SCOTS IN QUEENSLAND

OUR AIM: “To collaborate with other Scottish and Celtic Groups to maintain, promote and advance the Scots culture and Heritage in Australia.

From Thomas Welsby

The name of an explorer, and of a man in the fullest sense—not remembered as it should be, or only brought to mind on some rare and unobtrusive occasion—is that of William Landsborough. I saw him but once, and I can visualise him as he then was—a big, broad-shouldered, robust man, determined in face and of character; the very type to engage in exploring work, not as a follower, but as a leader of men. Timidly I, but a youth of twenty-two, asked him particulars about the climbing of the Glass Houses—he was then living at Caloundra. He gave me graphic sketches, deeply interesting, and most willingly. Later, when climbing Coonowrim, or Crookneck as it is generally called (its summit I did not quite reach as others have done since), I rested for a while in a cave on the northern side of the pinnacle; and there in the soft formation in and about the opening, and inner recess, protected from rain and from weather, deeply embedded high from the hand of vandal, I read:—"William Landsborough, 1872." He had been in this cave long years before it had been explored by me, and had thus traced his name. The engraving had come from the old pioneering instinct of tree-marking his camps, and the journeying of days. As the lettering was viewed by me it brought to my memory one of his remarks at our first and only meeting: "Crookneck will be climbed someday." His words have come true.

William Landsborough was born on 21 February 1825 at Stevenston, near Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, son of Dr David Landsborough, clergyman, entomologist and artist, and his wife Margaret, née McLeish. Educated in Irvine, he migrated in 1841 to New South Wales where his elder brothers held two stations in New England. By 1850 an expert bushman he leased a near-by run and next year joined the gold rush to Bathurst with some success. In 1854 he followed his brothers north to Monduran, their station on the Kolan River, and with various partners applied for leases. He explored and named Mount Nebo in 1856 and later leased blocks in the area. He explored around Broad Sound in 1857, the Comet and Nogoa Rivers in 1858 and with Stewart examined the Bonar (Bowen) River in 1859. They reached Torrens Creek and looked carefully for traces of Ludwig Leichhardt. From Rockhampton he then went with Nat Buchanan in search of new pastures, and traced Aramac Creek and the Thomson River. Their food ran out but they found good country. In 1861 Landsborough applied for 15 runs of 100 sq. miles (259 km²) each and with Buchanan and Edward Cornish formed the Landsborough River Co. to stock the new 'Plains of Promise', which he named Bowen Downs. To raise capital he sold all his stations except Glenprairie near Broad Sound. He also mortgaged Bowen Downs to the Scottish Australian Co. through its agents, Robert Morehead and Matthew Young, thereby forfeiting his place in management of the stations, although he held a quarter of the shares until 1869.

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In 1861 Landsborough was chosen by the Victorian and Queensland governments to lead a search for Robert O’Hara Burke and William Wills from the Gulf of Carpentaria southwards. In August the party left Brisbane in the brig Firefly, escorted by H.M.S. Victoria. In a cyclone the brig was driven on to a reef sixty miles (97 km) south-east of Cape York. The frightened horses were unable to escape until Landsborough had the deck ‘cut down to the water’s edge’; all but one managed to swim to a near-by island. When the sea calmed, the Victoria pulled the Firefly off the reef. After makeshift repairs the brig was reloaded and in October arrived at Sweers Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. A depot was formed on the Albert River at the site of Burketown and in November the party of 8, including 4 Aboriginals, and 25 horses started south. Landsborough followed the Gregory River and named the Barkly Tableland but near the site of Camooweal found desert with a network of dry channels. Realizing that rain could flood the country and isolate his starving party, Landsborough struggled back to the Burketown depot in January 1862.

With supplies from the Victoria he led his men south, ‘hopping’ from river to river. They encountered hostile Aboriginals on the Barcoo and on the Warrego their rations were reduced to boiled greenhide. On 21 May they reached Williams’s station and learned that Burke and Wills had perished. With bulging tugger bags Landsborough continued his journey south and in October delivered the horses and gear to the authorities in Melbourne. He was fêted as the first explorer to cross the continent from north to south. He reported to the Royal Society on his route and the quality of land he had seen and at a reception in the Exhibition Building was presented with inscribed plate valued at £500. Critics in the Brisbane press had claimed that his search for Burke was a secondary objective because he had been commissioned by graziers to find good land. He emphatically denied these charges but Journal of Landsborough’s Expedition from Carpentaria (Melbourne, 1862) and Exploration of Austral-ia from Carpentaria to Melbourne (London, 1866) publicly revealed the locations of the best country he had traversed. In 1862 his second-in-command, George Bourne, also published his journal of the expedition in Melbourne. These reports led to a frenzied rush into the gulf country.

At a function in Sydney Landsborough had met Caroline Hollingworth Raine. They were married on 30 December 1862 and left for Britain where he was given a gold watch by the Royal Geographical Society in London and visited relations. He returned to Brisbane to find that he no longer owned Glenprairie; no record of its sale could be traced but rumour had his attorney losing the station on a throw of dice. Landsborough had been nominated for life to the Legislative Council. He took his seat on 2 May 1865 but resigned on the 11th. After a week he was reappointed but resigned again on 23 September. He then became police magistrate and commissioner of crown lands in Carpentaria. He found Burketown full of thieves and criminals fleeing from the law, and reprisals against Aboriginals for killing sheep and cattle were common. To keep order he recommended Wentworth D’Arcy Uhr to lead a local band of native police. Appointed, he carried out his duties with zest but became truculent and even threatened to chain Landsborough to a tree like other law breakers. Other difficulties proliferated but the gulf townships prospered so rapidly that settlers began to boast that the area would soon become a separate colony. High officers in Brisbane proposed to appoint Landsborough government resident on the ground that he would then be able to make decisions without reference to the capital and thus prevent delays of at least three months. Unfortunately Landsborough and another magistrate made a mistake on the bench. Untrained and with no local lawyers to consult, they had decided a case against Uhr under the Masters and Servants Act instead of the Polynesian Labourers Act.

In September 1870 Landsborough was summarily dismissed as police magistrate and his name was struck off the roll of justices. Indignant residents in Carpentaria protested to the government on his behalf but in vain. On 24 March 1872 he left Burketown to defend himself in Brisbane but the quest was unsuccessful. He had lived too long in the bush to know any influential politicians. In 1872 the government appointed him to survey a road from St George to Cunnamulla and later commissioned him to clear the track. In sizzling heat twenty-three miles (37 km) of the road had been cut but he was dismissed for ‘paying his men the enormous high wage of 10 pence per hour’. He went to Stanthorpe where tin had been newly found in large quantities; he did well by mining alluvial tin.

Landsborough’s wife had died of tuberculosis, leaving three daughters. Though friends cared for them he longed to be with them and to his joy he was made an inspector in the new Brands Office. He collected his daughters and made a home at Toowong. Worried about the girls being alone while he was at work, he sought an introduction to Maria Theresa Carr, née Carter, whom he had seen in church. A gifted musician but inefficient in business, she welcomed his proposal and they were married at Brisbane on 8 March 1873.

In 1877 Landsborough was restored to the Commission of the Peace. On 27 September 1882 the government rewarded him with £2000 for his explorations. He used the money to buy a property, which he named Loch Lamerough, at Caloundra. Hardships as an explorer made him a sufferer from chronic indigestion. He died on 16 March 1886 and was buried on his land, survived by three daughters and three sons. In 1913 his widow had his remains moved to the Toowong cemetery where a monument is over his grave; another is near his first grave. His journals are in the Oxley Library, Brisbane. His name is commemorated in Queensland by a town and an inlet near Burketown. In 1862 a gold-mining town in Victoria was named in his honour.
Edmondstone Street, South Brisbane; Edmondstone Road, Bowen Hills; Edmondstone Street, Wilston

George Edmondstone was born in Edinburgh on 4 May 1809. He was the son of William Edmondstone, a commissary officer in the Royal Navy and his wife, Alexandrina Farquharson. Both of his parents had died by the time George reached the age of 13 and he lived with relatives until he was 21 when he migrated to Sydney in 1832 in the Numia, one of the earliest immigrant ships to come to the colonies. After some hard times he began business in Sydney but later moved to Maitland. In 1837 he married Alexis or Alexandrina Watson Tilleray in Sydney. Around 1840 he took up Normanby Plains station at Warrill View south of Ipswich, but sold out early in 1842 and set up as a butcher in Queen Street in Brisbane, hoping to profit from trade with the newly-settled Darling Downs. In this venture he proved successful and continued the business for many years.

George Edmondstone sponsored and aided many Scottish families to come to Queensland as free settlers.

He was a member of the first municipal council elected in Brisbane in 1859 and remained a member until 1866. As mayor in 1863-64 he had much to do with the planning of the first Brisbane Bridge. For the first twenty years of free settlement Brisbane residents had to rely on ferries for transport between the settlement at North Brisbane and the separate settlements of South Brisbane and Kangaroo Point. A design for a bridge was chosen after a competition was held and the foundation stone for the new bridge from Queen Street across the river to Melbourne Street was laid by Governor Bowen on 22 August 1864, obviously an important day in the lives of the residents as a half-day holiday in Brisbane town had been declared. The planned bridge was to consist of wrought iron lattice girders supported on cast iron cylinders filled with concrete. However the financial crisis of the mid-1860's meant that funds were not available to continue with this design after the first few pylons were completed and instead a temporary bridge constructed of ironbark timber resting on ironbark piers and with a lifting mechanism on the South Brisbane side opened for traffic on 24 June 1865.

Two years later with the wooden piers having been attacked by marine borers it collapsed during an exceptionally high tide. The temporary bridge was a toll bridge and, no sooner had it opened, than complaints about the tolls being too high and suggestions that lowering the tolls would lead to more people using the bridge appeared in the Letters to the Editor of the Brisbane Courier. Some things never change. It was not until 1874 that Brisbane got its first permanent bridge over the river, once again a wooden bridge but this time built on iron piers. This bridge was named the Victoria Bridge and lasted until the 1893 floods.

The proposal to build Brisbane’s first Town Hall in Queen Street was mooted by Mr Edmondstone and building began during his term as Mayor, although it was not completed until mid 1865. The laying of the foundation stone on 29 January 1864 attracted large crowds with people filling every space including roof-tops and balconies. The Volunteer Band played as the Artillery and Rifles with the detachment of the 12th marched to the site and then went to the Masonic Hall and accompanied the Masonic Brethren of the various Lodges to the site. Following speeches by the Town Clerk on behalf of Mayor Edmondstone and by His Excellency Governor Bowen, the Freemasons performed their part of the ceremony, offering up a prayer. His Excellency then proceeded to formally lay the foundation stone. Construction of the Town Hall was also mired in controversy with claims by July 1865 that the walls were bulging and part of the roof had collapsed after the beams holding it up were crushed under the weight of the roof. The architect who had designed the building refuted the claims that the building was dangerous and only some minor adjustments were needed. However the Council arranged for three independent building inspections to be carried out and the recommendations from all parties were that the roof required additional support.

By 1882 the building was already considered inadequate to house the council chambers and thoughts were turning to a replacement although this did not happen until 1930.

George Edmondstone was also for many years a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly in which he represented East Moreton, Brisbane and Wickham at various times. In 1877 he was appointed to the Legislative Council in an effort to secure a majority for John Douglas’ Liberal government. His appointment was resisted by the administrator, Sir Maurice O’Connell, but approved by his successor, Sir Arthur Kennedy. George Edmondstone continued as a member of the Legislative Council until his death from heart valve disease at his home Pahroombin on the southern side of Breakfast Creek on 24 February 1883 at the age of 73.
Francis Drummond Greville Stanley was born at Ascog Edinburgh in 1839, the third son of actor and painter Montague Talbot Stanley and his wife Mary Susan Eyre, a person of some standing in Edinburgh society living in North Castle Street and later in Hill Street. Her husband Montague, born in Dundee in January 1809, came of an English naval family and, after being taken to New York as an infant, was brought up in the USA, Nova Scotia and Jamaica by a stepfather. He took to the stage and became a successful actor at Edinburgh Theatre Royal between 1828 and 1838; religious considerations caused him to become a landscape painter, elected HRSA in 1835 and ARSA in 1838. He died of consumption at Ascog in May 1844, leaving his widow to bring up seven children who were educated in Edinburgh perhaps by a tutor, as their school has not been traced. Francis was articled to Brown & Wardrop in 1855 and attended the Trustees’ Academy between 5 February and 18 March 1856. He proved an excellent draughtsman, winning two Architectural Institute of Scotland medals and obtaining several certificates from the Government School of Design. He remained with Brown & Wardrop as a draughtsman in 1860 and 1861. During that period he designed the stables at Ladyland, Ayrshire, and travelled England and Scotland drawing and measuring mediaeval architecture, the results of which were prepared for publication as the 120-plate ‘Volume of Drawings from Abbeys, Churches and Castles of England and Scotland’ which was never printed but was exhibited at the Brisbane Exhibition of 1876 and the Sydney International Exhibition of 1879.

Late in 1861 or early in 1862 Stanley emigrated to Queensland to join the Lands Department. By November 1862 he had set up in private practice in Brisbane, but on 1 February 1863 he was appointed chief clerk of works in the office of the Colonial Architect, Charles Tiffin, apparently through the influence of the Minister for Land and Works, the Hon Arthur Macalister who was described as ‘a close friend and countryman’. Stanley was then joined by his younger engineer brother Charles Henry Stanley, two sisters and their mother.

Stanley was initially stationed at Toowoomba but returned to Brisbane to marry Margaret Bennet on 27 April 1865, and by 1869 was undertaking design work as well as supervision, having come second in the competition for Queensland’s new Parliament Building, and won several others outright including the Post Office in Brisbane.

On 9 February 1871 Tiffin was suspended from his post which had become Superintendent of Roads and Buildings, and when he retired on 1 January 1872, Stanley replaced him. Stanley was re-designated Colonial Architect in the following year and instructed to limit his private practice to competitive designs. The demand for his services from private and public clients proved difficult to resist, however, and in October 1877 he resigned but was bought off with an increase in salary. In October 1880 he again resigned to undertake the Queensland National Bank in Brisbane, but was persuaded to remain in post until July 1881, commencing independent practice in his own Temple Buildings in August. In 1882 he opened a branch office at Maryborough under the supervision of his civil engineer cousin Walter Morris Eyre, born in Madras in 1858, who had been a draughtsman in the Brisbane Survey Office. This was moved to Toowoomba in 1885 but in 1887 the now hugely successful practice was concentrated at AMP Chambers, Edward Street, Brisbane.

Stanley was admitted FRIBA on 18 January 1886, his proposers being William Wilkinson Wardell, George Allen Mansfield and Thomas Rowe, all of Sydney, and became foundation president of the Queensland Institute of Architects in 1888. In 1890 Stanley was joined by his eldest son, Montague Talbot Stanley (born 1867), who had been sent to the office of a former colleague of his father’s at Brown & Wardrop’s, Frank Usher Holme in Liverpool, to complete his articles in 1888. He returned via America and in September 1891 married Mary, daughter of the railway engineer, shipowner and investor Sir Thomas Mcllwraith who became premier of Queensland in 1893. This briefly brought the Stanleys still greater financial security and standing in Queensland society. Both families were, however, hard hit by the recession of the 1890s, and in particular by the failure of their Borehill Colliery, in which the elder Stanley was a partner. He was forced into liquidation in 1895 and the contents of his house, Arden Craig, were auctioned on 30 April 1896. He managed to retain both his house and his practice, but lack of business induced him to rejoin the Queensland Public Works as a temporary inspector, leaving his son in charge of the practice. While engaged on official duties the elder Stanley caught a chill which brought about his death from pneumonia at Arden Craig on 26 May 1897. He was survived by his widow and eight children, of whom the second son, Edmund Walter Stanley (born 1870), also became an architect. He joined the Queensland Public Works Department when his father went into liquidation in 1896 and remained with it as an inspector of works until 1930 when he transferred to the Workers’ Dwelling Board.

Despite the tragedy of his last years Francis Stanley was much the most successful of the earlier Scottish colonial architects. His churches and Italianate and Gothic buildings strongly reflected the architecture of Brown & Wardrop, adapted to the Australian climate with verandahs and colonnades.
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**DIARY DATES 2016**

**Sunday 20th November 2016** AGM Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

**Saturday 10th December 2016** XMAS PARTY Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 9AM to 5PM XMAS PARTY, RSVP NEEDED BY 17TH NOVEMBER. 33598195
Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

**DIARY DATES 2017**

**Sunday 15th January 2017** Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

**Sunday 19th February 2017** Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

**Sunday 19th March 2017** Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

**Sunday 16th April 2017** Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary 33598195

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*Our grateful thanks for the support of the Brisbane City Council who have made available King George Square for the biggest free Scottish event in Australia*

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