful building was designed and built with expertise and care, using prime materials. Most of the building fabric is original. It is a record of the art and craft of the time.<sup>60</sup>

In 1861 Governor Bowen proposed a settlement in the very far north of the new Queensland colony. He made this proposal to the British Government through the Duke of Somerset, who was at that time Secretary of State for the Colonies. Increasing numbers of vessels were passing through Torres Strait and heading south. Obviously shipping traffic, especially steam vessels, would increase dramatically once the Suez Canal was completed. Bowen suggested, from a naval and military viewpoint, that an outpost be established at or near Cape York. He believed that this was necessary due to an increase in commercial shipping because of the establishment of a French colony and naval station at New Caledonia.<sup>61</sup> Bowen also suggested that the settlement would be a 'refuge for castaways' as well as a coaling station for steamers and a trading post that would become the 'Singapore of Australia'.<sup>62</sup> Other motives for establishing the remote outpost were as a Customs port, a supply depot and a magisterial seat.<sup>63</sup>





Map: Somerset, Cape York.  
Outline of early land survey.  
Joshua Jeays bought Lots  
16 & 19 (highlighted).  
Jeays family collection..

Auction list for land at  
Somerset, Cape York.  
Jeays family collection.

**SOMERSET TOWN LOTS AUCTIONED ON THE 4TH APRIL 1865 AT  
MARTIN'S AUCTION ROOMS, BRISBANE**

\*BIDDERS WHO FAILED TO PAY.

LOT	SECTION	AREA A.R.P.	PRICE £	NAME	
1	12	12	0.1.8	27	Thomas Birch
* 2	13	12	0.1.8	42	Charles William Brookes
3	14	12	0.1.8	23	Benjamin Backhouse
* 4	15	12	0.1.8	24	Charles Gerard Campen
5	16	12	0.1.8	24	Joshua Jeays
* 6	17	12	0.1.8	23	William Pettigrew
7	18	12	0.1.8	24	Shepherd Smith
8	19	12	0.1.8	25	Joshua Jeays
* 9	1	13	0.1.8	55	Charles Kumerer
10	2	13	0.1.8	35	Robert Little
11	3	13	0.1.8	31	Robert Little
12	4	13	0.1.8	29	Joshua Jeays
13	3	13	0.1.8	31	Abraham Hamilton Thompson
14	6	13	0.1.8	33	George Harris
15	7	13	0.1.8	36	Frederick R Rawlins
* 16	8	13	0.1.8	36	James Francis Garrick
* 17	9	13	0.1.8	37	Amos Braysher
* 18	10	13	0.1.8	50	Amos Braysher
19	11	13	0.1.8	48	John Godfrey Cohen
* 20	24	13	0.1.8	52	Amos Braysher
* 21	1	21	0.1.0	57	James Collins
* 22	2	21	0.1.0	44	James Collins
23	3	21	0.1.0	40	Shepherd Smith
24	4	21	0.1.0	36	John Splain
25	5	21	0.1.0	35	Shepherd Smith
26	6	21	0.1.0	34	John Christian Heusler
27	7	21	0.1.0	31	Shepherd Smith
28	8	21	0.1.0	30	John Godfrey Cohen
29	9	21	0.1.0	34	John Godfrey Cohen
* 30	10	21	0.1.0	61	Charles Kumerer
* 31	11	21	0.1.0	35	Amos Braysher
* 32	24	21	0.1.0	42	James Collins
33	4	22	0.1.0	41	Allan McIntyre
34	5	22	0.1.0	41	John Godfrey Cohen
35	6	22	0.1.0	41	John Godfrey Cohen
36	7	22	0.1.0	40	Shepherd Smith
37	8	22	0.1.0	37	John Cadbury
38	9	22	0.1.0	46	Edward Robert Drury
39	10	22	0.1.0	71	Edward Robert Drury
40	11	22	0.1.0	57	Edward Robert Drury
41	10	34	0.1.0	45	Edward Robert Drury
42	11	36	0.1.0	60	Edward Robert Drury
43	12	36	0.1.0	42	Edward Robert Drury
* 44	13	34	0.1.0	42	George Harris
* 45	14	34	0.1.0	43	George Harris
46	15	34	0.1.0	36	Shepherd Smith
* 47	16	34	0.1.0	40	Alexander Meyers
48	17	34	0.1.0	40	James Ivory
* 49	18	34	0.1.0	45	Amos Braysher
* 50	19	34	0.1.0	47	Amos Braysher

The Imperial Government agreed to contribute £7000 towards the proposal, and plans for the establishment of the remote outpost of Somerset were under way. Early in 1863 Charles Tiffin designed prefabricated buildings for Somerset, Port Albany and Port Denison. In March 1863, Joshua Jeays successfully tendered to construct the prefabricated buildings that would be erected at Somerset, on the tip of Cape York. A year later, Jeays was paid £1306 for this work.

Twenty-five marines, under Lieutenant Pascoe, with medical officer Dr Haran, and John Jardine, the Police Magistrate from Rockhampton, were bound for the Albany Passage on board HMS *Salamander*. They arrived at Cape York on 29 July 1864.<sup>64</sup> After first selecting a site on the western side of the island of Pabaju (Albany Island), 10 kilometres south of Cape York, it was agreed that the settlement should be set up on the mainland opposite the island,<sup>65</sup> where there was a source of fresh water. John Jardine was appointed Government Resident to the new settlement. The need for a supply of fresh meat prompted him to establish the first cattle station with 200 head of cattle at Vallock Point, five kilometres south of Somerset.

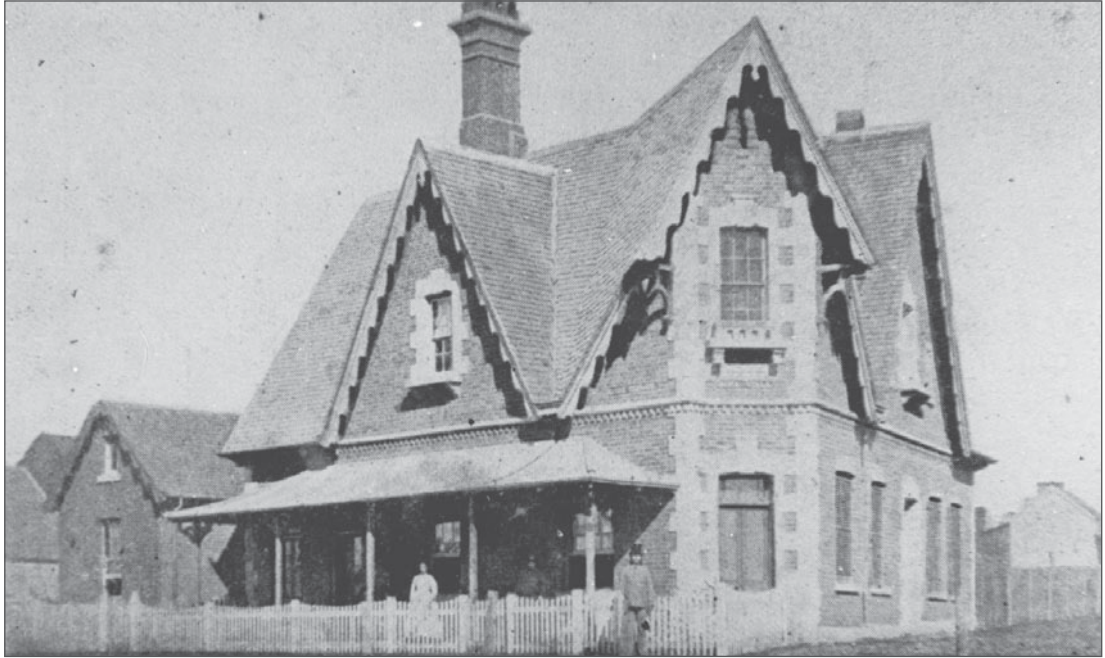
Four ships were anchored off Somerset Town by 1 August 1864. The marines were ashore putting together the prefabricated housing. Some horses and sheep had been left on nearby Albany Island to graze.<sup>66</sup>

The Somerset settlement was surveyed and subdivided into Town allotments ready to auction off. At a land auction held at Martin's Auction Rooms in Brisbane, on 4 April 1865, more than 20 people bid to purchase land in the Somerset settlement. Joshua Jeays purchased three Somerset Town blocks at this sale.<sup>67</sup>

This isolated, inhospitable place, a thousand miles from the nearest settlement, had a brief and shaky history before it was abandoned by the Queensland Colonial Government in 1877. Captain Moresby of HMS *Basilisk* reported in 1873 that Somerset township had failed and was a most unsuitable place to establish such a depot. Captain Moresby's report described unpainted buildings ravaged by white ants, government equipment and supplies that had deteriorated rapidly due to climate and neglect, and broken-down fencing and stockyards with the stock running wild.<sup>68</sup> However, over the 13 years that it functioned as a settlement, survivors of 14 shipwrecks sought refuge there.<sup>69</sup>

Brisbane meanwhile was thriving, and in 1864, his Mayoral year, Joshua Jeays purchased an allotment at the corner of Upper Roma Street and Eagle Terrace. Although it overlooked Brisbane's original burial ground, Roma Street was increasingly becoming a main thoroughfare in and out of Brisbane, so Jeays decided to build a hotel on this site, which he named *Romavilla*.

Jeays built the two-storey structure with large cellars, 17 bedrooms, a kitchen and a dining room with a gable roof style similar to that he had used in *Bardon*. The steep angled roof was originally covered in wooden shingles. *Romavilla* was also



*Romavilla* c 1875.  
State Library of Queensland  
Neg No. 63319

known as '*The House of Seven Gables*' because of its distinctive roofline. It was registered to house 32 renting residents.

However, once the railway connecting Ipswich to Brisbane was built through this area, *Romavilla* was restricted to being a tenement building, and was not permitted to be a licensed hotel.

*Romavilla* was renovated in 1930 and renamed *Moortangi*. However, in the early to mid 1970s *Romavilla* was put on the market. The interior, especially the second storey, had suffered considerable damage from termite infestation. After being on the market for some time at a considerable price,<sup>70</sup> the building was demolished in 1974. An auction was held on 20 February 1975, to sell the '*Ideal Development Site – Roma Villa*'.

Regrettably, Joshua Jeays' Roma Villa is no longer standing, but *Bardon House*<sup>71</sup> remains a Brisbane landmark and, thanks to its recent restoration, we can again enjoy the imposing Old Government House building. Today the National Trust of Queensland considers it to be '*one of the most, if not the most, significant buildings in Queensland*'.<sup>72</sup>



## Endnotes

- 1 McConnel, 2009, p.16.
- 2 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.94.
- 3 Hogan, 1979, p.42.
- 4 Moss, 1996, Old Government House Notes, National Trust of Queensland, p.6.
- 5 *Queensland Daily Guardian*, 13 April 1861, p.3.
- 6 'Building Old Government House', Old Government House Notes, 1995, National Trust of Queensland, p.1.
- 7 *Queensland Daily Guardian*, 17 July 1861, p.5.
- 8 *Queensland Daily Guardian*, 12 October 1861, p.3.
- 9 Moss, 1996, Old Government House Notes, National Trust of Queensland, p.1.
- 10 Moss, 1996, Old Government House Notes, National Trust of Queensland, p.2.
- 11 Hogan, 1985, 'The Elite Brisbane House', Brisbane Housing, The River, Health and the Arts, Brisbane History Group, p.24.
- 12 'Building Old Government House', Old Government House Notes, 1995, National Trust of Queensland, p.2.
- 13 *Queensland Daily Guardian*, 18 December 1862.
- 14 *Heritage Australia*, Winter 1984, p.55.
- 15 *Heritage Australia*, Winter 1984, p.55.
- 16 McConnel, 2009, p.16.
- 17 The house remained as the Governor's residence for 47 years.
- 18 Moss, 1996, Old Government House Notes, National Trust of Queensland, p.3.
- 19 *Queensland Daily Guardian*, 17 July 1862.
- 20 'Building Old Government House', Old Government House Notes, 1995, National Trust of Queensland, p.3.
- 21 National Trust of Queensland, 1995.
- 22 Janet Hogan, 1979, p.42.
- 23 McConnel, 2009, pp 16-18.
- 24 Deed No.703, Grantee – Joshua Jeays, Area – 1 rood 30 perches, Allotment 5, Section 4, 17 January 1861; Deed No.945, Grantee – Joshua Jeays, Area – 12 acres, Portion 60, 31 January 1861; Deed No.946, Grantee – Joshua Jeays, Area – 22 acres, Portion 63, 31 January 1861; Deed No.950, Grantee – Joshua Jeays, Area – 15 acres, Portion 61, 31 January 1861. (QSA) Deeds of Grant Government Gazette 1860-1861.
- 25 Deed No.1727, Grantee – Joshua Jeays, Area – 10 acres 2 roods, Portion 64, 6 May 1861. (QSA) Deeds of Grant, Government Gazette 1860-1861.
- 26 Newell P, 1982, p.46.
- 27 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 28 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 29 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 30 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.11.
- 31 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.11.
- 32 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 33 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 34 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.94.
- 35 Parliament House (Stone Study), FILE Reference: ARC/3, 17 November 1864.
- 36 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 37 Richards H C, *The Building Stones of Queensland*, p.119
- 38 LW0 A/27, paper 2615, 27/11/1865, extract quoted p.90-91. Parliament House.

- Stonework Study, p.15.
- 39 FILE REF: ARC/3 PAPER No: 65/1041 Date 15 May 1865.
- 40 LW0 A/27, paper 2615, 27/11/1865, extract quoted p.90-91. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.15.
- 41 Parliament House Stonework Study, pp.90, 91. Tiffin's files LW0 A/27
- 42 National Trust of Queensland – Sherwood. BNE1/66.
- 43 ARC/3. 12/1/1867. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.15.
- 44 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.65.
- 45 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.67.
- 46 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.90.
- 47 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.67.
- 48 Question 85. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.15.
- 49 Question 278. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.15.
- 50 Newell, 1982, p.46.
- 51 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.67.
- 52 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.67.
- 53 Smout, *Queensland Centenary First 100 Years*, p.67.
- 54 Progress Report from the Select Committee on the Sandstone Quarries of the Southern Districts of the Colony; Brisbane, 1888, Question 84, evidence of stonemason James Valentine.
- 55 Question 247. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.15.
- 56 Question 85. Parliament House Stonework Study, p.16.
- 57 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.9.
- 58 Parliament House Stonework Study, pp.9-10.
- 59 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.10.
- 60 Parliament House Stonework Study, p.10.
- 61 Singe, 1979, p.44.
- 62 Liddell, 1997, p.50.
- 63 Singe, 1979, p.69.
- 64 Singe, 1979, p.44.
- 65 <http://www.moretonstation.com.au/history.html> 24 April 2009.
- 66 Singe, 1979, p.45.
- 67 Joshua Jeays' Somerset land purchases were: County of Somerset (Cape York), Parish of Symons, Town of Somerset – Lot 5, Allotment 16, Section 12, area -1 rood 8 perches, for £20 per acre, price of £24, Deed fee - £1, Deposit - £2/8/-; Lot 8, Allotment 19, Section 12, area -1 rood 8 perches, for £20 per acre, price of £25, Deed fee - £1, Deposit - £2/8/-; Lot 12, Allotment 4, Section 13, area -1 rood 8 perches, for £20 per acre, price of £29, Deed fee - £1, Deposit - £2/18/-; Source: Item ID 25656 Microfilm 1533 QSA – Sales of Crown land.
- 68 Singe, 1979, p.87.
- 69 Singe, 1979, p.87.
- 70 *Western Suburbs Advertiser*, 'Landmark crashes to the ground', 11 December 1974.
- 71 *Bardon House*, 41 The Drive, Bardon.
- 72 'Inside Old Government House', *Trust News*, May 2008, p.4.

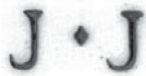
## 8. COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY 1861-1869

### **BRISBANE**

- experiences fires, drought and a flood
- gains a fire station, a Town Hall, a Philharmonic Society, a theatre and a cricket club
- sugar production starts at Ormiston
- Waterworks Act becomes law
- dredging begins

### **JOSHUA JEAYS**

- as Alderman, then later as Mayor, urges the Council to provide the community with lighting, ferry services, public parks, tanks, waste disposal, markets and other amenities.



The decade of the 1860s began in Queensland with a booming economy due mainly to increased population from immigration and births within the settlements. In 1862 a devastating drought, which continued until 1869, was punctuated with a severe economic depression during 1866. Many construction projects slowed to a halt and very few new projects were commenced. Unemployment grew and many families struggled through this downturn. These conditions made life and economic growth in Queensland generally, and Brisbane in particular, somewhat unpredictable.

At the Brisbane Municipal Council meeting of 18 February 1861, both John Petrie and Patrick Mayne were nominated for the position of Mayor. Mayne declined the nomination and Petrie continued as Mayor, but there were signs that fractures were appearing within the Council. This year also showed widening rifts between the Brisbane Municipal Council and the Queensland Colonial Government. Both governing bodies

Slaters Pocket Map of  
 Brisbane, 1865.  
 State Library of Queensland  
 Neg No. APA-059-01-001



Engraved by T. Ham & Co.  
 BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

REFERENCE.	
1. EMIGRATION OFFICE.	5. SURVEY DEPARTMENT.
2. COLONIAL SECRETARY'S & EXECUTIVE	6. GENERAL HOSPITAL & INFIRMARY.
3. COUNCIL OFFICE, GOV. PRINTING OFFICE	7. LANDS & WORKS DEPARTMENT.
4. & ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH STATION.	8. GENERAL POST OFFICE.
5. CHURCH OF ENGLAND, (ST. JOHN'S).	9. TOWN HALL & EXCHANGE.
6. QUEENSLAND TREASURY DEPT. ET.	10. SUPREME COURT &
	TEMP. PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

SLATER'S  
 THE CITY OF





**S POCKET MAP OF  
OF BRISBANE, 1865.**

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 WESLEYAN CHURCH     | 18. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES.  |
| 12 NORMAL SCHOOL       | 19. CH. OF ENG. SOUTH BRISBANE. |
| 13 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 20. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ..      |
| 14 CHURCH OF ENGLAND   | 21. SCHOOL OF ARTS              |
| 15 LUTHERAN CHURCH     | 22. WHARF & MARKET RES ..       |
| 16 CONGREGATIONAL CH.  | 23. SLATER'S SELECT LIBRARY.    |
| 17 BAPTIST CH.         | 24. ROMAN G. CHAPEL.            |

looked on the other with mutual suspicion and an amount of jealousy.<sup>1</sup> The Council was a relatively inexperienced body of unpaid men who undertook Council tasks that often involved personal sacrifice and placed them under public scrutiny and criticism. The very small number of paid Council staff members had to work through the growing avalanche of public issues and community expectations. The quality of municipal administration depended, to a large extent, upon the calibre of the aldermen.<sup>2</sup>

The appointment of Charles Lilley as the first City Solicitor for the Brisbane Municipal Council at the end of January 1861<sup>3</sup> was an indicator that legal issues, mostly between the two levels of government, were increasing in number and complexity. One of the main tasks Lilley worked on during his time as City Solicitor was to assist the Special Committee made up of Aldermen Petrie, Stephens and Warren to prepare a new Incorporation Bill for the City of Brisbane. The population of Brisbane was growing and there was a need to divide the city into wards<sup>4</sup> so aldermen could service their own areas more effectively and efficiently. Lilley worked as City Solicitor until he resigned on 25 November 1861.<sup>5</sup>

Early in March 1861, a Special Committee of the Brisbane Municipal Council made up of Aldermen Edmonstone, Cribb, Warren and Jeays was formed to report upon the best means of lighting the streets of Brisbane.<sup>6</sup> Street lighting was not only important for the prestige of the township that was the seat of government for the young colony, but street lights provided comfort and some sense of security for residents. By April 1861, Council discussions centred around preferences for gas lighting. The Council was keen for a gas company to be formed and, if this did not happen, the Council itself was prepared to undertake this task.<sup>7</sup> The Brisbane Municipal Council applied to the Queensland Government for a gasworks site that would not be injurious to the health of residents. A gasworks in North Brisbane would enable the Council to install gas street lighting.

In March 1861, a Council meeting moved to name all streets and thoroughfares within the municipal boundaries. Street names were to be painted on boards and placed at the intersections of all streets and at each end of all thoroughfares.<sup>8</sup> Many street name signs were eventually attached to the street light poles.

By May of 1861, debate between the Brisbane Municipal Council and the Colonial Government was heating up over the location of a coal-burning gasworks to supply gas to the municipality. The Council recommended the corner of Margaret and Edward streets as their preferred gasworks site,

even though the Colonial Government had nominated a site in the Dock Reserve.<sup>9</sup> A site in Petrie Bight close to the Brisbane River in Macrossan Street, then known as Gas Street, was decided upon by the Colonial Government for the Brisbane Gas Company, which formed in 1864. The first gas supplies to North Brisbane began in November 1865.

The Brisbane Gas Company was keen to develop a suitable arrangement with the Council for the lighting of the township. The Council's Special Committee investigating street lighting recommended that the Brisbane Gas Company would erect and service all street lamps and rent them to the Council. The number of lights required in each ward was tallied and a special lighting rate was negotiated. This lighting rate was unpopular with the community and protests brought about modifications. By the late 1860s the Council had a sizeable debt with the Brisbane Gas Company and the Council was discussing discontinuation of lighting until they could liquidate their debt. Brisbane was plunged into darkness in the late 1860s to the great displeasure of its residents. This also greatly upset the Brisbane Gas Company. By 1870 an agreement to re-light Brisbane Town was reached.<sup>10</sup>

The push and shove increased between the Colonial Government and the struggling but hardworking Municipal Council. Within the Council, vibrant discussion and debate over an ever-increasing range of issues and community needs continued.

Alderman Robert Cribb, in his somewhat argumentative way, was 'battling' within the Council to substitute earthenware pipes for the wooden pipes that were to be used for the drain to Edward Street.<sup>11</sup> A number of areas of North Brisbane were naturally low-lying. They filled up after rain, created wet, boggy areas and drained away slowly. Much Council time and energy was taken with planning and building drainage facilities and filling in low-lying areas to raise road levels and create drier building sites. Like roadworks, drainage systems were labour intensive, costly and slow to complete.

The Council increasingly needed Colonial Government support, approval and endorsement for a number of major projects that they neither had the finances nor the expertise and experience to undertake. A bridge over the Brisbane River connecting North and South Brisbane, the positioning and building of a substantial water reservoir and a public cemetery were essential infrastructure components that became increasingly necessary for the growing township. Each of these projects was a large initiative, too large for a small, inexperienced and poorly funded Municipal Council. The diversity of agenda items





Minute book from the Brisbane Municipal Council.

at the Council meetings required the Council to become more organised and to urge the Colonial Government to play a part in Brisbane's development.

On 13 April 1861, Queensland's first telegraph line between Ipswich and Brisbane was opened, and on 9 November this line was extended to link Brisbane to Sydney. Improvements to communication and the increased speed in sending and receiving information had a dramatic impact on the booming development of Brisbane in the early 1860s. News about the local area, the Queensland colony and other Australian colonies as well as links with the rest of the world could now easily and quite quickly be shared.

The first census in Queensland, undertaken on 7 April 1861, was a significant event in Queensland colonial history. The first Registrar General, FO Darvall, reported that this census was of great importance to the colony, providing the foundation for all future statistical calculations. Queensland was divided into 17 districts made up of 13 Police Districts, 3 Commissioned Districts and Brisbane Town.<sup>12</sup> This census, a relatively simple set of tables showing Sex and Age; Education; Native Country; Social and Domestic Condition; Religion and Occupations, still provides useful material for research into that era.

In July 1861, the Colonial Secretary introduced the Municipality Act into the Queensland Colonial Government. This Act enabled Councils to levy and recover rates on unoccupied land. Even though money-raising procedures for Councils were still limited, Councils were able to borrow money on the basis of existing revenue. This Act also enhanced Council financial security somewhat by allowing a proportion of the proceeds from the sale of Crown lands (within the Brisbane area) to be paid to the municipality. Improvements to systems were slow to evolve and slow to become operational. However, eventually legislation like this enabled Councils to stabilise and function more effectively and more efficiently.

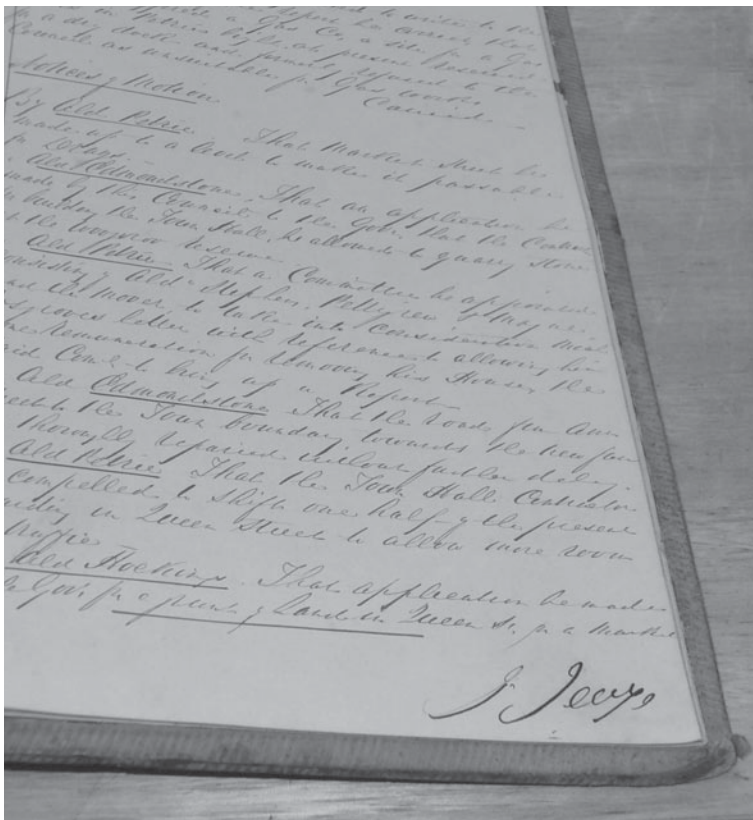
Another major project that the Brisbane Municipal Council embarked on in the early years of its functioning was to construct a Town Hall to provide a work space for the Council and create a symbol of civic pride. In the latter part of 1863 the Brisbane Municipal Council was preparing to get the Town Hall project under way. The City of Brisbane Town Hall Act became law on 22 September 1863, confirming a Government grant for the building site, and giving the Council the right to borrow money by the issue of debentures of up to £20,000. This enabled the Council to appropriate income from the Town Hall for the payment of interest and discharge the debt. The Council could also make by-laws for the regulation of the buildings and



was obliged to keep separate accounts of the Town Hall income until the debt was discharged.<sup>13</sup>

The Council decided to ask architect William Coote to prepare the working plans for the Town Hall building.<sup>14</sup> The Council then applied to the Minister for Lands for Crown space in Queen Street to site this structure.

A grant was issued to the Council by the Government<sup>15</sup> and a special Committee was appointed by Council to make arrangements for the construction of this important public building. Using Coote's design, the Council borrowed £20,000 and John Bourne, the successful tenderer, started work.<sup>16</sup> Edmonstone urged the Council to apply to the Government to allow the Town Hall contractor to use quarry stone from the Woogaroo Reserve.<sup>17</sup> The sandstone used above the first cornices came from Joshua Jeays' quarry. The Town Hall building was built by the Council without cost to Brisbane ratepayers and without using money from the public purse. The foundation stone for Brisbane's first Town Hall was laid by Governor Bowen on 28 January 1864.<sup>18</sup>

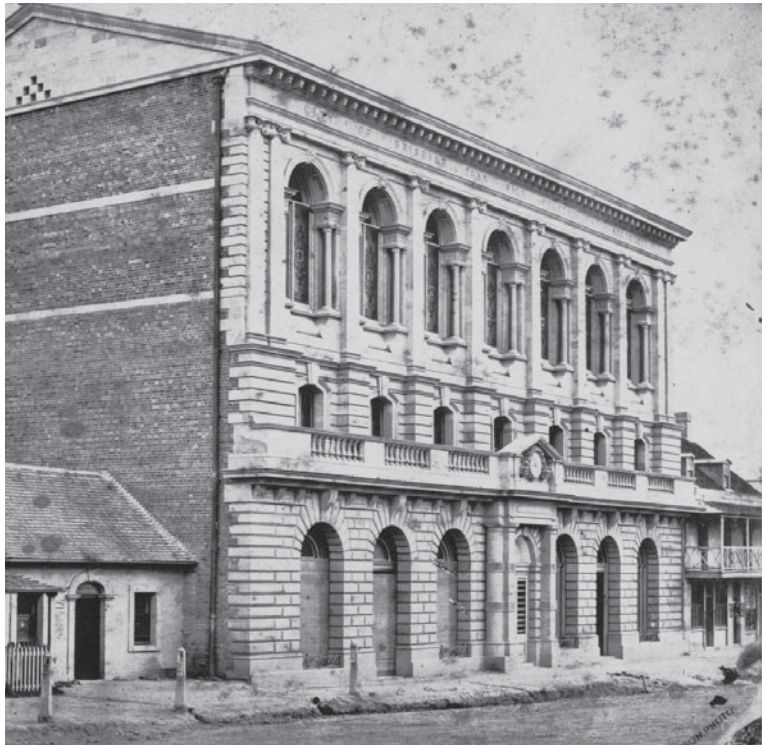


A page of the minute book of the Brisbane Municipal Council bearing the signature of Joshua Jeays.

By September 1864, the office-space section of the exchange portion of the building was finished and immediately leased. By midway through 1865 only the plastering on the inside of the hall remained to be completed. However, delays occurred due to certain structural defects that became apparent. The windows in the main hall needed to be widened and there was doubt about the floor's stability. The doorway in the main hall had to be altered. An elaborate system of stays had to be inserted to counteract structural weaknesses as the weight of the roof caused the walls to spread.<sup>19</sup> The Town Hall was completed in 1867 at a cost of £27,572 after an initial estimate of £16,000.<sup>20</sup>

First Brisbane Town Hall in Queen Street.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 13588



Jeays had moved in the Council meeting of 19 November 1860 that the Queensland Government be asked to direct a marine surveyor to select a site for the bridge between North and South Brisbane. In April 1861, the Council's Memorial to the Governor requesting assistance with the planning and the construction of a bridge across the Brisbane River was ready for presentation.<sup>21</sup> The Council needed expertise to survey the bed and the banks of the river and to decide on the most suitable site to build a bridge. Once the river survey was completed the Council could request designs for this very important structure. Permission

for the bridge placement, land allocation, plans and bridge design, with financial support, had to come from the Colonial Government, which was also struggling with insufficient staff, inadequate funding and lack of expertise.

Joshua Jeays served on the Brisbane Municipal Council's Bridge Committee for most of the remainder of his time in Council. In 1862, this committee was made up of Aldermen Stephens, Petrie, Cribb, Jeays and Edmonstone. Like so many other Brisbane residents, Jeays had always wanted a convenient river crossing to enhance the settlement of Brisbane and encourage economic growth. In September 1861, Jeays had successfully moved the Report of the Council's Bridge Committee that provided instructions to competitors for plans of a bridge across the Brisbane River between Queen and Melbourne streets.<sup>22</sup>

Plans for the proposed bridge were received at the Brisbane Municipal Council meeting of 24 March 1862.<sup>23</sup> Council was ready to ask the Government for land and to approve finance for building the bridge.<sup>24</sup> The Council endorsed the Queensland Government's Brisbane Bridge Act,<sup>25</sup> and in May they received a letter from the Minister of Lands and Works outlining the land reserved at South Brisbane for bridge purposes.<sup>26</sup>

By June Jeays had agreement from the Council to authorise the Bridge Committee to call for competitors' designs of a Brisbane Bridge and report on their findings.<sup>27</sup> Mayor Stephens moved that the following gentlemen be requested to act as judges to determine the merits of the respective designs received: AC Gregory (Surveyor-General), HT Plews, TC Roberts, William Cootes (architect) and Charles Tiffin (Colonial Architect).<sup>28</sup>

After the judges had made their decision, Jeays gained Council agreement for the Bridge Committee to procure a suitable room and publicly exhibit all the designs received for the proposed bridge. A small charge of one shilling was to be requested as admission to cover the expense of renting a room for the exhibits.<sup>29</sup>

Until a bridge spanned the Brisbane River, ferry services were an ongoing subject in Council discussions. By October 1863 consideration was being given to introducing steam-powered ferries into the Brisbane ferry service. Aldermen Stephens and Jeays recommended a plan for steam ferry services and asked for tenders to be called.<sup>30</sup> By December 1863 the Improvements Committee allowed Robert Towns to use his steam ferry *Premier* for a month-long trial.<sup>31</sup>

The Brisbane Municipal Council chose an elaborate lattice-girder solid iron bridge designed by Messrs Robinson and L'Anson<sup>32</sup> and the English firm Peto, Brassey and Company were contracted to supply the ironwork. John Bourne, who also contracted to build the first Brisbane Town Hall, was given the contract to build the bridge. The Council borrowed £70,000 and work began.<sup>33</sup>

After delays and indecision, which Joshua Jeays described as 'dodging about from one plan to another', the foundation stone for this first Brisbane Bridge was laid at a very lavish ceremony on 29 August 1864 by Governor Bowen, who acclaimed this bridge to be '*... the most important work as yet undertaken in Queensland!*' Joshua Jeays was the Mayor of Brisbane at this time. Tiers of seats with flags flying from the top tier and a podium were specially set up down on the riverbank near Queen's Wharf. A large flotilla of boats anchored out in the river was also decorated with flags and banners. A massed military band provided stirring music for the occasion. The ladies were in the latest fashions and there was a huge crowd at this momentous event.<sup>35</sup> The building of this bridge was regarded as the most important step by the new colony at that time.<sup>36</sup>

The laying of the foundation stone of *The First Brisbane Bridge: Laying the Foundation Stone* was described in the Courier Mail in 1925.<sup>37</sup>

*The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the first Brisbane Bridge was performed by his Excellency Sir GF Bowen, the first Governor of Queensland, on August 29, 1864. A bridge to connect the north and south banks of the Brisbane River had long been wanted, and its construction was looked upon by the citizens as a great national work. Cross-river traffic – horse, vehicular, and foot – had previously been conducted by means of a punt, with a few rowing boats as auxiliaries. But this method was slow and uncertain, and business people on both sides of the river were subjected to much inconvenience and less an amount of delay in the transit of goods from one side of the river to the other. In accordance with the terms of the Brisbane Bridge Act, passed by the Legislature a year or so before, the Municipal Council was permitted to obtain from the old Bank of Queensland the necessary advances to enable it to complete the bridge and approaches. The sum so advanced was accrued to the bank upon the land handed by the Government to the Corporation, and upon the rates, endowments and*



*other services of the Corporation. These lands were known as "bridge lands" and were mostly situated in South Brisbane. The length of the structure between abutments was 1030ft. and the height of the roadway at its greatest height above the river bed was 70ft. The complete price was £52,000.*

#### A POPULAR CEREMONY

*The little city was gaily decorated on the occasion of laying the foundation stone. Flags were flying from every staff in town and from many public and private buildings. Numbers of farmers and visitors were present from East and West Brisbane, while Ipswich folk made a large crowd and the Darling Downs was well represented. About noon business people began to put up their shutters and by 12.30 p.m. every shop in the town was closed. About this time crowds of people were proceeding up Queen Street towards the spot where the ceremony was to take place. ... Along the back of the river in front of the abutment a number of seats had been erected on a wide platform. These seats were occupied by about 500 ladies who had received invitations to be present. They sat with their backs towards South Brisbane and facing the platform which had been erected on the top corner of the abutment ... a block and tackle [had been set up] ... to manipulate the stone. Between the seats and the Vice-regal platform was a space upon which between two and three hundred patrons were assembled, while behind the Governor's platform were more seats, placed one above the other to the top of the embankment. All the seats were taken with eager sightseers ... Altogether the scene was a very gay one, and every one took a lively interest in the proceedings.*

#### THE DEDICATORY PLATE AND ADDRESS

*A brass plate had been fitted into the front of the stone, upon which had been engraved the following words: "Brisbane Bridge. Erected by the Corporation of the City of Brisbane. Joshua Jeays (Mayor), Alderman G. Edmonstone, Thomas B. Stephens, John Petrie, William Pettigrew, A.J. Hockings, Patrick Mayne, Arthur Martin, W. Brookes; Thomas Dowse, town clerk; engineers, Robinson and L'Anson; superintendent engineer, Thomas Oldham; contractor, John Browne. Foundation stone laid*

*by his Excellency Sir G.F. Bowen, K.C.M.G., on August 29, 1864."*

*At 4 o'clock his Excellency, with Lady Bowen and family, attended by Captain Pitt and Lieutenant Mair, arrived on the ground, and were greeted with cheers from the crowd.*

*The town clerk then read an address to his Excellency, of which the following is part:- "The Corporation of the City of Brisbane have much pleasure in inviting your Excellency to lay the first stone of the long-wanted bridge across the Brisbane River. The ceremony will no doubt be a source of gratification to your Excellency, not only because the proposed bridge will supply a local want, but because it will be the means of completing the main line of communication between the metropole and the Western interior. The corporation, therefore, hopes that the structure which you this day inaugurate will be found on completion to be creditable alike to the skill of the engineers who designed it and the energy and perseverance of those who may carry the work to completion – J. Jeays, Mayor."*

#### SIR GEO. BOWEN'S SPEECH

*His Excellency, in reply said: "I assure you that it affords me much pleasure to perform the duty which you invited me to undertake. Invitations to the Governor to inaugurate great public works cannot fail to be gratifying for it is well known that such imitations are intended as marks of loyal homage to the Queen. During the first four years of the political career of the colony its natural advantages and the energy and industry of its inhabitants ... have enabled it to make rapid, but sound progress. Our success has not been underrated by the statement of England. The late Secretary of State for the Colonies (the Duke of Newcastle) recently observed on a public occasion:- 'Queensland is an infant in years, but a giant in thought, in effort, and in aspirations.' ...His Excellency concluded as follows:- 'I heartily join with you in the earnest hope that the ceremony of this day may be auspicious to all concerned, and that the bridge ... may realise the expectations of its promoters, and that I may have the honour during my term of office in Queensland of opening it for public traffic.'*



*His Excellency then proceeded to perform the mechanical portion of the ceremony. A quantity of mortar was placed under the stone, and Sir George had taken the trowel in his hand, when it was discovered that by some means or other no documents had been placed in a bottle for the insertion in the cavity of the stone. The Press next morning, in alluding to the omission, said: "The Mayor and aldermen were filled with consternation, and the Town Clerk looked the picture of despair, while a hearty roar of laughter burst from the assembled crowd." After a short interval someone started a subscription, and amid much merriment a miscellaneous collection of gold, silver and copper coins was placed in the cavity of the stone. Someone then produced a Brisbane and Ipswich paper, and these were also consigned to the same resting place. This difficulty having been got over, the first stone of the first Brisbane bridge descended by means of block and tackle into its final position. His Excellency then examined the stone with as much care as the most experienced craftsman would have done, and, having applied the plummet and rule to each side of the block pronounced it to be well and truly laid. Great cheering again broke forth from the crowd, who excitedly waved hats and handkerchiefs, and almost shouted themselves hoarse in the intensity of their enthusiasm. The guns of the Volunteer Artillery then fired a salute, and the band played the somewhat inappropriate air, 'We won't go home till morning'. Cheers were then called for Lady Bowen and family, and the crowd again hurrahed in the most deafening manner for several minutes. His Excellency then called upon them to give three cheers for the Mayor and Corporation of Brisbane, and success to the Brisbane bridge: and again, in obedience to the call, the enthusiastic shouting recommenced, and continued until the shouters were quite hoarse. During the whole of this time the field pieces of the Volunteer Artillery were banging away; and if one estimated the importance of the ceremony from the amount of noise that was made it may be said that laying the first stone of the first Brisbane Bridge was indeed a glorious affair.*

*All things being completed and the shouting over, his Excellency took his departure. The guard of honour presented arms, and the people gave a final cheer. The assemblage then dispersed, and Brisbane once more settled down into the ordinary state of placidity.*

#### THE BANQUET.

*A BANQUET to celebrate the event was held on the following day. The gallery, which ran round the hall, was covered with flags and evergreens and was crowded with ladies who had assembled to witness the proceedings, and to take part in the ball which was to follow. About 130 gentlemen sat down to dinner, and it was stated in the Press next morning that 'fun and hilarity prevailed at the banquet table'. After the company had partaken of the viands placed before them, they listened to the speeches of the proposers of the various toasts, and applauded everything that was said...*

After building several iron supporting piers and when the bridge was far from complete, lack of funds due to an economic downturn forced the Brisbane Municipal Council to stop their bridge building. Plans for the Brisbane Bridge were reviewed by the Bridge Committee.<sup>34</sup> In January 1864, it was decided to complete the original bridge design using wooden piers in place of iron supports. A tender was accepted for a wooden structure supported on piles driven into the riverbed to be erected as a staging for the permanent structure. With a total length of 1030 feet this bridge had 13 spans and a double-arm swing. The roadway across the top platform of the bridge was 30 feet wide with two six-foot-wide footways, one on either side. The bridge had an opening section on the South Brisbane side to allow vessels with tall masts to proceed further upstream. The first Brisbane Bridge was completed and opened for use on 24 June 1865 (This bridge can be seen in the background of the photograph showing Joshua Jeays' home in Chapter 3).

However, the jubilation over the new bridge was short-lived. Shortly after the wooden piers were placed in the riverbed a marine borer, known as 'cobra', began to infiltrate the wooden structures of the bridge. After 18 months, crumbling in the wood was evident. On a warm November day in 1867, with a high tide running, the supports of the bridge snapped and gave way. The Cobb & Co. coach from Ipswich fortunately had just crossed the bridge before loud creaking in the timbers of the centre of the bridge crashed, scattering debris into the river.<sup>38</sup>

For the next seven years the residents of Brisbane went back to using ferries until a new bridge was completed in 1874. The foundation tablet from the original bridge, now held by the Queensland Museum, was recovered after the iron Victoria



Bridge that replaced the original wooden Brisbane Bridge was washed away in the 1893 floods.<sup>39</sup>

A clean, reliable water supply for the Brisbane township had been a long-running issue that the Council tackled during the decade of the 1860s. As the dam on Wheat Creek gradually became polluted, a spring on the town boundary, between Gregory Terrace and Leichhardt Street, was approved as a suitable water source for licensed water carriers to supply water to consumers. Jeays suggested that tanks of sufficient size could be placed around all Government buildings to supply the inhabitants with pure water.<sup>40</sup> Alderman Warry suggested that the Council could pay to install a tank on the reserve at the back of the Wesleyan Church in Albert Street to contain not less than 500,000 gallons of water.<sup>41</sup> These ideas were referred to the Water Committee.<sup>42</sup> A real need to search for a long-term solution became vital, because in the second half of the decade of the 1860s Queensland experienced severe and prolonged drought.

In 1862, the newly elected mayor, Thomas Stephens, moved that the Water Supply Committee develop and report on the

First permanent Brisbane bridge, c 1875.

State Library of Queensland Neg No. 46973



most efficient and economical plan to supply Brisbane with adequate pure water. A water source with sufficient elevation to gravity feed the highest parts of Brisbane was needed. Stephens wanted the entire selected watershed to be reserved for water supply and placed under Council control, and he expected the watershed to provide a year's supply of water for 125,000 people at a rate of 20 gallons per person per day.<sup>43</sup>

The Council's Water Supply Committee was authorised to use £100 to employ a 'competent hydraulic engineer'. Thomas Oldham, a civil and hydraulic engineer who had recently arrived from Melbourne, took on this task and had seven weeks to prepare a report on providing Brisbane with a permanent water supply.<sup>44</sup> After surveying local streams to assess their suitability as a reliable and permanent water supply, Oldham proposed two possible water supplies. His first option was to construct a dam on Enoggera Creek at a cost estimate of between £55,000 and £60,000. A dam constructed across the Brisbane River at Seventeen Mile Rocks was Oldham's second suggestion. He claimed that this dam site would have a complicated and costly construction requirement because pollution would require the installation of a filtration plant. The dam would also require a lock to allow shipping to continue to use the river. He suggested the incorporation of a waterwheel, driven by water flowing over the dam, to pump water from a filtration reservoir on one side of the river above the dam into a service reservoir ready to supply Brisbane.

After some discussion in the Brisbane Municipal Council in February 1862, Oldham's Brisbane River dam idea was quickly dismissed. The Council's Water Supply Committee recommended the Enoggera Creek dam option.<sup>45</sup> A resolution was passed by the Council to make an application to the Government for an Act that would grant to the Council the entire Breakfast Creek watershed land and a site near the western end of Wickham Terrace for a service reservoir.<sup>46</sup> The Council also asked for powers to raise the loan so that the Council, or a board nominated by the Government, could control the expenditure of dam construction<sup>47</sup> and the necessary water supply infrastructure.

The Enoggera site was visited by Colonial Surveyor-General Gregory, Colonial Architect Tiffin, Engineer Thomas Oldham, Governor Bowen and Mayor Stephens early in 1863.<sup>48</sup> The Brisbane Municipal Council unanimously adopted the Water Supply Committee's report on 2 February 1863. Although the Surveyor-General recommended that the Enoggera Creek catchment should be reserved to safeguard an important future water supply, he also suggested the possibility of damming

Ithaca Creek.<sup>49</sup> This suggestion annoyed the Brisbane Municipal Council as the aldermen felt that the Government was trying to take over the project. The Council required ownership of the dam site and water reticulation facilities to manage the water supply so that revenue could be used to pay the interest and outstanding capital.<sup>50</sup>

The Brisbane Waterworks Act became law in September 1863. The Government decided that a loan for £50,000 would permit this work to be carried out.<sup>51</sup> Surveyor-General Gregory was still not happy because his Ithaca Creek suggestion had been overlooked. The Council strongly supported Oldham's Enoggera Dam proposal and the Government required detailed estimates before it would allow the Council to proceed. The Government, under the Act, appointed a construction authority chaired by Premier Arthur Macalister, with AC Gregory (Surveyor-General), JF McDougall (Member of the Legislative Council), Brisbane's Mayor and Alderman Petrie<sup>52</sup> as committee members. The announcement of this construction authority caused great upset in the Brisbane Municipal Council. The aldermen wanted full responsibility for building the waterworks and they refused to allow the Mayor to take his seat on the Board.<sup>53</sup>

Despite this furore, the Brisbane Waterworks Commission came into being on 1 January 1864 and immediately began searching

Enoggera Dam c 1864. Workers constructing the enoggera Reservoir. A woman and child pose with workmen. Today Enoggera Dam has a capacity of 4500ML and a catchment area of 33km<sup>2</sup>. State Library of Queensland Neg No. 103336.



for an engineer to control the scheme. Oldham, who expected to be given this job, was upset when Joseph Brady was given Oldham's plans and estimates for a second opinion.<sup>54</sup> Brady gave general agreement to Oldham's scheme and offered to prepare a detailed survey and plans for a contract price of £750. The Waterworks Commission accepted Brady's proposal asking that the plans be ready by 1 June 1864. As Brady was in Melbourne he paid Oldham to undertake this work for him.<sup>55</sup> Brady was asked to superintend the construction phase of the dam and on 31 May 1864 he accepted the task.<sup>56</sup>

The first sod for the commencement of the building of Enoggera Dam was cut by the Surveyor-General on 18 August 1864.<sup>57</sup> Enoggera Dam was officially completed in March 1866. The pipeline, built in three sections of decreasing diameter from Enoggera Creek dam, passed through the western section of Joshua Jeays' *Bardon House* property on the way to a service reservoir on Windmill Hill. This water supply would provide sufficient water for 130,000 people. As there were barely 7000 people residing in Brisbane at that time, the Brisbane Waterworks Commission estimated that this dam's supply would be sufficient for at least 30 years.<sup>58</sup>

The Government had grave doubts about the Council's ability to run the scheme. At the end of January 1866, Premier Macalister wrote to the Council confirming that the powers of the Brisbane Waterworks Commission would cease with the conclusion of construction. However, he foreshadowed that the Government would introduce a Bill that would allow an appointed board to operate the waterworks, although the board would be given power to transfer its responsibilities to the Brisbane Municipal Council in due course.<sup>59</sup>

The Council was highly offended by this action and petitioned members of the Legislative Assembly to reject the Bill. However, the Act came into force on 23 July 1866 and soon after this the first water from Enoggera Reservoir reached Brisbane.<sup>60</sup> When John Watts replaced Macalister he reconstructed the Brisbane Board of Waterworks, and Thomas Stephens and Theophilus Pugh became Board members. Brady remained as the consulting engineer of Brisbane's Waterworks without salary. Enoggera Dam was the second major dam completed in Australia and the first in Queensland.<sup>61</sup>

During 1864, when reticulated water was not yet available, two major fires erupted in inner Brisbane and engulfed the township. Here is part of the dramatic description of the Brisbane fire of 11 April 1864 that appeared in the *Brisbane Courier*, 12 April 1864:



...From the middle of the city dense volumes of smoke rose and obscured the sky, while a lurid glow overspread all beneath. Presently the surrounding heights were brilliantly illuminated as flames shot upwards with startling fierceness, informing all observers that fire had gained mastery in our very midst. It was between three and four o'clock when every street and byeway was alive with hurrying citizens of both sexes and all ages directing their steps to the scene of the conflagration. Queen-street west (between Albert and Edward streets). Little difficulty was met in getting through the most obscure, and over the roughest, thoroughfares; while in open spaces of the town the light was almost equal to day.

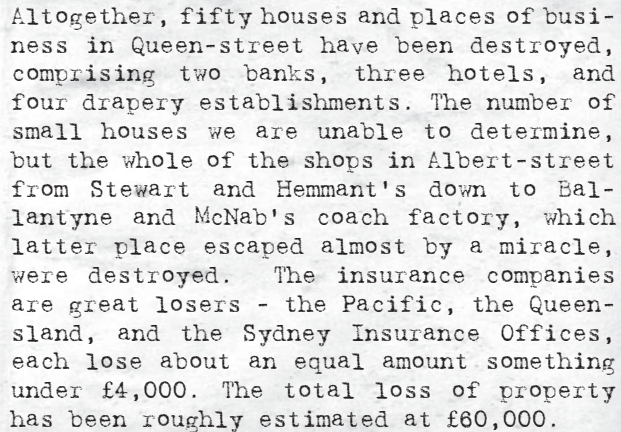
Fire broke out again in Brisbane on 1 December 1864, a hot December night, when almost the entire area bounded by Queen, Albert, Elizabeth and George streets ignited and within two hours turned into a smouldering ruin. Shanties and tumble-down shacks burnt like matches.<sup>62</sup> Flimsy cottages

Brisbane's fire 1864.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 15092



and outbuildings, many of them constructed of packing cases, encouraged the flames.<sup>63</sup> The residents and property owners had no hope of dowsing the inferno that engulfed an entire block of inner Brisbane and destroyed some of Brisbane's earliest buildings.

This was part of the story in the *Brisbane Courier*, 2 December 1864:

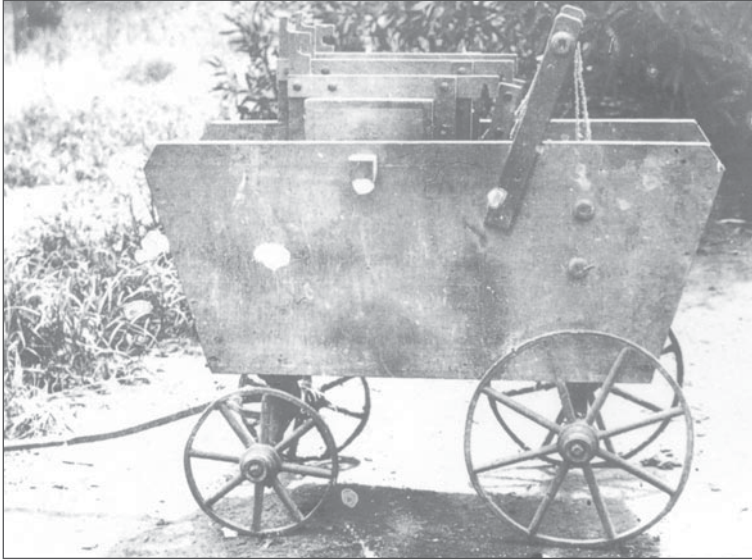


Altogether, fifty houses and places of business in Queen-street have been destroyed, comprising two banks, three hotels, and four drapery establishments. The number of small houses we are unable to determine, but the whole of the shops in Albert-street from Stewart and Hemmant's down to Ballantyne and McNab's coach factory, which latter place escaped almost by a miracle, were destroyed. The insurance companies are great losers - the Pacific, the Queensland, and the Sydney Insurance Offices, each lose about an equal amount something under £4,000. The total loss of property has been roughly estimated at £60,000.

The Council had decided back in April 1863 that they would pay the remaining two-thirds of the cost of a fire bell if the Government would pay the expense of fitting the bell at the Police Office.<sup>64</sup> A letter had to be sent to the Minister of Lands asking permission to put the fire bell in the Police Yard. This permission took seven months to come through.<sup>65</sup> The protocol between the two levels of government seems today to be overly pedantic.

In 1864, Brisbane had rudimentary fire-fighting arrangements in force.<sup>66</sup> For some time the Council had been discussing with the Government some possible sites to locate a fire engine: a very basic water container on a small wooden four-wheeled carriage that was pushed or pulled by volunteers to the fire site.

A small volunteer fire brigade was formed with some financial help from Queensland Insurance Co.<sup>67</sup> Eventually a fire engine and a fire bell were purchased. The rudimentary fire-fighting brigade and inadequate equipment were never going to impact on such large fires that readily took hold in the dry wooden structures. Without reticulated water the residents had no hope of controlling such large fires. Containing the fire



Brisbane's first fire engine.  
O'Connor, T. 1966, p.219

and hoping that it would soon burn itself out were the only strategies the Brisbane citizens could use. Rebuilding of the fire-ravaged inner Brisbane site took place rapidly and resulted in an improved appearance of the main street.<sup>68</sup> Brisbane's first fire station was erected in 1868.

During his term as mayor, Joshua Jeays was instrumental in establishing the by-laws that controlled the first public transport for Brisbane.

*The earliest indication of the commencement of short-haul public conveyance vehicles officially operating in Brisbane comes from the handwritten City of Brisbane By-Law No.6 signed by Mayor Joshua Jeays on 21 November 1864. This document, titled Omnibus and Hackney Carriage By-Laws, contained 65 by-laws and was enacted on 1 January 1865. The by-laws provided for 'licensing and regulating Omnibuses Car Hackney Carriages and Cabs and the Owner Drivers and Conductors thereof plying for hire within the City of Brisbane and within the distance of four miles from the Corporate limits thereof'.<sup>69</sup>*

The proper arrangement for the disposal of the dead was obviously essential for health and religious reasons. The Brisbane Municipal Council was committed, from the outset, to establishing a suitable burial facility for Brisbane. The Council continuously sought the closing down of the earlier burial



grounds, either because they had become overcrowded or because they created health issues as settlement surrounded them.

Alderman Hockings had motioned in July 1860:

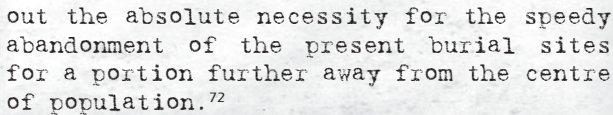
*that his Worship the Mayor be authorised to apply to his Excellency the Governor and Executive Council, to reserve a spot not less than one mile from the town boundary, for a general cemetery, such cemetery to contain not less than 200 acres.<sup>70</sup>*

As a result of the Council's 1860 submission, the Surveyor-General recommended the Government set aside a site in Toowong as a reserve. When nothing further was done, the Council made a new application in 1862 for the proclamation of a new municipal cemetery. It also asked that the cemetery be placed under the control of the Corporation in accordance with Clause 73 of the Municipalities Act. The Government continued to procrastinate, and the delay was responsible for agitation in the *Brisbane Courier* and for a deputation<sup>71</sup> from the Council to the Government in 1864. The Council wanted the Milton Cemetery to be closed because it was regarded as a danger to health. The Brisbane Municipal Council again requested that the Government should place the new cemetery under Council control. Roger George Wyndam Herbert, on behalf of the Government, indicated that land in Toowong had been set aside and that the Government was prepared to recommend that the new cemetery be placed under Council management.

However, Government inaction continued and brought new pressure from the *Brisbane Courier*. Mayor Joshua Jeays described the position:

The rapidly increasing population in the houses erected and being erected upon the slopes at the rear of Petrie's Terrace and the neighbourhood adjacent thereto, the drainage from which the burial ground is carried into the low-lying ground forming the Milton Water reserve, the consequences are, that, in the oppressing heats of the day, the miasma arising from the earth and the small creek which only partially drains the locality is becoming very prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants and points





out the absolute necessity for the speedy abandonment of the present burial sites for a portion further away from the centre of population.<sup>72</sup>

The *Brisbane Courier's* action, reinforced by questions in the House by parliamentary members, and the Council's campaign was partly responsible for the introduction of legislation by Charles Blakeney in May 1865. This legislation, which dealt with the establishment of cemeteries in the colony, did not transfer authority to councils. Cemetery control was placed in the hands of a body of trustees and, until 1930, the Council retained only a marginal interest in the supervision of cemeteries.

Even though the legislation was passed, the Government did nothing. The deplorable conditions in North Brisbane again led the Council to prod the Government into remedial measures. The 1866 financial crisis was partly responsible for the lack of Government action, but this excuse failed to satisfy either the *Brisbane Courier* or the Brisbane Municipal Council. Bitter complaints were made against the condition of the old Milton cemetery and outbreaks of fever were alleged to be due to Government neglect. The Executive stirred to action and the trustees of the Brisbane General Cemetery began to make more adequate preparations for the use of the new site. The Toowong Cemetery was not officially opened until 1875, but some burials had taken place before that date, including the interment of Governor Blackall on 3 January 1871.<sup>73</sup> The plans for the site of Toowong Cemetery were laid out by engineer and surveyor George Phillips.<sup>74</sup>

From 1860 until 1869, the Brisbane Municipal Council worked on a number of major projects. Some of these projects progressed well and others were less successful. Given the small Council workforce, poor and non-existent communication and transport facilities, it is quite amazing that these committed men achieved as much as they did. While effort and energy were put into large public works, the aldermen also had to contend with a wide range of smaller community-based issues.

By 1862, the residents of Fortitude Valley felt neglected by their Council. The Annual Report of 1862 showed that £7000 had been spent on Brisbane and only £317 on Fortitude Valley. A petition signed by 150 householders from Fortitude Valley<sup>75</sup> raised issues of neglect in their Council area. Fortitude Valley was ready to break away and form its own council. This hastened change towards introducing Council wards. The

Municipalities Act of 1864 expanded the Council's power to make by-laws, especially in regard to rates, and the Brisbane Municipal Council area was divided up into four wards – East, West, South and Valley. Three aldermen were entitled to represent each council ward.<sup>76</sup> The Government saw this as equalising the geographic spread of Council representation. The anxiety of disaffected ratepayers in areas like Fortitude Valley would be allayed, and the allocation of municipal funds would be more evenly shared and used. The change to Council wards would help to overcome the difficulty in administration of the urban sprawl. Until his retirement in February 1868, Joshua Jeays was an alderman for the West Ward.

Changes within Council also occurred during this decade. On 13 January 1862, William Martin Boyce resigned as Town Clerk.<sup>77</sup> From 10 applicants for the Town Clerk's job, Thomas Dowse was appointed.<sup>78</sup> The Town Clerk's salary of £250 a year was agreed to by the Council.<sup>79</sup> Thomas Dowse was Brisbane's Town Clerk from 1862–1869.

The *Brisbane Courier*, 4 January 1862, gave William Boyce's new position in the Registrar-General's office as his reason for resigning as Town Clerk. However, for some time there had been concerns voiced by Boyce to the Council about the huge workload and poor salary for the Town Clerk's position.

*Mr Boyce, the present Town Clerk of Brisbane, has tendered his resignation to the corporation, in consequence of his acceptance of a situation under government.*

*Appointment – Registrar-General's office*

*William Martin Boyce gazetted to be clerk of the 2nd Class.*

Alderman Thomas Blackett Stephens became Brisbane Mayor after John Petrie had served in that position for three years.<sup>80</sup> George Edmonstone took over from Stephens as Mayor in February 1863.<sup>81</sup> At the Brisbane Municipal Council election held early in 1863<sup>82</sup> these were the votes recorded:

Aldermen elected to the Brisbane Municipal Council	North Brisbane	Fortitude Valley	South Brisbane	Kangaroo Point	Total
Edmonstone	141	12	7	15	175
Jeays	131	15	7	3	156
Petrie	60	15	4	17	96
Darragh	43	9	4	37	93
Teevan	66	11	1	9	87
Davidson	67	6	2	5	80
Thompson	45	6	1	6	58
Jones	42	6	1	5	54
Taylor	7	2	0	8	17
McDonnell	2	0	0	6	8
Spence	1	1	0	6	8

From this 1863 election tally the three candidates with the highest number of votes would take their place as aldermen in the Brisbane Municipal Council. Edmonstone, Jeays and Petrie were returned to the Council.

This was what Edmonstone had to say after these election results had been finalised:

*He thanked the ratepayers for the kind and cordial reception they had given him, and for the high honor they had conferred upon him by placing him again at the head of the poll. It was gratifying to him to feel that his past conduct had so far met with the approbation of the electors that they were willing to extend to him their further confidence. All he could do in return would be to act as he had acted before, and to do the best he could to forward the interest of the citizens.<sup>83</sup>*

Joshua Jeays responded in a typically humble manner to these 1863 election results:

*...he not only thanked the gentlemen who had voted for him, but he also felt it his duty to those who had recorded their votes against him; for he considered that personally he would have occupied a far better position had he been placed at the bottom of the poll, than second on the list of elected aldermen. A man who did his duty honestly and conscientiously as an alderman,*

*had to devote the greater part of his time to the citizens; and if he was not prepared to do so, he had no right to aspire to the position of an alderman. He certainly felt gratified at the expression of confidence in him, expressed by the ratepayers, and he fully appreciated the honour that had been conferred on him. He would do as he had endeavoured to do before – watch over the interests of the citizens and guard their privileges. He regarded his election as an acknowledgment on the part of the ratepayers that they were satisfied with his past services, and that they could trust in him for the future. Never before had the corporation so onerous or arduous a duty imposed upon them as at present. The town hall building he believed to be in the safe hands of a respectable contractor. The bridge was the most important consideration, and the council would have to watch carefully in this matter. If things were not properly arranged at first, the bridge would be a source of constant and enormous expense, and many would have cause to regret that they desired its erection at all. The council would have to guard carefully the interests of the public in connection with the water supply. He hoped this matter was in good hands. The council would have to see, however, that the commission intended to procure a regular, adequate and pure supply of water for the town; and it would be their duty to resist any attempt to impose upon the citizens by supplying them from any other source than Enoggera Creek. ...<sup>84</sup>*

John Petrie tendered his resignation as alderman in August 1863.<sup>85</sup>

Alderman Joshua Jeays took the Chair as Mayor in February 1864.<sup>86</sup> Alderman Albert John Hockings was Brisbane's Mayor for a year from February 1865. Alderman Richard Symes Warry was Brisbane Mayor in 1866, Alderman Albert John Hockings returned in 1867, then John Hardgrave was Mayor in 1868 and 1869 with Alderman William Pettigrew taking on the mayoral office in 1870. Joshua Jeays was the longest-serving Brisbane alderman when he retired from the Brisbane Municipal Council in February 1868.

The Council's Finance Committee was looking into paying £150 per year for a rates collector<sup>87</sup> and a tender from F Hingston to become the Council's Rate Collector was accepted.<sup>88</sup> In July 1862, Jeays successfully moved that Council meetings should be held fortnightly instead of weekly until further notice.<sup>89</sup>



Council staff workloads and wages were also issues during this time. Mr Ambrose was appointed Clerk of Works for the Brisbane Municipal Council in June 1863.<sup>90</sup> The annual salary for the City Surveyor was £350. Joshua Jeays was instrumental in obtaining wages of day workmen at 6/- per day and that a work day would be 10 hours per day,<sup>91</sup> with Council labourers working on Saturdays for eight hours.<sup>92</sup>

Apart from the day-to-day running of the Council, it was expected that the Council would request assistance and permission from the Government on most other matters. When garbage disposal became a problem in Brisbane Town in 1863, Jeays urged the Council to request the Government to approve two or three places conveniently situated beyond the city boundary as public depositories for rubbish.<sup>93</sup>

Establishing markets where fresh fruits and vegetables could be cheaply bought by the increasing population of Brisbane was another Council initiative that had to go through Government approval. In August 1863, Jeays succeeded in getting the Council to apply to the Government for the Council to establish a General Market on the triangular space<sup>94</sup> at the

Queen Street shops, 1872.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 20298



rear of St Stephen's Cathedral in Charlotte Street where it links with the lower end of Eagle and Market streets.<sup>95</sup> Markets were established there in 1866. Contractors Dath & Gillies, in 15 weeks, built a long wooden shed on a stone foundation, covered by a corrugated iron roof at a cost of £879. The market building was built with a central roadway between two lines of 30 stalls. The structure was completed in October 1867, but the Brisbane Municipal Council was not entirely happy with the style and quality of the structure.<sup>96</sup> These markets opened and reopened several times before it was decided, in 1881, to relocate the markets to Roma Street near the new railway terminus.<sup>97</sup>

The absence of an adequate water supply, Brisbane's climatic conditions and the desire for safe bathing conditions encouraged Jeays to pursue the establishment of municipal baths. Between 1849 and 1859 there had already been three privately operated floating baths in the Brisbane River. In 1861, Jeays had the Council applying to the Government for suitable sites for public baths. Jeays believed, although this proved to be a mistake, that public baths would be profitable for the Council. Sites were selected by the Government, but not granted outright to the Council. Charles Tiffin drew up plans for the baths, tenders were called and in 1862 the completed baths were moored near the middle ferry. The Council leased the baths, drew up by-laws for fees and hours of use. The idea, however, like its predecessors, was dogged by ill-fortune. In May 1863, floods damaged the baths and they sank. The lease was cancelled and the Council decided municipal baths were not a profitable venture. The Council therefore decided to sell the baths to John Philp, who had been the lessee.<sup>98</sup> More devastating floods carried these baths away and completely destroyed them in June 1864.<sup>99</sup>

From Brisbane's inception there were very few parks and recreation reserves because there had always been plenty of open land for people to use. In the mid 1850s, the Botanic Gardens were developed with linkages to Queen's Park and the Government Domain. Council had a marginal interest in the development of open spaces and recreational reserves, but lacked any authority to set areas aside.<sup>100</sup> In March 1863 Jeays urged the Council to request the Government to place £2000 on the Estimates for the purpose of fencing, laying out and planting the public recreation ground near Wickham Terrace. Jeays also moved that the Council make an application to the Governor to reserve not less than 1 per 250 acres of land suitable for a public park situated as near to the city as practicable and accessible alike to Fortitude Valley and North Brisbane.<sup>101</sup> Jeays, by December 1863, had the Council form the Public Reserve and



Recreation Ground Committee for the purpose of drawing the attention of the Government to the necessity of forming such public parks and reserves.<sup>102</sup> In June 1864, the Council was requesting that York's Hollow<sup>103</sup> be kept as a public reserve, recreation ground or park.

Charlotte Street in flood.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 22130

Finally, after much remonstrating from the Council over many years, dredging began on the Brisbane River bar, and in 1867 dredging of the first channel in the river was completed. In 1871 the first vessel of 800 tons, drawing 15 feet, came up the river to a city wharf. The opening up of the Brisbane River to larger vessels had an immense impact on the development of Brisbane.

During the decade of the 1860s Brisbane's population continued to increase, and this resulted in the formation of a range of community groups and the development of a variety of community activities.

By the early 1860s the Queensland Horticultural and Agricultural Society was up and running. The First Horticultural Exhibition of this society with Albert Hockings as its Honorary Secretary was held on the 23 January 1862.<sup>104</sup> Such societies encouraged home gardening, but also worked with farmers in trying out crops that might develop into an economic asset. In that same year John Buhot, Walter Hill, Louis Hope, Dobbs, Brooks, Edmonstone, Raff and Andrew Petrie were involved with sugar extraction from sugar cane. Being able to turn the juice

from sugar cane into a granulated form was an economically important process to be undertaken in Brisbane at that time. The first commercial sugar production developed by Louis Hope in 1868 at Ormiston, near Cleveland, was a significant step in initiating what would become the important Queensland sugar industry.

A public meeting to initiate the formation of the first Brisbane Cricket Club was held at Hart's Café in January 1862. Mr Shepherd Smith was elected club chairman and Governor Bowen was to be asked to be patron. Members could join for one guinea a year. The Club's inauguration was initially formalised by a match between 11 married against 11 single gentlemen residing in Queensland, on 1 February 1862.<sup>105</sup> As well as cricket, sailing, rowing and horse racing were enjoyed.

The decade of the 1860s was an important time for the beginnings of public education in Brisbane and Queensland. The Normal School<sup>106</sup> was built by John Petrie in 1862 in Edward Street near where the earlier National School had functioned. Petrie used Brisbane Tuff for the exterior facings of these school buildings and the interior walls were faced with Woogaroo stone from Joshua Jeays' quarry.

On 29 February 1868, the first stone of the Brisbane Grammar School was laid by Prince Alfred. The Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane's oldest secondary school, and the second-oldest Grammar school in Queensland, was opened by Governor Blackall on 1 February 1869 in the area that is now the Roma Street Parklands. Mr Justice Lilley, who had worked hard to introduce free education into Queensland and encourage educational facilities for children throughout Queensland, was an early benefactor of this school.<sup>107</sup>

Brisbane claimed to have its own Philharmonic Society in 1862. Brisbane's first theatre, the Victoria Theatre, was established by VH Vinson in the Victoria Hotel in Elizabeth Street in February 1865. The School of Arts continued to present lectures and hold meetings. The library of books that this organisation had been accumulating over many years was an important asset for community education and the promotion of self-learning and personal skill development.

The building boom of the early 1860s was mirrored in the activities undertaken by the local building society. Joshua Jeays continued his involvement in the Moreton Bay Benefit Investment and Building Society for most of his time in Brisbane. These newspaper advertisements give some insight into this building society back then:



The 13th Monthly meeting of the Moreton Bay Benefit Investment and Building Society, No. 4.

The Trustees & Directors of the above society will be in attendance at the Police office, North Brisbane, THIS EVENING, (MONDAY), the 6th Jan. 1862, at ½-past 7 o'clock, for the purposes of receiving the MONTHLY INSTALMENTS and for the SALE OF SHARES.

After which the members of the Society will be called upon to elect 3 Directors in the room of Messrs. J. Petrie, W. Mason, and J. Jeays.

J. INNES, Secretary

Jan. 6th 1862.<sup>108</sup>

BUILDING SOCIETY No. 4 - the 13th monthly meeting of directors of this society was held last evening at the usual place. Nearly £700 [\$1400] were received on account of instalments, and 34 shares were sold at an average of 15%. Mrs H. Buckley, R.S. Warry and H. Keid were elected directors in the room of Messrs. Petrie, Mason and Jeays.<sup>109</sup>

Early in the 1860s there was a palpable optimism in the Moreton Bay District and within Brisbane. Such enthusiasm can be detected in the description of the laying of the foundation stone for the first Brisbane Bridge. The building boom and the high land prices were indicators of the burgeoning economy of the area. The inauguration of a number of substantial government and municipal projects created employment and encouraged optimism in developing the area's economic growth. The Companies Act of 1863 provided for the registration of all large companies, associations or partnerships formed to carry on a business for the acquisition of gain.

However, alarm bells were ringing in 1866 when a British bank failed. Many migrants who had come to the colony to build railways funded by British loans to the Queensland Government became unemployed. Various projects were postponed resulting in serious Government and council retrenchments. As a result land values dropped sharply, business activity was severely

restricted and social unrest grew. With no welfare support, many people quickly became impoverished. Disturbances arose and riots, commonly known as the Bread or Blood riots, broke out as hungry demonstrators attempted to storm the Commissariat stores in William Street. They then fought with police, special constables and the military over a number of hours along several of the streets of the CBD. The Government collapsed, creating upheaval over several months.<sup>110</sup>

There was great insecurity and upheaval until the situation slowly started to improve. It was not until the 1870s that signs of economic recovery were evident.

Along with his promotion of further infrastructure for Brisbane, Joshua Jeays' hard work on the Brisbane Municipal Council's Bridge Committee was rewarded when he saw the foundation stone laid during his term as Mayor. The bridge was hailed as the most important step in the colony's development.

### Endnotes

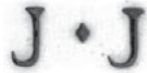
- 1 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.118.
- 2 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.113.
- 3 14 January 1861, letter sent from the Brisbane Municipal Council to C. Lilley Esq. appointing him City Solicitor. Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, p.120.
- 4 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 25 February 1861, p.135.
- 5 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 25 November 1861, p.224.
- 6 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 4 March 1861, p.140.
- 7 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 April 1861.
- 8 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 4 March 1861, p.140.
- 9 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 13 May 1861, p.163. The Dock Reserve was along Petrie Bight, now Macrossan Street.
- 10 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.174.
- 11 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 8 April 1861, p.151.
- 12 'Report' – 1861 Census, *John Oxley Journal*, Volume I, No. I, p.12.
- 13 Greenwood & Laverty 1959, p.109.
- 14 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 November 1863, p.403.
- 15 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 7 February 1864, p.426.
- 16 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.109.
- 17 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 15 December 1863, p.406.
- 18 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.109.
- 19 Moreton Bay Sesqui-Centenary 1824-1974, 'Victoria Bridge', John Laverty.
- 20 This Town Hall remained in use by successive Brisbane Councils until 1930 when the present City Hall in Albert Street was completed.
- 21 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 2 April 1861, p.150.
- 22 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 September 1861, p.207.
- 23 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 March 1862, p.259.

- 24 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 March 1862, p.261.
- 25 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 March 1862, p.266.
- 26 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 5 May 1862, p.277.
- 27 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 2 June 1862, p.284.
- 28 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 2 June 1862, p.284.
- 29 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 28 July 1862, p.294.
- 30 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 21 October 1863, p.394.
- 31 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 21 December 1863, p.411.
- 32 Evans, p.48.
- 33 Laverty, 1974 Moreton Bay Sesqui-Centenary 1824-1974, 'Victoria Bridge'
- 34 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 11 January 1864, p.416.
- 35 Evans, Susanna. 1981, p.48.
- 36 Evans, Susanna. 1981, p.50.
- 37 *Courier Mail*, 17 January 1925.
- 38 Evans, Susanna. 1981 p.52.
- 39 Jeays, Janet, 'A History of my Family in Australia'.
- 40 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 February 1862, p.249.
- 41 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 February 1862, p.250.
- 42 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 February 1862, p.252.
- 43 Whitmore, 1997, p.5.
- 44 Whitmore, 1997, pp.6 and 8.
- 45 Whitmore, 1997, p.125.
- 46 Whitmore, 1997, p.9.
- 47 Whitmore, 1997, p.9.
- 48 *Brisbane Courier*, 29 January 1863.
- 49 *Brisbane Courier*, 11 November 1863.
- 50 Whitmore, 1997, p.9.
- 51 Whitmore, 1997, p.9.
- 52 Whitmore, 1997, p.10.
- 53 Whitmore, 1997, p.11
- 54 Whitmore, 1997, p.13.
- 55 Whitmore, 1997, p.15.
- 56 Whitmore, 1997, p.15.
- 57 Whitmore, 1997, p.21.
- 58 Whitmore, 1997, p.9.
- 59 Whitmore, 1997, pp.29 and 30.
- 60 Whitmore, 1997, p.30.
- 61 Whitmore, 1997, p.34.
- 62 Gough & Ogilvie, 1985, p.15.
- 63 Cilento & Lack, 1959, p.345
- 64 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 27 April 1863, p.353.
- 65 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 23 November 1863, p.403.
- 66 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.160.
- 67 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.161.
- 68 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.141.

- 69 Roberts, Beryl, 2008, p.52.
- 70 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 31 July 1860.
- 71 Correspondence of the Colonial Secretary's Office, 64/891, 19 March 1864.
- 72 *Brisbane Courier*, 23 September 1864.
- 73 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, pp.155-157.
- 74 One of Surveyor George Phillips' daughters would marry a grandson of Joshua Jeays.
- 75 BCC Archivists February 1862.
- 76 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.104.
- 77 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 13 April 1861, p.233.
- 78 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 13 April 1861, p.234.
- 79 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 13 April 1861, p.248.
- 80 *Moreton Bay Courier*, 17 February 1862. John Petrie was Brisbane's Mayor in 1859, 1860, and 1861.
- 81 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 February 1863, p.328.
- 82 *Weekly Herald*, February, 1863.
- 83 *Weekly Herald*, February, 1863.
- 84 *Weekly Herald*, February, 1863.
- 85 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 3 August 1863, p.370.
- 86 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 15 February 1864, p.424.
- 87 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 24 February 1862, p.253.
- 88 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 17 March 1862, p.256.
- 89 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 14 July 1862, p.291.
- 90 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 22 June 1863, p.364.
- 91 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 20 July 1863, p.369.
- 92 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 26 October 1863, p.397.
- 93 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 17 August 1863, p.376.
- 94 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 17 August 1863, p.376.
- 95 McClurg JHC, 1975, p.35.
- 96 McClurg, JHC, 1975, p.36.
- 97 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.152.
- 98 Greenwood & Laverty, 1959, p.158.
- 99 *Brisbane Courier*, 8 June 1874.
- 100 *Brisbane Courier*, 8 December 1863.
- 101 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 16 March 1863, p.339.
- 102 Brisbane Municipal Council Minutes, 7 December 1863, p.408.
- 103 York's Hollow is today's Victoria Park.
- 104 *The Courier*, January 1862.
- 105 *The Courier*, January 1862.
- 106 The Normal School was a public school that was not run by a church or church-affiliated organisation.
- 107 Hawkins M, 1965, p.31.
- 108 *The Courier*, January 1862.
- 109 *The Courier*, January 1862.
- 110 Evans, Raymond. 2007, p. 85.



## 9. JOSHUA JEAYS' JOURNEY



Joshua Jeays had given up all that he had in London to sail to the other side of the world. His skills and energy thrived on the challenges of establishing a construction business, but Joshua was not content with only running a business. He entered public service and was Brisbane's longest-serving alderman from its inception in 1859 until he resigned in 1868. He was mayor from February 1864 to January 1865. His commitment to this struggling community was a significant contribution to the establishment of Brisbane.

After years of building in Brisbane, Joshua Jeays began to wind down his construction business. The 1868 *Post Office Directory* has J Jeays listed as a builder at North Quay, and his name appears in the 1874 *Brisbane Trade and Professional Directory*. However he was not listed in the *Brisbane Trade and Professional Directory* of 1876.

While Joshua Jeays had bought land in Sandgate he did not ever live there. However, he became involved in the Sandgate Pier Company. Sandgate had been slowly developing as a holiday resort, and effort had been made to diversify its role as a port.

*Confidence among would-be settlers [of Sandgate] remained low, even after the 1858 sales, when the site of the present-day shopping centre of Sandgate was sold and Joshua Jeays ... bought up virtually all of the Brighton area.<sup>1</sup>*

In October 1865, Thomas Dowse, Brisbane's Town Clerk and long-time friend of Joshua Jeays, held a public meeting at Sandgate to determine the advisability of erecting a pier to

enhance the water transport services to the area.<sup>2</sup> As reported in the *Brisbane Courier*:

Dowse, as promoter of the plan, was looking further than providing a landing place for the holiday makers, day-trippers or commuters to Sandgate, Brighton, the Pine and the newly settled Agricultural Reserve at Humpy Bong (Redcliffe). As this plan involved connecting Brisbane to the bay by railway, it was developing a port at either Cleveland or Lytton. The Sandgate Pier Company included Joshua Jeays, John Markwell, William Duncan and Robert Davidson who had originally petitioned for the survey of the Cabbage Tree area.<sup>3</sup>

View of the CBD looking east from Wickham Terrace, 1883.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 15091





Unfortunately, the economic downturn of 1866 curtailed interest in building a pier at Sandgate,<sup>4</sup> even though a number of larger houses were built there between 1866 and 1867.<sup>5</sup>

It was not until 1879 that the Sandgate Pier was completed. By then there were two boarding houses, two hotels and three

Street map of the City of Brisbane, 1878.  
State Library of Queensland Neg No. 185673





Jeays Street sign,  
Sandgate.

stores.<sup>6</sup> On 29 April 1880 the municipal district called the 'Borough of Sandgate' was officially gazetted.<sup>7</sup> At the end of May 1880 Sandgate had a population of 600 and 111 dwellings, and was separated from the Nundah Division.

Joshua Jeays' son Joseph moved to Sandgate with his family in 1906. Many of Jeays' descendants continue to live in Sandgate. See Appendix 1.

Joshua Jeays' notable works are Old Government House and *Bardon House*, which remain to this day for us to enjoy. The National Trust of Queensland considers Government House to be 'one of the most, if not the most, significant buildings in Queensland'.<sup>8</sup> For its time, the construction of such a large building in Brisbane, with the resources, skills and finances available, is quite amazing.

The Jeays name lives on in Jeays Park in Bowen Hills, the three streets named after him in Bowen Hills, Sandgate and Scarborough, and in the *Joshua Jeays Room* and the *Sarah Jeays Restaurant* at The Bardon Centre on Simpsons Road in Bardon.

On 9 March 1881 Joshua Jeays sold the eastern portion, 32 acres, of his Bardon Estate to John Stennett. Two days later he died at the age of 69 years. He had been fairly incapacitated for the previous couple of years and his passing was not unexpected.

Queen Street looking north-  
east from Albert Street,  
1884.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. API-004-0001-0013

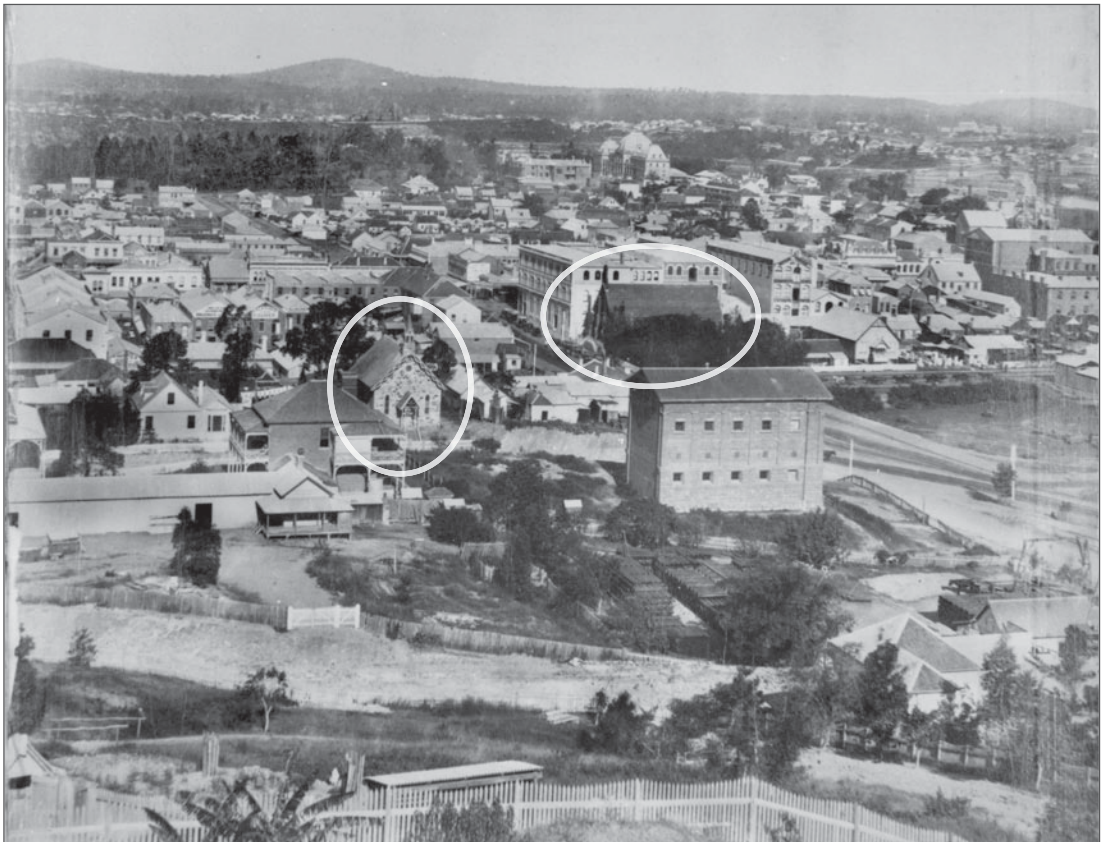




Joshua Jeays was buried in Toowong Cemetery. His obituary appeared in *The Brisbane Courier*, 12 March 1881:

The death of Mr. Joshua Jeays, which took place at his residence yesterday morning, takes from our midst another of those old colonists whose career has been intimately associated with the early progress of this city. Mr. Jeays was the son of an old Leicestershire yeoman, and was born in Leicester in 1812. He served his apprenticeship as a carpenter and builder in that town, after which he was engaged as foreman in a large building establishment in London. He subsequently entered into business on his own account as a contractor in London; but being compelled by failing health to seek a change of climate he came to Australia, arriving in Moreton Bay with his wife and family in 1852. (sic) Here he and Mr. J.W. Thompson entered into

View of the CBD looking south-east from Wickham Terrace, 1883. Ann Street Presbyterian Church (left) and Albert Street Wesleyan Church (right) were both built by Joshua Jeays. State Library of Queensland Neg No. 15092



partnership as builders and contractors, and amongst the buildings which testify to the faithfulness of the work performed by his firm may be mentioned the Albert-street Wesleyan Church, which at the present time is one of the most substantial in the city. After the lapse of a few years the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Jeays continued the business himself. The Congregational Church, the old Presbyterian Church, Ann-street, and Government House, were all erected either by him or the firm of which he was a partner. Some 16 or 17 years ago the deceased gentleman had the ill-fortune to lose his wife, and almost immediately afterwards retired from business. He was one of the aldermen who formed the first Brisbane Municipal Council, and remained a member of that body for a number of years. He filled the Mayoral chair during the municipal year of 1864-5, and it was during his term of office, we believe, that the Victoria Bridge was commenced. The deceased gentleman, with Mr.

Queen Street looking south-west from Creek Street, 1884.

State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. API-004-0001-0014





J. Petrie and the late Mr. T. B. Stephens, formed the Improvements Committee of the council for several years after the incorporation of the city, and during that time initiated many useful improvements. Before leaving London, Mr. Jeays wrote a technical work on the system of orthogonal hand-railing, which was published by Longmans and Co., passed through several editions, and was recently republished by the same firm. Mr. Jeays was very studious in his habits, and of a reserved disposition and unostentatious manner. He was an excellent mathematician, as well as versed in physical science, and some will no doubt remember a series of interesting lectures delivered by him in Brisbane years ago on astronomy. Mr. Jeays had been ailing for 2 or 3 years past, and his death, which took place at 8 o'clock yesterday morning from acute bronchitis, was not altogether an unexpected event.

Petrie Bight from the  
Kangaroo Point cliffs, 1888.  
State Library of Queensland Neg  
No. 100744

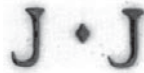


Joshua Jeays was a remarkable man whose skills and energies intermeshed with the early forefathers of Brisbane Town to establish the heart of Brisbane.

**In doing what he did well, Joshua Jeays made his mark on this city.**

In 2007 Joshua was posthumously inducted into the QUT Distinguished Constructors' Hall of Fame. An innovation of QUT's Faculty of the Built Environment and Engineering, the Hall of Fame is now in its 11th year and recognises past and present individuals who have played a significant role in Queensland's construction industry. Previous inductees include John Bradfield, John Holland, Sir Leslie Thiess, Sir John Pidgeon, Ian Barclay and Jack Hutchinson. Etched glass portraits of these significant individuals are displayed in the foyer of one of the faculty buildings at QUT.

His descendants take pride in their connection to one of Queensland's great men. In Appendix 2 they have recorded their memories of his life, and their sentimental journeys to retrace Joshua Jeays' footsteps, beginning in Moreton Bay almost 150 years ago to the day.



### Endnotes

- 1 Brisbane History Group, 1995, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, p.6.
- 2 Brisbane History Group, 1995, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, pp.12 and13.
- 3 *Brisbane Courier*, 1 October 1865.
- 4 Brisbane History Group, 1995, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, p.13.
- 5 Brisbane History Group, 1995, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, pp.12 and 13.
- 6 Brisbane History Group, 1995, Brisbane: People, Places and Progress, p.14.
- 7 *The Queenslander*, 4 May 1901.
- 8 'Inside Old Government House', *Trust News*, May 2008, p.4



## THE JEAYS NAME CONTINUES

Shortly after Joshua Jeays' funeral this advertisement for the sale of his Brighton Estate appeared in *The Brisbane Courier*.

MONDAY, MARCH 14.

By Order of J. JEAYS, Esq.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE BRIGHTON ESTATE,  
Situate next to the Property and late Residence  
of Captain TOWNSEND and the Police Paddock,  
while immediately adjoining the Charming  
Site reserved by his Honor Chief Justice  
LILLEY for his Marine Residence.

SANDGATE RAILWAY !  
SANDGATE RAILWAY !  
SANDGATE RAILWAY !  
SANDGATE RAILWAY !

This Important Line will Soon be Commenced.

TERMS :—Quarter Cash, the balance at 4, 8,  
and 12 months ; 8 per cent added.

Joshua Jeays' estate was divided between his three children, Sarah Jane, Joseph Joshua and Charles Edwyn. Both sons and Charles Lilley were the executors of the will.

## JOSHUA'S SONS

Joshua's son Joseph Jeays undertook drafting studies and by 1870 he had joined the Roads Branch's Southern Division. Jeays worked in the Moreton District,<sup>1</sup> Wide Bay and Burnett districts as a draftsman for the Roads Branch from 1873 to 1876 and later worked as an overseer in the Queensland Public Works Department. In the 1880s he was a licensed surveyor working out of Brisbane.<sup>2</sup> Joseph Joshua Jeays surveyed the Rosalie Estate and then subdivided the Soudan Estate in 1885. He also surveyed areas in Tingalpa, Sandgate and North Burleigh<sup>3</sup>, to list a few. Joseph Jeays sold Rose Hill to WB Brown and BH Gerler, who subdivided it in 1887.<sup>4</sup>

Joseph Joshua married Mary Ann Humphries, a dressmaker from London, on 14 May 1881. They lived in the North Quay family home and raised their children there. Joseph was a surveyor and the youngsters often used to paint his survey pegs and go camping with him during school holidays when he worked out in the field.

Charles Edwyn, Joshua's other son, married Mary Daly two weeks later, on 28 May 1881. Not much is known of Charles and Mary Jeays as they had no children, and only two years after their marriage Charles Jeays died on 14 May 1883.<sup>5</sup>

The Jeays family has a bound book of copies of Joseph's private and business letters from the late 1880s. These copies were made using the 'Rapid Copying Letter Book'. This was an early system of copying that was granted Letters of Registration (Patent) under the hand of the Governor, His Excellency Sir Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, commonly called Lord Augustus Loftus, and the Seal of the said Colony of New South Wales to Richard Allingham in the Colony of New South Wales in 1885.<sup>6</sup>

The system involved using tissue paper and rapid 'instantaneous copying ink', which did not dry quickly. After the letter was written, a page of tissue paper was placed over it and it was gently rubbed. By absorbing the excess ink from the letter beneath it, the tissue paper shows an identical copy of the letter. The instructions for using this innovative system explain that a second copy could be made unless the weather caused rapid evaporation of the ink. While very difficult to read now, many letters have been transcribed by Andrew Jeays and make for interesting reading about life in those times.

The letters reflect how slow life was in those days – appointments had to be arranged by mail. This is an extract from a letter Joseph Jeays wrote to a Mr Quinlan:

*'Sir Charles Lilley wishes to see you about fencing of his land. He is going to Sandgate next Saturday by the 2.15 train and will meet you on the ground near Father Connolly's about 3 o'clock.'*

On 8 August 1888 Joseph Jeays wrote to a tenant:

*'In looking over the house in Turbot Street rented by you from me I see you have committed a breach of the agreement in moving the stairs from under the verandah to the outside. This you had no power or liberty to do and I shall expect you to replace them in their former place in as good condition as they were before or if left where they are to cover them with ... galvanized iron roof and to pay the sum of two pounds for the damage done to the building.'*

Another of Joseph Jeays' letters, dated 21 May 1889, suggests that he accepted a quote from Mr J Hutchinson for fencing at seven shillings and five pence per rod. The letter includes this comment:

*'Lady Lilley says that she will permit you to put two or three horses in the paddock but no cows until she requires it. In return for this you will have to clear up the brushwood and keep an eye on any person trespassing or climbing over the fence.'*

## SANDGATE CONNECTIONS

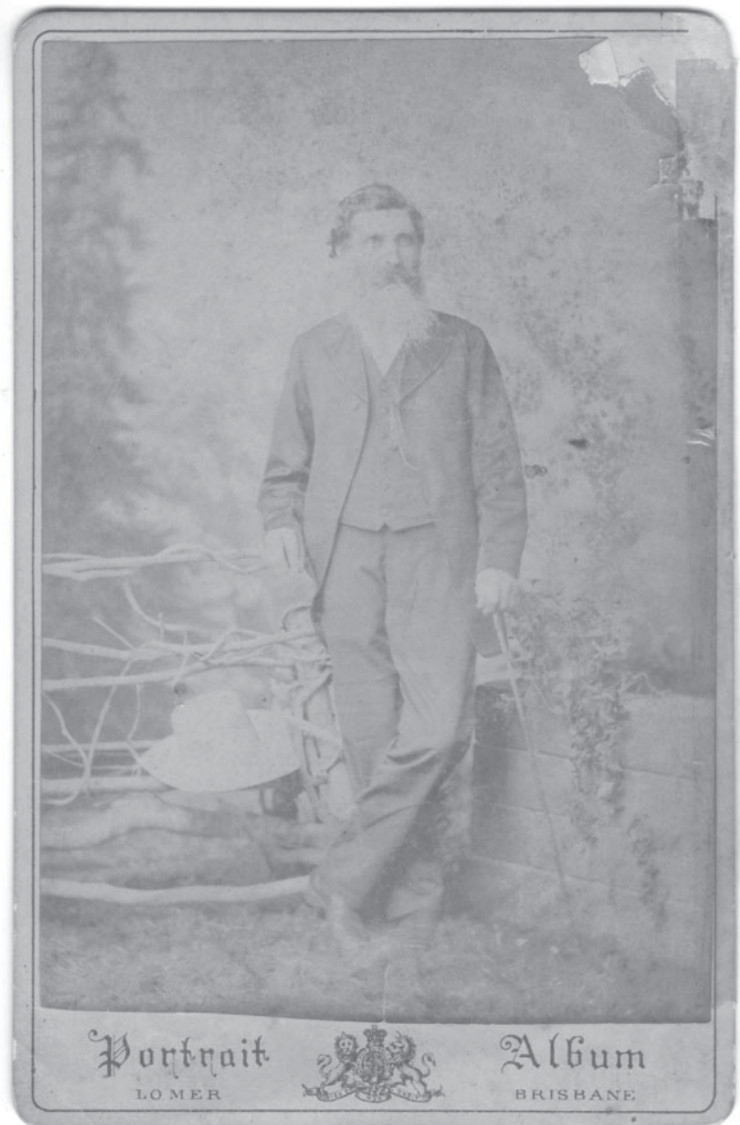
Joseph Jeays was involved with the subdivision of Joshua Jeays' Sandgate land.

Joseph and Mary Ann Jeays sold the North Quay home in 1906, where they had lived from the time of their marriage in 1881, and moved to Cotton Street, Shorncliffe. The furniture and all the family's possessions were loaded onto a single dray for the move.<sup>8</sup> Joseph Joshua Jeays died in 1909 and was buried in Toowong Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Mary Ann

Jeays, and seven children.<sup>9</sup> After Joseph's death, Mary Ann and many of her children later lived in *Clutha* in Shorncliffe. Albert and Betty Jeays (now Shaw) recall their mother taking them to visit their grandmother and aunts at *Clutha* by Best's horse-drawn cab every Wednesday afternoon in the early 1920s. They feared falling from the back of the cab as it 'rocked like a boat in rough sea' on the badly worn track up the steep hill from Sandgate to Shorncliffe.

Many descendants of Joshua and Sarah Jeays live and work in Sandgate to this day, where Joshua purchased land so long ago.

Joseph Joshua Jeays –  
surveyor, first surviving  
son of Joshua and Sarah  
Jeays.  
1848–1909



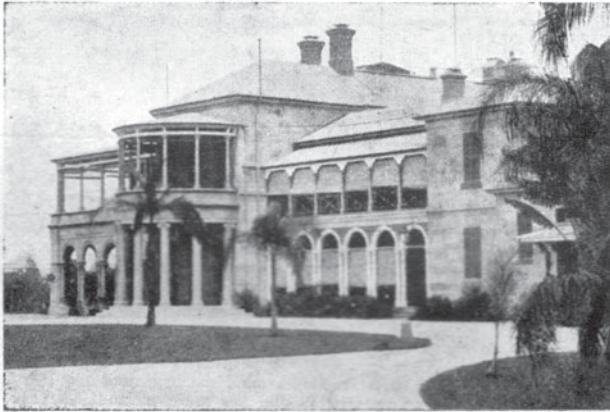


CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

The Jeays name has long been associated with the construction industry in which Joshua Jeays was originally involved. Charles Joshua Jeays, his grandson, known to all as Charlie, established a building supply shop in the city in 1922 and was soon joined by brothers, Joseph and Arthur. At the end of the Depression in 1932 he purchased a building in Margaret Street for the business. At that time, goods were not pre-packaged in small light units – nails were sold in 112lb cases. Four Clydesdale horses delivered the heavy cast-iron baths and sinks and they had great difficulty backing the wagon into the unloading dock.

In 1935 Albert, son of the founder, began work there at the age of 15. During World War II, with Albert away in the Services and stocks in short supply, the building was leased

Jeays Bros advertisement from the Centenary Cavalcade 1859–1959 p.96.



*Government House, erected by Joshua Jeays in 1860-62. Dedicated to the University of Queensland December 10, 1909, and now occupied by the University's administration section.*

**J**OSHUA JEAYS, master builder of Bardon, Leicestershire, England, migrated to Australia in the early 50's. Settling in Brisbane, he built Bardon House (and named the suburb of Bardon) and the Government House of 1860 (now occupied by the University of Queensland). With building interest in their blood, three grand sons — Charles, Joseph and Arthur — subsequently established a business of builders', painters' and plumbers' hardware supplies which, today, under the direction of Joshua's great-grandson, Albert, assisted by founder Arthur and a staff of eleven, operates from new premises (below) to provide a comprehensive supply of building materials in Sandgate and adjacent districts.

**JEAYS BROS. PTY. LTD.**

HANCOCK ST., SANDGATE, BRISBANE

HARDWARE MERCHANTS

69-1015



to the Australian Army for storage, and the remaining stock was moved to Charlie's residence in Brighton. Charlie later purchased land in Hancock Street, Sandgate, where a new store was built in 1954.

After Charles' death in 1956, Albert carried on as manager and guided the firm until his retirement in 1985. During that period the business joined the Mitre 10 Group in 1962 and in 1966 expanded to its current buildings. Jeays Hardware continues to serve the Sandgate community with Joshua Jeays' great-great-grandson Charlie as Managing Director, while his brothers Richard and Peter both work in the Jeays Auto store. Charlie's daughters, Sally and Kate, and Peter's son, Joseph, have represented the fifth generation as casual employees.

### Endnotes

- 1 Kitson & McKay, 2006, p.81.
- 2 Watson & McKay, 1994, p.106.
- 3 The town of North Burleigh had been surveyed by Joseph Joshua Jeays in 1883... [www.janesoceania.com/australia\\_goldcoast/fowlerhospitalboard.htm](http://www.janesoceania.com/australia_goldcoast/fowlerhospitalboard.htm)
- 4 *RHSQ Bulletin*, April 2000, p.12.
- 5 This is from the Queensland Family History Society's Toowong Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions, V.3, 1988, p.25: Portion 13, 407. Charles Edwyn, husband of Mary Jeays, died 14 May 1883 aged 33; Joshua Jeays, late Mayor of Brisbane, died 11 March 1881 aged 69 years; wife Sarah died 26 July 1864 aged 52 years, was buried at Milton.
- 6 The 'Rapid' Copying Letter Book, held by Jeays family.
- 7 Quotes from family letters taken from 'The Jeays Family at Sandgate', from the Jeays' family records.
- 8 Information taken from 'The North Quay Home of the Jeays Family' recollections from Albert Frederick Jeays noted down by his children.
- 9 Information taken from 'The Jeays Family at Sandgate', from the Jeays' family records.

## JOSHUA JEAYS' DESCENDANTS — MEMORIES AND SENTIMENTAL JOURNEYS

Joshua Jeays' descendants have proudly recorded their memories of Joshua Jeays, and retraced some of his footsteps from the point of his arrival in Moreton Bay, to his quarry in Goodna, and then to the reopening of his prestigious Old Government House.

### MEMORIES OF LIFE AT NORTH QUAY

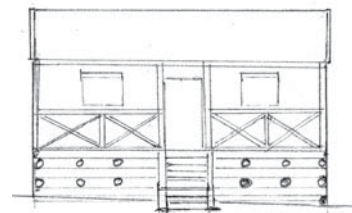
One of Joshua Jeays' grandsons, Albert Frederick Jeays (18 September 1892 – 15 January 1968), spoke often of his childhood memories of his North Quay home. Albert lived there with his parents, Joseph and Mary Ann Jeays, and his four brothers (Joe, Charles, Arthur and Robert) and two sisters (Florence and Edith) until they moved to Shorncliffe in 1906.

Albert's recollections are many and are coloured by the great enjoyment the family experienced at this property.

- Many of the trees provided fruit. There was usually a competition to collect Queensland nuts and these were sometimes hoarded.
- The prickly leaves of the Bunyas needed regular raking and removal because they were hard on bare feet.
- For the Jeays grandchildren, playing under the house was always fun. A collection of stained glass left over from Joshua's building projects was stacked in one area.
- Trying to catch rats through the cracks in the flooring was another fun activity.
- A large concrete bath was filled with tank water on Saturdays and used by everyone in the family, usually with much tomfoolery.
- Teasing between brothers and sisters during cooking experiments in the kitchen was regular fun and this was



Albert Frederick Jeays



*FRONT ELEVATION*

This drawing of the front of the North Quay home was made by Albert Frederick Jeays in 1960. Further drawings and plans of the house are in Chapter 3.

This letter is taped inside the Family Bible given to Joshua Jeays by the Ann Street Presbyterian Church as referenced in Chapter 3. The letter is written by a teacher at the Normal School on 30th Nov 1898 and would appear to be a reference for Charles Jeays (born 2 September 1883), the second son of Joseph and Mary Ann Jeays and grandson of Joshua Jeays.

It reads:

"Master Charles Jeays has been for several months a pupil in the highest class of this school (Sixth Cl) under my charge. He has ever behaved as one who has received to a careful home training: he has been obedient, respectful and assiduous at his work. I have never had occasion to reprove him for want of attention. I may say that his conduct has been most exemplary. I can confidently recommend him to an employer who wants a superior boy. I must express my very sincere regret that he is about to leave school: he is one of those boys, too rare, unfortunately, that make a teacher feel happy while instructing him."

(The Normal School was a public school that was not run by a church or church affiliated organisation.)

Normal School (Boys)  
Brisbane  
30th Nov: 1898.

Master Charles Jeays has been for several months a pupil, in the highest class of this school (Sixth Cl) under my charge. He has ever behaved as one who has received to a careful home training: he has been obedient, respectful and assiduous at his work. I have never had occasion to reprove him for want of attention. I may say that his conduct has been most exemplary. I can confidently recommend him to an employer who wants a superior boy. I must express my very sincere regret that he is about to leave school: he is one of those boys, too rare, unfortunately, that make a teacher feel happy while instructing him.

James Guinness



where, among other puzzles, they debated 'Is it cake or is it pudding?'

- Fishing for perch and catching prawns on weekends was a great attraction for the active youngsters.
- Catching stingrays in the Brisbane River was another family activity. The catch of stingrays was usually given to the owner of Netherway Boarding House, next door, who gave them to the Aboriginal house boy to clean and prepare for cooking. The house boy would, in no uncertain terms, tell the Jeays boys, 'Don't bring any more of those b... things here again!'
- The Jeays grandchildren often visited the original Brisbane Museum in William Street with their father where they sat on the stuffed lions and other animals.
- Flying kites in Albert Park was always great fun.
- However, it was not much fun getting into trouble at school for scorching the copy book after trying to dry the ink using the kerosene lamp!
- Walking to the Normal School and stopping on the way to watch the blacksmiths in Queen Street were some memories of the school years.

A portrait probably taken around the early 1900s when the family was still living at North Quay. Those pictured are (from left to right): Albert Frederick Jeays, Arthur Vivian Jeays, Mary Ann Jeays, Edith Sarah Jeays and Florence Mary Jeays.

This photo is in the possession of the Jeays family.



These grandchildren never knew their grandparents, but Grandmother Jeays was always spoken of as a very kind and respected person. She was known by the local Aborigines as someone who would always be prepared to help out with some food.<sup>1</sup>

### CELEBRATING JOSHUA JEAYS' ARRIVAL IN MORETON BAY

On Monday 23 February 2003, to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Joshua and Sarah Jeays and their children in Moreton Bay, three generations of their descendants sailed to Mud Island, close to the site believed to be where the *Agricola* arrived on 26 February 1853. There they erected a family memorial plaque.

The plaque reads:

*On the 23rd February 1853, Joshua Jeays and his family from Leicester, England, arrived in Moreton Bay on the sailing ship "Agricola".*

*They settled at North Quay where Joshua became a prominent builder and later Mayor of Brisbane.*

*His son Joseph became a surveyor. He married and had seven children. Five of the boys Joe, Charlie, Arthur, Albert and Walter, grew up enjoying boating on the Brisbane River.*

*The family moved to Sandgate and became well known in sailing and exploring northern Moreton Bay.*

*The continued interest in boating has seen the vessels 'Octavia' 'The Snipe' 'Octavia II' 'Illoura' 'Karrisama' 'Otama' 'Sherpani' 'Ubique' all sailed by 'Jeays boys' enjoying this special area.*

*Mud Island served them well as shelter and fishing spot and it is hoped you will also find the same pleasure in enjoying and protecting the future of Moreton Bay.*

*Erected by the JEAYS family in gratitude for their start in Brisbane.*

*23rd February 2003*

*Albert, Andrew, David, Laurie, Charlie, Richard, Peter, Joseph, John...JEAYS*

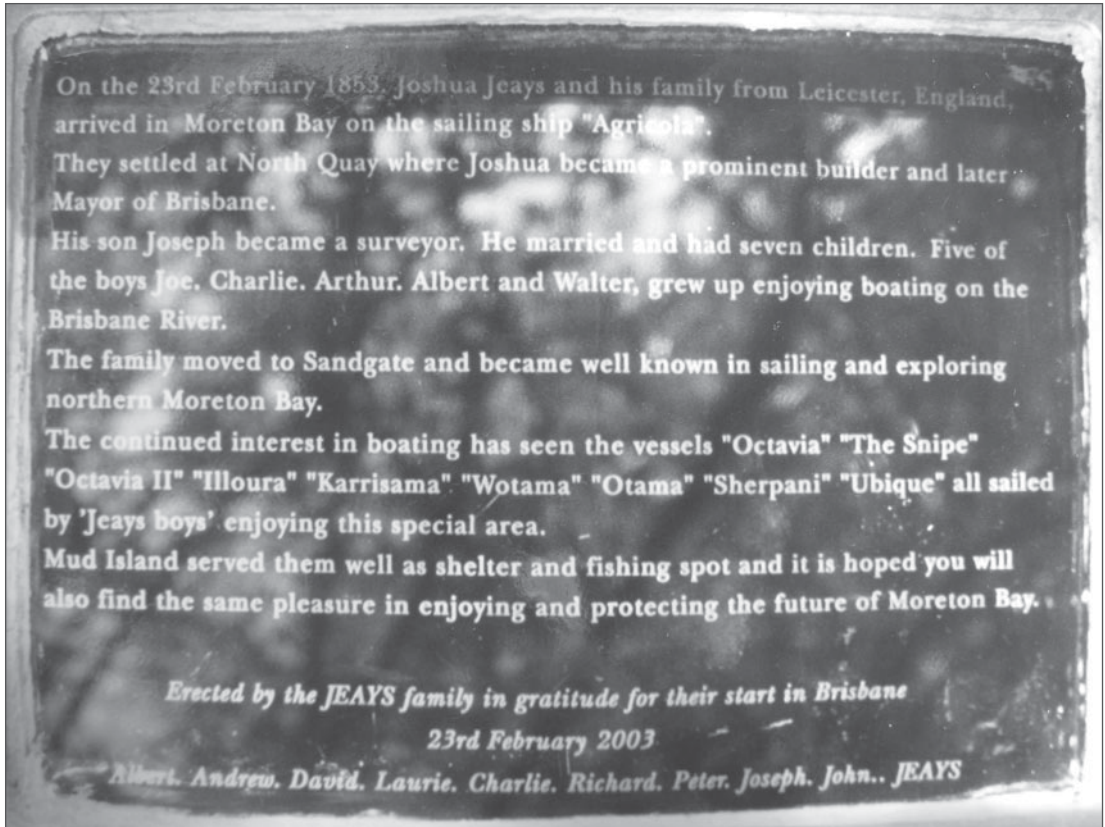
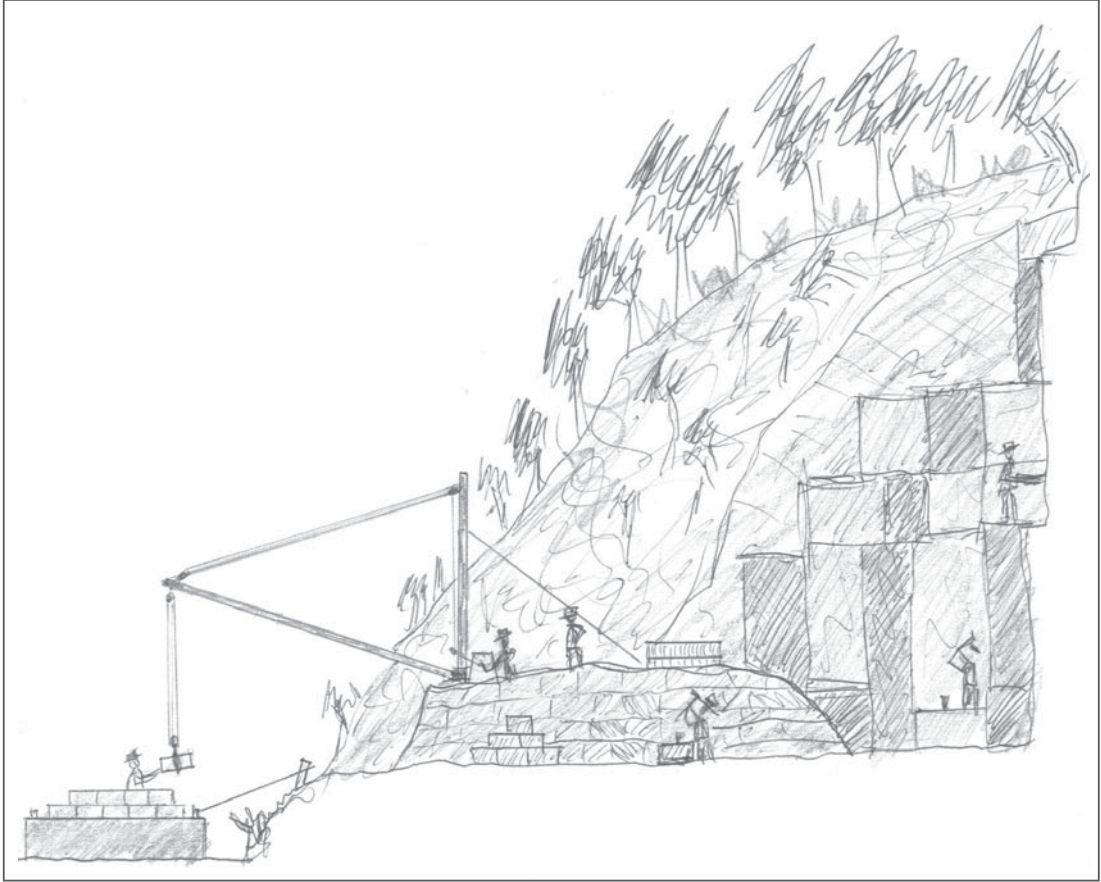


Image of the copper plaque placed on Mud Island. The plaque was made by Albert Jeays using copper (from the inside of a hot water tank) to ensure its longevity in the salty environment.

## VISITING JOSHUA JEAYS' QUARRY IN GOODNA

Today what remains of Jeays' quarry site is located within the grounds of the Queensland Police Department's land that takes in the Wolston Park Hospital Reserve. On 13 August 2008 a number of Jeays and Lilley family members explored the Jeays' quarry site at the invitation of members of the Centenary Suburbs Historical Society and with the permission of the Queensland Police Department.

Although the site was overgrown and obviously had been untouched for a very long time, it was possible to gain some idea of the size of the quarry and try to imagine the skill and great effort that would have been needed to cut and excavate blocks of stone ready for relocation to the river barges. A number of retaining walls, an old well and the remains of a small stone building were found during this exploration of the site.



This is a sketch made by Charlie Jeays of the area of the quarry down by the river. It was agreed by several members of the group that visited the site that a large raised area was probably the location of a derrick that would have been used to load the sandstone onto barges as illustrated for transportation down the river to Brisbane.

### VISITING OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Several of Joshua Jeays' great-great-grandchildren recall sitting for practical music examinations on the upper floors in Old Government House in the 1960s, proudly knowing who had built this grand building.

More than 60 of Joshua Jeays' descendants attended the impressive reopening of Old Government House on 7 June 2009 after its extensive restoration, including seven great-grandchildren, the eldest of whom was 91 years old.

### Endnotes

- 1 Information taken from 'The North Quay Home of the Jeays Family' recollections from Albert Frederick Jeays noted down by his children.



# JEAYS' FAMILY TREE

## EXPLANATORY NOTES:

For ease of understanding the family tree:

The children of Joshua and Sarah Jeays will be referred to by number (1-6)

The grandchildren of Joshua and Sarah Jeays will be referred to by number and letter (e.g. 1.A)

## ABBREVIATIONS:

DOB – Date of Birth

DOM – Date of Marriage

DOD – Date of Death

If DOM or DOD do not apply then they do not appear.

## REFERENCES:

Most references are taken from Diggers – Queensland Federation Index 1890-1914.

### Joshua Jeays

(Father: Richard Jeays – Carpenter, Leicester, England)

DOB: 1812

(Loughborough, Leicestershire, England)

DOM: 10 June 1839 – Sarah Edwyn

(Marylebone Parish Church, Middlesex, England)

DOD: 11 March 1881

(69 years)

Reference: 1881/B013986

### Sarah Edwyn

(Father: John Edwyn – Shepherd, Beeby, Leicestershire, England)

DOB: 1812

(Beeby, Leicestershire, England)

DOM: 10 June 1839 – Joshua Jeays

(Marylebone Parish Church, Middlesex, England)

DOD: 26 July 1864

(52 years)

Reference: 1864/B001807

**The children of Joshua Jeays and Sarah Jeays (nee Edwyn)**

- 1 Joshua Jeays**  
 DOB: 2nd quarter 1839 – April to June (Marylebone, close to Marble Arch)  
 DOD: Died in infancy
- 2 Sarah Jane Jeays**  
 DOB: 3rd quarter 1841 – July to September (12 Elizabeth Street, South St George, Hanover Square, behind Buckingham Palace)  
 DOM: 10 April 1858 – Charles Lilley (Brisbane)  
 DOD: 26 March 1902 (61 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery
- 3 Thomas Jeays**  
 DOB: 4th quarter 1843 – October to December (Kensington)  
 DOD: Died in infancy
- 4 Joseph Joshua Jeays**  
 DOB: 29 December 1848 (6 Green Street, Chelsea) Birth registered on 1 February 1849 at St Luke's, Chelsea  
 DOM: 14 May 1881 – Mary Ann Humphreys Reference: 1881/000964  
 DOD: 16 July 1909 Reference: 1909/002767  
 (60 years)
- 5 Charles Edwyn Jeays**  
 DOB: 1850 (5 Canera Place, Chelsea)  
 DOM: 28 May 1881 – Mary Daly Reference: 1881/B007323  
 DOD: 14 May 1883 Reference: 1883/B015631  
 (33 years)
- 6 Anne Elizabeth Jeays**  
 DOB: 2nd quarter 1852 – April to June  
 (5 Canera Place, Chelsea, Parish of St Luke, northside of Battersy Bridge)  
 DOD: April 1853  
 (1 year) (Brisbane, New South Wales)  
 Burial: May 1853 Reference: 1854/BU0273  
 NSW Births Registry V18531811 39B/1953
- 2 Sarah Jane Jeays (2nd Child of Joshua and Sarah Jeays)**  
 DOB: 3rd quarter 1841 – July to September (12 Elizabeth Street, South St George, Hanover Square, behind Buckingham Palace)  
 DOM: 10 April 1858 – Charles Lilley (Brisbane) Reference: 1858/B000144  
 DOD: 26 March 1902  
 (61 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery
- Charles Lilley**  
 (Parents: Thomas and Jane (nee Shipley) Lilley)  
 DOB: 27 May 1827 (Newcastle on Tyne, England)  
 DOM: 10 April 1858 – Sarah Jane Jeays (Brisbane) Reference: 1858/B000144  
 DOD: 20 August 1897 Reference: 1897/B029938  
 (67 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery

**The children of Sarah Lilley (nee Jeays) and Charles Lilley****2.A Edwyn Mitford Lilley**

DOB: 16 January 1859 (Brisbane) Reference: 1859/B000874  
 DOM: 29 December 1885 – Kate Goggs  
 DOD: 15 June 1911  
 (52 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery Reference: 1911/B014195

**Kate Goggs**

Parents: Matthew Buscall and Anne (nee Gedge) Goggs  
 DOB: 8 September 1867  
 DOM: 29 December 1885 – Edwyn Mitford Lilley

**2.B Charles Bertram Lilley**

DOB: 7 June 1860 Reference: 1860/BA00207  
 DOM: 28 March 1888 – Ann Martha Goggs

**Anne Martha Goggs**

Parents: Matthew Buscall and Anne (nee Gedge) Goggs  
 DOB: 8 January 1865  
 DOM: 28 March 1888 – Charles Bertram Lilley

**2.C Annie Mary Lilley**

DOB: 1 June 1862 Reference: 1862/BA01155  
 DOM: 6 April 1887 – Robert Cran (Brisbane)

**Robert Cran (Junior)**

DOB: 4 May 1856 (Lagoon Station, Myall Creek)  
 DOM: 6 April 1887 – Annie Mary Lilley  
 DOD: 16 December 1940

**2.D Walter Preston Lilley**

DOB: 4 July 1863 Reference: 1863/B001900  
 DOD: 6 March 1916 (53 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery

**2.E Harold Bedell Lilley**

DOB: 16 August 1864 Reference: 1864/B003054  
 DOM: 2 December 1891 – Thomasena Finney Reference: 1891/B015345  
 DOD: 18 May 1904 (40 years) Reference: 1904/B004616  
 Buried in Toowong Cemetery

**2.F Arthur Shipley Lilley**

DOB: 3 March 1866 Reference: 1866/B005200  
 DOM: 17 January 1900 – Lillian Hetta Penfold Reference: 1900/B000030  
 DOD: 4 September 1948 (82 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery

**Lillian Hetta Penfold**

DOM: 17 January 1900 – Arthur Shipley Lilley Reference: 1900/B000030  
 DOD: 6 June 1964 (87 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery

**2.G Ethel Mitford Lilley**

DOB: 21 April 1867 Reference: 1867/B007028  
 DOM: 2 June 1892 – Alexander Cran Reference: 1892/B015686

**Alexander Cran (brother of Robert Cran Junior)**

DOM: 2 June 1892 – Ethel Mitford Lilley Reference: 1892/B015686

- 2.H Alfred Mitford Lilley**  
 DOB: 18 July 1868 Reference: 1868/B008749  
 DOM: 5 January 1898 – Jessie Napier Bunning Reference: 1898/000574
- The children of Alfred Lilley and Jessie Lilley (nee Bunning)**
- 2.I Gertrude Sarah Lilley**  
 DOB: 10 February 1870 Reference: 1870/B010804  
 DOD: 5 February 1939 (68 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery
- 2.J Bertram Mitford Lilley**  
 DOB: 29 July 1871 Reference: 1871/B012865  
 DOM: 4 September 1900 – Emma Hamilla Wodehouse Reference: 1900/002071
- Emma Hamilla Wodehouse**  
 DOM: 4 September 1900 – Bertram Mitford Lilley Reference: 1900/002071
- 2.K Sibyl Mitford Lilley**  
 DOB: 30 September 1873 Reference: 1873/B016550  
 DOD: 30 November 1947 (74 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery
- 2.L Wilfred Jeays Lilley**  
 DOB: 10 December 1874 Reference: 1874/B018357  
 DOM: 27 July 1910 – Elizabeth Florence Gordon Reference: 1910/003471  
 DOD: 6 December 1942 (67 years)
- Elizabeth Florence Gordon**  
 DOM: 27 July 1910 – Wilfred Jeays Lilley Reference: 1910/003471
- 2.M Grace Mitford Lilley**  
 DOB: 21 May 1880 Reference: 1880/B026340  
 DOD: 4 September 1948 (68 years) Buried in Toowong Cemetery
- 4 Joseph Joshua Jeays (4th child of Joshua and Sarah Jeays)**  
 DOB: 29 December 1848 (9 Green Street, Chelsea)  
 DOM: 14 May 1881 – Mary Ann Humphreys Reference: 1881/000964  
 DOD: 16 July 1909 (61 years) Reference: 1909/002767
- Mary Ann Humphreys**  
 DOM: 14 May 1881 – Joseph Joshua Jeays Reference: 1881/000964  
 DOD: 21 December 1936 (82 years)
- 4.A Joseph Joshua Jeays**  
 DOB: 25 June 1882 Reference: 1891/B048406  
 DOM: Unmarried  
 DOD: June 1960
- 4.B Charles Joshua Jeays**  
 DOB: 2 September 1883 Reference: 1883/B031196  
 DOM: Dorothy Irwin Phillips  
 DOD: 14 August 1956
- Dorothy Irwin Phillips**  
 DOB: 16 December 1892  
 DOM: Charles Joshua Jeays  
 DOD: 9 October 1959



- 4.C Edwyn William Jeays**  
DOB: 7 February 1885 Reference: 1885/B033898  
DOD: 28 May 1885 Reference: 1885/B017847
- 4.D John Leicester Jeays**  
DOB: 23 January 1886 Reference: 1886/B035715  
DOD: 18 August 1887 Reference: 1887/B020120
- 4.E Arthur Vivian Jeays**  
DOB: 26 March 1887 Reference: 1887/B038612  
DOD: 22 July 1979
- 4.F Florence Mary Jeays**  
DOB: 20 February 1889 Reference: 1889/B043173  
DOD: 23 July 1964
- 4.G Edith Sarah Jeays**  
DOB: 31 May 1891 Reference: 1891/B048406  
DOD: 16 November 1973
- 4.H Albert Frederick Jeays**  
DOB: 18 September 1892 Reference: 1892/B051262  
DOM: August 1926 – Jeanie Lawson Reid  
DOD: 15 January 1968
- Jeanie Lawson Reid**  
DOB: 27 February 1896  
DOM: August 1926 – Albert Frederick Jeays  
DOD: May 1965
- 4.I Robert Walter Jeays (known as Walter)**  
DOB: 28 September 1894 Reference: 1894/B055309  
DOM: 1920 – Constance Ferguson  
DOD: 21 August 1985
- Constance Ferguson (known as Connie)**  
DOB: 14 September 1896  
DOM: 1920 – Robert Walter Jeays  
DOD: 10 August 1981



## AGRICOLA PASSENGER LIST

New South Wales Immigration Agent – Arrived in Moreton Bay,  
26 February 1853

Inspected – 2 March 1853 (Microfilm Z598, QSA)

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Ashwood	George	21	painter	Middlesex
	Sarah	21		
	Mary	infant		
Baldry	James ?	28	farm labourer	Suffolk
	Ursula	25		
	Edward			
	Thomas	infant		
Burnett	?	35		
	Elizabeth	26		
	Elizabeth	4		
	John	2		
Bryant	Thomas	27	bricklayer	
	Elizabeth	27		
Blackwell	Edward	34	labourer	Lincolnshire
	Harriet	39		
	Lucy	10		
	Robert	8		
	William	6		
	Harriet	1		
Betts	William	23	labourer	Suffolk
	Sarah	21		
	Frances	infant		

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Brooker	Thomas	45		Sussex
	Fanny	39		
	Sarah	13		
	Mary J.	10		
	Elizabeth	7		
	Jammy?	2	Died on the voyage	
Bills	Milton	47	shepherd	Lincoln
	Sarah	43		
	Frances	13		
	Frederick	8		
Cole	James	24	labourer	Lincoln
	Donald	19		
	Naomi	infant		
Camfield	Charles	37	gardener	Kent
	Anna	37		
	Charles	1	Died on the voyage	
Cronk ?	John	37	labourer	Kent
	Ann	25		
	Henry	7		
	Ann	5		
	John	1		
Chapman	Robert	39	shepherd	Kent
	Elizabeth	27		
	Robert	12		
	Elizabeth	19		
	Edmund	9		
	Ann	4		
	George	1	Died on the voyage	
Collins	John	36	tailor	Dublin
	Mary	26		
	John	13		
	Emily	11		
	Margaret	9		
	Ann	7		
	James	infant		



SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Chalk	Thomas	39	Ag. Labourer	Essex
	Maria	29		
	Harriet	7		
	Mary-Ann	5	Died on the voyage	
	James	3		
	William	1		
Davies	Edward	39	carpenter	Lancaster
	Elizabeth	37?		
	Clara	17		
	?	16		
	Mary	7		
	Isabella	10		
Gower	Samuel	20	Ag. labourer	Kent
	Charlotte	20		
Coburn ?	Charles	24	carpenter	Worcester
	Elizabeth	24		
	John	20		
	Clara	infant		
Gillingworth	Edward	20	gardener	Middlesex
	Mary	23		
Graham	Joseph	26	gardener	Perth
	Catherine ?	27		
Hammerill ?	James	22	Ag. labourer	
	Elizabeth	25		
Hunt	Robert ?	27	lawyer ?	Middlesex
	Mary	30		
	Emily	11		
	Mary A	2 ?		
	Fred. Geog.	infant		
Heylen	Thomas	39	bricklayer	Middlesex
	Ann	27		
	Thomas	10		
	John	8		
	Rebecca	1		
	Mary A.	infant	Died on the voyage	
Holland	Henry	31	mason	Sussex
	Mary Lou	28		

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Hagleton	Alfred	36	lawyer	
	Sarah	35		
	Adeline ?	7		
	Alfred	5 ?		
	Jessie	3		
	Sarah	1		
Vines ?	George	31	tailor	Middlesex
	Elizabeth	29		
	Elizabeth	1		
Johnston	Robert	28	Ag. labourer	Cambridge
	Frances	21		
Jeays	Joshua	40	carpenter	Middlesex
	Sarah	40		
	Sarah J	10		
	Joseph	4		
	Charles	2 ?		
	Ann	infant		
Lambley ?	Charles	26	shepherd	Lincoln
	Margaret	23		
Laidler	John	23	labourer and shepherd	
	Isabella	24		
	Elizabeth	infant		
McNulty	William ?	20	smith	Gibralta
	Mary A	26		
	Mary A	infant		
Melton	William	31	silversmith	Suffolk
	Jessie	26		
	Charles	7		
	Lavinia	6		
	Miranda	3		
	George	1		
Morgan	John	30	carpenter	South Wales
	Mary A	30		
Merrell	Moses	30	labourer	
	Sarah	30		
	Julia	5		
	Edith	4		
	Moses	1		

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Mengl ?	Thomas	37	farm labourer	
Newton ?	Catherine ?	40		
	Ann	8		
	Eleanor ?	4		
	John	3		
	Eliza	1		
Newton	Henry	42	schoolmaster	Middlesex
	Mary	29		
Partridge	James	28	blacksmith	Suffolk
	Bertha	29		
	James	5		
	Cornelius ?	3		
	Jonathan	2		
	Samuel	infant	Died on the voyage	
Pritchard	Thomas	38	labourer	
	Mary	39		
	Charles	14		
	Esther	11 ?		
	Richard	9		
	Charlotte	6		
	Elizabeth	3		
Pasbell	William	27	carpenter	London
	Elizabeth	23		
	?	infant		
Pascoe	William	37	labourer	Devonshire
	Elizabeth	33		
	Sarah	10		
	William	8		
	James	6		
Rigby	Edwin G.		carpenter	Kent
	Eleanor	21		
	Eleanor	1		
Richardson	William	27	carpenter	Middlesex
	?	31		
	William	?		
	Elizabeth	1		

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Shapcott	Thomas	34	bootmaker	Devonshire
	Harriet	33		
	William	10		
	Elizabeth	10		
	Harriet	7		
	Caroline	2		
Steele	Thomas	27	labourer	Wilts – Wiltshire (Jane) Hants – Hampshire
	Jane	21		
	Harry	4		
	Eliza	1		
	Agricola	infant		
	Thomas			
Smith	Thomas	34	Died on the voyage	Warwickshire
	Catherine	35		
	James	10		
	John	8		
	Mary A	6		
Daley ?	Edward	26	Ag. labourer	Wales
	Sarah	27		
	Eleanor	1		
	(female)	infant		
Shakespeare	Joshua	22	labourer	Middlesex
	Mary A	20		
Seymour	Richard	23	Ag. labourer	Cambridge
	Anne	20		
Syms	Silas	31	shepherd	Dorsetshire
	Rachel	29		
	Thomas	10		
	Mary	4		
	William	2		
	Joseph	1		
Singleton	Thomas	25	mason	York
	Martha	30		
	Mary	9		
	Charles	2		
	Sarah	infant		



SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Sullivan	James	22	labourer	
	Mary	25		
	John	11		
	Amelia	2		
	James	infant		
Smith	Alex	29	Ag. labourer	Middlesex ?
	Helen	27		
	Robert	7		
	James	5		
	Alexander	1		
Taylor	William	33	Ag. labourer	Nottinghamshire
	Ann	28		
	Charles	6		
	Mary A	11		
	George	1		
Holhurst ?	Ephraim ?	29		
	Ellen	25		
	James	3	Died on the	
	Thomas	1	voyage Died on	
	Ephraim	infant	the voyage	
			Died on the	
			voyage	
Thomas	Daniel	27	carpenter	London
	Eliza	20		
Todd	James	25	farm labourer	Lincolnshire
	Mary	22		
	George	infant	Died on the	
			voyage	
Thomson	Frances	34	farm labourer	Eddington
	Rachel	33		
	John	infant		
Usher	William	44	farm labourer	Essex ?
	Elizabeth	33		
Vernon ?	William	41	gardener	Surrey
	Emma	33		
	Emma	12		
	Georgina ?	5		
	William	3		
	Salea ?	1		

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	FROM...
Woodland	John	34	gardener	Middlesex
	Rachel	43		
	Arthur Jnr ?			
Walpole	Henry	23	farm labourer	Norfolk ?
	Margaret ?	19		
	59 Matthew ?	2		
Woodfield	William	29	bricklayer	Middlesex
	Martha	31		
	Henry	7		
	William	infant		
Wright	Peel	35		
	Margaret	33		
	Samuel ? (1 female)	4		
	Peel (male)	infant		
Humphrey	Jonathan	19	Ag. labourer	
Hubbard	2 William	23	Ag. labourer	
Beglie ?	2 Jane	24		Calcutta
Barnett	1 Sarah	17		Hampshire
Brenning ?	Mary	21		London
	Charlotte	19		
Cavannagh	Eunice	31	domestic servant	Middlesex
Grubb	Louisa	19	coat maker	Westminster
Jones	Caroline	37	domestic servant	London
Mulray	Ellen	26	domestic servant	Galway
McCarthy	Mary	37	domestic servant	Limerick
Robinson	Elizabeth	30	domestic servant	Herts
Gurney ?	Jane	22	domestic servant	Dorset
Tobin	Johanna	20	domestic servant	Haberford ?

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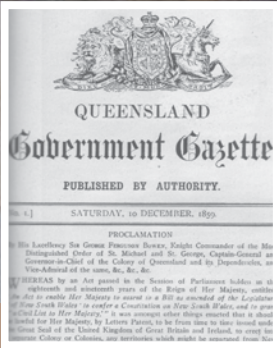
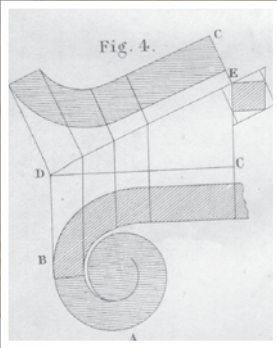
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On 26 February 1853, Her Majesty's barque *Agricola* dropped anchor in Moreton Bay, 109 days out from England. Among those who disembarked were Joshua Jeays, a 40-year-old master builder, his wife Sarah and their four children.

What caused Joshua to leave behind an established career in London for an unknown future in a far-flung corner of the realm?

What would have been his expectations of this former penal colony?

Did he have any idea of the important role he was to play in the early growth of a young and struggling Brisbane.....that he would make his mark as:

- a strong advocate for the Separation of Queensland from New South Wales
- a member of the first Brisbane Municipal Council
- the fourth Mayor of Brisbane
- builder of many public buildings including Old Government House - Queensland's first significant public building and first heritage listed building
- businessman
- quarry owner and stonemason
- civic leader and visionary.

In **HE MADE HIS MARK**, Brisbane author, Beryl Roberts, addresses these questions and more. The result is a fascinating insight into the crucial establishment period of the fledgling colony of Queensland and the contribution of one of its more significant pioneering figures.

