

Doctors of Gympie

Dr Stephen John Joseph Burke
Second Doctor in Gympie
1867-1870

Written by Linda Atkinson



Gympie
Regional Libraries



A PROJECT OF THE LOCAL HISTORY SECTION GYMPIE REGIONAL LIBRARIES

Researched and written by Linda Atkinson for Gympie Regional Libraries between 2004 and 2016

Linda is a volunteer at the Gympie Regional Library and the Gympie Regional Gallery. She writes local history for both organisations.

In 2013, Linda wrote a short history of Hugo Du Rietz which is available at the Gallery and the Library. She recently completed a historical biography of Edward Bytheway. Both men made significant contributions to the development of Gympie between 1867 and 1908. Very little is known of these prominent 'fathers' of Gympie and certainly next to nothing has been written about them since they died.

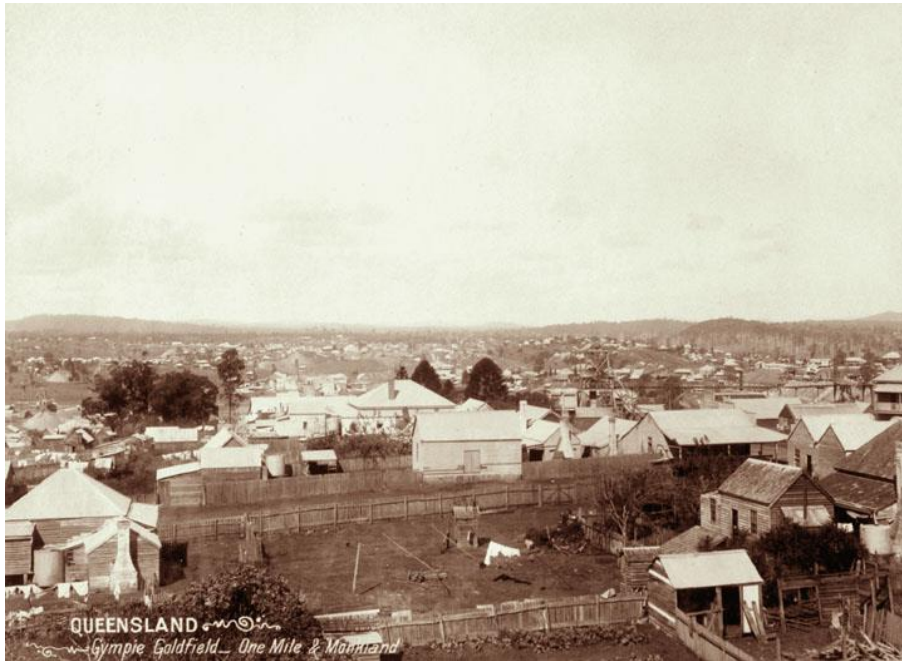
Linda retired from a high level senior executive career in Canberra in 2004. Since that time, she has had a range of volunteer positions in New South Wales, and from 2012, in Gympie. From 2012, Linda's volunteer work has included and continues:

- *Teacher Aide* at the Gympie State High School working with intellectually disabled and autistic children, and more recently working with students in years 7, 8, 9 and 11 in literacy and English communications.
- *Coordinator and Convener* for the five annual Gympie Workshops for Cancer Patients as part of the national and international Look Good Feel Better Program.
- *Chief Researcher, Archivist and Manager* for the Troizen Archaeological Project, Greece (the project is ongoing). In June 2013, she produced the first information booklet for the Project which was presented to the Greek Prime Minister and other Greek Ministers of the Government and Senior Ephorate Officials later that month.
- *Chief Researcher, Writer and Editor* with Sydney author David Hill in the writing of a number of Australian history books (in 2015 he dedicated one of these books to her).
- *Chief Researcher and Administrative Manager* for work being undertaken by the International Association for the Return of the Parthenon Sculptures (IARPS) to have these sculptures returned to Greece.

Linda had a very successful career as Senior Executive with the Australian Federal Government and the ACT Government. She was also a deputy President and Council Member of the Australian Institute of Public Administration; a Business Manager for a national company; Head of Secretariat and Researcher for a number of high level Government Inquiries including the writing and delivery of public reports tabled in the Australian Federal Parliament, and the ACT Government. Linda has also worked overseas for the Australian Federal Government, and in high level sensitive areas of the Departments of Defence, Treasury, and Prime Minister and Cabinet.

She served as Secretary for the Murrumbateman Bush Fire Brigade in NSW and was a fully trained and active member of that brigade; Treasurer of the Yass Classical Musical Club, and Assistant to Archaeologists on major archaeological projects in Jordan and Syria. For three years, Linda was the Assistant Manager of the National Cool Clime Wine Show which handled around 800 entries for judging, and she wrote the first Practice Manual for a Yass Doctor's Clinic where she worked as Practice Manager for 12 months.

Sincere thanks to Beth Wilson Head of the Local History Section at the Gympie Regional Library who assisted me in the preparation of this history and gave me guidance at all times when needed.



Gympie Goldfields and Monkland, Gympie Region ¹

¹ By Lands Department, Survey of Lands Branch, Photographic Branch [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Contents

Chapter 1 The Gympie of Dr Burke.....	1
Chapter 2 The Family Burke	8
Chapter 3 Matters Medical	20
Chapter 4 Other Contributions by Dr. Burke to Gympie, Toowoomba and Region	45
Chapter 5 Dr. Burke Departs Gympie for Melbourne	57
Chapter 6 Dr Burke's Death and Death of his Wife	62
Appendices.....	68
BIBLIOGRAPHY and FURTHER READING	71



2

Dr Stephen John Joseph Burke

² Book of Remembrance, 1956 - 1975; Royal Women's Hospital Archives Victoria. Collection of biographies written by Dr Colin Macdonald during 1953-1956 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Women's Hospital and subsequently added to by his colleagues. 2 Volumes. Biography of Dr Burke: prepared by Robyn Waymouth; created: 31 July 2006, Last modified 26 November 2006

Chapter 1 The Gympie of Dr Burke

When Dr. Stephen Burke came to Gympie in 1867 to offer his medical services, it was a town of a lot of activity dappled with newly pegged gold mines and alluvial gold mining prospectors. A man, an old hand of gold rushes, who had made his way to Gympie from the Victorian gold diggings described what he saw when he arrived: "I found hundreds of wooden edifices erected, and hundreds of others in the process of erection...houses are being plentifully built here; in fact there are two separate towns on Gympie Creek, a mile asunder...last night a nugget weighing eighty pounds, Troy, was taken out of an alluvial claim. I am thoroughly convinced that gold will be found in large quantities from this to the range, and that all we want is experienced men with capital to prospect the country. The most perfect order prevails throughout Nashville. I have not, during several days, seen one drunken man. Complaints are being made by the storekeepers that 'the thing is being overdone.' But this is only temporary, for I passed numbers on the way up, and the influx of capitalists to work the reefs will bring all things to equilibrium. The means of living are moderate. Six shillings [equivalent to \$42 in 2016³] per head for fat sheep is not exactly out of the way. Flour is the great drawback, but that difficulty will speedily vanish."⁴

Dr. Burke came to a town in its beginnings. It was overflowing with miners, gold, no facilities, and injuries and accidents typical of a mining town. Another doctor, Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne, had also arrived shortly before Dr. Burke, and they worked more or less together on the gold fields. Somewhat the opposite in character to Dr. Burke, Dr. Byrne was a colourful character who seemed to enjoy a good argument, a good verbal or physical fight, and a good lot to drink.

James Nash discovered gold in Gympie on 30 October 1867 and Gympie was officially declared a gold field. The colony of Queensland, less than eight years old, had been experiencing drought. The economy was in severe recession. A good many men trekked the roads looking for employment. James Venture Mulligan who was in Armidale at the time saw 'the working or labouring class, strong men and healthy, coming through Armidale in groups, penniless, seeking employment'⁵ Mulligan went to Gympie when gold was discovered and had moderate success there before he went to northern Queensland in 1869 for the Gilbert River gold.

Over time, Gympie had around 63 operating mines, and 'it would seem as though the people had caught the gold-fever in its most virulent form.'⁶ Within six months of

³ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁴ The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939), Saturday 15 February 1868, page 9, The Miner Gympie Gold Fields from a correspondent, Gympie February 7 1868

⁵ On the Trail of Gold. The Story of James Venture Mulligan North Queensland's Greatest Prospector-Explorer. An Autobiography quoted by Glenville Pike with Commentary. Glenville Pike 1998. Printed by Watson Ferguson & Company Brisbane. Page 2.

⁶ The Brisbane Courier 8 and 11 November 1867

the discovery of gold in 1867, around 16,000 people were in Gympie: all seeking their fortune or in some way associated with the support and control of the miners and the goldfield operations. The town was inhabited mostly by men, although with the promise of rich yields from the gold field, some men sent for their wives and families to join them. There were few women in Gympie in the early days.

If not involved in mining for the gold, there were those that provided supplies, equipment, entertainment and recreation; treatment for health issues and sickness; keeping peace in the town; farmers establishing agricultural industries to feed the miners and the rest of the population; others that planned, designed and built infrastructure for the developing town.

Gympie gold mines were giving up tonnes of gold, in fact, 'Nash's Gully gave up 84,792 ounces [2,404 kilograms] in its first year...at one stage it was estimated that there were 16,000 men on the field...the alluvial gold soon worked out...batteries to crush the quartz began to arrive in 1868'.⁷ From 1868 to the end of 1878, Gympie had produced 666,564 ounces of gold [18,897 kilograms]. Gympie became the town that saved Queensland from bankruptcy following the severe period of drought and financial crisis from around 1862. At separation from New South Wales in 1859, the new Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, had found only 7½d.(equivalent to \$4 in 2016⁸)in the Treasury coffers!

The same old hand of the gold rushes also observed that 'the duties of the two Commissioners are very arduous. They are never out of their office from 8 to 5 o'clock; the police business greatly interferes with their more immediate duties. I am told that a Government surveyor is looking for another road to Brisbane; I trust he is competent, for I am perfectly certain that an excellent route could be discovered not very far from the present one. From what I hear, however, the search is being made in a wrong direction. It is pleasing to contemplate a way out of Queensland's difficulties. The way lies before us now. Not in the old figurative speech, but in beaming reality; "a mine of wealth" is ours. May our rulers possess and exhibit the truly golden faculty of making the most of that which Providence so bounteously has laid before them'⁹.

Some of Gympie's population exited between 1869 and 1872, as the Ravenswood and Charters Towers gold rushes attracted many men, and later the Palmer River's Rush of 1873, 1874 and 1875 did the same.

However in 1868, "About five-and-thirty pounds [\$4,919 in today's currency¹⁰] had been obtained for the erection of a hospital, when a tree fell upon an unfortunate man, breaking his two shoulder-blades and crushing in his breast-bone. It was impossible to convey him to Maryborough (50 miles or 80 kilometres), so £5

⁷ Carroll, Brian Australian Mines and Miners. The MacMillan Company of Pty Ltd 1977. Page 28

⁸ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁹ The Miner, Gympie Creek Goldfields. The Queenslander 15 February 1868

¹⁰ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

[equivalent to \$703 in 2016¹¹] of the hospital-money was devoted to procure him medical and other aid. Such was the misappropriation of the hospital fund. There are three or four medical gentlemen on the diggings, among them our friend Dr. Burke, of Brisbane, who will soon be as great a favorite here as we know him to be in the metropolis. His amiable manners, his ability in his profession, his practical sagacity in administering to the mind as well as to the body (an incalculable advantage in a medical attendant) will very speedily speak for themselves on the diggings. In fact, although he has been here but a very short time, I have reason to know that his success is 'a fact accomplished'.¹²

In 1868, the gold diggings yet in their infancy, had large nuggets being found. This gave men great encouragement for their search for gold and the establishment of their mines. Gympie seems to have been fortunate in having Gold Commissioners who were seen by most of the population as making fair decisions and always with even tempers. Gympie, located roughly half way along the Mary River, was a town developing at a fast rate. A traveller once described the surrounds of Gympie: 'as you approach Gympie, the country becomes much more picturesque than it had previously been. The hills are steeper and higher, and are clothed with much larger and thicker growth of timber.'¹³ Gympie suffered a record flood in June 1870, three years after the discovery of gold. Many businesses and homes were washed away, and even places that were established and successful dairy and cattle farms suffered. Redwater fever (tick fever) affected the cattle, killing most of them. Some farmers believed that the tailings from the goldmines were polluting the water and therefore ruining the growth of good pasture for their animals.

In 1868, three months after the opening of the gold fields, Gympie 'was a crude town although there had been remarkable strides in dwelling comforts from the hastily pitched bark shanties and tents...there were a number of "shops" as distinct from businesses carried on in the ordinary humpies.' 'Calton Hill, Palatine and Surface Hill were thickly dotted with tents.' Snakes were the worst menace, and there were often snakes in the rafters of the roofs of the bark humpies, and there were Jumper Ants. The scrub was being cleared and there were some wild cats, but not enough to deal with the plagues of mice and rats in Gympie.

'There were many blacks around Gympie in the early days of the settlement but within a few months they had been concentrated in their own camps.'¹⁴ Many of them were massacred: 'some white men often regarded the Aborigines as scarcely human and thought nothing of shooting them if they posed a threat, real or imaginary.'¹⁵ Many massacres took place in the Gympie and Wide Bay District.

¹¹ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

¹² The Miner, Gympie Creek Goldfields. The Queenslander 15 February 1868

¹³ Carnell, Ian G.A History of Gympie, 1867-1900, page 2 which is from C.H. Allen, A Visit to Queensland and her Goldfields (London:Chapman and Hall, 1870, page 129

¹⁴ Gympie's Jubilee 1867 – 1917 The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Special Issue 1 July 1985, page 44

¹⁵ Pedley, Ian Winds of Change. 100 Years in Widgee Shire. Commissioned by the Widgee Shire Council in its centenary year. Published by the Gympie Times March 1979. Page 19.

With the discovery of gold in Gympie in 1867, maritime traffic increased dramatically through the Great Sandy Strait as Maryborough became established as a port. This increased exposure of the local Aboriginal people to the white man and sailors. During this period sailors caused many Aboriginal people to become addicted to opium. The white men also introduced many pernicious diseases, including venereal diseases. Many white men at that time regarded killing Aboriginal people as a sport.

So many people had rushed to the goldfield, it became necessary to have a Customs House in Maryborough and a Quarantine Station at North White Cliffs (Ballargan).

Amenities of life were rudimentary and not abundant, though there were around 23 hotels or public houses in Gympie during the gold rush days. Mary Street had up to 43 pubs in it at one time in the early days. Drinking could be balanced off with sports, going to the circus when it was in town, or listening to the Oddfellows' Band. Provisions and other supplies came to Gympie mostly from Maryborough with bullock teams pulling up to four tons of goods. Most of the roads were crude tracks and there was little proper drainage. There was no real road out of Gympie, and getting to Brisbane was via Noosa and then by sea, usually on the steamship *Culgoa*. Despite being on the Mary River, clean water was scarce in Gympie. Water tanks could be made from zinc-lined drapery cases; people had to draw water from the river in kerosene tins; tanks covered with bark kept water as cool as ice; candle boxes 'with bark tacked around and with a wet bag continuously applied to the top; wash tubs were barrels obtained from hotels and sawn in two; beds were made of sticks and palings with mattresses stuffed with dried grass.'¹⁶ 'The spiritual needs for this community of mixed races- Aboriginals, Englishmen, Irishmen, Scots, Chinese, Welshmen-brought about the opening of the Churches on the gold fields by the Methodists, and Roman Catholics in the Digger's Bethel (Meth.) and Catholic Church.'¹⁷

Up until the 1870 flood, Gympie was a town of tents, grass or bark huts and slab bark huts which served as homes, stores, or banks. An electric light works in Nash Street soon became established.

Gympie experienced devastation during that flood, much as it does nowadays when major floods occur. A sample of historic photos shows how it looked back in the 1870s:

¹⁶ Gympie's Jubilee 1867 – 1917 The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Special Issue 1 July 1985, page 56

¹⁷ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School 1869-1969, page 25



Central Mary Street inundated with floodwater in 1870¹⁸



Timber houses submerged in the Gympie floods, 1870¹⁹

¹⁸ Queensland State Library (StateLibQld 1 96088)

¹⁹ Photo courtesy of Local History Section Gympie Regional Library



Floods in the Gympie area in 1870²⁰

After the 1870 flood, Hugo Du Rietz became the town's architect. This began the advent of buildings of structural beauty and permanence, some of which remain today. Dr. Burke was leaving Gympie for Melbourne just as a lot of reconstruction was occurring after that flood. It is not known what kind of losses Dr. Burke suffered during this flood, although one can imagine it may have been a devastating prospect for him to continue to stay. He and his wife had experienced the sad and distressing loss of three sons between July 1868 and August 1870.

The physical damage and impact of the June 1870 flood was accompanied by a financial panic as bank after bank closed their doors. Banks in Gympie affected were 'the Queensland National, the Australian Joint Stock Bank and the Royal. The other banks also restricted advances or practically cut them off, and so no calls were forthcoming to carry on operations and even companies on gold found it impossible to proceed as their bank balances had for the time been locked up. Under these circumstances, the outlook for mining was bad and most prospecting ventures had perforce to close down.²¹ Everyone wanted to ensure they had their money with them, so there was an attempted run on the banks for cash.

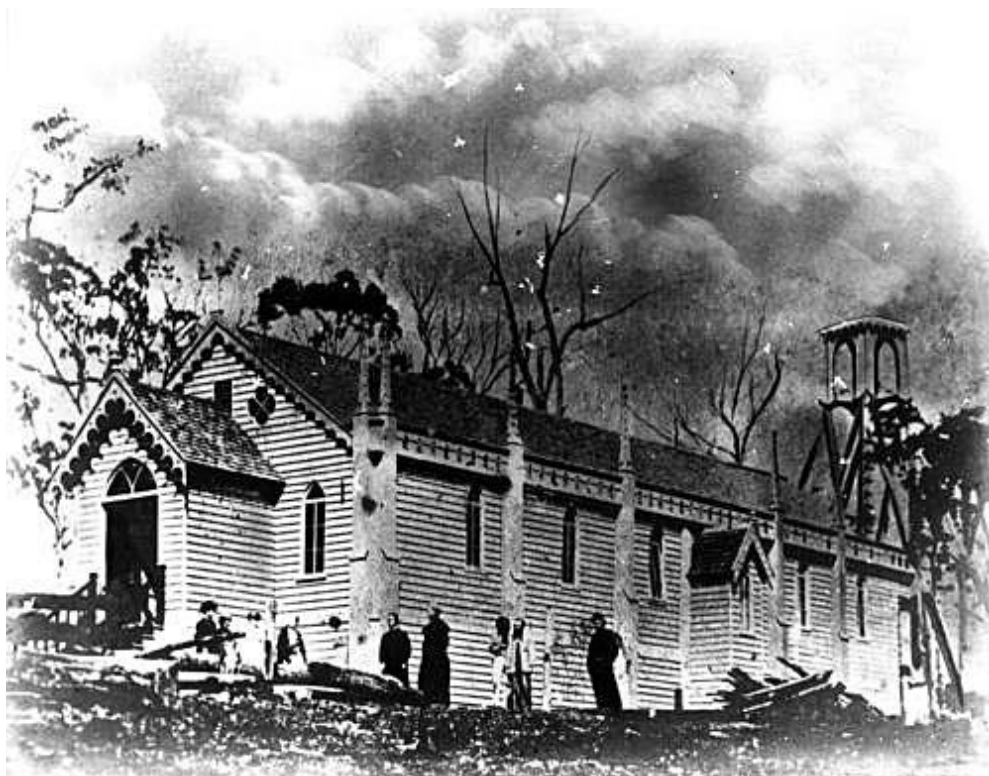
The devastation was tremendous as mines were flooded, businesses ruined, serious loss of fruit and other crops sustained, and heavy loss of livestock endured. Such circumstances combined with the grief from the loss of his sons would have not given Dr. Burke heart to remain in Gympie. He had stayed for three years 'always ready to help the afflicted'²² and generous in his donations to the Gympie Hospital and St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. In 1867, Roman Catholic Church services

²⁰ State Library of Queensland State Lib Qld 1 159247

²¹ Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927 Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 32.

²² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 October 1870

were held in a tent, until, in 1868 a new church was erected. By the time Dr. Burke left Gympie, his congregation had a rather lovely iron church.



The first St Patrick's Catholic Church, Gympie, c.1870²³

Dr. Burke became very involved in the community life of Gympie almost immediately on his arrival, and continued to do so right up until he made the decision to depart Gympie for Melbourne.

²³ Photograph: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

Chapter 2 The Family Burke

Dr. Burke-From Ireland to Australia

Stephen John Joseph Burke was born in Killarney, Kerry, Ireland in 1836 and was baptised on 17 February 1836 at the Roman Catholic Church in Killarney, Kerry, Ireland. His father's name was Stephen Burke and his mother's name was Julia Blake.²⁴ He had two older sisters, Julia born in 1833, and Ellenora born in 1834.

Following service in the Crimean War between 1853 and 1855 with the Royal Navy, he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) in 1856. From information relating to Royal Navy Surgeons, Dr. Burke was promoted to Assistant Surgeon on 7 February 1857.

Dr. Burke was away from England for four years from 1857, during which he would come to know reasonably well most of the settlements of Australia at that time. He spent time in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Norfolk Island. This experience was afforded him as Surgeon Superintendent on board *HMS Cordelia*, which had been refitted in Devonport in April/May 1857. Between 1858 and 1861 with the *HMS Cordelia's* dockings, he spent a total of some 16 months in Sydney, 1 month in Brisbane, almost 1 month in Melbourne, and some days in Newcastle. In all, he had a chance to experience Australia and its way of life over a period of 18 months.

The ship left England to arrive in Sydney on 28 July 1858. It was to be a busy and eventful voyage. This first voyage held Dr. Burke over in Sydney for around a month until 21 August 1858. On that voyage, *HMS Cordelia*²⁵ had sailed to Sydney via South Africa, Kuria Muria (a group of five islands in the Arabian Sea), Bombay, and Trincomalee (in Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon). Dr. Burke was again in Sydney on *HMS Cordelia* from 6 January 1859 to 15 February 1859, and on that voyage the *HMS Cordelia* stopped in Newcastle where it docked from 17 to 20 February, then sailed back again to Sydney on 21 February, staying some four months until 16 June.

HMS Cordelia spent the rest of June 1859 at Norfolk Island, and then sailed back to Sydney to stay there between 8 July and 6 August. The '*HMS Cordelia* under Captain Vernon, arrived from Trincomalee and is now refitting.'²⁶ The voyage next took *HMS Cordelia* to New Caledonia, then back to Sydney between 25 November to 3 December 1858, then sailed to Melbourne. It docked in Brisbane during January 1860, sailing back to Sydney, arriving there on 19 February 1860. Dr. Burke had another couple of months in Sydney until the ship finally sailed again on 6 April for New Zealand, arriving in Taranaki on 17 April 1860.

²⁴ Ancestry.com. Ireland, Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911. Index. Salt Lake City, Utah:

²⁵ <http://www.worldnavalships.com/forums/showthread.php?t=13363>

²⁶ The Sydney Morning Herald 10 August 1858, article entitled H.M. Ships in Port, and On the Station

In Taranaki, Dr. Burke with the captain and crew, had sailed right into the Maori Wars. Here, the *HMS Cordelia* landed armed parties to join the naval brigade already there, and continued to engage in the bombardment of enemy positions around Warea; undertook ship shuttling between Wellington, Taranaki and Manakau, Waitara and Auckland; moved men, stores and weapons; and carried despatches and mail. From the 1840s to the 1870s British and colonial forces fought to open up the rest of the North Island for settlement.



Photograph of HMS Cordelia 1881

The Maoris fiercely defended their lands from a takeover by the British. Although the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840, contested issues of sovereignty continued and there was an ever decreasing willingness on the part of the Maori to sell land to the New Zealand Government. The new king had made great efforts to unite the Maori tribes against the British. All the while pressure increased for land to be available for the rapidly growing number of European settlers. Many Maoris died defending their land; others allied themselves with the colonists for various reasons, often to settle old scores. Dr. Burke's two years' medical and surgical experience in the Crimean War would have been useful in these bitter wars.

HMS Cordelia arrived back in Sydney on 7 May 1861, and the ship readied for another voyage back to the besieged New Plymouth in New Zealand. The ship arrived in New Plymouth on 24 May 1861, stayed for another period of time, then sailed to Auckland, and finally voyaged back to Sydney arriving on 15 July 1861. By early 1860 New Plymouth had become an armed camp. Many settlers from the surrounding district moved into town for protection. Soon diseases such as scarlet fever posed a greater threat than warfare. By the time a truce was signed in March

1861 about 120 inhabitants of New Plymouth had died of disease in 1860. The painting by Edwin Harris shows a besieged New Plymouth.²⁷



The painting is by Edwin Harris shows New Plymouth besieged.²⁸

With Dr. Burke still on board, *HMS Cordelia* began its journey back to England from Sydney on 23 November 1861. The ship was diverted to Saint Ysabel Island, in the Solomon Islands to investigate an alleged incident of a white child being kidnapped by locals, which later proved to be false. The ship rounded Cape Horn on 1 January 1862, stopped off at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands and arrived in Plymouth England on 24 March 1862.

During Dr. Burke's absence from England for four years, he had gained familiarity of colonial Australia and colonial New Zealand. At the time he decided to return to live in Australia, the British had sent some 12,000 imperial troops to invade and overcome the Maori warriors, who by that time had been fairly decimated. He stayed on in England for just on eight months and then made his way back to Brisbane on the *HM Wanata*.

The *HM Wanata* left 'London on 2 November [1862], Queenstown November 12 [1862], crossed the line December 8 [1862], was in the longitude of the Cape on January 2 and made the run thence to Tasmania in 28 days...the very large numbers of passengers conveyed by her arrived in the most satisfactory state of health, and the casualties very few, even the temporary ailings during the voyage being much below the average, with one exception, of all these were young and weakly children. The only adult casualty was that of a young man who was consumptive when he embarked and whose life had been altogether despaired of...it may be imagined also

²⁷ Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa. [New Zealand History on Line Taranaki and Waikato wars - New Zealand Wars <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/the-new-zealand-wars>]

²⁸ Credit Alexander Turnbull Library Reference: C-030-010 Permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa. [New Zealand History on Line Taranaki and Waikato wars - New Zealand Wars <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/the-new-zealand-wars>]

that amongst so large a number of passengers, the position of surgeon was by no means a sinecure. Dr. Burke, who has come out, we are informed to take up his abode in the colony, is not a stranger as he was surgeon on *HMS Cordelia*, which in 1859 conveyed Sir George Bowen to Brisbane. So well has he performed his arduous duties that a proposition to express the respect and obligations of the passengers was as warmly received as that to Captain Murphy [captain of the *Wanata*]. Both the testimonials were presented at 10am on Wednesday February 11 on the poop, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. Very hearty demonstrations of applause expressed the sympathy of the passengers with the proceedings of the day, and with a vote of thanks to the chairman and three hearty huzzahs for the colony ... the monotony of the three months' sojourn on board the ship was diversified by concerts, dancing &c...'.²⁹

Dr. Burke arrived on 19 February 1863 on the *HM Wanata* in Queensland as an immigrant.³⁰ It is quite likely that Dr. Burke had come out under the immigrant program of the Queensland Immigration Society. The generosity of spirit that Dr. Burke became known for in Australia was evident as he served as surgeon on the passage to Australia. Further 'the whole of the passengers by this vessel were brought up to Brisbane in the steamers *Brisbane* and *Samson*. In all they number 636 individuals, about one-half of whom came out under the auspices of the Queensland Immigration Society. They all seem a very respectable class of people, and are all in excellent health. Only seven deaths occurred during the passage, all of which, with the single exception of a young man who was ill with consumption before he embarked were infants. But as a sort of counterbalance to this mortality, there were five births. This vessel is remarkable for having brought the largest number of immigrants ever landed on our shores from one ship, and also, when everything is taken in consideration, for the small number of casualties.'³¹

The Family of Marian Allen-Dr. Burke's Wife

At age 28, Dr. Burke married Marian Allen in Toowoomba, Queensland on 29 December 1864. It was marriage registration 000098.³² Marian born in January 1848 in Falmouth Cornwall, District of Mylor, was just 16 years old at the time of her marriage. The notice of their marriage appeared in the *Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser of 31 December 1864*:

MARRIAGE,
On the 29th inst., at Toowoomba, Stephen J. Burke,
M. D., J. P., son of the late Captain Burke, 47th Regiment,
to Marian, daughter of the late Robert Allen, Falmouth,
England.

²⁹ The Brisbane Courier 20 February 1863

³⁰ The Brisbane Courier 20 February 1863

³¹ The Brisbane Courier 20 February 1863

³² Ancestry.com. Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1950 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

Some background on Marian Allen's family has been established. The 1841³³ census of the parish of Falmouth Cornwall, shows her living in Killebrew Street in Falmouth, Cornwall, Marian's grandmother Anne Allen with others:

- Head of House Anne Allen (Independent) aged 55;
- George Allen (Merchant) aged 23;
- Richard Cooper, aged 10; and
- House servant Mary Gregory, aged 25.

By 1851, Anne Allen's house at 320 Killebrew Street Falmouth, went from having four people living there to twelve. This included her son Robert and his wife Mary Anne (nee Cooper), their four children, a 20 year old granddaughter, and four servants. The family home remained at the 320 Killebrew Street address shown in the 1841 Census.

In the Census records³⁴, the head of the household is shown as widowed grandmother Ann Allen (born in Redruth Cornwall, aged 65) described as Spirit Dealer. Also living here were Marian's parents and her siblings. The Census shows:

- son, Robert Allen (born in Falmouth Cornwall, aged 30, married, described as a Brewer and Wine Merchant in Falmouth);
- daughter in law, Mary Anne Allen (daughter in law, born in Oporto Portugal as a British Subject, aged 25 and married to Robert Allen. Robert and Mary are Marian Allen's parents);
- grandson William Allen (born in Falmouth Cornwall; aged 1);
- granddaughter Marian Allen (born in Falmouth Cornwall; aged 3);
- granddaughter Emma Allen (born in Falmouth Cornwall; Scholar in Falmouth, aged 5);
- granddaughter Agnes Allen (born in Falmouth Cornwall; Scholar in Falmouth, aged 6);
- granddaughter Ann Hollocombe (born in Falmouth Cornwall, unmarried, occupation not stated, aged 20);
- house servants all from Cornwall: Mary Gregory (also an assistant in the Spirit Shop, aged 36), Janet Opie (aged 22), Harriet Hensch, aged 21, and Henry Toy, aged 18.

Richard Cooper, a wine merchant, (age 54, born in Falmouth Cornwall) was at the house on the day that Census was undertaken, but it seems that he was the same Richard Cooper who had been living at Killebrew Street shown in the 1841 Census.³⁵

The Cornwall census of 1861³⁶ (Parliamentary Borough of Penryn Falmouth, Town Falmouth) shows the family still living at the same Killebrew Street address, but Marian's father, Robert, had died in 1857. Marian's grandmother, Ann Allen, widow,

³³ Public Record Office HO 107/154/5 Enumeration Schedule 1841 Census for Cornwall England

³⁴ Public record

³⁵ Ancestry.com

³⁶ Public Record Office RG 9/1565

aged 76, Spirit Dealer, is shown again as the head of the household. Also living with her:

- daughter in law Mary Anne Allen, now a widow, aged 34
- granddaughter Emma Allen, scholar, aged 16, unmarried
- granddaughter Marian Allen, scholar, aged 13, unmarried
- grandson William Allen, scholar, aged 11
- grandson Robert Allen, scholar, aged 9
- granddaughter Annie Allen, scholar aged 7
- granddaughter Bessie Cooper, scholar, aged 5
- grandson Frank Trevethan, scholar, aged 4
- house servant Jane Tracidder, unmarried, aged 22
- house servant Elizabeth Edwards, unmarried, aged 18

Marian would have been constantly surrounded by a lot of family members throughout her life. Later when she was living in Victoria, her brothers William, Robert and Frank all lived reasonably close by to her, as possibly did Bessie. Bessie died seven years after Marian and her husband Dr. Burke, arrived to live in Melbourne. The records show no evidence of Marian's brothers marrying, so maybe Marian may have had some kind of matriarchal role when it came to her brothers.

Of her siblings:

Emma: At age 21 Emma married Englishman (born in Gloucester) James Watts Grimes on 25 June 1867 in Queensland, and they had six children. They both returned to England in 1891 and were living in Knapton, Norfolk. They moved to Fladbury, Worcestershire in 1901. The 1911 England Census³⁷ shows them living at 54 Westbourne Villas Hove Sussex. They must have been running a hotel or boarding house as twenty-four people are shown living at the same address, including their second youngest child, Gertrude Mary and her husband Edwin Stanley Sturdee. James Watts died there in 1912, and Emma died on 18 May 1921 in Kent England. Their children were: Mabel born in 1868, Leonard Avery born in 1869, Martha Marion born in 1870, James Watts born in 1871 and died in Queensland in 1872, Gertrude Mary born in 1872, and Henry Gordon born in 1874.

William: William never married and it seems he may have stayed in Melbourne, dying in Hotham (North Melbourne) in 1886, aged 36. By this time Marian and Dr. Burke were also living in Hotham, so Marian had her brother living close by.

Robert: Robert also had no spouse, and it seems he also made his life in Victoria. He died on 1 November 1929, aged 77. Robert was also living not far away from Marian.

³⁷ Ancestry.com 1911 England Census [database on-line] Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry .com operations, Inc 2011, from the original data Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911. Kew, Surrey, England. The National Archives of the UK (TNA), 1911

Bessie: Information on what happened to Bessie has not been forthcoming. Some records indicate that it is possible she may have married Richard Goodall in Victoria in 1889.

Annie: Annie Allen also came to Victoria to live, marrying at the age of 17 in 1871, Henry Seymour, who was originally from Odiham, Hampshire, England. Their five children were all born in Odiham, Hampshire, England, which suggests that they would have gone back to England soon after they were married. Their children were Alice Helen (1872 to 1960); Annie Allen (1874-1950); Margaret Howard (1877-1960); Constance Mary (1878-1878 Constance only lived for a few days); and Bertha Mabel (1882-1979). Annie died aged 31 in 1885, three years after her last born, and is buried in Odiham Cemetery. Henry was a widower until 1890 when he married May Powell at St Peters, Croydon, Surrey, England. He had two more children, Natalie (1892-1977) and Esther Muriel (1895-1948). He died aged 63 in 1906 in Odiham; May died in 1946, aged 89. The record of marriage of Henry Seymour to May Powell is shown. Annie married a banker, for he is shown as a Bank Manager on the marriage record³⁸. May is recorded as being a musician.

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Place at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
1882	Feb. 15 th 1890	Henry Seymour	46	Widower	Bank Manager	Croydon	John George Seymour	Banker
		Mary Powell	32	Spinster		St. Peter's Croydon	Henry Mills Powell	Musician

Marrried in the Church of St. Peter according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence ...
 This Marriage was solemnized between us, Henry Seymour and Mary Powell in the presence of us, H. C. Powell, B. M. Powell, J. White

Marriage record of Henry Seymour to May Powell on 15 February 1890

Of the four living children of Henry and Annie, only Bertha married. She married Bernard Hamilton Ormsby in July 1909. They had one child a son, in 1912, Denis S.H. Ormsby, who never married, dying at the age of 26 in December 1938.

Frank Trevethan: Frank did not marry during his life in Victoria, dying young at the age of 33 in 1890, in the township of Donald. Marian and Frank were separated by 286 kilometres, this being the distance between Donald and Melbourne.

Marian's mother had been born, Mary Anne Cooper in Norbugae, Oporto in Portugal in 1827. The Census shows that Mary Anne was married to Robert Allen by 1851. Until the age of 34, she lived with her family in Falmouth Cornwall. Marian's father Robert Allen died in 1857, when he was just 36 years old. Mary Anne then 30 years of age, was left to support their eight children. Four years after his death, Mary Anne emigrated to Australia with her eight children: Emma aged 17, Marian aged 14, William aged 12, Robert aged 10, Bessie Cooper aged 7, Annie aged 8, and Frank Trevethan aged 5, arriving in Melbourne on 14 October 1862 on the *Prince of*

³⁸ <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/16469794/person/1797681471/fact/16403528388>

Wales.³⁹

So Marian was with her mother and her siblings in 1862, when they came to Australia. They had sailed from Plymouth.⁴⁰ Of Marian's siblings, only William, Robert, Bessie and Frank remained in Australia for the rest of their lives. They lived in Victoria either in Melbourne or not too far away from Melbourne. Annie and Emma went back to England with their respective spouses.

Mary Anne Allen stayed in Australia for some time. Records show she died in Fladbury, Worcestershire, England in 1901 aged 74. She will have returned to be close by to her daughter Emma who had moved back to Knapton, Norfolk, England with her spouse, James Watts Grimes, in 1891. Emma and James moved to Fladbury, Worcestershire in 1901. The 1901 England Census⁴¹ of 31 March 1901, shows Mary Anne listed as Mary Anne Allen (aged 75), mother in law, living in the household at 'The Chantry' with her daughter Emma (aged 54), Emma's spouse James W. Grimes (aged 57) and two servants Susan J Underwood (aged 42) and Louisa Chance (aged 30). Marian would have been 53 years old when her mother died, and 9 years old when her father died. It is clear that Mary Anne died sometime after March 1901, but the exact date has been unable to be established.

The published obituary for Marian Burke, when she died aged 88 on 23 December 1935, recorded that 'she came to Australia in 1862...[and] she met Dr. Burke when she was on a visit to Gympie, then an important mining centre. Dr. Burke afterward practised at Toowoomba(Q) for some time.'⁴² From the obituary, it is not clear just when Marian met Dr. Burke, as Gympie was not established as a township and mining centre until 1867 after gold was discovered in October 1867. Dr. Burke and Marian moved to Gympie in late 1867, leaving Toowoomba where he had a well-established medical practice and was a popular community identity. Their second son was born in Toowoomba at the beginning of June 1867. Their arrival in Gympie would have been not long after the birth of this son.

It may be possible to deduce that Dr. Burke may have met Marian either in Toowoomba, or in Brisbane where he had established his first medical practice after arriving in Australia in Brisbane on 19 February 1863. It may be possible they met in 1862 in England before Marian went to Australia with her mother in 1862. He arrived back in England on 24 March 1862, after four years' absence. During this time he spent some considerable time in Australia while his ship was docked.

He and Marian married on 29 December 1864 in Toowoomba, so they must have met each other sometime between 24 March 1862 and their wedding day of 29 December 1864. They would have had to have met at least by August 1864, this

³⁹ Ancestry.com All Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923

⁴⁰ The Melbourne Argus 28 December 1935

⁴¹ Ancestry.com The 1901 England Census Public Record Office Reference RG 13/2792 Census Returns of England and Wales, 1901. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives, 1901

⁴² The Argus (Melbourne) 28 December 1935.

being nine months before the birth of their first son in April 1865. These dates indicate that Marian, who was sixteen years old at the date of her marriage, must have been pregnant at the time of her marriage.

Dr. Burke and his wife originally lived in James Street Toowoomba (the section of the street which adjoined Flori's Prince of Wales Hotel), on 'valuable property' which adjoined a vacant allotment with a blacksmith, Mr. J. Hirst, who owned the property on the other side. The vacant allotment owned by a Mr. Charles Panter was put up for sale in October 1865.⁴³

Horses were valuable assets in Dr. Burke's day. They were ridden to attend injured or sick patients, or to those who could not attend surgery. On 4 April 1865, Dr. Burke was offering a £2 reward for one of his horses which had been lost from Yandilla Paddock, 'a large brown horse, star in forehead, black points branded under near....shod when lost. The above reward will be paid on delivery to S.J. BURKE, James Street.'⁴⁴

On 4 April 1865, Dr. Burke and his wife narrowly escaped serious injuries when he was driving their buggy in West Street, Mort Estate in Toowoomba. The 'horse shied at something on the side of the road and started off at a very smart pace. There was a great quantity of logs in this street, so Dr. Burke, in order to avoid a collision with a telegraphic post, had to turn the horse very sharply round; in doing so, he lost his balance, and was thrown out. As soon as the horse found the reins slackened, it started off at a furious pace to the end of the street, round the corner by Mr. Weale's, and down the Gowrie road, and very nearly to the culvert. All this time Mrs. Burke had never lost her presence of mind, and retained her seat in the buggy. Well until about two hundred yards this side of the culvert, the wheel came in contact with a telegraph post, and capsized completely on top of Mrs. Burke. The records show that their first son had been born on 3 April 1865, so it must be assumed that Mrs. Burke was in her immediate post birth period.

During his time in Gympie, Dr. Burke and his family lived in *Alpha Cottage* on Caledonian Hill.⁴⁵ *Alpha Cottage* was used for some time by Drs. R. Benson and W.H. Mondelet as a doctor's surgery from early November 1870, shortly after Dr. Burke left Gympie for Melbourne. It later became the home of Dr. T.E.D. Byrne. From various descriptions gleaned from *The Gympie Times*, it is known that Dr. Byrne had a red beard, and an assumption has been made that the man standing in the photo is Dr. Byrne, and the man seated on the ground being his brother, John Edgar Byrne, known as Bobby, proprietor of newspaper *Queensland Figaro and Punch*.

⁴³ The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 14 October 1865

⁴⁴ The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 12 April 1865 and 19 April 1865

⁴⁵ This photo is held in the collection of the Local History Section at the Gympie regional Library and is believed to have been taken in 1872. At one time following Dr. Burke's departure from Gympie, it became the house of Dr. T E D Byrne. It is believed that the bearded man is Dr. Byrne and the man seated on the ground, his brother, Bobby Byrne.



Photograph of Alpha Cottage taken in 1872 on the left.
Caledonian Hotel located on Caledonian Hill-a familiar sight for Dr Burke ⁴⁶

Between 1867 and 1871, within a period of 5 years, the Burkes lost the first three of their children, Robert Bernard, Stephen Joseph, and a son still born. The first six years of their married life must have been filled with a great deal of sadness and grief at the loss of these children. It would have been a distressing time for them. By July-August 1868, Dr. Burke and his wife had their two first born children die - one was three years old, the other just one year old. In August 1870, their next child, a son, was still born.

They had no more children during their time in Gympie. They were blessed with better luck with their babies born in Victoria. Including the children that were still born, the Burkes had seven children:

Robert Bernard Burke was born on 3 April 1865 in Toowoomba and died in Gympie on 13 August 1868. He died aged only three years old.

Stephen Joseph Burke was born in Toowoomba on 9 June 1867 and died on 20 July 1868. The *Brisbane Courier* of 8 August 1868 records in the death notices the death of Dr. Burke's second son, Stephen from diphtheria at the age of 13 months. The *Brisbane Courier* refers to Gympie as Nashville as it was still known at that time.

A son still born on 21 August 1870 in Gympie.⁴⁷

Walter Blake Burke was born in 1871 in Hotham (North Melbourne). He never married and died aged 71 in 1942 in Kew East, Victoria.

Agnes Julia Blake Burke born in 1873 in Hotham (North Melbourne) Victoria and died in 1943, aged 70. Agnes never married. She died just one year after her brother Walter.

Ida Mary Burke born 1875 in Hotham (North Melbourne). In 1899, when she was 24 years old, Ida married her father's colleague and partner in his medical practice, Dr. Gerald Baldwin, F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Dr. Burke and Dr. Baldwin were already close colleagues. In 1897 when Dr. Burke was seriously ill, Dr Burke had taken on Dr.

⁴⁶ 1869 photo of the Caledonian Hotel on Caledonian Hill

⁴⁷ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 24 August 1870

Baldwin as a medical practice partner to continue to run the practice. Dr. Baldwin continued to practice at Victoria Street, North Melbourne surgery when Dr. Burke died in 1898.

Ida's husband, Gerald died in 1942 at Glen Iris in Victoria, 16 years earlier than Ida who died on 5 August 1958 in Malvern Victoria, aged 83. Ida was a stay at home wife during all of the time she was married to Gerald. Their first child, Audrey Mary was born in 1900 in Hotham, but by the time their second child, Mary Constance, was born, they had moved to Hawthorn; their third child, Dorothy Stephanie was also born in Hawthorn, and their last and fourth child, Godfrey Joseph, was born in 1909 in Warrnambool. Gerald and Ida had moved around Victoria, living in Hotham to begin with, moving in 1909 to Banyan Street Warrnambool, then in 1919 to 368 Church Street Richmond, then in 1931 to 193 Burke Street Malvern (the same suburb as where her mother was living). Toward the end of her life, Mrs. Burke spent most of her time at her daughter's home, dying there in 1935.

Born in 1870 Dunedin, New Zealand, Gerald Baldwin graduated from Dunedin Boy's High School; lived in Germany for 18 months, and then worked in banking for a while until he began studying medicine at the age of 18 at the Otago University in New Zealand. He graduated at the age of 24 with his F.R.C.S. England in 1894, aged 24. Four years later he was working at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne where he was also the honorary Chloroformist. He established his own private practice, and with his family lived at Banyan Street, Corangamite, Warrnambool in Victoria, 368 Church Street Richmond in Victoria, and 193 Burke Road Malvern in Victoria between 1909 until his death in 1942. For around 12 months between 1918 and 1919, when he was 48 years old, he returned to Dunedin New Zealand, to undertake further medical training under Dr. McDunchl.

There are few photographs available of the Burke family, however a photo of Ida's husband was found⁴⁸:



Gerald and Ida had four children, the first, Audrey Mary was born in 1900, and died in 1972 in Malvern Victoria. Audrey worked as a typist and lived at 136 Burke Rd Malvern Victoria, and according to the records available, never married. Mary Constance, born in 1904, became a nurse and lived at home with her parents at Burke Road, as did her sister, Dorothy Stephanie who became an artist. Dorothy was born in 1906. Ida's youngest child Godfrey Joseph was born on 20 May 1909, was still

⁴⁸ <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/6460597/person/-1285236754>. Baldwin Family Tree

a student at age 22 (probably a university student), married at age 29 in 1939 to Patricia Mary McDonald Rice and died aged 63 in Sale in Victoria. Godfrey and Patricia married at St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne.

Bessie Blake Burke born in 1877 in Hotham (North Melbourne). On 13 June 1899, Dr. Burke's youngest daughter, Bessie Blake, was received as a novice into the Presentation Order of Nuns at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart. She received the name of Sister Mary Anthony (of Padua).⁴⁹ Dr. Burke's widow, Marian, was unable to attend.

⁴⁹ The Hobart Mercury 14 June 1899

Chapter 3 Matters Medical

Dr. Burke's medical experience over 40 years, was gained in the Crimean War; as a Ship's Surgeon; and general practice as a surgeon in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gympie and Melbourne. He was a man dedicated to healing and caring for his fellow man. The loss of his children may have made him an even more compassionate man than he already was. He certainly was a character sensitive to the immortality and sufferings of the human body and mind.

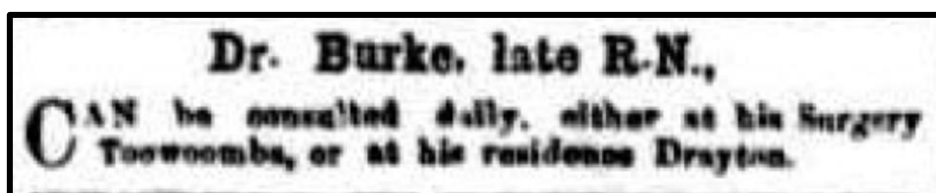
An article titled '*Medical Practitioners*', records Dr. Burke as enrolled 'up to January 1, 1867' and qualified to practice in Queensland under the *Medical Act of 1861*⁵⁰.

Details of Dr. Burke's other Medical Registration details are:

- In the Minutes 4 October 1859 of the New South Wales Medical Board, Dr. Burke was registered as Assistant Surgeon RN MRCSE. Although registered in New South Wales in 1859, Dr. Burke did not settle in Australia until 1863 when he emigrated to Queensland.
- Medical Directory for New South Wales and Queensland. Sydney, 1860.
- The Medical Society of Victoria records Dr Burke's registration as a doctor in the UK1862 (General Council of Medical Education and Registration UK [registered 26 April 1862), in Queensland in 1863 (No. 24).
- New South Wales Medical Board. Register of Medical Practitioners for 1869.
- Victoria in 1870 (No. 667)⁵¹

Biographical material, photographs and some of his letters are preserved in the Medical Society of Victoria Archives. Dr. Burke is included in an entry in Bruck's Australasian Medical Directory and Handbook, 1883, 1886⁵² as honorary medical officer Melbourne Lying-in Hospital, as honorary medical officer at Toowoomba and Gympie Hospitals, and as a former Royal Navy Assistant Surgeon RN.

Dr. Burke arrived in Brisbane in February 1863 and wasted no time becoming a popular medical doctor for the community. By 1864, Dr. Burke was practising at his surgery in Toowoomba and his residence in Drayton, near Toowoomba.⁵³



⁵⁰ The Brisbane Courier 28 January 1867

⁵¹ VicNet Victoria's Virtual Library <http://medicalpioneers.com/cgi-bin/index.cgi?detail=1&id=977>

⁵² Bruck, L. Australasian Medical Directory and Handbook, 1883, 1886

⁵³ The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 14 January 1864

In August 1867, Dr. Burke left Toowoomba for Brisbane. He arranged for his 'modern household furniture and effects, buggy, harness, horses etc. etc. to be sold by auction through agents Robinson and Grimes on 7 August 1867, at the Argyle Sale Rooms.⁵⁴ The Mayor of Drayton/Toowoomba, James Houston, William Armstrong a J.P. and Member of Queensland Parliament and 104 other citizens of the Toowoomba and Drayton district paid tribute to Dr. Burke, who was obviously very highly respected and regarded, in a testimonial dated 3 August 1867, Drayton:

'We, the undersigned inhabitants of Drayton, beg to express our deep regard at your departure from this district, where you have laboured so well and so efficiently, both in your professional capacity and as Justice of the Peace. You carry with you our universal esteem and regard, and our sincere wishes for your future prosperity and happiness.'⁵⁵

In mid-August 1867⁵⁶, he set up three consulting rooms: one in Brisbane in partnership with Dr. O'Doherty (the firm was named *O'Doherty and Burke*); and two in Gympie: Mary Street and One-Mile Creek. His Brisbane consulting room was in Queen Street, adjoining the Commercial Bank. The consulting hours were 8am to 11am; 3pm to 4pm; and 7pm to 8pm. Citizens of Brisbane had previously nominated him as a candidate for Queensland's Legislative Assembly. Dr. O'Doherty did indeed become a member of the Queensland Parliament, having been a member for 12 months by late September 1868, when he was contesting the seat of North Brisbane. However plans changed.

Dr. Burke's partnership with Dr. O'Doherty was dissolved on 31 March 1868.⁵⁷ He was required to do this because Dr. Kevin Izod O'Doherty was leaving Brisbane to go to England to take his place as the representative of North Meath in the British House of Commons. He was given a large farewell at Brisbane's Town Hall just before he left.⁵⁸ The public notice read as below:

⁵⁴ The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 27 July 1867

⁵⁵ The Brisbane Courier 9 August 1867

⁵⁶ The Queenslander 17 August 1867

⁵⁷ The Brisbane Courier 21 April 1868

⁵⁸ The Brisbane Courier 21 January 1868

Notice is hereby given, that the COPARTNERSHIP carried on for some time past at Brisbane by the undersigned as "Physicians and Surgeons" under the style or firm of "O'Doherty and Burke," was THIS DAY DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

All debts to the late firm are to be paid to Mt. Randall McDonnell, at the Consulting Rooms, Queen Street, by whom all the liabilities of the said firm will be discharged.

Dated this 31st of March A.D. 1868.

STEPHEN J. BURKE

K.I. O'DOHERTY

Witness to the signature of Stephen J. Burke-John B. Power Gympie Creek

Witness to the signature of Kevin Izod O'Doherty-Edward Doyle, Solicitor, Brisbane ⁵⁹

Dr. Burke was 32 years old when he came to Gympie and 35 years old when he left in 1870. He placed the advertisement below in the *Gympie Times* regularly.⁶⁰

DR. BURKE

Of the firm of O'Doherty and Burke, Brisbane

CONSULTING ROOMS, Mary Street and One-Mile Creek

Dr. Burke's medical colleagues in Gympie were Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne L.R. C. P., M.R.C.S., Mem. R. Coll. Surg., Eng., 1858; Lic. R. Phys., Edin 1859; and Dr. John Bridges Mason, Mem., 1858; Lic. Midwif., 1859; R.Coll.Surg.; Eng.; Lic. R. Coll. Phys., Edin 1860.

Dr. Mason's advertisement⁶¹ would often appear above that of Dr. Burke's as often would Dr. Byrne's. The qualifications after Dr. Byrne's name were some of the reasons he thought he was superior to all in Gympie!

The rivalry between the Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne had been created largely by Dr. Byrne, but thankfully they worked together harmoniously when necessity called, especially when serious accidents or deaths occurred in the mines or elsewhere.

⁵⁹ The Brisbane Courier 21 April 1868

⁶⁰ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 15 February 1868, 29 February 1868, 7 March 1868, 11 March 1868 and regularly during Dr. Burke's time in Gympie

⁶¹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 11 March 1868

T. E. D. BYRNE,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

MAY be consulted at his Residence, Gympie,
DAILY, before 10 a.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m.
Consulting Rooms, One-mile, from 1 to 2 p.m. on
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY in each
week. At Imbil, in his tent, opposite Mr. T. Kelly's,
every **THURSDAY** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 51

NOTICE.

PUBLIC VACCINATION on every **WEDNESDAY,**
between 12 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Gympie Hos-
pital.

S. J. BURKE,
Government Medical Officer.

Vaccination at Private Residence, Caledonian
Hill, every **THURSDAY,** between 2 and 3 p.m.
Fee, 10s.
105 **S. J. BURKE.**

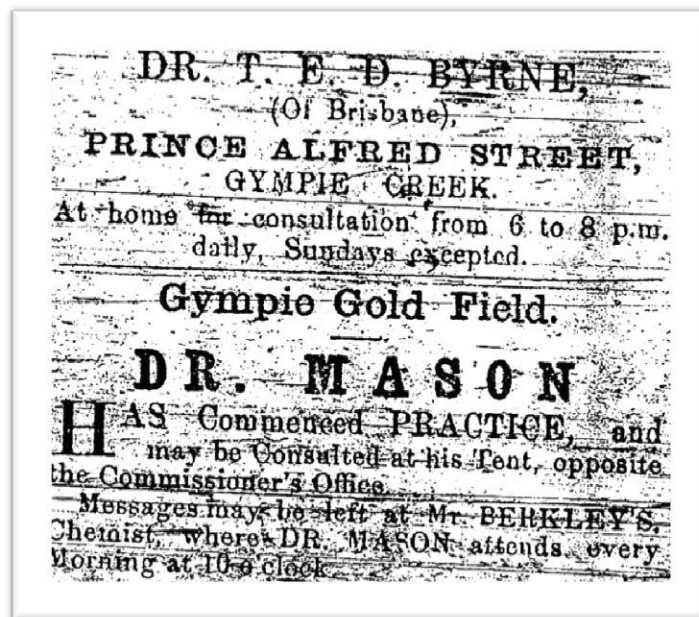
62

DR. MASON,
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, AND ACCOUCHEUR
DIPLOMAT, 1868.

M. D. Lic. Roy. Coll. Phys.
Mem. Roy. Coll. Surgeons.
Lic. Midwifery, London.
Operative Surgery, Paris.
Late Surgeon Superintendent to Governmen
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, Dominica
West Indies.
Visiting Surgeon to Lying-in Hospital, Brisbane

Dr. MASON may be consulted **ALL HOURS,** a
his temporary Surgery and Dispensary, adjoining
Mr. S. F. Robinson's Store, Prince Alfred street.
FEES for ADVICE, including all medicines, from
1s. to 10s. 117

⁶² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 June 1870



Maryborough Chronicle 14 December 1867 and 4 January 1868

Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke were both medical officers at the Gympie Hospital. Dr. Byrne was the first doctor to arrive on the Gympie Goldfields in 1867, and both had private practices in Gympie and Imbil. Both had experience of working for the British Medical Services as Royal Navy Assistant Surgeons in the Crimean War, and as Surgeons Superintendent on British ships bringing emigrants to Australia (Dr. Byrne on the *Light Brigade* and the *Eastern Empire*, and Dr. Burke on the *Cordelia*). Dr. Byrne served in the Crimean War between 1856 and 1863, and Dr. Burke between 1853 and 1855. Dr. Byrne resigned his Commission at the end of the War. It is not known if they knew each other during their service in the Crimean War or before they both came out to Australia, but it could be easily assumed that they shared conversation about their experiences in the Crimean War.

In the Crimean War, both would have become accustomed to treating febrile diseases such as cholera and typhoid; catarrhal epidemics; smallpox; scarlatina; measles; bowel and stomach diseases including diarrhoea; dysentery; chest diseases including lung and pleura infections; respiratory tract infections; haemoptysis, phthisis and tuberculosis (consumption); a range of diseases of the skin including erysipelas, ulcer infections, scurvy; tetanus; meningitis; poisoning; medical conditions associated with falls from the rigging of ships or other ship board hazards such as boiler explosions; horrendous gunshot and mortar wounds to all parts of the body with severe bleeding which were frightful to look upon; fractures of all kinds, especially of the skull and limbs; burns from exploding magazines, hand grenades, grape shot; bodies mutilated and lacerated by large shells; hospital gangrene; amputations; frost-bite; shock and nervous collapse.

Treating horrific injuries would have been second nature to both Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke.

On 1 December 1867, the first death was recorded on the goldfield - Charles Wagner, aged 35⁶³, so there is every possibility that Dr. Byrne attended this death, but in respect of the first Gympie birth on 10 January 1868, that of a girl, Jane Smyth⁶⁴ – either Dr. Byrne or Dr. Burke could have attended the mother for the birthing and associated treatment.

There was no war going on Gympie of course, but many of the conditions were similar to those evident in the Crimean War, such as fevers and bowel conditions, contaminated water, poor standards of hygiene and drainage. Management of wounds and operations were undertaken in not the best of sanitised conditions. The war arms used in the Crimea caused extremely serious injuries to soft tissue and bone as did the tools, machinery and explosives used in the mines.

Hugo Du Rietz (the town's architect from 1870) built a soap factory in early 1868 to provide the miners with soap so as to improve hygiene on the mine fields and for those living in Gympie. People suffered mining injuries or horse related injuries, and sickness from inferior meat killed on the diggings causing diarrhoea, fever and ague. Injuries from drunkenness, fights, and sports occurred. History records that compared to many other gold fields, Gympie was comparatively 'quiet'.

Dr. Burke was a very dedicated medical officer and his generosity in giving donations where it would make a positive difference became well known. For example, he gave to the hospital fund or the Flood Relief Fund after the 1870 flood.

Dr. Burke shared ownership of the Doctor's Reef P.C. (prospecting claim) of 360 feet (110 metres), with Dr. Byrne, Dr. Byrne's 'defacto' wife Ms. E. Warford, Terence Ahern, Michael Mortimer, Thomas Riley, and the shopkeeper J.S Cullinane.⁶⁵ Doctor's Reef was a fairly successful mine at that time. This partnership looks strange as Dr. Byrne was known as the controversial 'Jumping Doctor', an investor noted for snatching up abandoned claims. Very often, he appeared before the Police Magistrate's Court.

⁶³ Cooloolool Shire: a Golden Past. Cooloolool Shire Library Service, Local History Section of the Cooloolool Shire Library Service, including Elaine Brown, Amelia Connolly, Ann Egan, Cathy Hunt, Janet Lee and Moira Maclachlan, Friends of the Library volunteer researchers, in Merlyn Burkhardt and Rose Sami. Published by Cooloolool Shire Council 2001. Page 4

⁶⁴ Cooloolool Shire: a Golden Past. Cooloolool Shire Library Service, Local History Section of the Cooloolool Shire Library Service, including Elaine Brown, Amelia Connolly, Ann Egan, Cathy Hunt, Janet Lee and Moira Maclachlan, Friends of the Library volunteer researchers, in Merlyn Burkhardt and Rose Sami. Published by Cooloolool Shire Council 2001, page 4

⁶⁵ Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927 Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927. Page 21

In 1871, a report was addressed to Dr. Burke in respect of the No.1 North California Reef, read:

'We have been supplied by Messrs. Coleman and C, of No.1 north California reef, with a report by Mr. Birkmyre, the assayer of the Bank of Victoria, Melbourne, of a yield of a parcel of pyrites obtained from the refuse of crushing of quartz from the reef.

Bank of Victoria, Melbourne August 5 1871

"Dr. Burke-Dear Sir, - The following is an assay report and value of the iron pyrites from Queensland:-

2000 grains of the pyrites contain 30.7 grains silvery gold; the pure gold weighing 19.9 grains, and the pure silver 10.8 grains. Therefore a ton of these pyrites contains the enormous quantity:

	ozs	cwt	gr	
Gold	325 (9 kilos)	0	16	Value in homemarket £1381 (\$194,106 in today's currency) ⁶⁶
Silver	176 (5 kilos)	8 (406 kilos)	0	Value in homemarket £48 (\$6,747 in today's currency)
	501 (14 kilos)	8 (406 kilos)	16	Value in homemarket £1429 (\$200,853 in today's currency)

The pyrites also contain 48 percent sulphur; one ton containing 9½ cwt sulphur (483 kilograms)⁶⁷, worth fully 20s. (\$141 in today's currency), the total value being £430 (\$60,439 in today's currency)⁶⁸, less than the cost of extraction, which should not exceed £4 cost of extraction (\$562 in today's currency), which should not exceed £4 per ton (\$562 in today's currency).⁶⁹

Dr. Burke was appointed Government Medical Officer for Gympie in June 1869.⁷⁰ In May 1870, the *Gympie Times* carried notices for Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne, with Dr. Byrne's notices often appearing above Dr. Burke's:

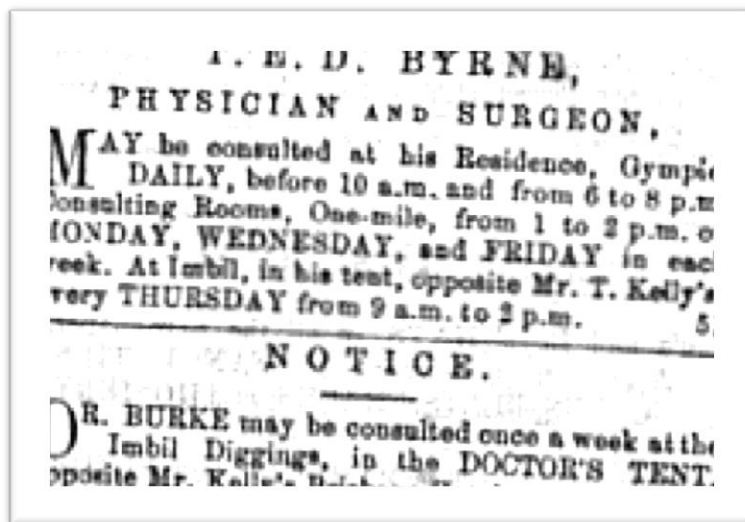
⁶⁶ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁶⁷ <http://www.convertunits.com/from/hundredweight/to/kg>

⁶⁸ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁶⁹ Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 29 August 1871

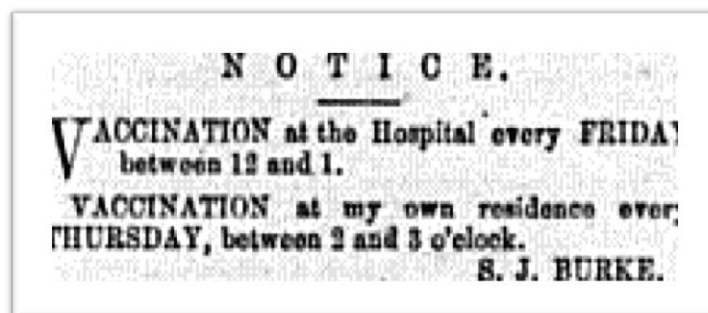
⁷⁰ The Queenslander 3 July 1869 and The Local and General News 30 June 1869



Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne were providing services at the Gold Diggings in the Doctor's Tent opposite Mr. Kelly's Brisbane Hotel.

As Government Medical Officer, Dr. Burke provided a vaccination service for the people of Gympie for a fee of 10 shillings (equivalent to \$70 in 2016).

Dr. Burke continued to offer his vaccination service throughout his last few months in Gympie⁷¹:



On 31 January 1868, the Nashville Miners' Hospital was established with the first meeting of its subscribers. Mr. H. E. King (the Gold Commissioner) was appointed as President; Mr. J. F. Pockley, Vice President; Mr. F. Lord, Secretary; and Medical Officer, Dr. T. E. D. Byrne. The hospital, up to February 1926, was maintained by voluntary contributions, which were subsidised by the Queensland Government, and a grant also being made from the Golden Casket Art Union⁷². The hospital relied very heavily on its subscribers for funding and any other donations in kind or money that came forward.

Both Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke were on the Committee of the hospital. At one time they were members of a sub-committee of the hospital Committee and was responsible for drawing up rules of management of the hospital. Together with

⁷¹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 August 1870

⁷² Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927, Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927, page 145

Messrs. Thrower, Lord, Pengally, Thrower, Sigerson, and Commissioner Clarke (President) they had to report to the full Committee. At that time the hospital had five beds in one section, with more construction yet to be completed. One patient was already occupying one of those five beds.

Even though the first hospital was established quickly, there was some frustration that there was still much to do to establish it on a proper footing. By November 1868, the feeling was that the 'present site is anything but suitable.'⁷³ Meetings were held to move the matter forward 'at a meeting a few nights ago, a statement was brought forward of the past expenditure, which was adopted.'⁷⁴ It seems that although Drs. Burke and Byrne had done their utmost for this neglected institution, it was the miners who exhibited the greatest apathy to assist with subscriptions for the hospital fund, yet the hospital had been largely established for their benefit, especially given the serious accidents that miners sustained while working their mines. Finally the first Gympie Hospital was located on the land where the Masonic Temple in Channon Street now stands. The hospital vacated that land in 1889. Gympie was fortunate to have a hospital which had been quickly established right from the beginning of the gold field days. It relied on obtaining direct funds from the townspeople and those from the surrounding region, as the Government contribution was insufficient for all the services provided by the hospital. In the short time Dr. Burke was in Gympie, he played a significant role in its management and medical services.

In January 1870, the Committee of the Gympie Hospital was appealing to the community to contribute subscriptions to keep the hospital continuing to sustain an appropriate operating budget. The Committee noted that despite the request from the Hospital Surgeon (Dr. Burke) for iron beds, the hospital still did not have any, so it was deemed that it would seek to buy them 'in the cheapest market possible'. Particular mention was made of the want of financial support for the hospital from miners. These were 'men who benefitted by the advantages of the hospital [and] ought to subscribe as liberally as possible. Some of them had done so; but it was a fact that the miners did not subscribe in proportion to any other community... there were many persons sent from neighbouring stations to the hospital and yet nothing was received in support of the institution.'⁷⁵ The owners of those stations around Gympie were urged to pay subscriptions to the Gympie Hospital so that it could provide them with medical services when they needed them. The people at that Committee meeting were in full favour of these initiatives and the statement was made that while ever the Gympie Hospital had a 'flourishing and healthy pecuniary condition', the more creditable it would be to the community.

At one of the meetings of the Hospital Committee, it was stated that part of the hospital had been completed, which would hold four or five beds- there were new

⁷³ Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 5 November 1868

⁷⁴ Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser 5 November 1868

⁷⁵ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1870

sections being added to the hospital. Dr. Burke was placed on a committee with Messrs. Pockley, Thrower, and Commissioner Clarke with power to expend £24 (equivalent to \$3,373 in 2016)⁷⁶ in making arrangements for the immediate reception of patients. A Mr. Carmichael was the pharmacist for the hospital at that time. Dr. Burke was also placed on a committee with Dr. Byrne, Messrs. Thrower, Lord, Pengally, Sigerson and Commissioner Clark to draw up rules for the management of the hospital. An advertisement was to be placed in the local newspaper for a wardsman and a matron.

The arrangement for visiting surgeons then was that they did their work in an honorary capacity. At the beginning of 1870 there were two honorary surgeons, Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke. However the Committee had noticed that Dr. Byrne's attendance was not so regular and satisfactory as could be wished. The Committee had proposed that as Dr. Burke had provided dedicated attendance, that a small salary be paid to him. One member of the Committee alluded that if the public were more fully aware of Dr. Byrne's negligence of his duties as surgeon in the hospital, he would be pressured to resign.

This situation was the making of certain antagonistic feelings between Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke on the part of Dr. Byrne. Dr. Byrne was known for his irrational and irascible outbursts and defending himself no matter how wrong or inappropriate his actions or decisions may have been. He provoked the Committee to prove his negligence to duty and entreated 'when there had been no other medical man in Gympie, Dr. Byrne had always been ready and willing to attend the sick patients gratuitously; he had done all in his power in this way; and therefore he thought that when a medical officer was to be employed, Dr. Byrne ought to have been considered. He had received a letter from Mr. Rider, stating that he had been dismissed.'⁷⁷ Mr. Rider replied there had been no such letter, but Dr. Byrne proceeded to read that 'Dr. Burke had been appointed as a paid medical officer...[and that] he had nursed the institution from its infancy.'⁷⁸ He went on to inform that if he were to serve the hospital as a surgeon, he would be charging for his services.

The more gentlemanly Dr. Burke 'said that although he had resigned his office of paid medical officer, he would attend the patients as regularly as before. However there was no doubt that a second surgeon was required.'⁷⁹

Dr. Byrne firmly stated he wanted nothing to do with the Hospital Committee but that 'he had a high regard for the honour of his profession, and would take care that there should not be a blot upon his escutcheon.'⁸⁰ Whatever the legacy of this event within the Hospital Committee, Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke continued to attend medical incidents, court cases and the like at the same time. Whether they did that 'together'

⁷⁶ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁷⁷ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1870

⁷⁸ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1870

⁷⁹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1870

⁸⁰ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 January 1870

or not, cannot be ascertained from the information available, but it seems that both rendered their services in a professional manner.

On 24 January 1870, Dr. Burke was elected as a Trustee of the Gympie Hospital, and served as a Trustee with four other men, Mr. N.W. Brown, Mr. P. Lillis, Mr. M. Mellor, Mr. J.G. Kidgell. The Committee of the Gympie Hospital as elected was comprised of Mr. H. Gilles, Mr. P. Lillis, Mr. J. Landy, Mr. S. Hollander, Mr. M. Mellor, Mr. N.W. Brown, Mr. A. Hardcastle, Mr. D.C. McGroarty, Mr. J.G. Kidgell.⁸¹ With his other four colleagues also elected to the Committee, it could be assured that Dr. Burke had good opportunity for input into the management of the Gympie Hospital. In late March 1870, Dr. Burke was appointed Trustee for the land granted to the hospital at Gympie, with his fellow trustees being Mr N.W. Brown, Mr. P. Lillis, Mr. M. Mellor, Mr. J.G. Kidgell.⁸² Dr. Burke being the generous community minded man he was, and being a devout Catholic, was able to have £1/1/- (equivalent to \$148 in 2016)⁸³ donated to the hospital from St. Partick's Church.⁸⁴ This was Dr. Burke's church and each Sunday it collected donations for the hospital.

1870 was the year of the disastrous flood. The Hospital Committee during the presentation of its Third Annual Report to the subscribers of the Gympie Hospital, recorded 'its thanks for the valuable services rendered by the honorary surgeons, Drs. Burke, Byrne, Benson and Mondelet, during the past year, throughout which there has been a considerable increase of patients on the preceding year owing principally to the unhealthy seasons caused by the floods and by the increase in the number of mining accidents.'⁸⁵ The high esteem in which Dr. Burke was held was confirmed by the Committee recording 'the resignation of Dr. Burke, one of the honorary medical officers, whose departure from this district has been a source of much regret to the entire community, and a great loss to the management of this institution.'⁸⁶

Before Dr. Burke left Gympie in October 1870, he donated to the Committee of the Gympie Hospital a parcel of splints, surgical instruments, newspapers, bandages, periodicals and other items.

In the three years of his stay in Gympie, Dr. Burke had wasted no time being idle in almost every element of the community and its organisations and institutions. His extreme dedication had improved the quality of medical services for Gympie and the surrounding districts. His manner and professionalism was almost the complete opposite to the cantankerous, argumentative and self opinionated Dr. Byrne who continued to be disruptive and most unteamlike in the management of the hospital and in his work at the hospital.

⁸¹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 January 1870

⁸² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 March 1870

⁸³ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁸⁴ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 January 1870

⁸⁵ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1871

⁸⁶ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1871

Nevertheless it was fortunate that both doctors worked well together when it was a matter of life and death. Although Dr. Burke departed Gympie in late October 1870 to establish a new private practice in Melbourne, it might be assumed that the 1870 flood and the nature of the population of Gympie who were not likely to pay at the 'time of consultation', prompted Dr. Burke to place a notice dated 8 January 1870 in the *Gympie Times*, which read ' All persons indebted to me are requested to PAY their Accounts within one month from this date otherwise they will be placed in the hands of a Solicitor for recovery. S. J. BURKE, M.D.'

1870 was not the best of years for Dr. Burke. He and his wife were still childless, having had a third son still born in late August 1870, combined with the huge and devastating floods. On 31 August 1870, (ten days after the loss of his third son), Dr. Burke placed another notice which read ' All Accounts due to the undersigned are requested to be paid by 23 September next, otherwise legal proceedings will be taken to recover the same. R. J. Burke MD Caledonian Hill.⁸⁷

The newspapers of the time recorded in detail so many of the incidents that were attended by Dr. Burke and often together with his colleague, Dr. Theodore Edgar Dickson Byrne. The miners in Gympie were very fortunate to have access to such skills as those of Doctors Burke and Byrne, both having been surgeons with the Royal Navy and having served in the Crimean War. This meant that they would have been accustomed to treating the types of serious injuries miners incurred when they fell down shafts or were blasted by explosives used in the mines, and used to having to respond quickly if lives were to be saved. It seems that the Gympie miners suffered a good number of serious accidents while working in their mines.

These examples provide some excellent background as to what life was like in Toowoomba, Drayton and Gympie; what diseases/injuries town people then incurred; the type of treatment possible and investigation when it was required; the many horse riding and buggy accidents; the mining accidents; the criminal cases where Dr. Burke had to provide evidence and testimony, often in crimes of a 'daring and desperate character'⁸⁸; and his work hearing and drawing judgment on cases with the Police Magistrate in the Petty Debts Court, Drayton. Often the Courts and their followers had to tramp 'through muddy and unmade streets, and crossing half broken and life endangering bridges, on their way to Justice.'⁸⁹

It must also not be overlooked that to get to patients, doctors rode their horses to get to the patient or to their tent surgeries over at Imbil. Dr. Burke, who was accustomed to attending incidents on his horse in the country when living in Toowoomba, most certainly rode his horse to many such incidents in and around Gympie. He was treating everything from minor and serious mining and horse

⁸⁷ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 31 August 1870

⁸⁸ The North Australian 26 July 1864

⁸⁹ The North Australian 26 July 1864

related accidents, to births, and a wide range of other injuries and diseases. Some selected incidents demonstrate the work he did:

- *The Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 31 October 1863*

Dr. Burke appeared at the Drayton Police Court to give evidence about the injuries sustained to Ann Houston on 20 October 1863 following her husband's (James Houston a butcher) alleged severe beating of her in her bedroom when she had nothing on except her chemise. Dr Burke did attend Mrs. Houston at the house of Mr. Purcell (blacksmith of Drayton) when called upon to do so by Constable Copley. Dr. Burke's evidence confirmed that 'she appeared to have received a severe beating just previous to my seeing her; she was very much bruised and marked on the arms, legs, and body; the marks on her body appeared to have been caused by the infliction of blows with a heavy horsewhip; she had also marks on her wrist which had the appearance of being caused by tying a cord around them; she was very much excited at the time.'⁹⁰ It appeared at that time that wife beating was prevalent, and the Police Magistrate had taken a view of giving severe sentences to try to put a stop to the practice. On this occasion James Houston was sentenced to be imprisoned in Brisbane gaol for the period of three months.

- *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 4 June 1863*

Dr. Burke attended 22 year old George Anderson at Jondaryan. George Anderson worked for Denis O'Brien, a blacksmith at the One Mile near Ipswich. Anderson was with a party of men who were doing some burning off, and Anderson did not clear in time when the branch of one of the hollow burning trees fell on him. Anderson sustained a fracture of one of the vertebrae of the spine. The men delayed calling on medical assistance, and when finally they did and Dr. Burke arrived, it was too late to save Anderson's life. He died at the scene of the accident.

- *The North Australian 26 March 1864*

On St Patrick's night the constable in charge of the lock up at Drayton, Constable Copley, had gone missing. After extensive searching by the townspeople, he was found the next morning drowned in one of the public wells. Dr. Burke examined the body in a post-mortem for the Coroner, and gave evidence that the constable had died from drowning. However, as Constable Copley 'bore a high character for temperance, and that nothing had been elicited in evidence that he had been drunk... and the well is fenced in, save for the entrance, which is guarded by a post,'⁹¹ the verdict was held over to another sitting until the matter had been investigated further. The newspaper ended its report with 'the occurrence has caused much excitement in Drayton'⁹²

⁹⁰ The Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 31 October 1863

⁹¹ The North Australian 26 March 1864

⁹² The North Australian 26 March 1864

- *The Brisbane Courier 23 April 1864*

Dr. Burke recommended that a certain Mr Barry be confined to the Drayton lockup until such time as he could regain his reason. Following the death of his wife, Mr. Barry 'had given way entirely to habits of intemperance, and the dreadful fate of his wife acting on an over stimulated brain, has brought on an attack of insanity. Dr. Burke expressed concern that the 'man was in such a state as to be dangerous both to himself and others and ordered him to be confined in the Drayton lockup and we are glad to learn that, although at one time his life was despaired of, there is every reason to believe that he will before long recover his reason.'⁹³

- *Giving Evidence in Toowoomba in the Case Regina V Hanlon, 16 July 1864*

Doctors get called upon to undertake a range of duties in the community and in July 1864, Dr. Burke gave evidence at the trial of Michael Hanlon who did on 23 June 1864 'feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously stab, cut, and wound one Isaac Houston, with intent in so doing to do some grievous bodily harm.'⁹⁴ The medical evidence and testimony was often critical to decisions made in the criminal cases. For example in this case, Dr Burke was able to prove that six stab wounds had been inflicted, one on the abdomen, on the right side, five or six inches in length, and from a quarter to half-an-inch in depth; another under the right breast about an inch from the nipple, and a quarter of an inch in depth; there was also a stab upon each loin, one on the left forearm, and one on the face.⁹⁵ Dr. Burke had had Isaac Houston under medical treatment for the first two or three days and he was considered to be in danger, but by the time of the trial in July 1864, he had completely recovered. Michael received 'a very good character reference from Dr. Burke.'⁹⁶ The jury in the end brought in a verdict of 'Guilty of unlawfully wounding.'⁹⁷

- *The North Australian 23 July 1864*

Dr. Burke gave evidence in Toowoomba Court in respect of a man named Hanlon, who had been charged for wounding a man named Houston in several places. Dr. Burke gave Hanlon a good character reference as did the Police Magistrate Mr Rawlins, and so Hanlon received a lighter sentence than he would otherwise have been normally given. In the same newspaper of 26 July 1864, the report continues 'had Hanlon not borne so good a character which was testified to by Mr. Rawlins, Police Magistrate, and Dr. Burke, there is no doubt that he would have been more severely punished, and instead of six months might have got two years.'⁹⁸

- *The Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser 29 September 1864*

⁹³ The Brisbane Courier 23 April 1864

⁹⁴ The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1864

⁹⁵ The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1864

⁹⁶ The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1864

⁹⁷ The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1864

⁹⁸ The North Australian 26 July 1864

In September 1864, scarlatina (scarlet fever) was prevalent in Toowoomba. The children of the Mayor, Mr. W.H. Groom, M.L.A. were all infected with one of them dying from the disease. The newspaper talks of Dr. Bourke's unremitting attendance on Mr. Groom's children, gave Mr. Groom that his remaining children 'will voluntarily recover.'⁹⁹

- *The Darling Downs Gazette 8 March 1865*

At the Petty Debts Court, Drayton, on 3 March 1865, a number of cases were brought before the Police Magistrate and Dr. Burke. On that day the cases reports in the newspaper were William Handcock vs James Hanlon; William Handcock vs John Boland; Joseph Webb vs James McClennan; John Millar vs John Sawyer; R.C Cooke vs John Boland; Dr. Armstrong vs Coey; Degen and Co vs Fitz and Wilson; James Kelly vs William Handcock; Frank Folland vs Michael Weiss.

- *The Queensland Times, Ipswich and General Advertiser 17 October 1865*

Working in Toowoomba, like Gympie, had its fair share of fatalities and other medical incidents to attend. One such incident attended by Dr Burke can be recounted of a 13 year old girl (name of Williams) who was fatally injured while cooking at a fire outside a tent at Brown's Camp, about eight miles outside of Toowoomba/Drayton. At the time Dr. Burke was about three miles away at Ballard's Camp, and made it to the girl within half an hour of the incident. The girl had been most severely and extensively burned, with 'the true skin being burnt through over a considerable portion of her body and around the ankles (from which it was difficult to remove the burning stockings) the flesh was charred.'¹⁰⁰ The strong wind blowing that day had caused the fire to alight the whole of her dress. Dr. Burke was unable to save her with such extensive burns all over her body.

- *The Queenslander 17 February 1866*

Dr. Burke with his colleague Dr Stacy, gave evidence in the case of Patrick Roach, a labourer of unsound mind, who had been brought into Toowoomba from Yandilla station on 5 February 1866 to be placed in police custody. Roach was put before the Bench, but Dr. Stacy and Dr. Burke 'deposed that he was in an unfit state to be allowed at large' and it appears he was placed in the Toowoomba Gaol, before he would be transferred to Woogaroo.

- *The Queenslander 24 March 1866*

Dr Burke attended a very seriously injured John Cashin, recently arrived from Europe. Cashin was working clearing land near Brickfields, between Toowoomba and Drayton. The tree Cashin had been working to extract from the earth, struck another tree, causing it to spring back and fall on one end of the lever, the other end of

⁹⁹ The Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser 29 September 1964

¹⁰⁰ The Queensland Times, Ipswich and General Advertiser 17 October 1865

which sprang up and struck Cashin with such force that it propelled him high into the air. He fell on the block of wood that had been placed under the lever, smashing the bone just above the left leg, breaking to such an extent that a portion of it protruded through the skin. The injuries being extremely severe, Dr. Burke did what he could but the man later died.

- *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 5 July 1866*

Dr. Burke was to be called to give evidence at the Toowoomba Police Court following the hearing of a case for Catherine Ahern who had been brought up for protection, charged with being of unsound mind. Dr Stacey had given evidence of her being of unusual mind and unfit to be at large.

- *The Queenslander 29 September 1866*

Toowoomba was faring reasonably well in 1866 as there was 'a fair amount of building going on, in spite of the hard times, and there is a prospect of a decline in rentals. Employment is getting more plentiful...' ¹⁰¹ But accidents and other elements of life of course went on- Dr. Burke's attendance to the community was unremitting, as always.

Dr. Burke was on the scene immediately when Mr. Allan, late cashier with the Bank of New South Wales, was involved in a severe accident when he was thrown violently on the road after his horse bolted at the upper end of Ruthven Street, and losing all control over near the Bank of New South Wales and taken up insensible. Dr. Burke found that Mr. Allan had not sustained any fractures or dislocations, but had incurred a severe blow in the face that had rendered him temporarily insensible. Mr Allan survived with only a severe contusion of the right knee, and his face and body severely bruised and shaken.

Dr. Burke attended to 'Mrs. Dixon, the wife of a contractor at Holmes Camp, was brought into town last week, suffering from a severe internal rupture.'¹⁰² He tried all he could to save her life but she died soon after she was brought to him for treatment.

- *The Brisbane Courier Mail 4 September 1867*

Before the Central Police Court J.Petrie Esq., J.P. on Tuesday 3 September 1867 Case of Insanity- Patrick Brian was examined by Dr. Burke and Dr. O'Doherty who considered him to be of unsound mind. He was ordered to be sent to the Lunatic Asylum.

¹⁰¹ The Queenslander 29 September 1866

¹⁰² The Queenslander 29 September 1866

- *The Queenslander 10 October 1868(via The Nashville Times)*

Dr. Burke had in his care at this time one Mr. Thrower who had had a serious accident about five miles out of town in the neighbourhood of the Brisbane Road. Mr. Thrower had been out riding with Messrs. Stable and R. Lord 'when his horse, while going at a rather fast pace, brought him violently against a tree, knocking him from the saddle and injuring him severely.'¹⁰³ He sustained severe internal injuries with broken ribs having been driven into his liver. The report indicated that he was not out of danger in his recovery.

- *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 9 December 1868*

This was another serious mining accident where Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne worked together. Mr. William Domney, a blacksmith working at the Victoria Crushing Machine, on that Sunday morning in December, narrowly missed losing his hand. Mr. Domney survived both the accident and the amputation of seriously damaged remaining fingers on his right hand by Drs Burke and Byrne at the Gympie Hospital.

Mr. Domney ' had been engaged in putting new shoes in the stampers, and whilst in the action of taking a block of wood from under one of them, it slipped and fell crushing the poor fellow's right hand fingers in a dreadful manner. The halves of the second and third fingers were taken off by the blow. Mr. Domney made favourable progress toward his recovery after the surgery.

- *The Queenslander 12 December 1868*

A brother of Mrs. Fulton of the Melbourne Hotel in Gympie, was riding his horse around the Mount Pleasant area, when his horse threw him 'against an overhanging tree with considerable violence.' The young man of 25 years of age, James Blair, severely injured his upper spine when he finally fell to ground. Drs. Byrne and Burke examined him at a nearby house to where he had been carried, diagnosing complete paralysis and his condition was critical; he died a short time later.

- *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 2 January 1869*

At claims Nos. 2 and 3 south, amalgamated Union in Gympie a squabble broke out between three men: a Prussian named Fischer, a Belgian named Jack, and Frenchman named Theophile Dupee. The squabble had begun over the opening of the cash box (Fischer held the key to the box). While Jack went to rest in the humpy, Dupee was left outside with Fischer. Fischer was in the habit of carrying a revolver around and as Dupee also went into the humpy for rest, Fischer was following him with the revolver loaded and pointing at Dupee. Dupee turned around and Fischer shot him in the

¹⁰³ The Queenslander 10 October 1868

abdomen. Drs. Burke, Bull, and King carefully attended Dupee who died during the night on Thursday 31 December 1868.

- *The Queenslander 5 June 1869*

Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne attended Mr. Henry Hargreaves at his home following his serious accident at his claim at on the Caledonian Reef. Henry Hargreaves 'had been placing shots in two drives at a 50-foot level; his mate, after assisting him to fire the fuse, went up to the top of the shaft, followed, as he thought, by Mr. Hargreaves. As the other did not appear, however, he gave the alarm, but soon afterwards one of the shots went off, and in a short time the other also. Men were lowered directly. They found Mr. Hargreaves lying on the bottom of the shaft, conscious, but hardly able to speak; he had sustained a fearful gash on the head, and had to be carried to his residence ... the following night he suffered greatly, being attacked by fainting fits, but afterwards a change for the better took place. It is believed that one of the veins of the brain is bruised. The accident happened through the ladder breaking whilst Mr. Hargreaves was about 12 feet from the bottom of the shaft; being a heavy man he fell to the ground, striking his head violently against the rock. One of the blasts was merely a "lifting shot," and did not do much harm; but it is miraculous that the second did not shatter him to pieces. Providentially, however, it blew into the face of the wall instead of outwards, as was expected.'¹⁰⁴

- *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 24 July 1869*

In July 1869, the crushing machines were working intensely at No.2 North and No.4 South Perseverance Reef; Golden Crown Prospector's Claim; No.1 South Jones' Reef; Smithfield Reef; No.6 New Monkland; No.1 North and No. 2 South Glanmire Reef; No. 3 South Lady Mary; and No. 1 South Hamburg Reef. McPherson and Party were working on the south west side of the Mary River at the Jones' Reef; Goodchap and Party were down at No. 3 South Lady Mary; Kelly and Party were at the Hamburg Reef. Meanwhile, Dr. Burke attended accidents at Exhibition Reef and the Lady Mary and Caledonian Mines:

A Miner named Hart at Exhibition Reef sustained severe accident and one broken leg: Hart had just fired a charge into a narrow drive and was being brought up when the windlass handle of a shaft, 60 feet deep, broke. He may have been killed had he not had the presence of mind to 'hop to the other side of the ladder and climb up a few feet, because the explosion took place almost immediately after.'¹⁰⁵

A Miner named Scott at Lady Mary and Caledonian Mines sustained serious injuries when a great quantity of earth fell in on him while he was working in a drive. His jaw was broken, and later effusion on the brain occurred, when he became seriously ill.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ *The Queenslander 6 June 1869*

¹⁰⁵ *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 24 July 1869*

¹⁰⁶ *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 24 July 1869*

- *The Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser 29 July 1869 (from the Gympie Times 21 July 1869)*

Dr. Burke was sent for by a messenger on horse-back to go urgently to No.4 South New Monkland Reef following a very serious accident at that mine. He arrived to see the mutilated body of Robert Shields who had just had his head almost blown off by a mining hammer. Dr. Burke arranged for Shields to be taken through the tows on a stretcher to the Gympie Hospital. Before this accident Shields had been in perfect health.

The accident occurred on a Monday afternoon to a miner named Robert Shields. Shields and his co-worker Robert Donnelly 'had put two slanting shots in the forenoon, both of which missed fire, and after dinner they went down the shaft for the purpose of drawing the charges. The first charge was taken out successfully, and they had nearly finished taking out the tamping of the second charge when it exploded; the hammer struck Shields, who had been using it, with tremendous force on the frontal part of the skull, shattering the forehead in a dreadful manner. It is not certain that the drill did not also strike him. Donnelly's arm was slightly cut by it. Dr. Byrne attended yesterday morning, and a consultation was held over the sufferer...with the medical opinion [of both Doctors Burke and Byrne being] that Shields is in a hopeless state. Notwithstanding the serious nature of the injuries sustained, when addressed loudly by name he seems to understand he is spoken to. The temporal artery is severed, and a portion of the skull, comprising part of the orbit of the left eye broken off by the blow has been taken away.'¹⁰⁷ Apart from cuts on his arm, Donnelly escaped with the slight bruises on his arm.

- *The Queenslander 14 August 1869*

Gympie was a place for severe mining accidents and on 3 August 1869, William Crawford Albert, aged 49, was critically injured while working on No.3 Bristol Reef. He died on 4 August 1869 at 10am. Dr. Burke had treated him at the hospital, but held little hope, 'as besides many cuts and bruises about the face and head, he had several ribs fractured and driven into the lungs.'¹⁰⁸ An inquiry was held into the accident before the Police Magistrate and W.B. Rider Esq. Albert had been injured trying to fire a blast, but it is believed that when the fuse was extinguished he climbed down into the shaft after waiting for a quarter of an hour. He called for a candle from his mate which was lowered down to him. An explosion followed, and being discovered by his mate, he was hoisted to the surface, and taken to hospital.

- *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 6 January 1870*

'A child, three years old, named Elise Mathilde Lafontaine, daughter of a carpenter living at Palatine Hill, fell into a water hole and drowned. Her mother had been

¹⁰⁷ The Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser 29 July 1869 (from the Gympie Times 21 July 1869)

¹⁰⁸ The Queenslander 14 August 1869

engaged in washing outside the house, below which is a hole containing water ten feet in depth. The poor little girl had wandered down to watch a blackfellow cutting wood, and must have fallen into the hole unobserved. Her mother missing the child, eventually found her in the water. Dr. Burke was summoned, and rode down at once, but his efforts were of no avail.¹⁰⁹

- *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870*

In the Petty Debts Court in the case of J. Job (Jonathan Job) v E. Victorsen (a professional dentist in Gympie): Mr. H. Tozer appearing for the Plaintiff and Mr Stable for the defendant, Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke appeared as medical witnesses. Damages were laid at £30 (equivalent to \$4,217 in 2016)¹¹⁰.

Jonathan Job was a miner who had sought the services of Mr. Victorsen a fortnight before Christmas to have the stump of a tooth extracted, which Mr. Victorsen agreed to do. However the procedure went horribly wrong when the dentist advised Mr. Job that it was not necessary to have the tooth removed, and that he would relieve the pain in three minutes. Mr. Victorsen did this by inserting a hot wire into the tooth, then inserting some amalgam stuffing into the tooth, after squeezing it. The quicksilver (mercury) came out of the amalgam while in Mr. Job's mouth which caused complications of extreme pain, inability to open his mouth and swallow, a swollen throat, and loss of three week's work. Mr Job went to see the pharmacist in Gympie at the time, a Mr Walter Taylor, who attempted to fix it with a gargle, but admitted it was beyond his professional expertise, upon which Mr Job went into the care of Dr. Byrne. Mr. Job was under care for his condition for four weeks. By this time, Mr. Job had paid Mr. Victorsen 17 shillings (equivalent to \$119 in 2016), £2 (equivalent to \$281 in 2016) for nurse's expenses, £9 (equivalent to \$1,265 in 2016) for doctor's expenses, chemist's expenses 22 shillings (equivalent to \$155 in 2016), with Mr. Victorsen refusing to admit any compensation to Mr. Job for the condition he had created by his poor treatment.

Dr. Byrne's input to the case as a medical witness was that 'he knew the plaintiff, whom he saw on Sunday, about a fortnight before Christmas; he came to have a tooth drawn but from the state of his mouth, recommended him not to have that operation performed as it would injure him; saw him again on the following Tuesday; his tongue was very much swollen and his throat was frightful; he was also suffering from profuse salivation; salivation might be induced by natural causes but in this case the cause was mercury; applied the necessary remedies to the throat and tongue as to be able to administer medicine; was rather puzzled with the case for a time, but eventually discovered the secret of the malady by noticing plaintiff taking a piece of amalgam out of his mouth; I then said 'that's the secret!'; several globules of quicksilver came from the amalgam; I said 'whoever gave you that is a fool; he

¹⁰⁹ The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 6 January 1870

¹¹⁰ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

doesn't know how to mix it'; a less quantity of quicksilver would have produced the same mischief; would swear positively that mercury was the cause of the plaintiff's malady; on the Thursday following, plaintiff was so bad that I went down with instruments to open his windpipe to enable him to breathe, but found that the swelling had burst internally, and had thrown out about a pint of matter; that saved the man's life, for he must have died had he not been relieved; he was choking through the swollen glands; the tongue was swollen enormously, and the spittle was running copiously; he was in a most critical state, and I was visiting him three times a day; he was suffering from excessive salivation.'¹¹¹

Dr. Burke's input to the case as a medical witness was 'that he had been in the practice of his profession for 16 years; it was the ordinary business of a surgeon to attend to the teeth; the usual way to stop teeth was to clean them out and to fill in some amalgam, composed of silver - the filings of a silver coin - and quicksilver; the amalgam ought to be squeezed sufficiently hard to be shaped with the fingers; salivation was easily produced in some persons and I had known 6 grains of blue pill to cause it, but it was not possible to judge beforehand of an individual's susceptibility to salivation; I have never met with a case of salivation through stopping teeth with amalgam and should think it an extraordinary thing to result from the mercury squeezed out of a piece of amalgam used for stopping a tooth; the person would normally spit it out; were such a case to arise I would tell the patient that he ought to inform his medical adviser, on any occasion when medicine might be prescribed, of his extreme susceptibility to salivation; salivation under the circumstances deposed to would not show gross carelessness on the part of the operator; a globule of mercury has come away several days after the operation, through the pressure of the tooth; it would do no harm if he spat it out, as it naturally should be.'¹¹²

The case went on to be decided in favour of Mr. Job with £19 12s; £2 2s for professional costs; and 9 shillings for court costs to be paid in four weekly instalments.

- *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 February 1870*

On 21st February 1870, Dr. Burke attended a certain Mr. Charles Carrington, recently arrived from Brisbane, who was thrown heavily from his horse while riding near the Monkland. His head hit a post in front of McGrath's Hotel and he sustained a concussion of the brain and was unconscious for a considerable time. Dr. Burke advised that Mr. Carrington should not be moved for a while. He recovered sufficiently to be taken into town by Cobb's Coach on Tuesday evening.¹¹³

- *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1870 (also*

¹¹¹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 February 1870

¹¹² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 February 1870

¹¹³ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 23 February 1870

reported in The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 7 April 1870, and the Brisbane Courier of 30 March 1870)

Dr. Byrne and Dr. Burke appeared to be brought together for medical reasons a lot in 1870, and the stabbing that occurred at Junin's Hotel was yet another one of those examples. They both attended the victim Mr. P. Millerick. It was a miserable time that March in Gympie, as the town's people coped with the devastation and losses caused by the 1870 flood. By March, they were only starting to be able to return 'to their premises and set to work to repair the damages'; 'Eel and Pie Creeks were running much higher and swifter than before a large portion of the One-Mile township is still submerged several claims on the Monkland are still under water [and] the town presents a very dilapidated appearance.'¹¹⁴ Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne would have had considerable work to continue to attend to injured and sick residents in and around the township.

The newspaper report purports that 'the town was thrown into a state of excitement by a report that Mr. P. Millerick had been stabbed at Junin's Hotel and was in a dying state. The appearance of some constables, having a Chinaman in custody whose hands were bloody and whose appearance showed that he had recently been engaged in a struggle, added to the excitement.' Apparently Mr. Junin had given Mr. Millerick permission to go into the kitchen and get some fire in an oil-can; the Chinese cook, who it is said had instructions not to allow anyone to meddle with fire, tried to prevent him. Mr. Millerick then struck him with a fire-stick across the chin; a short time elapsed, after which the cook tried to remove the oil-can; Millerick interfered and the Chinaman stabbed him in the left side with a knife. The weapon penetrated the floating rib and beyond it, though fortunately without cutting the intestines. It was feared that there was little hope of the sufferer's recovery...although no internal injury had been sustained. The Chinaman was arrested and was brought up on Monday morning at the Police Court. The prisoner was remanded for a week.'¹¹⁵ *The Queenslander* of 2 April 1870 'mentions that the Chinaman had been tried, found guilty and sentenced to eighteen month' imprisonment.'¹¹⁶ In fact the Chinaman was found guilty in a court hearing at the Gympie District Court on 25 March 1870.¹¹⁷

- *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 13 April 1870 and The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 23 April 1870*

Around six months before he died, Dr Burke had warned Mr. R. Forrest Postmaster and Acting C.P.S at Kilkivan about his serious condition in relation to his heart, lungs and stomach. Mr. Forrest had been in the habit of taking laudanum for his condition, and two empty bottles of this poison had been found in the room where he died. He

¹¹⁴ The Brisbane Courier 30 March 1870

¹¹⁵ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1870

¹¹⁶ The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 7 April 1870

¹¹⁷ The Brisbane Courier 30 March 1870

was found dead in his bed by his neighbour Mr Croaker. Mr. Croaker had sent for Dr Byrne who saw that Mr Forrest was dead. Both Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne undertook the post mortem of Mr. Forrest, which revealed that his heart, lungs, etc were far gone in disease; in fact so extensively that life could hardly have been prolonged many months. Dr. Burke and Dr. Byrne concluded that Mr. Forrest had died from congestion of the lungs.

- *The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 April 1870 (this report was also made in the Sydney Morning Herald of 12 May 1870)*

Fatal Mining Accident at No.1 Smithfield Gold Mine-Mr Frederick Stable (His brother was Mr. J.W. Stable a well-known and respected solicitor of Gympie). This case went before the Police Magistrates Court for investigation. About 12 midnight, Mr. Stable had been jerked backwards into the shaft of the mine when he lost grip of the bucket which was filled with stone. He would have fallen about 50 feet. Dr. Burke arrived at the shaft about 1am in the morning¹¹⁸; just as Mr. Stable was being brought up to the surface from the bottom of the shaft. Dr. Burke found that Mr. Stable's 'head was greatly bruised, blood flowed from the nose and mouth; there was a piece of wood plugged up the left nostril; the wounds on the back of the head were accompanied by fractures of the skull in their vicinity; on removing the plug from the nose, [Dr. Burke] found a large deep wound in the left nostril, and detected several fractures at the base of the skull; the bleeding from this wound would account for the haemorrhage from the nose and mouth and also for the symptoms of concussion of the brain from which the deceased was then suffering. He was insensible from the time he came out of the shaft until he expired, about half an hour after; death was caused by the injuries described, which a fall down a shaft would have caused.'

- *The Queenslander 20 August 1870 and Queenslander 6 August 1870*

Immediately on hearing news of a stabbing, Police Magistrate Mr. Bligh, Inspector Lloyd, and Dr. Burke left Gympie at around 11pm on Friday 5 August 1870 to go to the scene at Yabba (Yabber) where Mary Shewcroft had been stabbed by a Chinaman Ah Kan (Ah Chong). Ah Kan was later charged with intent to murder Mrs. Shewcroft. He had stabbed her several times (twelve) when she asked him to leave a room at her house where she had a store. He also stabbed her son three times. He had just bought and paid for a knife (one of a sort usually used by bushmen-nine pence), and he had also sold her some gold for which she gave him a £1 note and half a sovereign. On examining Mrs. Shewcroft, Dr Burke was of the view that he 'considered Mrs. Shewcroft in danger of her life from the effects of the several wounds enumerated, and did not consider it advisable that her dispositions should be taken as he feared that the shock might have a fatal effect in her weak state.'¹¹⁹ Subsequently, the 'prisoner was fully committed to take his trial at the next sittings of the Maryborough Supreme Court, and on Sunday was brought into Gympie, and

¹¹⁸ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 30 April 1870

¹¹⁹ The Queenslander 20 August 1870

lodged in the lockup.¹²⁰ The *Queenslander* of 20 August 1870 and 6 August 1870 spell the Chinaman's name in two different ways, reflected here. *The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser of 17 August 1870* also reported the incident, but also made the point that 'it appears that for some days previously there had been an angry feeling between the Chinese and the Europeans at Yabber, and that the latter were becoming insolent and aggressive. Whether this had any connection with the outrage we are about to relate is not known.' This newspaper describes the boy who got stabbed as being a boy named Ward, so may not have been Mrs. Shewcroft's son.

- *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett 4 October 1870*

Dr. Burke was called to the scene of a fatal accident which occurred when the horse of a young lad by name of Boddington had 'become frightened and bolted, and knocked the poor boy off against the limb of a tree. The horse [Loadstone] was seen to come into town riderless and Mr. Staley went out immediately in search of the boy, and found him lying speechless near the track.'

The boy had been on an errand for the Bank of New South Wales to take a note to Mr King's place at Commissioner's Camp [Mr. King was the Commissioner for Gold in Gympie]. Mr. Buckland, one of Mr King's servants, asked Boddington to take a parcel back into town for him. Boddington was thrown off his horse on this return journey into town.

Dr. Burke held out little hope for the survival of the boy, but directed that he be placed on a stretcher and taken to his father's house. There he was attended by Dr. Byrne and visiting Dr. Mason [who later became a doctor in Gympie]. Boddington died soon after.

Dr. Burke would have very little spare time for his family being a medical officer at the hospital as well as a surgeon and general practitioner in Gympie, however his dedication is clearly evident from the snapshot provided here of the extensive number of cases he attended to.

A year later, by 25 January 1871, the Gympie Hospital had a sound financial situation. The mining community had come forward with liberal contributions. It had finished the financial year with a balance to the credit of the hospital of £423.7s. 3d.(equivalent to \$59,506 in 2016)¹²¹ Financial years were equivalent to calendar years in those days.

The total cost per head per patient, including medical comforts of every description, and exclusive of salaries and medicines was 11s.3d. per week (equivalent to \$79 in

¹²⁰ The *Queenslander* 20 August 1870

¹²¹ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

2016)¹²². The hospital had treated 211 out-door patients; 120 in-door patients, of whom 98 were cared or relieved, 6 discharged as incurable or at their own request, 6 have died, and 10 are remaining in hospital.¹²³ This gives an idea of the work load of a doctor such as Dr. Burke at the hospital. He did this in addition to running his own practice.

Dr. Byrne left quietly in 1874 to return to England and Scotland. No one offered any kind of farewell for him, from neither the miners or the public, which is indicative of the impact his manner and his personality had on people. When Dr. Byrne left Gympie to go back to Scotland, an excerpt from the the *Maryborough Chronicle* and republished in the *Gympie Times* included *'There are few prominent men in the district that have not, at one time or another, been brought into relations of a more or less lively kind with the impulsive doctor, and much good printer's ink has been spilt, and much editorial patience wasted in the acrimonious discussions thus engendered.'*

Fortunately, Gympie did not want for highly qualified and experienced doctors when Dr. Burke left Gympie. His medical practice was taken over by Dr. W. H. Mondelet, late Surgeon-Superintendent of the ship *Young Australia*, from London, with immigrants, and Dr. R.H. Benson, late of Clermont, where he had been practicing for some time. Dr. Mondelet was the son of Chief Justice Mondelet of Canada, and had served as surgeon in the federal army during the American Civil War.¹²⁴ What Gympie's early doctors had in common was experience as surgeon-superintendents and experience of treating all kinds of medical conditions and wounds from arenas of war. This made them eminently suitable for Gympie with its fair share of goldfield traumas and related settlement matters.

¹²² <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

¹²³ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 25 January 1871

¹²⁴ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 October 1870

Chapter 4 Other Contributions by Dr. Burke to Gympie, Toowoomba and Region

Dr. Burke's commitment to a range of diverse community organisations and community interests began early in his time in Australia. The information gleaned about Dr. Burke strongly suggests that he was a very public minded man. Dr. Burke had other roles other than in his medical practice. In 1869, aged 33, he was a Commissioner of the Peace in Gympie.¹²⁵ In 1870, he had been appointed a Magistrate.

His colleague Dr. T.E.D. Byrne had also been appointed a Commissioner of the Peace at the same time.

In early January 1867, Dr. Burke placed a public notice in the *Brisbane Courier* which read:

'Dr Stephen Burke, late Roscommon, Ireland, will oblige by sending his address to S.E. Kelly, Tollorton House, Charlotte Street Brisbane.'¹²⁶

The Wide Bay Electoral Roll of 1870¹²⁷ listed Dr. Burke as Stephen John Burke of Gympie.

The Queensland Times Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 5 November 1864

On 1 October 1864, Dr. Burke was one of the few interested people present at the event in Drayton, of the nomination of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the Western Downs. Dr. Burke seconded a motion by E. Mosey, Esq. to nominate Mr. Watts as a fit and proper person to represent the constituency. As there was no other candidate nominated, Mr. Watts was duly elected. Mr. Watts apparently had little to say except that his political views were already well known.

Committee of the School of Arts, Toowoomba, 1865

While living in Toowoomba, Dr. Burke was elected to the Committee of the School of Arts, Toowoomba.¹²⁸

Subscription Ball at the Court House Toowoomba, 17 May 1867

The Governor, His Excellency Sir George Bowen, Lady Bowen and Suite, as well as Ministers of the Crown were invited to Toowoomba to celebrate the opening of the Railway. As part of the celebrations, there was to be a Ball at the Court House,

¹²⁵ Ancestry.com <http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/28472993/person/12049000701> accessed 22 August 2014.

'Commission of the Peace' taken from Pugh's Queensland Almanac 1870

¹²⁶ The Brisbane Courier 5 January 1867

¹²⁷ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 3 August 1870

¹²⁸ The Brisbane Courier 25 October 1865

Toowoomba on 17 May 1867, open to all members of the public or as the newspaper printed 'all classes of its community.'¹²⁹ Tickets for the Ball were set at £1/1/- for gentlemen, and 15 shillings for ladies. Dr. Burke was one of a twenty member organising committee for the Ball.

It appears that Dr. Burke was a permanent member of this Committee. On 14 June 1867 another Ball was being held, on the occasion of another visit by the Governor. It was advertised that tickets were available from the Secretary of the Ball Committee, or from the Stewards, of which Dr. Burke was one.¹³⁰

Annual Ball in Aid of the Funds of the Lady Bowen Hospital 16 September 1867

Dr. Burke was one of thirty-five eminent men (which included seven members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly) on the Gentlemen's Committee for the organising of the Ball. The ladies' Committee had fourteen members, some of whom were wives of the members of the Gentlemen's Committee.¹³¹

Land Commissioner, Gympie, 1868

In March 1868, Dr. Burke was publicly praised for his willingness in the work of being a Land Commissioner: 'In announcing the departure of Dr. Carr Boyd, who has received an appointment as Land Commissioner under the *Land Act*, we express the general feeling of all who knew him as a Justice of the Peace on the Bench, in saying that his departure is regretted, as he was most painstaking and careful in every case. Without him, the Commissioners would have had still more arduous duties than they would have had. Dr. Burke has been ever ready to attend; but it is not just that professional gentlemen upon whom urgent calls may be made every moment should give up a great part of their time to the public service, and at their own loss.'¹³²

Justice of the Peace, Toowoomba and Gympie from 1864

As a Justice of the Peace, Dr. Burke became a member of the Licensing Committee to hear applications for Publican's Licenses, Bagatelle Licenses, Billiard Licenses, Auctioneer's Licenses, Wine and Spirit Licenses, Licenses to operate Theatres and Music Halls, and Timber Licenses. An example of this work while in Toowoomba can be found in *the Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser* in December 1864.¹³³ The report read:

'A publican's licencing meeting was held at the Police Court yesterday before Drs. Sachs and Burke, J. J.P. The Sovereign Hotel, Ruthven Street, was transferred from Ann Littleton to George Hooper, and the Royal Hotel, from William Henry Groom to

¹²⁹ The Brisbane Courier 9 May 1867

¹³⁰ The Brisbane Courier 13 June 1867

¹³¹ The Brisbane Courier 14 September 1867

¹³² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 28 March 1868

¹³³ The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser 14 December 1864

Ann Littleton. The application for a consideration for transfer of the licences of the Prince of Wales Hotel from Henry Koch to Lindenberg, was postponed, on application from the parties. A licence was granted to F. McLaughlan for a new house in Ruthven Street, to be called The Railway Hotel.'

Then in Gympie, he sat in Committee with George Faircloth, Esq., P.M., and R.B. Rider, also a Justice of the Peace. The Committee was considering applications from¹³⁴:

For Publican's Licenses

- William Arsang-Pocket Hotel Gympie
- John Enright-Deep Creek Hotel, One-Mile Gympie
- Donald Brown, transferring the North Australian Hotel license, One-Mile, to Edward A. Pike. This application was refused because of the absence of sufficient accommodation
- Jane Green-South Australian Hotel, Gympie
- Denis Kennedy-Kennedy's Hotel, Gympie

For Bagatelle Licenses (all granted)

- W.W. Burton-Newmarket Hotel, Gympie
- S.P. Scowen-Exchange Hotel, Gympie
- Edward A. Pike-North Australian Hotel, One-Mile, Gympie
- John Morse-Bendigo Hotel, Gympie
- R.S. Epstein, store, One-Mile, Gympie

For Billiard Licenses

- Henry Lawson, Royal Hotel, One-Mile, Gympie
- Henry Farley –two tables, Mining Exchange Hotel
- George Critchlow –to a room in the main street, Gympie

Auctioneer's License (granted)

- Edwin Binney as district auctioneer

Wine and Spirit License (granted)

- Dunckley Brothers for wholesale wine and spirit store

Theatres (recommended to be granted)

- Patience Bright-Prince of Wales Theatre
- Robert Barlow –Barlow's Apollonian Music Hall

Music Halls

- James W. Huey –permission for music and dancing, Union Hotel, One-Mile Gympie. Permission to be cancelled on first complaint of police
- Stephen Owens, permission for music and dancing, New Zealand Hotel, One-Mile on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, to 12 o'clock PM.

¹³⁴ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette of 9 September 1868

- Permission to be cancelled on first complaint of police
- William Wolfram, Eureka Hotel, Gympie on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, to 12 o'clock pm. Permission to be cancelled on first complaint of police

Timber Licenses (granted)

- Francis S. Homfray
- James Nixon
- John Hunter

Trustee of the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, 1866

Dr. Burke was a Trustee of the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery as a representative of the Roman Catholic Church. The Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery has served Toowoomba and the surrounding communities since the mid-1800s.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Thursday 9 April 1868 Dr. Burke's term of appointment ceased with the election of J. B. Callan Esq. M.D. to represent the Roman Catholic Church. The first burial at the cemetery when it was simply regarded as a burial ground was in late 1849, the first of whom was a cook from the Royal Bull's Head Inn.

Registrations of burials commenced in 1866 following the establishment on 17 November 1866 by the Queensland Governor of a Board of seven Trustees, one of whom was Dr. Burke. The first registered burial was in 1866.

The Queensland Governor had granted a 'Deed of Grant in Trust issued over an area of two acres (0.8094ha) to the Trustees of the Church of England for a Toowoomba Cemetery. A later deed, issued in 1867, expanded this to eight acres (3.2365ha) and extended the trusteeship to various religious denominations.¹³⁵

Burials for 1866 numbered 23 and are listed in the table¹³⁶. Given that the Board of Trustees were established in November 1866, it could be assumed that 10 year old William Henry James Agg was the first registered burial in 1866.

¹³⁵ Toowoomba Regional Council <http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/facilities-and-recreation/cemeteries/our-facilities/statistical-information/611-facilitiesrecreation/cemeteries/cemeteries-list/3227-drayton-a-toowoomba>

¹³⁶ Toowoomba Regional Council Australian Cemeteries Index

<http://austcemindex.com/index.php?cemname=Drayton%20and%20Toowoomba&year=1866&state=QLD&event=died>

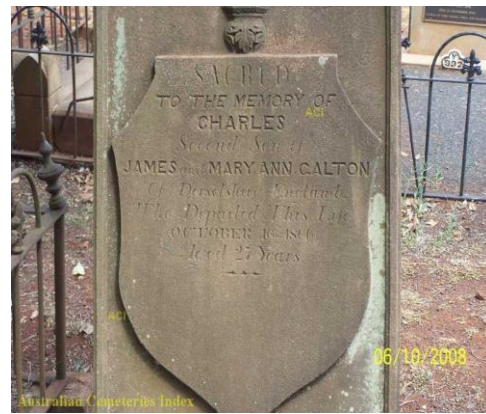
Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery Harristown Queensland

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Given Names</i>	<i>Birth Date</i>	<i>Death/ Burial</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Portion</i>	<i>Row</i>	<i>Plot</i>
<u>Agg</u>	Elizabeth Anne Graham	1858?	1 Jul 1866	8?		Old Ang 2.1	R5	15
<u>Agg</u>	Ernest Edward Cheeke	1862?	1 May 1866	4?		Old Ang 2.1	R5	15
<u>Agg</u>	William Henry James	1856?	Nov 1866	10?		Old Ang 2.1	R5	15
<u>Bauer</u>	Freiderich	1815?	12 Mar 1866	51		Old Ang 1.5	R4	2
<u>Bredson</u>	Isabella	15?Nov 1865	3 Jan 1866	0	dau/Matthew & Martha Jane	Old Ang 1.2	R2	11
<u>Bredson</u>	Martha Jane	1862?	17 Apr 1866	4		Old Ang 1.2	R2	11
<u>Coles</u>	James C	1834?	15 Jan 1866	32		Old Ang 1.1	R3	9
<u>Conroy</u>	Peter	1826?	Jun 1866	40		Old Ang 1.9	R2	11
<u>Crowshaw</u>	Ambrose	1829?	19 Apr 1866	37		Old Ang 2.1	R3	21
<u>Dixon</u>	Rebecca	1810?	25 Sep 1866	56	w/T W	Old Ang 2.1	R5	17
<u>Erbacher</u>	Mary	1853?	18 Aug 1866	13		Old Ang 1.5	R2	25
<u>Galton</u>	Charles	1839?	16 Oct 1866	27	son/James & Mary Ann	Old Ang 1.2	R5	5
<u>Giles</u>	Deborah	24?May 1866	12 Jul 1866	0		Old Ang 2.1	R3	26

<u>Gregory</u>	Marion Elizabeth Augusta	Feb 1866	11 Oct 1866	0	dau/Francis & Marion	Old Ang 2.2	R1	7
<u>Hampson</u>	Martha	1866?	9 Jun 1866	0		Bap Con 1		
<u>Hartley</u>	Abraham	1858?	8 Mar 1866	8		Old Ang 2.4	R1	16
<u>Mullins</u>	Harry	1865?	17 Apr 1866	1	son/H & M	Old Ang 2.4	R5	10
<u>Oelkers</u>	Fredrick William	Sep 1865	10 Apr 1866	0	son/John & Elizabeth	Old Ang 1.4	R4	25
<u>Shenton</u>	Elizabeth	1796?	6 Sep 1866	70	w/Thomas	Old Ang 2.1	R4	9
<u>Stable</u>	John Wickey	1800?	28 Jan 1866	66		Old Ang 2.1	R6	15
<u>Trindle</u>	John	1863?	24 May 1866	3		Old Ang 1.5	R4	16
<u>Trindle</u>	Mary	Dec 1864?	25 Feb 1866	1		Old Ang 1.5	R4	16
<u>Walker</u>	Helen Amelia	1838?	5 Aug 1866	28	w/Charles Edward	Old Ang 2.1	R6	20

Dr. Burke will have been in Melbourne by the time the dimensions of today's cemetery were laid down in 1882. An area of 67 acres (27.1139ha) was gazetted for the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. Control of the cemetery was passed from the Trust to Toowoomba City Council in 1974 and now the Toowoomba Regional Council is responsible for the cemetery. The photos¹³⁷ here show the entrance to the cemetery, graves in the old section of the cemetery, and an example of a headstone from 1866. There are no photographs available for the graves of the Agg family listed in the table.

¹³⁷ Toowoomba Regional Council <http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/facilities-and-recreation/cemeteries/our-facilities/statistical-information/611-facilitiesrecreation/cemeteries/cemeteries-list/3227-drayton-a-toowoomba>



Member of Local Committee Gympie- Gympie Primary Schools- One-Mile School and Gympie Central State School, 1868

In 1868, a year after the discovery of the gold in Gympie, and only months after Dr. Burke’s arrival in Gympie (Nashville), Dr. Burke became a member of the Local Committee in Gympie. On that Committee with Dr. Burke were Messrs. E.T. Gilbert, E.H. Booth, G. Thrower, J.F. Buckland, S.F. Buckland, S.F. Robinson, E.T. Smith, A.F. Luya, W.J. Daniell, Geo. Mann, J. Challinor, A. Pollock, A. Hardcastle, Thomas Mowberry, Thomas McGhie, E. Doyle, Mr. Dynte, Thomas Kelly, Mr Stuart, Mr McCay, Mr. Cathcarte, R. Greathead, J. Pyne, P. Lillis, Mr. Hargreaves, Mr. Francis, E.C. Hunter, Mr. McLean, D. Sinclair, R. Murdoch jnr, J. Puller, G.W. Gaynor, G.B. Mason, Mr. Moyes, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Havins and George Smith. Many of these men were active in other committees working to improve Gympie as a desirable place to live.

At that time in November 1868, the committee had decided to ‘build two schools- one at Gympie proper, and the other at the One-Mile. The committee was raising the necessary funds by holding an Exhibition and Bruce Auction on 8, 9, 10, December

1868. The exhibition would be open on the first two days, and on the third day the Auction was to be held. The committee was also to canvas the different districts in Gympie and its surrounds. The committee was confident of its success.¹³⁸ The need for the education of children of the Gympie community was brought about by the great influx of people coming to seek their fortune. Some private or 'paying' schools had already been established such as the Gympie Grammar School run by Mr. A. R. Richardson and another not far from where the One-Mile School is today run by Messrs. Lonney and Butler, but the new schools did not displace the already existing private schools.

The committee did raise sufficient funds to build both schools, initially as one room schools. With both schools opening in 1869, Dr. Burke was still in Gympie to witness the fruit of his labours and that of the committee. Within two years of the *Proclamation of the Gympie Goldfield*, a formal education for children became available at the One-Mile School which opened on 20 September 1869 and the School at Gympie proper (the Gympie Central State School in Lawrence Street Gympie) which opened on 18 October 1869.

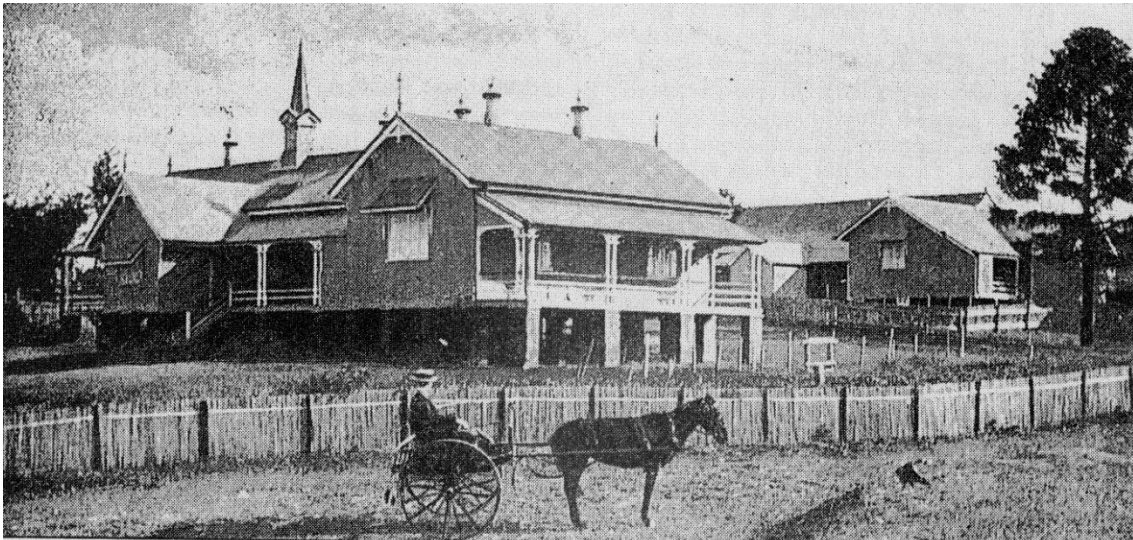
The Souvenir Book for the One-Mile State School makes the point that 'during the early days of the gold rush, the numbers attending the school increased rapidly.'¹³⁹ *The Souvenir Book* goes on to relate that 'between 20,000 to 30,000 people permanently made their homes here.' The open forest country around the One-Mile was more densely populated than the scrubby gullies around Nash's Gully. A thriving shopping centre developed along the One-Mile Road, and Messrs. Lonney and Butler opened a private school on the ridge between One-Mile Gully and Phoenix Gully. Reef mining soon proved the permanence of this field, and the Government decided to build a State School in the district. Gympie became the first Queensland gold field to have a State Government School. In 1869 ... the One-Mile School was erected, though its foundation was to be further up the ridge on a one acre reserve. The back of the building was close to the present Head Teacher's residence, and the frontage was approximately opposite the present John Street entrance.¹⁴⁰ The School's first head teacher Mr. James Alexander McLeod remained in his position for 45 years. When he 'arrived to open the school in the middle of September 1869, he found that his school consisted of a room containing nothing but the dead marines from the Governor's reception [Governor Blackall]. He obtained the help of some local carpenters and within three days they had sufficient desks and forms to accommodate the new pupils ... [he] enrolled 39 pupils but within three months there were 160 listed, and attendances increased very rapidly, reaching 360 in the following year.'¹⁴¹

¹³⁸ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 14 November 1868

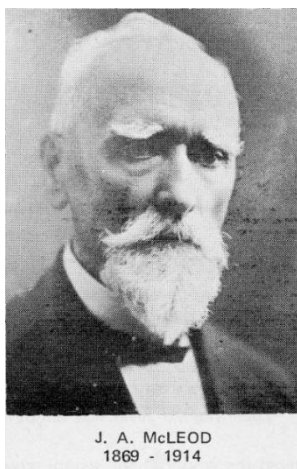
¹³⁹ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969, page 4

¹⁴⁰ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969, page 8

¹⁴¹ One-Mile State School 75th Anniversary, A Brief History. Printed 20 September 1944



The One-Mile School in the late 1800s¹⁴²



143

Photo of the One-Mile School's Head Teacher

The building served a number of functions including as a hall for the visit of Governor Blackall to the Gympie Goldfields in 1869 and as a refuge for around sixty people during the 1870 floods. The building was dismantled toward the end of the 1800s and its materials used to build a school in the Mary Valley. The one room building 'gradually developed into the construction of three school buildings; the Infants', the Girls' School, and the Boys' school which was separate.'¹⁴⁴

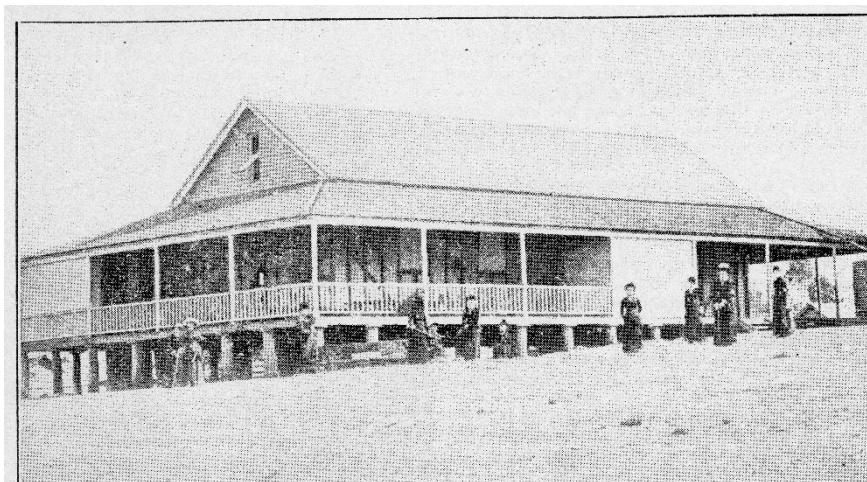
The name of the head teacher from the date Gympie Central State School opened until 30 April 1876 was Mr. Daniel Cannon Macgroaty. Mr. Macgroaty was also the head teacher of the boy's school (there were also other head teachers of the boy's school until 1884). The first head teacher of the girl's school¹⁴⁵ from the date of the opening of the school was Emma Marshall until 31 December 1970, with others taking her place over time.

¹⁴² One-Mile State School 125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994, page 5

¹⁴³ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969, page 16

¹⁴⁴ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969, page 4

¹⁴⁵ Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969, page 4



Original Girls' School in 1880's

Gympie Central State School opened as a mixed school but 'two weeks after opening...the boys and girls were separated for two years.'¹⁴⁶ The school had 100 children attending by 1872. Discovered behind the school residence was a mine shaft, 'so deep "as far as you could throw anything down it just kept going ... They pushed a lot of rubble and rubbish in until it lodged and then they actually flattened the top out and poured a slab, approximately half a metre thick by about eight metres square."¹⁴⁷ No photo of the original school is available, but the photo included shows the original Girls' School around the early 1880s.

From the descriptions of Dr. Burke's character, he would have been both pleased and proud to have seen both these schools become a reality.



148

Looking Towards Calton Hill from Horseshoe Bend Gympie. Gympie Central School is on the middle left of the photo: Central Boys (one large roof); Central School (many roofs). St Patrick's Church and the Convent are in the left background right up on Calton Hill; Connolly's house is at the left edge of the photograph; C Beaver Steele's house is opposite; Geldard's house is in foreground left.

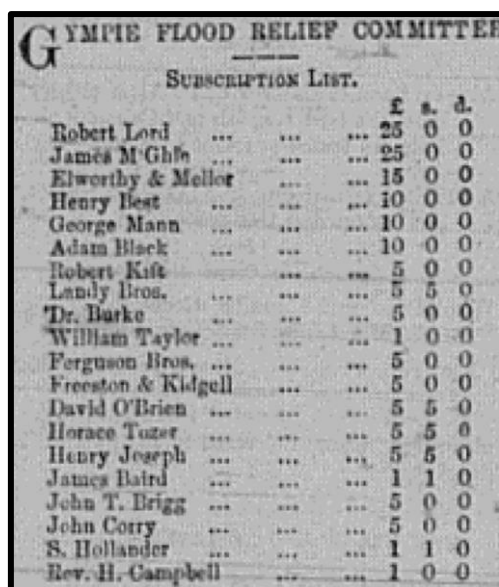
¹⁴⁶ Gympie Central School 125 years 18.10.1869 – 18.10.1994, page 21

¹⁴⁷ Gympie Central School 125 years 18.10.1869 – 18.10.1994, page 26

¹⁴⁸ Gympie Regional Library Picture Folder 17 Gympie Views

Contributions to Community for Flood Relief, Gympie, 1870

January 1870 and June 1870 were months of enormous flooding in Gympie, and just as we nowadays establish relief funds for such disasters, so then did it occur. Here is an example of Dr. Burke's generosity to the community with other people of note in the community for the 1870 relief fund.¹⁴⁹ He made another donation of £5 on 30 March 1870 (which was collected at the Commercial Bank).



GYMPIE FLOOD RELIEF COMMITTEE			
SUBSCRIPTION LIST.			
		£	s. d.
Robert Lord	...	25	0 0
James M'Ghie	...	25	0 0
Elworthy & Moller	...	15	0 0
Henry Best	...	10	0 0
George Mann	...	10	0 0
Adam Black	...	10	0 0
Robert Kift	...	5	0 0
Landy Bros.	...	5	5 0
Dr. Burke	...	5	0 0
William Taylor	...	1	0 0
Ferguson Bros.	...	5	0 0
Freeston & Kidgell	...	5	0 0
David O'Brien	...	5	5 0
Horace Tuzer	...	5	5 0
Henry Joseph	...	5	5 0
James Baird	...	1	1 0
John T. Brigg	...	5	0 0
John Corry	...	5	0 0
S. Hollander	...	1	1 0
Rev. H. Campbell	...	1	0 0

The Exiles' Cricket Club, Gympie

Another example of Dr. Burke's involvement in the community was his membership of the Exiles' Cricket Club. Subscription to join the cricket club was one guinea per annum, (payable in advance) - this would be around \$10 or \$15 in today's Australian currency. Dr. Burke listed as Dr. Burke, Esq., M.D., J.P., was the Vice-President of the Cricket Club.¹⁵⁰ Considering that he departed Gympie for Melbourne in 1870, it shows that he was wholly involved in community affairs right up until he departed the city of gold.

Executor to Settlement of Estates, Gympie, 1869

Often miners or citizens of Gympie had no relatives to manage their affairs on their passing, so professionals like Dr. Burke may have been nominated as executors to the settlement of Wills. Newspapers described Wills as falling into the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. One such case was that of the Last Will and Testament of Martin Feeny. In this case, the Parish priest of the Roman Catholic Church in Gympie, the Reverend Matthew Horan was also named as an executor. This suggests that Martin Feeny may have been a prominent member of the congregation of the Church in Gympie and laid high trust in Dr. Burke and Reverend Horan to attend to his affairs on his

¹⁴⁹ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 16 March 1870

¹⁵⁰ Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 9 January 1870

passing.¹⁵¹ Mr. Feeney had been a miner so it is highly probably that Dr. Burke was his doctor and may also have attended him at the time of his death.

In the Supreme Court of Queensland.

ECCLIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

In the Will of MARTIN FEENEY, late of Gympie, in the Colony of Queensland, Miner, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given, that **STEPHEN JOHN BURKE**, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine, and the Reverend **MATTHEW HOBAN**, Clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church, both of Gympie aforesaid, the Executors named in the last Will and Testament of the above-named deceased, intend, after the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof, to apply to the Honorable Court, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that **PROBATE** of the said **WILL** may be granted to them as such Executors as aforesaid.

Dated the twenty-third day of November, 1869.

J. WICKEY STABLE, Proctor for the said Executors, Gympie.

By his Agents, **ROBERTS & HART**, Brisbane. 5455

¹⁵¹ The Brisbane Courier 18 December 1869

Chapter 5 Dr. Burke Departs Gympie for Melbourne

Dr. Burke began winding down his medical practice and involvement in Gympie in the latter half of 1870. On 8 September 1870, he called for all accounts due to him to be paid on or before Friday 23 September 1870:¹⁵²

NOTICE.

ALL Accounts due to the Undersigned are requested to be paid on or before **FRIDAY, the 23rd September next, otherwise legal proceedings will be taken to recover the same.**
—S. J. BURKE, M.D.,
Caledonian Hill.

On 1 October 1870, 5 October 1870 and 8 October 1870, the following advertisement appeared in the *Gympie Times*, as Dr. Burke sought to be paid all of his outstanding accounts before 10 October 1870:

NOTICE.

ALL ACCOUNTS due by the undersigned are requested to be sent in on or before the 10th October next.
127 S. J. BURKE, M.D., Caledonian Hill.

The time was drawing near for Dr. Burke's departure as he handed over the collection of his outstanding accounts to a friend and colleague, Mr. John Staley¹⁵³. Staley was also the Pound Keeper and a Steward at the Gympie Turf Club:

NOTICE.

MR. JOHN STALEY, of Gympie, is hereby appointed to act as my AGENT, to transact any business on my behalf, and to collect all monies due to me; his receipt will be a sufficient discharge.
STEPHEN J. BURKE, M.D.
Gympie, October 24th, 1870. 139

By 2 November 1870, Dr. Burke was succeeded by Drs. Benson and Mondelet. Both used Dr. Burke's home 'Alpha Cottage' on Caledonian Hill as their surgery.¹⁵⁴ The

¹⁵² The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 8 September 1870

¹⁵³ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 26 October 1870

¹⁵⁴ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 2 November 1870. This advertisement also appeared in the Gympie Times of 19 October 1870.

official public notification of Dr. Robinson Benson's Esq. being appointed to be Medical Officer at Gympie, in the rooms of Dr. Stephen John Burke was made on 21 March 1870.¹⁵⁵

[CARD.]
DRS. BENSON & MONDELET.
CONSULTING ROOMS: Adjoining Mr. Smith's,
Chemist and Druggist.
Private Residence: "Alpha Cottage," lately
occupied by Dr. Burke; 105

The citizens of Gympie appreciated Dr. Burke so much that a testimonial dinner was arranged for his departure. Subscribers and friends for the Burke Testimonial was made public on 22 October 1870:¹⁵⁶

BURKE TESTIMONIAL.
FOR the presentation of the above, Subscribers
and Friends are requested to MEET at the
Apollonian Hall, at 8 p.m., on SATURDAY (This)
EVENING, 22nd instant. 116

As Dr. Burke was making plans to leave Gympie, there had been quite a bit of unfavourable weather causing cave-ins in some of the mines, and some were striking new reefs; local Court elections were underway, and a number of Dr Burke's numerous friends had met on 19 October 'for the purpose of considering the most suitable method of expressing the esteem of the residents of this gold-field for that gentleman, on the occasion of his departure to Victoria. The preliminaries were successfully arranged, and subscriptions lists were opened.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁵ The Brisbane Courier 21 March 1870

¹⁵⁶ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 October 1870

¹⁵⁷ The Brisbane Courier 20 October 1870

FAREWELL TESTIMONIAL TO DR. BURKE.

On Saturday evening last the ceremony of presenting a testimonial to S. J. Burke, Esq., M.D., took place at the Apollonian Hall, there being about 100 persons present. The whole affair went off with perfect and most gratifying success. J. O'Connell Bligh, Esq., Police Magistrate, presided.

Dr. Burke's appearance on the platform was greeted with hearty applause.

Mr. Bligh then addressed him, expressing the great regret which the people of Gympie felt at his departure from amongst them. They all knew that they were losing not only a skilful professional man, but also a friend of sterling worth, who had endeared himself to all who knew him. (Loud applause.) It was indeed a rare thing for a man to have no enemies, but of him (Dr. Burke) it might truly be said that he had not a single enemy in the district he was about to leave. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") He (Mr. Bligh) was very happy to preside on this occasion; he had not known Dr. Burke so long as many present, but he could sincerely say that that gentleman had no warmer friend than himself. He had now the pleasing duty of presenting Dr. Burke with a purse of fifty guineas; it was the wish of the subscribers that a piece of plate should be purchased with the money, and an inscription engraved upon it.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Baird) then read the inscription as follows:—

"Gympie, Queensland,
October 22nd, 1870.

"To STEPHEN JOHN BURKE, Esq., M.D., J.P. :—

"Dear Sir,—On behalf of the inhabitants of Gympie and the district, we beg your acceptance of the accompanying testimonial as a token of the good feeling which exists among us towards you.

"For three years you have always been ready to help the afflicted, many of whom will miss you and the charity which forms part of your character.

"To many of us your loss will be doubly great, as we part not only with a skilful practitioner, but with a sterling friend.

"The readiness which you have displayed in aid of any movement tending to the welfare of the community makes your departure a public loss.

"You have endeared yourself to us, and we wish you every happiness and prosperity.

"We are, yours faithfully,

" J. O' C. BLIGH,	H. E. KING,
M. HOBAN,	H. J. CAMPBELL,
C. J. CLARKE,	H. BEST,
P. LILLIS,	JAMES M'GHEE,
H. TOZER,	J. A. ANTILL,
ALEX. BLACK,	JAMES BAIRD,
R. BALLARD,	H. JOSEPH,
H. WEBB,	S. J. LLOYD,
A. HARDCASTLE,	M. MELLOR,
JAMES LANDY,	J. S. CULLINANE."

Every paragraph of the address was greeted with hearty expressions of approbation and concurrence by the meeting.

Dr. BURKE feelingly expressed his regret at his departure from amongst the people of Gympie, amidst whom he had resided so long, and whom he would ever remember with esteem and gratitude. He then read a reply which he had thought it necessary to prepare in answer to the very kind address they had presented:—

"GENTLEMEN,—

"I accept with very many thanks the testimonial you have so kindly presented to me on behalf of the inhabitants of Gympie and the district.

"The assurance which you have conveyed that I shall be missed by many of those to whom I have been able to be of service is very gratifying, but I feel that I have merely tried to do my duty. (Loud applause.)

"I sever (but I hope only for a time) with sincere regret the numerous ties by which I am bound to Gympie.

"Although you have been so good as to refer to my small services in the public affairs of the community, I feel that in this respect my place will easily be filled up, for my professional duties and my natural habits have prevented me from entering into such movements sufficiently to warrant the flattering manner in which you have connected me with them.

"I cannot find words to express the feelings with which I have heard read the third paragraph of the address. To be appreciated by so many makes this parting one of the most sorrowful and at the same time one of the proudest moments of my life. (Applause.)

"The prosperity of this town and district will continue to be a matter of great interest to me, and I shall always look back with pleasure and regret upon the days I have spent amongst you. (Applause.)

"I again thank you, gentlemen, for your too valuable testimonial; but the parchment, embodying so many kind feelings and bearing the signature of so many of my friends, will be my greatest treasure." (Loud applause.)

Three cheers for Dr. and Mrs. Burke, and "one more" were then given with great cordiality.

Dr. BURKE then said that he had omitted to remark that it would afford him very great pleasure to comply with the wishes of the Committee in regard to the purchase of a piece of plate upon which the address should be inscribed. In again expressing his sense of their kindness, he mentioned that he had been greatly touched by the regret shows by the poorer class during his farewell to them that day (cheers). This circumstance would be by no means the least gratifying of the instances of the good feeling of the people of Gympie towards him (cheers).

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated that portion of the proceedings, but the company spent a very pleasant half-hour afterwards, during which several appropriate toasts were proposed, and some good songs sung.

Mr. Neustadt, who engrossed the address, must be complimented upon the superior character of the work. The very tasteful and handsome border which was executed by Mr. E. Ballard, was greatly admired by all who saw it.

Dr. and Mrs. Burke left Gympie on Monday morning for Maryborough, accompanied for some distance by several friends. He will be detained during the assizes, but will probably be able to start by the next trip of the s.s. Havilah to Melbourne, to which city we wish him a pleasant voyage.

A man called *Mike*, wrote the following poem which was published as a tribute to Dr. Burke:

*'Och, Dr. Burke, tish't pleasant woke
To be takin' leave of you, so it aint.
You're going to Victoria, we'll see no more o' yer,
But we must grin and bear it widout complaint.
Over that horror-the road to Maryboro'
I wish you Doctor, jool, safe and sound.
The beastly movin ocean, I've a mighty notion,
Will make you sorry you left Gympie, I'll be bound.*

*Old friend, we've parted, but you're tinderhearted;
You won't forget us all-I know you can't.
You we'll remember from January to December;
Forgetting friends is a thing I never learnt.
Och, Doctor, often your smile did soften
The pillow of many a poor divil in pain;
And the stuff you'd give us "to touch up our livers"
Ah, it was b-r-r-r- but how could we complain?*

*You'd say, "Dy'e see now" and "Aisy be now,"
And you'd niver seem to want to git away.
I wonder next I never I never seen you vexed,
No matter how a fellow bothered you all day.
Poor man or another, you'd trate him like a brother,
No matter if he was "hard up" or what befell.
Barrin pills and potions, horrid testin' lotions,
Sure I was mighty sorry whin I got well.*

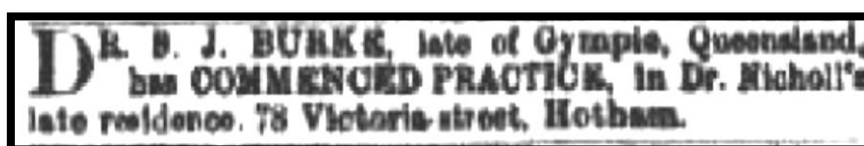
*Pat, Alick, or Jack 'tis wish you lots of practice,
Though if practice makes perfect you don't want much more.
Och, the great Melbourne M.D.s, with their heavy fees,
Will find our Banana man come to the fore!
They'll bear no malevolence, but you stick to the squivalents,
And try and make 'em 'blave you're might fond of tin;
(Sure we know better), but stand by the letter
Of my advice, and you'll soon be "well in."*

*Now, I am at the last verse, sure I feel very much worse,
Och, I'd have a headache in my stomach if you'd only come back,
But I'll be no caviler; pleasant voyage in the Havilah;
Of fortunes favours I hope you'll get a mighty whack.
Mondelet, by the same token, is mighty pleasant spoken;
Ah, Doctor, darlin' wont seem the same at all, at all;
But I won't upset you. Goodbye; we won't forget you
"The enemy to none, the friend of all!"¹⁵⁸*

¹⁵⁸ The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette 22 October 1870

Five days after the testimonial dinner, Dr. Burke and Mrs. Burke departed Gympie on Monday morning of 31 October 1870. They took the usual route out of Gympie in those days via Maryborough, and later boarded the *SS Havilah* to Melbourne. North Melbourne would be their new home and place of work for Dr. Burke. Here in their new home, Dr. and Mrs. Burke had a son and three daughters.

By early December 1870, Dr. Burke had established himself in practice in Hotham (North Melbourne). The *Argus (Melbourne)* of 10 December 1870 carried the following notice:



DR. B. J. BURKE, late of Gympie, Queensland,
has COMMENCED PRACTICE, in Dr. Nicholl's
late residence, 78 Victoria-street, Hotham.

In October 1885, Dr. Burke is mentioned with others of being subject to the passing of valueless cheques by a butcher, Samuel Curtis.¹⁵⁹ As well as Dr. Burke, Mr. Curtis had obtained money under false pretences from Mr. L.L. Smith, Dr. Blair, Messrs. A.F. Hughes, chemist, and George William Hall of the Western Port Hotel. Mr. Curtis had passed these cheques upon a number of doctors, chemists, and tradespeople in Melbourne in mid-September 1885. 'In each instance he [Curtis] represented that the cheques were given to him by a butcher by whom he said he was employed. From each of his victims he received the amount or a portion of that which the cheque was drawn.'¹⁶⁰

As indicated in Appendix 1, Dr. Burke branched out into obstetrical practice and went to work at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, while also continuing his practice in North Melbourne. Appendix 1 also provides other biographical detail of Dr Burke's professional life in Melbourne.

He worked as a member of staff at the Royal Women's Hospital for twenty years. In 1878, he was appointed to the Lying-In Hospital. He was also the Medical Officer for the Humane Society of Victoria from 1878. His publication '*Hydatid of the Lung*' was published in the *Australian Medical Journal* 1871:79.

¹⁵⁹ The Australasian (Melbourne) 17 October 1885

¹⁶⁰ The Australasian Melbourne 17 October 1885

Chapter 6 Dr Burke's Death and Death of his Wife

Dr. Burke's Lodge, the Victoria Tent, No.9, L.O.R, held its usual fortnightly meeting in the United Friendly Societies Hall, Queensberry Street Melbourne, on Monday evening, September 30th 1898 at 8pm. Dr. Burke, the Tent Medical Officer, was seriously ill at this time. The Meeting agreed to convey to Dr. Burke 'their sorrow at his protracted illness, and to assure him of their deep sympathy with him and his family in their sufferings and the hope of his speedy recovery to again minister to the sick and suffering of their Tent...[an] unqualified tribute was paid to the kindness of heart of Dr. Burke, who was a physician indeed-carrying into the homes of those who were sick and suffering, a warm heart and a sympathetic nature, exhausting himself for the amelioration of the woes of others: ready to give his time, money and skill to aid the recovery and lessen the suffering of those who needed his attention. The name of Dr. Burke would be beloved for his many acts of kindness and the sterling qualities he possessed.'¹⁶¹

One of the members of the Lodge, Bro. Nicol, said 'he had known Dr. Burke for some 25 years, and during that time he had not heard anything but words of praise. He knew of so many cases where Dr Burke had helped that it would use up all the time of Tent to narrate them. He felt that in Dr. Burke, they had a man of sterling qualities and he was extremely sorry that he was now suffering from exhaustion, due, as he understood, to overwork and worry. The Treasurer, Bro. Riddell also stated that he had known Dr. Burke ever since he had been medical officer of the Tent and there had never been any complaint made against in the quarter of a century he had been their doctor. He also knew of many cases where Dr. Burke had by his kindness and generosity contributed largely toward the recovery of the sick, seeking nothing but their restoration of health; and those that had not the means he was as ready to help and assist by his skill as those who could pay well for his services.'¹⁶²

The description of Dr. Burke in the *North Melbourne Gazette* and *West Melbourne Advertiser* fairly much mirrored that in other Melbourne newspapers 'he was of a particularly charitable disposition, and not only attended poor families gratis, but provided them with delicacies necessary beyond their means, at his own expense. He possessed in a marked degree "a good bedside manner", being of a very patient and courteous nature, and in serious cases-particularly those of a midwifery character-he was in truth "as gentle as a woman"...[all were going to] mourn and miss the "the good grey head that all men knew".'¹⁶³

In Melbourne, Dr. Burke had continued being the well-known and well respected doctor that everyone looked up to. An example of his continuing contribution was in the case of the inquiry into the cause of the death of Mrs. Jane Beedham, which took place under suspicious circumstances at the Waterloo Hotel on the 2 May 1887. The

¹⁶¹ The North Melbourne Gazette 11 November 1898

¹⁶² The North Melbourne Gazette 11 November 1898

¹⁶³ The North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser 2 December 1898

inquiry continued throughout June 1887¹⁶⁴. The police had been unable to trace Mrs. Beedham's movements for the last few days prior to her death, so Dr. Burke was invited to make a brief statement. He mentioned 'the causes which led up to his visiting the woman, he said that the certificate which had been given was, in his opinion, perfectly correct, although it had been toned down, in order simply to save the deceased woman's relatives from annoyance.'¹⁶⁵ In the end, 'the jury found that Jane Beedham died on the 2nd May from malpractice committed by some person or persons unknown, and that such person or persons were guilty of wilful murder. The Government offered a reward of £100 (\$14,055 in today's currency)¹⁶⁶ for information leading to the conviction of the persons implicated.'¹⁶⁷

After 30 years of professional practice as a doctor both in the Royal Navy, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gympie and Melbourne, Dr. Burke M.D., M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.K. & Q.C.P. (Ire) passed away on Thursday evening of 24 November 1898 in Melbourne. Dr Burke had 'been ailing nineteen weeks and had been confined to bed for seven.'¹⁶⁸ The report in *The North Melbourne Gazette* of 2 December 1898, confirmed that Gympie had been privileged to know Dr. Burke. He was a man who had an unflinching kindness of heart for everyone. He was in almost every way, the total opposite of his colleague Dr. Byrne, who was constantly irascible and argumentative. Melbourne and the whole of the metropolitan district immediately became 'deprived of one of its oldest residents and most respected medical practitioners.'¹⁶⁹

At the fortnightly meeting on Monday 28 November 1898 in the Friendly Societies Hall in Queensberry Street Melbourne, the Secretary (Brother C. Davidson) gave tribute to Dr. Burke, in 'feeling terms'.¹⁷⁰ Brother Davidson talked of Dr. Burke as having been connected with the Tent for over 25 years and that the Tent had suffered an irreparable loss with the death of Dr. Burke. P.C.R. Brother William Nicol seconded the motion of the meeting in providing 'a high tribute of praise for the services of the late Dr. Burke as medical officer of the Tent; his generosity was well known by all who came in contact with him, and as a medical man he was doctor and friend combined; not only the Tent, but the community, had lost in Dr. Burke a true healer of the ills that afflict humanity.'¹⁷¹ Dr. Burke was described as a medical man, friend and citizen with inestimable qualities.

As Dr. Burke's funeral notice states, he was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery on Saturday 26 November 1898.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁴ The Illustrated Australian News 25 June 1887

¹⁶⁵ The Illustrated Australian News 25 June 1887

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

¹⁶⁷ The Illustrated Australian News 25 June 1887

¹⁶⁸ The North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser 2 December 1898

¹⁶⁹ The North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser 2 December 1898

¹⁷⁰ The North Melbourne Gazette of 2 December 1898

¹⁷¹ The North Melbourne Gazette 2 December 1898

¹⁷² The Melbourne Argus 26 November 1898

FUNERAL NOTICES

BURKE.—The Friends of the late Dr. STEPHEN J. BURKE, of Victoria-crescent, Victoria-street, North Melbourne, are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Melbourne General Cemetery.

The funeral is appointed to leave St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, West Melbourne, **THIS DAY** (Saturday, 28th inst.), at 4 o'clock.

JOSEPH ALLISON, Undertaker and Embalmer, 123 Errol-street, North Melbourne, and Mount Alexander road, Moonee Ponds. Telephone 751.

That Saturday afternoon, most of the leading medical men of Melbourne and the suburbs were present at the funeral of the man from Killarney, a man who had served both England and his adopted country of Australia in an exemplary manner. The funeral was attended by a large number of people who held high respect for Dr. Burke.

His obituary read:¹⁷³

¹⁷³ The North Melbourne Gazette 2 December 1898

The Late Dr. Burke.

On Thursday evening another old resident of the town passed away in the person of Dr Stephen J. Burke, who has been practising his profession as a medical man in this locality for close on 30 years, and has, by his unfailing kindness of heart to one and all with whom he came in contact, endeared himself to a large circle of friends. He had been ailing for four or five months previous to his death ; but, although he was known to be ill, it was not till within the last few weeks of his death that he was compelled to take to his bed, from which he never rose alive. The deceased gentleman was a fine example of a genial-hearted, generous Irishman, to whom the rising generation of Australians owe so much for the pioneering work they have done. He was born at Killarney in the county of Galway in the year 1835, and received his primary education in the school conducted by the father of Sir T. N. Fitzgerald, the latter being also a pupil in the school. He then went to Dublin and obtained his M.D. degree, and afterwards crossed over the channel and took his M.R.C.S. in England and other degrees. He joined the navy as a surgeon, and in that

capacity saw active service on board H.M.S. Cordelia in the Maori War of 1860-61. His first experience of Australia was in 1854, when he had a brief sojourn in Queensland, in which colony he afterwards started practising his profession. He spent some years in Toowoomba, Gympie, and Brisbane, and after a little more wandering, at last came to Melbourne, and finally settled in North Melbourne in 1870. He was 63 years old when he died, and leaves a widow, and family of one son and three daughters. The funeral was a magnificent tribute to the unbounded respect which he had earned during his life, the procession being long and the attendance most numerous, and included a large number of members of the medical profession. A great quantity of floral offerings conveying the sympathies of sorrowing friends were received at the house. A solemn office for the dead was celebrated by Rev. Father Murphy, assisted by Rev. Father Collins, at St. Mary's Church. Procession was then re-formed, and the funeral cortege proceeded to the cemetery, where the burial service was performed by Rev. Father O'Connell. The pall-bearers were—Sir T. N. Fitzgerald, Drs Jno. Williams, Fetherston, C. Featherstonhaugh, A. Shields, and Messrs T. Cooper, G. Arnold and J. Woolcott.

To commemorate his memory, 'a stained glass window was being placed in St Mary's Church, West Melbourne'.¹⁷⁴ Dr. Burke was a prominent member of St. Mary's Church. Similar sentiments to those of his Melbourne Lodge Colleagues were carried in other national newspapers: 'he is said to have been a great friend of the poor and sick and to have been greatly esteemed by his brethren in the medical profession, and by the citizens of Melbourne generally.'¹⁷⁵ On 19 August 1899, following the agreement of the Mayor and a select Committee to cover Dr. Burke's grave with a marble slab suitably inscribed, together with the installation of a small monument at the head of the grave, 'a large gathering assembled at the grave of the late Dr. Burke in the Roman Catholic Division of the General Cemetery to witness the unveiling of the memorial stone placed there to his memory.'¹⁷⁶ Distinguished guests and members of Dr. Burke's family attended.

Mrs. Burke lived for another thirty-seven years after the death of her beloved husband. She died on 23 December 1935. She continued to live in Melbourne and died in her 88th year at in East Malvern in Melbourne at the home of one of her daughters (this would have been Ida Mary, her youngest daughter). Her obituary stated 'Mrs. Burke came to Australia with her mother in 1862. She met Dr. Burke when she was on a visit to Gympie (Q) then an important mining centre. Dr Burke afterward practiced at Toowoomba (Q) for some time. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Burke had charge of the out-patients clerical department of the Children's Hospital. Mrs. Burke was buried privately at the Melbourne General Cemetery on December 24, the vicar of St Paul's Church East Kew, the Rev. E.J. Durance officiating.'¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁴ The Hobart Mercury 14 June 1899

¹⁷⁵ The Hobart Mercury 14 June 1899

¹⁷⁶ North Melbourne Gazette 25 August 1899

¹⁷⁷ The Argus (Melbourne) 28 December 1935

Appendices

Appendix 1 Biography of Dr. S. J. Burke from the Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne
'The Book of Remembrance' 1956

Burke, Stephen Joseph (1835 - 1898)
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.K.Q.C.P. (Ireland)
Born 1835
County Roscommon, Ireland

Died 24 November 1898
Victoria, Australia

Occupation Medical practitioner, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Details

Written by Dr. Colin Macdonald and published in "The Book of Remembrance", The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, 1956.

STEPHEN JOSEPH BURKE (1835 - 1898)

Stephen Joseph Burke, born in County Roscommon, Ireland, in 1835 (the year Melbourne was founded) studied medicine in Dublin and became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1856, and Licentiate of the King and Queen's Colleges of Physicians, Ireland in 1862. He joined the Royal Navy and as surgeon on *HMS Cordelia* saw active service in the Crimean War (1853–55). Resigning from the Navy, he arrived in Australia in 1864 and practiced in Toowoomba and Gympie, Queensland, during the gold rush days.

In 1864 he married Miss Marion Allen (of Cornwall) and left for Melbourne where he was registered by the Medical Board on November 22nd 1870, and secured a residence in Victoria Street, North Melbourne. He quickly became established as a fashionable Obstetrician with a further reputation for breast surgery. He did not confine his attention to wealthy patients and had many in the poorer classes, amongst whom his private acts of charity made his name a household word in the North Melbourne district.

His practice was soon largely obstetrical and it is stated that he could account for an average of one confinement for every day of the year. The wives of many of the doctors of Melbourne at that time were amongst his maternity patients.

Soon becoming interested in the Women's Hospital (or Lying-In Hospital as it was then called) in 1877 he was one of those who supported the appeal to finance a new building on its present site. Burke was present when the buildings were opened in January 1878. In this year he was appointed by the Committee of the Lying-In

Hospital as locum tenens for Dr. Martin who had obtained leave to visit Europe, and when Dr. Martin died in 1879 Burke obtained a permanent appointment; there was considerable interest in this position which was filled (as was then the rule) by vote of hospital subscribers on 22nd April 1879. The three applicants were Dr. Burke, Dr. James Jamieson and Dr. Fulton. Dr. Jamieson had recently been appointed Lecturer in Obstetrics in the University and required the Physicianship of the Lying-In Hospital to complete his status. But Dr. Burke was in possession as locum and was personally held in well-deserved respect. The contest was between Burke and Jamieson, and on the vote, popularity and possession won the day by 272 to 119.

In 1880 an interesting case in one of his hospital patients was reported in the "Australian Medical Journal". The patient came into hospital in obstructed labour, the obstruction being found to be due to a hydatid cyst in the vagina. The cyst was tapped, forceps applied, and delivery accomplished. The mother and child left the hospital well.

In 1887 Dr. Burke was involved in the distressing Beedham case in which he was submitted to severe censure by the then Coroner, Dr. Youl. Mrs. Jane Beedham, a widow, was licensee of the Waterloo Hotel in Little Collins Street West. She had an abortion procured illegally and when on account of haemorrhage, was unable longer to serve in her bar, she announced that "one life was worth more than sixty tankers", closed the bar, and retired to bed. Dr. Burke was called in against the wishes of the patient and without a true knowledge of the attendant circumstances, sent to a nearby chemist for ergot of rye which was administered in two doses, a painter who was working in the hotel measuring the amount. Burke called next morning and found the patient's condition unaltered. He then informed her that operation was necessary to prevent the onset of blood poisoning. The operation, presumably curettage, was performed forthwith in the bedroom without any assistant. Bleeding was brought under control, and recovery from the anaesthetic was rapid. Before leaving to obtain the services of a visiting nurse, Dr. Burke gave strict and definite instructions that on no account must his patient get out of bed. Dr. Burke subsequently gave a death certificate recording death from haemorrhage. His friends claimed that his kindness of heart, good natured disposition and faculty for the believing the best in all circumstances led him to the decision that an enquiry would only do harm. Other men thought differently, and an inquest was ordered forthwith. A post-mortem examination was subsequently made by Professor H.B. Allen and Dr. William Moore, in the presence of Dr. Burke, Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Meyer and Dr. Cutts, Jnr. Though the uterus was the organ in which interest centred, it was examined by Professor Allen alone at the Melbourne Hospital, and death was recorded as due to haemorrhage from a laceration made during the illegal operation which had taken place a few days before. At the inquest, the implication put before the jury was that Dr. Burke himself had caused the woman's death by the abortion, and had issued a false and misleading death certificate. The case was adjourned for two weeks, and during that time evidence was forthcoming of the time and place where the abortion had been induced, and Dr. Burke was completely exonerated.

The majority of the medical profession felt strongly for Burke, and at the conclusion of the case presented him with an address expressing sympathy "on account of the trouble and anxiety which that enquiry must have caused you"; concluding "we feel the more called upon to give this expression of opinion since it may happen to any medical man involved in similar circumstances and with as little real cause for blame as there was in your case". The document was signed by G.H. Fetherston and 50 other well-known doctors, amongst them members of the Women's Hospital staff. This document is now in the possession of the Medical Society of Victoria, having been presented by Dr. Godfrey Baldwin, (grandson of Dr. Burke) of Sale, Victoria.

During a serious illness in 1897, Dr. Burke took as his partner, Dr. Gerald Baldwin, F.R.C.S. (Eng.) who later married his daughter, Ida, and Baldwin continued practicing at Victoria Street, North Melbourne on Burke's death. His widow for a number of years was in charge of the outpatient department of the Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

Dr. Burke remained an active member of the Women's staff for twenty years. He died on 24th November 1898 aged 63 years, and was buried from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, West Melbourne.

Archival/Heritage Resources Royal Women's Hospital Archives

- Book of Remembrance, 1956 - 1975; Royal Women's Hospital Archives



Title Burke, Stephen
Prepared by: Robyn
Waymouth Created: 31
July 2006, Last
modified: 26 November
2006

BIBLIOGRAPHY and FURTHER READING

Book of Remembrance, 1956 - 1975; Royal Women's Hospital Archives Victoria. Collection of biographies written by Dr. Colin Macdonald during 1953-1956 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Women's Hospital and subsequently added to by his colleagues. 2 Volumes. Biography of Dr. Burke: prepared by Robyn Waymouth; created: 31 July 2006

Bruck, L. *Australasian Medical Directory and Handbook*, 1883, 1886

Carroll, Brian. *Australian Mines and Miners*. The MacMillan Company Pty Ltd 1977

Carnell, Ian G.A. *History of Gympie, 1867-1900, specifically C.H. Allen, A Visit to Queensland and her Goldfields* London:Chapman and Hall, 1870

Gympie Central School 125 years 18.10.1869 – 18.10.1969

Gympie's Jubilee 1867–1917 The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Special Issue 1 July 1985

Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927, Its Leading Institutions. Romance of the Goldfield Days. Transition from Mining to Agriculture. Gympie September 1927

One-Mile State School 75th Anniversary. A Brief History. Printed 20 September 1944

125 Years of Education in Gympie 1869-1994

Pike, Glenville. *On the Trail of Gold. The Story of James Venture Mulligan North Queensland's Greatest Prospector-Explorer. An Autobiography quoted by Glenville Pike with Commentary*. Watson Ferguson & Company Brisbane, 1998.

Pedley, Ian. *Winds of Change. 100 Years in Widgee Shire*. Commissioned by the Widgee Shire Council in its centenary year. Published by the Gympie Times March 1979

Souvenir of the One-Mile State School Centenary 1869-1969

ONLINE ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

Alexander Turnbull Library Reference: C-030-010 Permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Matauranga, Aotearoa. [New Zealand History on Line Taranaki and Waikato wars - New Zealand Wars <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/the-new-zealand-wars>

Ancestry.com

<http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/28472993/person/12049000701> accessed 22 August 2014.

Ancestry.com All Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923

Ancestry.com. Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1950 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

Ancestry.com. Ireland, Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620–1911. Index. Salt Lake City, Utah

Ancestry.com The 1901 England Census Public Record Office Reference RG 13/2792 Census Returns of England and Wales, 1901. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives, 1901

Ancestry.com 1911 England Census [database on-line] Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry .com operations, Inc 2011, from the original data Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911. Kew, Surrey, England. The National Archives of the UK (TNA), 1911

'Commission of the Peace' taken from Pugh's Queensland Almanac 1870

<http://www.convertunits.com/from/hundredweight/to/kg>

<http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

Public Record Office RG 9/1565

Public Record Office HO 107/154/5 Enumeration Schedule 1841 Census for Cornwall England

Public Record Office HO 107/1911, for 1851 Census of Cornwall, Town of Falmouth

Toowoomba Regional Council <http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/facilities-and-recreation/cemeteries/our-facilities/statistical-information/611-facilitiesrecreation/cemeteries/cemeteries-list/3227-drayton-a-toowoomba>

Toowoomba Regional Council Australian Cemeteries Index
<http://austcemindex.com/index.php?cemname=Drayton%20and%20Toowoomba&year=1866&state=QLD&event=died>

<http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/6460597/person/-1285236754>. Baldwin Family Tree

<http://trees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/16469794/person/1797681471/fact/16403528388>

VicNet Victoria's Virtual Library <http://medicalpioneers.com/cgi-bin/index.cgi?detail=1&id=977>

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND PAPERS, JOURNALS

Central Mary Street inundated with floodwaters in 1870. Queensland State Library (StateLibQld 1 96088)

Cooloola Shire: a Golden Past. Cooloola Shire Library Service, Local History Section of the Cooloola Shire Library Service, including Elaine Brown, Amelia Connolly, Ann Egan, Cathy Hunt, Janet Lee and Moira Maclachlan, Friends of the Library volunteer researchers, in Merlyn Burkhardt and Rose Sami. Published by Cooloola Shire Council 2001

Floods in the Gympie area 1870. State Library of Queensland State Lib Qld 1 159247

Gympie Regional Library, Local History Section: 1869 photo of Caledonian Hotel on Caledonian Hill

Gympie Regional Library, Local History Section: Photo of Dr. Byrne This photo is held in the collection of the Local History Section at the Gympie regional Library and is believed to have been taken in 1872. At one time following Dr. Burke's departure from Gympie, it became the house of Dr. T. E. D. Byrne. It is believed that the bearded man is Dr. Byrne and the man seated on the ground, his brother, Bobby Byrne

First St. Patricks Church, Gympie, c. 1870 Photograph: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

Gympie Regional Library, Local History Section: Picture Folder 17. Gympie Views

Queensland Lands Department. Survey of Lands Branch, Photographic Branch [Public Domain], via Wikimedia Commons

The Argus (Melbourne)

The Brisbane Courier

The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser

The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette

The Hobart Mercury

The Illustrated News

The Local and General News

The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser

The Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser

The North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser

The North Australian

The North Australian

The North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser

The North Melbourne Gazette

The Rockhampton Bulletin & Central Queensland Advertiser

The Queenslander

The Queenslander

The Queenslander, The Miner Gympie Gold Fields from a correspondent, Gympie
February 7 1868

The Queensland Times, Ipswich and General Advertiser

The Sydney Morning Herald 10 August 1858, article entitled H.M. Ships in Port,
and On the Station

Timber houses submerged in the Gympie floods 1870. Courtesy of Local History
Section Gympie Regional Library