Windsor & Districts’ Historical Society Inc.
servicing the old Windsor Town Council areas of Albion, Alderley, Bowen Bridge, Eagle Junction*, Eildon, Grange, Kalinga, Kedron*, Lutwyche, Maida Hill, Newmarket*, Wilston, Woolloowin and now extended to cover Gordon Park and Herston. *part of this suburb.

Whytecliffe

Photo: David Teague
Have you ever passed this building on Kedron Park Road on the corner of Felix Street? I have but didn’t recognise it. Today it does not give many clues of its historic past.

Corner of Kedron Park Road and Felix Street, Wooloowin.

Top photo restored by and bottom photo taken by David Teague.
OFFICIAL WELCOME HOME

The Mayor and Alderman of the Windsor Town Council have issued invitations to all Windsor Soldiers to be present at an Official Welcome Home to take place at Wooloowin School Grounds on Saturday, 11 October (1919), at 3 p.m. and to a Social and Dance at the Exhibition Hall on the same evening at 8 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, (Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams) has accepted and invitation to be present at the afternoon function when copies of this booklet will be presented to all Windsor Soldiers.

Souvenir of The Great War 1914 - 1919, Edited by W.A. Jolly.

PUBLICATION FAILURE

In 2014 a replica edition of the Souvenir of the Great War 1914 - 1919, which was given to returning soldiers by the Windsor Town Council, was published and since then only 47 copies have been sold. This resulted in the guarantor losing about $1300 and the Society missing out on about $1600 in profits.

Our guest archival sleuth and forensic genealogist will be laying down a challenge — through words and imagery — to members and guests of Windsor and Districts Historical Society, to take up their own research picks and shovels to foster greater community awareness about a Queenslander whose legacy to every single Australian is felt intensely every 25th day of April.

If nothing else, our speaker trusts that audience members, after Sunday, 17 February 2019, will no longer stand mute when someone asks “who invented ANZAC Day?” Instead you will confidently assert, “ANZAC Day is Brisbane’s gift to the world”.

We hope you can come along and learn more about this Dublin-born preacher — and at one time a household name in Australia — who strove tirelessly to make his adopted homeland a place fit for heroes, and simultaneously insisted the heroes who died to make it so, were and are never forgotten.

Our Guest Speaker for the first quarterly meeting is Peter Collins.

He is the former Honorary Secretary and Online Curator for the Canon Garland Memorial Society Incorporated, the tiny team who, since July 2013, agitated for, designed, found the funding for and caused to be built “Canon Garland Memorial — ANZAC Day Origins” in the city’s serenely stunning, Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park, Kangaroo Point.
The streets in the second Bradshaw Estate were named after Governors of Queensland.

The estate consists of sub-divisions 24, 25 and 26 of portion 195. Portion 195 was originally sold to John and George Harris on 5 April 1859. As well as half of portion 191 which originally was sold to Thomas Bradshaw on the same date. Both were purchased for £1 an acre from the New South Wales Government.

In 1860 the Upper Breakfast Creek Bridge - named at the opening by Judge Lutwyche, as Bowen Bridge - diverted some of the north bound traffic along Bowen Bridge Road and instead of following down Albion Road, many started going across country to Kedron Park.

On 30 June 1862, a small paragraph in The Courier stated: New road at Kedron Brook through the lands of J. & G. Harris, T. Bradshaw, Sarah Sophia Bartley and W. Durston has been confirmed.

As a result both the Harris and Bradshaw properties were divided. The Harris property was later sub-divided into some 26 blocks and Bradshaw’s land was effectively divided into two. The eastern part was subdivided and sold in 1885.

In 1911, Patrick Joseph O’Shea and Charles Elliott became the owners of the remnant Bradshaw land and subdivisions 24 to 26 of the Harris land which was united under one title in 1914. Surveyor, R.A. Hamilton was engaged and he subdivided that land into 188 allotments which were put up for sale on 12 December 1914.

The four avenues were named after former State Governors.
* Sir Henry Wylie NORMAN, 1899 - 1895.
* Right Hon. Frederic John Thesigner, Baron CHELMSFORD, 1905 - 1909.
* Sir William MacGREGOR, 1909 - 1914.

Sir William MacGREGOR
The Kedron Park tramline (as far as Wooloowin School) was opened only a week before the sale. It was claimed that 46 lots were sold for £3,900 but only 19 blocks to eight owners were registered in the first year. Some purchased four or five lots. Most of the early buyers were women. Buyers tended to buy from two to five adjoining lots. The only single lot purchase along Lutwyche Road was by Felsman the butcher. (See photo on page 20) Allotment 188 of nearly 7 acres was later cut up into 17 re-subdivisions with Lamington Avenue being extended and Bradshaw Street was extended to Kedron Brook with the re-construction of the Thistle Street Bridge.
Many larger houses were constructed. Several along the Lutwyche Road frontages became the residences and practices of several doctors.

See also articles in our Journal - Coming of the Trams - May 2017, Gordon Park Tramway - May 2018, also Waverley, 638 Lutwyche Road - August 2018 and Bradshaw Estates folder in the Chambers Archives.
MENTHOIDS

In the dim dark past have you ever taken these chocolate brown sugar coated oval shaped tablets? What did you take them for?

A look at the old advertisements suggests you might take them for backache, rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, headaches and dizziness. The tablets are said to be beneficial for the bladder, kidneys and bloodstream.

Rid yourself of that unhappy, depressed feeling - these aches and pains that are sapping your strength - and give yourself a new lease on life and youthful energy.

As with the other cures of the times, these also relied on personal recommendations. My sister suffered terribly from swollen joints and was in bed for nearly a year. I sent her a flask of Menthoods and she felt so well after the first bottle that she kept taking them and, I am thankful to say she is now out and about and does her own washing and homework again.

Another advertisement suggests:

Frequent symptoms of High Blood Pressure are Dizziness, Fullness or heaviness in the head. Headaches at top and back of the head and at temples - made worse by worry or mental concentration - Drowsiness - Loss of Energy - Insomnia - Failing memory and power to concentrate - Irritability of temper - Neuralgia - Head noises; the pulse being often perceptible when lying down - fear of impending disaster, flushes, giddiness and a shortness of breath on exertion.

If you suffer in this way let Dr Mackenzie’s Menthoods drive out all the toxins from your blood stream - bacteria, uric acid and food poisons - and give wonderful relief to a tired heart and arteries gently restoring the dangerous High Blood Pressure to normal.

That is why Dr Mackenzie’s Menthoods are so valuable for high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, arthritis, kidney disease, uric acid - impure blood, muscle and joint pains - sciatica - bladder weakness - headaches - backache and gout.

What was in this miraculous cure? According to sources,

* methylene blue
* phenolphthalein
* potassium nitrate

Scottish accent:-

Aye, Dr Mackenzie’s Menthoods: M-E-N -- T-H -- O-I-D-S.

Remember this is a historical article as are all in this series, and does not refer to any modern products.

Researched by David Teague.

Old-Time Remedies

Methylene blue is an antidepressant, antimicrobial and can slow skin aging.

Phenolphthalein, according to Wikipedia has been used for over a century as a laxative but is now removed from over the counter laxatives because of concerns of carcinogenicity.

Potassium nitrate is used as fertiliser, as an oxidizer in gun powder, smoke bombs and fireworks. It was also used as a food preservative in the production of salted meat.

So actually this product is a laxative which promotes bowel movement by one or more direct actions on the intestine.

Scottish accent:—
By F. E. LORD.

Fifty years ago and more, when Whytecliffe was built by Mr Robert Little, our first solicitor, the Albion district would have been considered the country, or almost.

The names of both Mr Robert Little and his brother John are mentioned in the early-day records. Speaking of Brisbane in 1854, Mr Nehemiah Bartley says in his *Opals and Agates*—

Mr Robert Little’s wooden cottage and solicitor’s office in one occupied the corner where the Imperial Hotel now is.

Coming from the North of Ireland with his brother, Mr John Little, he arrived in Moreton Bay, as it then was called, in 1846, and in 1853 he married the eldest daughter of Captain W. H. Geary, R.N. Speaking of the regattas in these days before separation, Mr Bartley says: Captain Geary, R.N. (the harbour master), was the inevitable judge and umpire, and, in making mention of Mr Robert Little in his *Australian Pioneers and Reminiscences*, he again refers to those regattas: He (Mr Robert Little) was not unknown in athletics 40 years ago, and many were the pair-oared contests on our river before it could be finally decided whether ‘Bob’ Little cum Harry Buttanshaw were or were not superior to ‘Tom’ Jones, of Barambah, and another oarsman whose name I forget. Another sculler and friend of Mr Little’s was Mr Bigge and local wits rang the changes on ‘Mr Big’ and ‘Mr Little.’

Mr Robert Little was married a second time in 1875 to Miss Bramston, of Herston, a sister of Sir John Bramston, who was Attorney-General of Queensland in the Herbert Ministry in 1865.

Robert Little

The name for the big home that he had built—the builder was the late Mr John Petrie—on the Albion Heights was suggested to Mr Little by the white quarry cliffs of Albion (England) which adjoined his property, but he chose to spell the name thus, Whytecliffe. These white cliffs are still seen down below the house to
the left, and immediately below Highlands with Campbell’s pottery works near by them.

Whytecliffe is built of brick with stone foundations, is of two stories with a wing at the back, and has a balcony and veranda on three sides. The roof originally was of shingles, but these have now been replaced by corrugated iron. The double doors in front of the house lead into a spacious vestibule, with high plaster ceiling, and lighted by a skylight in the roof above the winding cedar staircase that takes one to the upper rooms. This vestibule is a truly delightful spot on a summer’s day, and its soft light adds to its restfulness.

When first built the house contained twenty-two rooms, the main ones being very spacious, and all are conspicuous for their high ceilings. In the three main rooms on the ground floor there are marble mantelpieces to the fireplaces. Whytecliffe commands magnificent views to the south—which it faces—the west, and the north-west—

All brightened by the rich, transparent hues

That southern suns o’er Heaven and earth diffuse—

and the Bulimba reach of the river viewed from the house resembles a lake. The property in the Littles’ time ran down to Alice-street (Albion) from which the noted avenue of beautiful trees led up to the house, and two weeping figs marked the entrance to it near the junction of Alice-street and what is now called New Sandgate road.

Most of the weeping fig trees in the Albion, Clayfield, and Ascot districts were grown from strikings from these two trees. Mr Robert Little took great pride in his avenue and his garden and grounds in general, and made his big home one of the most comfortable and up-to-date of the times. Large excavated tanks were provided for both the house and the stables, from which the water was pumped up. Cellars under the kitchen wing were a feature. They were blasted out of the solid rock, and were always delightfully cool, and what a comfort they were in this climate of ours in the summer! The large stables and coachhouse stood on the Sandgate-road frontage of the property.

In this delightful home Mr Little lived until the year of his death, 1890. This occurred at Mt Lavinia, Ceylon, he having contracted fever at Batavia while en route. In Mr Bartley’s short-life sketch of Mr Little in the same book we read: Robert Little was something more than a local solicitor; he was a man of tact and benevolence, a consistent churchman, and served the office of warden at St John’s before separation. Amongst a group of photographs of prominent Brisbane men in the early days on a page in the same book we see that of Mr Robert Little. The respect of all classes of the community was shown to him some years previous to his death, when he was about to depart on a trip to Europe, by a presentation of silverware and an illuminated address. After his death in 1890 his widow left for England with her only son, Mr Marcus Little, at the end of the year. She has since died, but her son is practising his profession as a mining engineer at Haileybury, Ontario, Canada.

The name of Little is still represented by not only this son of the second marriage but by the three sons of the first — Mr W. D., Mr F. M. and Mr J. S. Little. The daughters are: Mrs J. N. Birkley, of London, Mrs de Winton, Mrs Thomas, of Toowong; and Mrs Foxton, of Indooroopilly.

Both Mr Robert and Mr John Little were amongst the founders of the Queensland Turf Club, and Mr Robert Little both bred and raced his own horses for some years, and won a Breeders’ Cup (in 1866 with Coetis), which is still held by the family.

After the death of Mr Robert Little, and the departure of the rest of his family from Whytecliffe, it was let to different people, the late Mrs Murray Prior, of Maroon Station, and the late Mr W. W. Hood being among them. Then, in about the year 1906, Mrs Rosenstorf acquired the property on a lease, and converted the home into a boarding establishment. It then had its original complement of land, I understand, but after Mrs Rosenstorf purchased the house, with that amount which still surrounds it, the rest was sold, and is now covered by houses. Mrs Rosenstorf has built several cottages in the grounds and a number of garages, but she has not materially altered the old house.

The Queenslander: 11 September 1930.
John Wood built the hotel and applied for a licence on 13 September 1864. It was built on subdivisions 7 & 8 of portion 105 on the corner of Bowen Bridge Road and Darvall Street. He held the licence until his death in 1867. The hotel had five bedrooms, three sitting rooms apart from those he needed for his family.

Eliza Wood, his widow held the licence from 1868 until 1876 and then she rented out the hotel to other licencees.

James Barnett (refer also to Newmarket Hotel) applied for a licence in April 1876. He was rejected and Michael Weir held the licence from 1876 until his death in 1880 and his widow Isabella briefly in 1880 when she advertised the licence, goodwill and furniture for sale.

Patrick White was the next licensee in 1880 and later that year Alfred Albertson held the licence until 1882.

In December 1882, John Mullen applied for a licence for the premises which he rented from Mrs Wood. He held the licence until 1885.

Charles Stott, previously at the Crown Hotel, Lutwyche, applied for a licence to build for a new building on the site of the old in January 1886. It was refused as the site was unsuitable.

A campaign against the hotel started by William Brookes who lived opposite continued with support from the hospital committee. This article continues with selective Letters to the Editor from this campaign. The Brisbane General Hospital in question was opened in January 1867.

In mid 1886 the hotel was finally closed with the sale of the hotel and fittings. The building and land was sold again in 1902 and in 1907 the building was sold for removal.

A Public Nuisance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRISBANE COURIER.

Sir, It is with some reluctance that I again respectfully ask permission to use your column but I know no more effectual way of reaching the Licensing Board and the general public. For the last ten years the neighborhood in which I live has been a never-failing cause of social disturbance, drunkenness, domestic trouble, accident, and death. Last week the landlord died. He makes the second landlord who has been, by drink, cut off in the prime of life. At the time of his death I believe there was not a sober person about him, excepting perhaps the female servant. While he was dying, drunken men left the house, and were shouting and bawling in the road; time, nearly midnight. Since then there has been one continuing bout of drinking. Yesterday afternoon this grog-shop burst out into even a more than usually rowdy eruption.

There issued forth two men, very drunk; they fought and swore in the open street; one of them had his shirt nearly torn from his back, and the blood was visible. The women drove away the drays and led them up the street by the side of the Acclimatisation Society (now Bowen Park) and left them, probably thinking the drunken men would then separate and go away after them. The whole neighborhood was in an uproar. Not a policeman could be seen, nor was one sent for.

This disgraceful state of things lasted from about 3 to 8 o’clock.
WILLIAM BROOKES
born 1825 Manchester -
died 1898 Brisbane

Brookes arrived in Sydney in 1848 on S.S. Bengal. He married Mary Ann Evans in 1849, a fellow passenger on the Bengal and they had two daughters and three sons.

After being an unsuccessful gold miner at Turon, he joined the Union Bank in Sydney as a clerk. In 1853 he was sent to Brisbane to work with J.S. Turner to open a branch of the Union Bank.

In 1858 in partnership with his brother Benjamin he purchased Southuden’s ironmongery business. That year he entered politics by being elected as an alderman on the Brisbane Municipal Council.

In 1863 he attempted to stand for the Legislative Council and the election was declared null and void. This was repeated in the 1864 election but he was successful in a by-election. His next successful term was in 1882 as Member for North Brisbane.

He firmly objected to the bringing of South Sea Islanders to work in Queensland and was involved in this movement until his death.

In 1882, when the McIllwraith Government tried to replace islanders with indentured Indian coolies, he won the North Brisbane seat. He continued campaigning against the people traffic, even carried from his sick bed to speak and vote.

Can anyone be surprised at my asking why this grog-shop should be allowed to continue to exist! Under the old system it was unassailable. Respectable and honorable gentlemen sat and voted that it was a public, convenience and ought to be licensed. I do earnestly hope, in the interests of law, order, peace, and decency, that the new board will shut it up for ever. I would like to know whether, now that the landlord is dead, the place can go on selling.

Yesterday the doors were in a state of constant open and shut. It is now in charge of a woman quite incapable of managing, and under present arrangements there is nothing to guarantee the neighborhood against a daily repetition of the disorderly and disgusting scene of yesterday.

Yours, &c,

WILLIAM BROOKES.
Brisbane, January 23.

From the Brisbane Courier - Saturday, 24 January 1880. On Monday 26, this article appeared.

Mr William Brookes referred a complaint yesterday to the bench, at the Police Court, against the Bowen Bridge Hotel. He said that since last Friday night, when the landlord died, there had been a continuous course of hard drinking and disorderly conduct. The house had been, ever since he had known it - the last ten years a troublesome and disagreeable neighbor. The widow, who now managed it, had been before the court for drunkenness, and was quite incapable of properly conducting a public-house. For three or four hours of the afternoon of Thursday the whole neighborhood had been disturbed, and the behaviour and language seen and heard in the open street were bad beyond endurance. Mr Brookes asked the protection of the bench, as there was no guarantee against a daily repetition of the shocking scene, the neighborhood being beyond the beat of the police.

The police-magistrate thanked Mr Brookes for having brought the matter under the notice of the bench, He would endeavor to have the cause of complaint removed, and if Mr Brookes would place his statement in writing before the Licensing Board, he felt sure that the neighborhood in question would not be further annoyed.

He reminded Mr Brookes that it would be necessary to serve a notice of objection on the widow. Mr Brookes thanked the bench for the patient hearing given him, and apologised for the somewhat unusual course he had taken on the ground of the extremity of the case, and left the court.

In the same edition of the Brisbane Courier appeared this letter.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

SIR,— The Bowen Bridge Hotel trouble has again cropped up, and on this occasion Mr Wm Brookes makes his appeal to the Licensing Board, and in his letter to the Courier says the gentlemen who have dealt with the matter on previous occasions considered the house a public convenience. And who can say it is not? Poor Weir went to great expense in getting the water laid on and erecting a horse-trough for the accommodation of the public driving on that long dusty road; he also made many other expensive improvements. As a friend of the late John Wood who built this property, and whose widow depends solely on the rent to maintain herself and family, I beg, through your columns, to express my disgust at seeing his name revived by Mr Brookes to assist him in his attempt to close the house. John Wood was a man liked and respected by all who know him; his house used to be a pleasant retreat if only for the purpose of looking at his beautiful garden. If