

Newsletter of the

TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

October 2022

1/27 Barbeler Street Currajong Q 4812

PO Box 785 Hyde Park Q 4812



Special Points of Interest:

- *Launch of new book "Asleep in the Deep" by Trisha Fielding*
- *Cemetery Headstone by Nick Shailer*
- *Court House (Herbert) Hotel*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

.On the 23rd September the Museum launched its latest book, "Asleep in the Deep" at the Maritime Museum. We sincerely thank Robert and his volunteers for providing the venue and morning tea. Maritime Museum was chosen because of the display on the SS Yongala which the book relates to. Clifford O'Brien lost his life on this ship and from the contents of a 1911 Diary which Townsville Museum received in 2019, Trisha Fielding was able to write a wonderful account of a love lost in this tragedy. The book was officially launched by the Mayor of Townsville, Councillor Jenny Hill and the book is available for purchase at the Museum or on our website.

Our photo collections are getting an upgrade. The Museum was successful with a grant to purchase a scanner and the museum purchased a laptop to have our collections stored on a stand-alone system for easy access. Wendy is taking on this task which will keep her very busy for some time. We also have a new volunteer, Sue Pine and we welcome her to the Museum. More volunteers are always welcome to assist with visitors, keeping displays and artefacts clean and of course offer their knowledge from past working experiences.

With Christmas fast approaching, this will be the last newsletter for 2022 and I would like to wish everyone all the best for the Festive Season. I sincerely hope 2023 will be a successful year for the Museum.

Regards to all,
Trish Cronin
President

TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

First and Third Sundays of the month

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

ENTRY Adults \$5 Chn \$2

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(12 months from 1st July to 30th June)

Single \$ 11.00

Couples \$ 16.50

Corporate \$ 32.50

Monthly committee meetings are held at the Museum on the third Monday of the month at ten o'clock. All committee members are notified a week prior to the meeting.



Trish Cronin shows the journal of Georgina O'Brien at the launch of "Asleep in the Deep".

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HUBERT STREET, SOUTH TOWNSVILLE

Hubert Street, South Townsville. Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert, auctioneer and agent, was born on the Isle of Jersey and arrived in Townsville in 1868 on his way to the Gilbert diggings. He returned in 1880 and set up in business. An Alderman for six years, he served one term as mayor. During this term the "Hubert Wells" waterworks were established on land at Aitkenvale between West and Rogers Street.

Declared insolvent in 1892, he discharged his bankruptcy within a short period. He was one of the few North Queensland politicians of his time not to favour Separation. Beset by financial difficulties he died a comparatively poor man on 3rd April, 1909.

Mathew, J. (1995). *Highways and Byways*. Townsville, Queensland: Townsville City Council.

Some of Henry's life can be followed through newspaper articles found on Trove and below are pertinent events which were readily found.

It was announced on Tuesday 13th October in 1863, that Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert married Annie Matilda, eldest daughter of William Nicholson, Esq., of Abglasslyn, near Maitland in St Paul's Church, west Maitland. The ceremony was presided over by Rev. J. R. Thackeray.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 13 October 1863, page 1

Notice of Dissolution.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned HENRY BARBENSON LE TOUZEL HUBERT, JOHN WILLIAMS, and ALFRED TREVETHAN, carrying on business at Cooktown, Charters Towers, and Millchester, as Butchers, under the name, style, and firm, of Hubert, Williams, and Trevethan, has been this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent, and the business will in future be carried on at these places by the said Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert and the said John Williams, under the name, style, and firm of Hubert and Williams who will pay and receive all debts and liabilities due from and to the said firm of Hubert, Williams, and Trevethan.

Dated 6th day of December 1875.

Signed by the said Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert, John Williams, and Alfred Trevethan, in the presence of Charles J. Brown, Clerk to W. Pritchard Morgan, Solicitor, Cooktown.

H. B. LE. T. HUBERT JOHN WILLIAMS ALFRED TREVETHAN.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954), Wednesday 5 January 1876, page 3

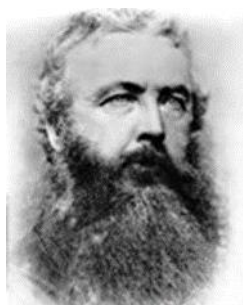
The following persons have been adjudicated insolvent during the week: —Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert, auctioneer and commission agent, of Townsville, liabilities £5226 1s. 7d.

Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939), Saturday 20 February 1892, page 378

HUBERT STREET, SOUTH TOWNSVILLE

A Sudden Death.

("Townsville Star," April 3).

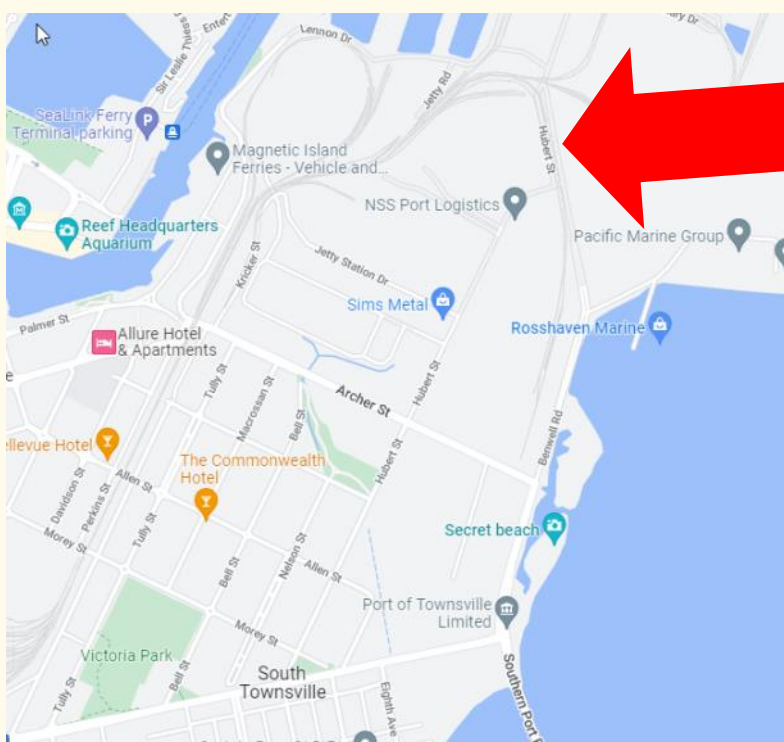


Unknown, Mr Henry Barbenson Le Touzel Hubert, Mayor of Townsville, 1885.

This morning it became known that Mr. Henry Le B. T. Hubert had been found dead in a chair in a boarding house in Walker-street, opposite the lockup. From the particulars available it seems that Hubert complained of indigestion first thing in the morning, though there was nothing to suggest he was seriously ill. After strolling round the house he sat down in a chair, and apparently expired immediately, for when the landlady went to him she found him dead. Dr. Humphry and the police were summoned, and the funeral will take place this afternoon.

Deceased was a prominent Townsville identity, having resided here for many years. At one time he was Mayor of the town, and after him the Hubert Wells were named. He was over 70 years of age, and his sudden end will be regretted by a large circle of friends.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954), Monday 5 April 1909, page 7



Hubert Street



A PUB CRAWL THROUGH TOWNSVILLE— COURT HOUSE HOTEL

The Herbert Hotel which is on the corner of Sturt and Stokes Street in the city, originally began its life as the *Court House Hotel*.

In “A Pattern of Pubs”, Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde trace the original hotel’s history back to 1875. Here is an excerpt from their book.

For thirteen years after the town’s founding, the Townsville Magistrates Court and visiting Circuit Court sat in uncomfortable rooms in the Court and Custom’s House on Melton Hill overlooking Wickham Street. In 1875 the Queensland Government decided that a new Magistrates Court House should be built at the corner of Sturt Street and Stokes Street. That region was then mainly virgin scrub with a few houses dotted through the bushland and one or two tin shanties occupying the proposed site for the Court House. In July 1875 the enterprising Edward Head returned to Townsville from Sydney.

Rin of the District Court and out-of-town litigants, Head reasoned that a hotel close to the Court House could supply both food and accommodation, besides attracting a substantial bar trade. He erected the first *Court House* in August 1875.³ Apart from the usual bars, dining rooms, etc., it contained six bedrooms and two sitting rooms. The local newspaper thought it ‘would be no discredit to any street in Brisbane...a very creditable structure and a boon to dust-troubled citizens’.⁴

For once, Head’s ‘golden touch’ failed. Several other hotel proprietors built new hotels at this time, resulting in an oversupply of hotel accommodation. Although some licencees went bankrupt, Head weathered the storm. Following his election as Mayor of Townsville he transferred the licence to Arthur Silvester in 1878. It was during Head’s term as Mayor that the Town Clerk was arrested for embezzlement. In attempting to cover his tracks, he burned down the Municipal Council offices, then housed in a building rented from C.O. Price in Denham Street. Head was suspected of being implicated and resigned in 1879, after which he left for Sydney.¹

The next Municipal Council offices were in Stokes Street in a building owned by Head opposite the *Court House*. He retained his interests in Townsville, becoming increasingly wealthy and eventually acquiring the Sydney mansion ‘Como’. In the 1890s Head and his son George were the major developers of the Keelbottom copper mines.

The *Court House* was sold in 1879 to William Landers who, in 1880 when the Northern Railway was being built, established a mail coach run from his hotel to the railway camps, ensuring its popularity with workers on the railway. Landers acquired considerable property at Antill Plains during this period, which he was able to sell profitably as the railway opened. Mount Landers in that locality was named after him. In 1883 he transferred the licence to his nephew-in-law Edward Downs in order to build a new hotel, the Tower, close to the new Railway Station in Flinders Street.

³ *Cleveland Bay Express* 28 August 1875.

⁴ *Townsville Times*, 25 September 1875.

¹ *Townsville Herald*, 25 January 1879 and 8 February 1879

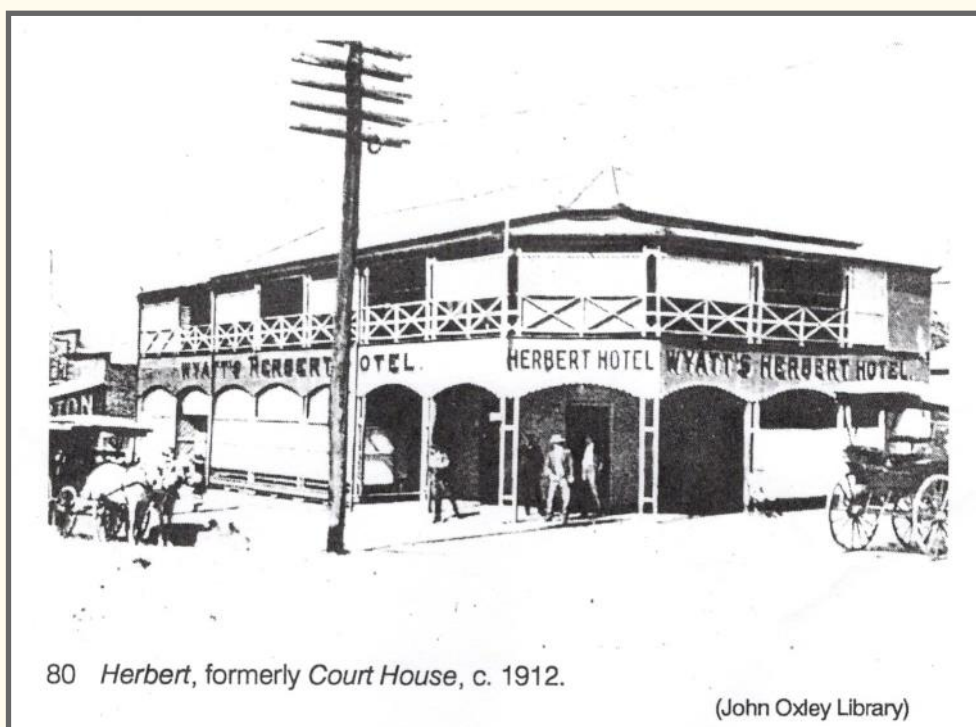
A PUB CRAWL THROUGH TOWNSVILLE— COURT HOUSE HOTEL

After Downs left in 1884, the licence passed through several hands. By 1885 some of the town's more flagrantly obvious brothels were 'behind the Court House Hotel'. Visits by 'Maggie the Stag' or 'the Woman in Red' considerably enlivened life in the area. The proximity of such an establishment to the Court House was a source of annoyance to some— amusement to others!

In 1887 Charles Wyatt took over the hotel; by then it seems that the brothels had been removed to make way for the Oddfellows' Hall.¹ He first became well-known in the town as the mail contractor, running mails to the Ravenswood goldfield in the late 1860s. From 1870 he lived in Townsville, first as a carrier to Georgetown, then as a storeman for Aplin, Brown & Co., where he was renowned as a 'strong man'; few could equal his strength in lifting heavy weights. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, of the Turf Club and of the Show Society, where he was a respected judge of livestock. Wyatt was licensee of the hotel for seventeen years until his death in 1904, one of the longest serving publicans remaining at one hotel in Townsville history.

His genial character greatly enhanced the hotel's reputation; for the last four years of his life he was an invalid, suffering from chronic rheumatism, leaving his wife to run the hotel. After his death it passed, first to his widow, then to his son-in-law John Fitzpatrick, who changed the name to Herbert in June 1910. The original hotel was replaced by the present brick building in the 1920s.

¹ On the site of the TAB offices next to Venture Plaza in Sturt Street.



Text and picture from: *"A Pattern of Pubs: Hotels of Townsville 1864-1914"* by Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde.

ASLEEP IN THE DEEP—BOOK LAUNCH 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

Author Trisha Fielding wrote the book *Asleep in the Deep* after reading a journal which was anonymously sent to Townsville Museum some years ago. In the journal, the course of Georgina O'Brien's life unfolded through letters, telegrams, certificates and newspaper clippings. It is a story of never-ending love and devotion to her husband and daughter. Trisha has pieced together the lives of these people and told a life story very sensitively.

On 23rd of September the launch of "Asleep in the Deep" was held at the Townsville Maritime Museum, Palmer Street, South Townsville. Maritime Museum's curator Robert de Jong introduced the presenters with Trish Cronin of Townsville Museum describing the random delivery of a parcel from an anonymous donor, then author Trisha Fielding discussing the discovery of details she uncovered through her research. Mayor Jenny Hill launched the book with guests including representatives from the Harbour Board, Maritime Museum, James Cook University, and Townsville Museum.

Copies of the book are now available from Townsville Museum at \$20 per copy.



Above: Robert de Jong introducing the speakers.

Below: Mayor Jenny Hill launching "Asleep in the Deep".



Above: A part of the audience at the launch.

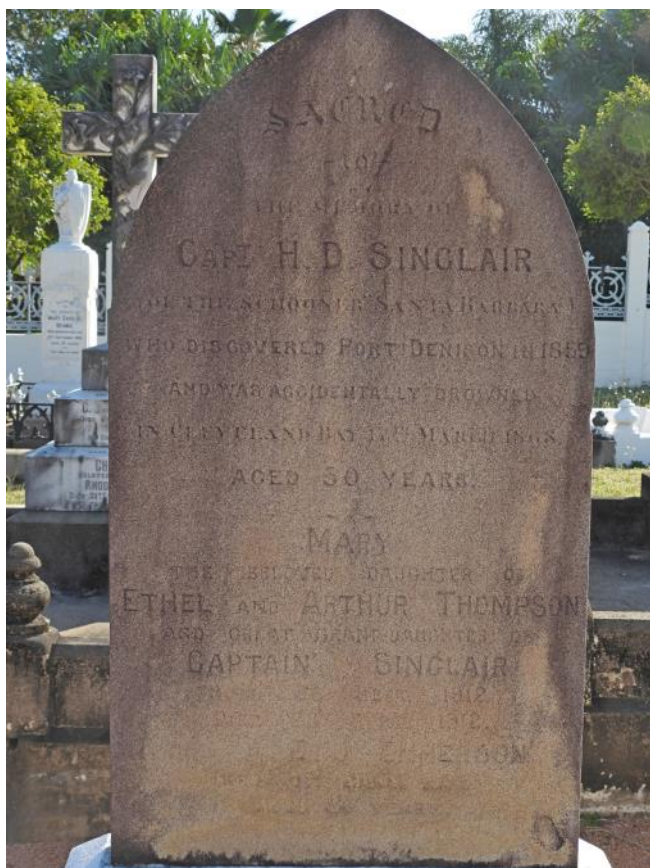


Above: Trish Cronin of Townsville Museum and author Trisha Fielding.

Below: Trisha Fielding signing copies of "Asleep in the Deep".



CEMETERY HEADSTONES BY NICK SHAILER



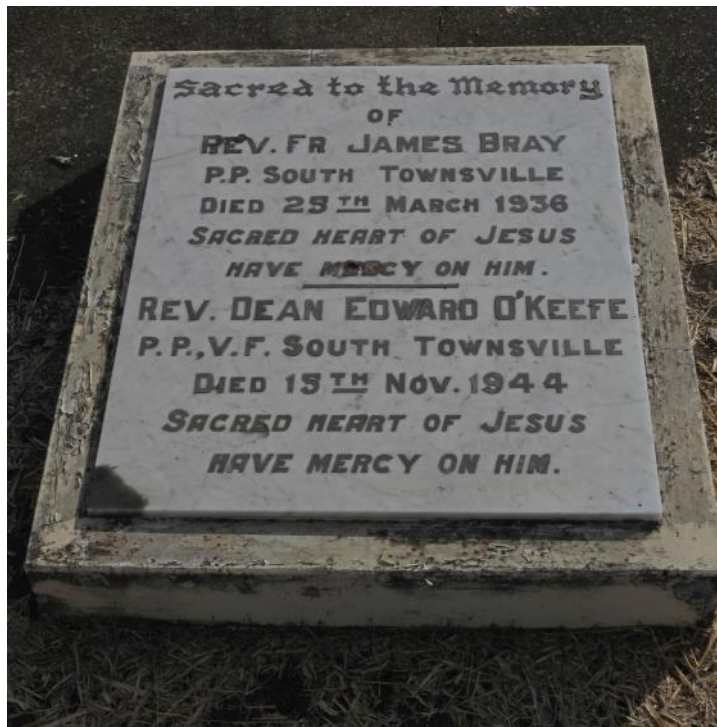
MR. H. D. SINCLAIR,
Discoverer of Port Denison, October
15, 1859.

Discovery of Port Denison

Captain H. D. Sinclair, discoverer of Port Denison, whose portrait is reproduced in this issue, was induced to start on his voyage in the hope of earning a liberal reward, which some articles appearing in the Sydney papers were understood to intimate would be paid by the Government for the discovery of a port available for maritime intercourse with this part of the country. Sinclair made his preparations during August and on September 1, 1859 left the Fitzroy on board the Santa Barbara with W. H. Thomas as seaman, and James Gordon and Benjamin Poole as passengers. On October 14, they anchored in Gloucester Island Passage and on the 15th proceeded up the bay, and thus discovered the beautiful and commodious harbour of Port Denison. The principal parties interested, then proceeded to Sydney, where the journals of the expedition were published in "The Sydney Morning Herald" of the latter part of November, 1859, and steps were taken to secure the hoped-for advantage and reward. The promises which had been made by Mr Cowper were, however, not official, and no reward has yet been paid.

The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld; 1866-1939) / Sat 23 June 1906 / Page 19

CEMETERY HEADSTONES BY NICK SHAILER



Right: Funeral Notice for the late Very Reverend Father James Bray as found in Townsville Daily Bulletin: Thurs 26th March 1936

Below: Referring to the death of Reverend Dean Edward O'Keefe found in Townsville Daily Bulletin 1st Dec 1944.

FUNERAL NOTICE

THE LATE VERY REVEREND FATHER JAMES BRAY, P.P.

THE Cortege of the late VERY REVEREND FATHER JAMES BRAY, P.P., will leave St. Patrick's Church, South Townsville, at 10.30 a.m., THIS DAY, for the Old Cemetery.

Office of the Dead and Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, South Townsville, at 9 a.m.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE THE ORDER OF THE FUNERAL

Marshall (Mr. C. G. McGuire).
St. Patrick's School Children, South Townsville.

Christian Brothers' College Boys.

St. Patrick's College, Girls.

Hibernian Societies.

Children of Mary.

Catholic Clubs.

Executive Officers and Members of all Catholic Societies and Societies of Townsville.

Hearse and Pall Bearers.

Mourning Coach.

Motor Vehicles, Etc.

On reaching the Great Northern Hotel, all School Children will form a Guard of Honor whilst the Funeral Procession passes, after which they will disperse.

ROONEYS PTY LIMITED,
Funeral Directors.

'Phones: Day 400; Night 870.

"In the death of Dean O'Keefe, the Bishop and Priests of Townsville lost a worthy and devoted fellow priest, and the Christian Brothers and their pupils lost a friend and benefactor.

"We cannot adequately express our feelings of gratitude and appreciation to the priests of Townsville, and to Fathers Vandeleur, Stewart, Garvey and Mullens of the Cathedral staff for perennial kindness.

MEMBERS VISIT CHARTERS TOWERS 9TH JULY 2022

On Saturday 9th July, a group of members drove to the inland town of Charters Towers, some one and a half hours away. After visiting some of the public buildings such as the Magistrate's Court and the School of Mines building, a trip up Towers Hill to see the WWII bunkers and the new developments was in order. A tasty lunch was had and a pleasant drive home followed. A great day was had by all!



Row 1: Magistrate's Court, School of Mines Building, currently used by an art group..

Row 2: Two of the Bunkers from World War II on Towers Hill.

Row 3: Petra, Sue, Fay, Warren, Lyn and Geoff on the new walkway at Towers Hill, Walking up to one of the bunkers on Towers Hill.

MEMBERS VISIT CHARTERS TOWERS 9TH JULY 2022



Row 1: Petra, Sue, Fay, Warren, Nick and Geoff on Towers Hill, Video display inside one of the bunkers.

Row 2: Sue, Petra and Fay on Towers Hill.

Row 3: A silent policeman on a Towers Street, Rocky outcrop on Towers Hill.

FROM THE MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

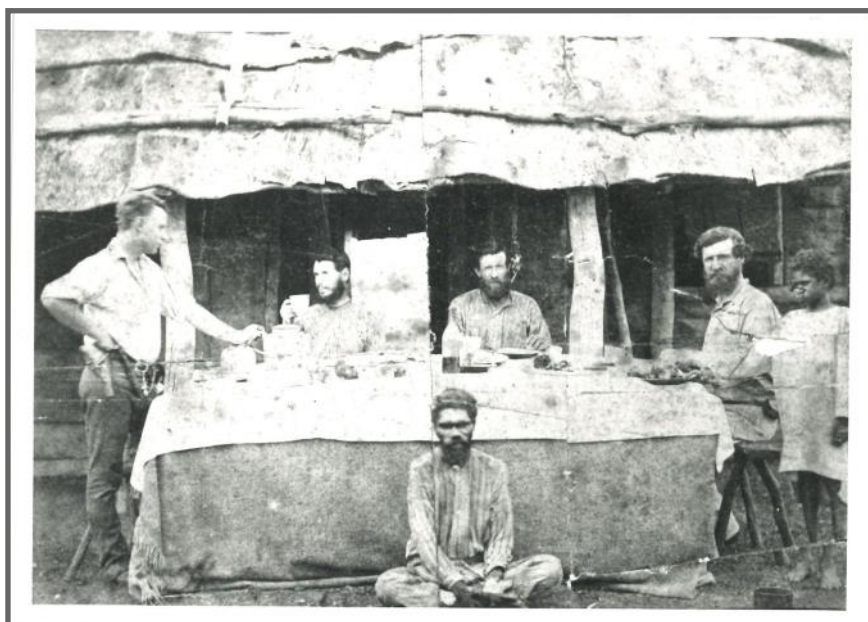
Prior to the establishment of Townsville, pastoralists had settled in northern districts like Kennedy, Mitchell and Leichhardt. John Melton Black, who had secured a financial partnership with Robert Towns, pursued his aim of developing a port facility to ship out the products from a proposed boiling down works.

"Pastoralists frequently adopted cattle first, not only because they could travel greater distances more quickly, but because the government regarded one head of cattle as equal to five sheep."

Griffin, H. (2014) *Frontier Town: A History of Early Townsville and Hinterland 1864-1884*. North Queensland History Preservation Society: page 14.

A boiling down works was developed at the mouth of Ross Creek and cattle from many western stations provided it with its necessary supply.

The photos on pages 11 and 12 are copies of photos of western stations from the Hughenden, Aramac and Boulia areas, and have been published in "The Bowly Papers".



Lammermoor 1874: Meal time

Although the table has been moved into full sunlight for the photograph, a real meal is in progress, the antipodean Dinner, taken in the middle of the day. On the table there is bread or damper, meat, glasses, cups, knives and a bottle one quarter full. The table is covered with a fringed travelling rug, with a smaller light cloth on top.



Mt Cornish 1876

Although having much in common with dwellings at Lammermoor and Eastmere this house is the work of skilled artisans: Carpenter, Bricklayer and— for the French windows—joiner. Wide verandahs on at least three sides are supported by stout squared posts, the floor is 300-400mm above ground level.

FROM THE MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Eastmere 1891

Three children stand with an aboriginal maid in a garden divided into rectangular beds. The original print which has been coloured by hand has faded so badly that little can be made out clearly except the figures. The three children are on the left, a boy aged about ten, a little girl of three or four in the middle, and a slightly older boy to the right. All, including the maid are wearing hats.



Ambo Outstation Mt Cornish 1876

A small narrow house with fully hipped roof, originally with a verandah all round. Cladding of the core is not visible. The roof is of iron but has no gutter. The whole of the back verandah and about one third of the side verandahs have been enclosed with lapped weatherboards, adding about 40% to the enclosed area. Five visible windows are of the sash type...





Townsville Museum

&

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TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Publication

***Asleep in the Deep* by Trisha Fielding**

A story of love lost on the sinking of the Yongala

Books on sale now \$20

Contact Townsville Museum 47757838 or admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au



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McGrath Estate Agents

71 Eyre Street

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