The Queenslander: 12 August 1916

New Bowen Bridge School - Opening Day photos by F. W Thiel (Jr)
Correspondence:

Sunday, 3 February 2019.

Dear Windsor Historical Society,

I have been doing some research on the Bryce family and I came across your WDHS Journal Vol. 28 No.1 - February 2016.

I noticed on pages 17 and 18, that you had a feature on Local Boer War Hero, William Henry Bryce. The article was very well written with great historical references and my thanks goes to David Teague, the author. I have continued with my research of the Bryce family and I have found the grave of Sergeant Major W.H. Bryce of the Prince of Wales Light Horse (formally 1QMI).

I do not know if you are aware of the whereabouts of W.H. Bryce’s grave? but I thought that I would follow-up your Feb 2016 article with this information. The following information might be of interest to you and possibly a post-script to David Teague’s original article.

I recently discovered the South Africa War Graves Project website and I have had some communication with them. W.H. Bryce is buried in Cradock Cemetery, Eastern Cape, Ooskapp, South Africa. The Genealogical Society of South Africa has a photo of his headstone and the link is http://www.graves-at-eggsa.org/main.php?g2_itemid=708452

My understanding is that W.H. Bryce laid buried in a single rural grave with other scattered individual Commonwealth soldier’s graves until the 1960s. During the 1960s individual soldier’s remains were exhumed and interned into a collective grave containing the remains of four or five soldiers. Soldiers graves were marked with headstones in the Garden of Remembrance.

I am also thinking that it might be possible that W.H. Bryce’s family branch might not be aware of his grave’s location or existence. I presume that the same Bryce family might still be living in the Wooloowin or Kedron area today?

Thanks for your time.

Regards,

Philip Bryce
In 1897, just about every newspaper in Queensland carried advertisements for Dr Williams’ Pink Pills for Pale People. They were promoted largely by testimonials as did many cures of the day.

Dr Williams’ pink pills enrich and purify the blood, driving out the poison and toning up the nerves. Thus they cure all blood and skin diseases, nervous prostration, neuralgia, St Vita’s dance, rheumatism, bronchitis, consumption, ladies’ ailments.

In the Queensland Times 5 April 1902 appeared this endorsement.

Can a Man be Young at Sixty-eight? After the prime of life do increasing years always mean a decline of physical strength? Does it never happen that in this fight against nature’s law man is able to pose for a time as the winner?

The problem is as old as mankind; a Rockhampton man’s story (says a local paper) is only the latest expression of it. Old age and increasing infirmity seemed to have set their seal upon Mr Samuel Dobbs, of Brown-street, North Rockhampton. Being born in the old land he found that after a number of years the tropical climate, together with heavy work, affected him greatly, and until four years ago, when he was made hale and sound by the famous Dr. Williams’ pink pills for pale people, he was a victim to indigestion.

Indeed, at 68 years of age the old gentleman is as hearty as possible, declaring that he feels as well as he did when a youngster. The interesting story of his rejuvenation (writes an interviewer) was unfolded to me the other day.

“I have lived here for 35 years (said he), being foreman of works for 25. I was a sufferer from indigestion for eight years. The ailment gradually increased in severity until I dared not eat meat; even fish disagreed with me, and internal pains often kept me awake at night.

Light food became sour in my stomach, causing great pain, and a heavy leaden feeling on my chest. Owing to want of nourishment, I became terribly thin and weak, and of-

Old-Time Remedies
ten had to leave my work and return home completely ‘done up.’ ”

“How long did this continue?”

“Until four years ago, and try what I would, I did not improve, until, owing to the good reports I read of Dr Williams’ pink pills for pale people, I resolved to try them. The first boxful gave me slight relief, and, greatly encouraged, I continued taking them. I was delighted to find that after using the contents of four more boxes I could eat heartily, without ill-effects.

With the absence of pain came peaceful sleep to soothe my nerves, and before long I was quite cured. Ever since I have been in excellent health, and I now eat and sleep as well as could be wished. I have recommended Dr Williams’ pink pills far and wide, and will gladly continue to do so.”

What was in these marvellous pills? Salts of iron, copper and manganese and a carmin colour.

Other testimonies include one from Charles Randle, a stereotyper of Elizabeth Street, Brisbane who claimed it cured his lead poisoning. Another supporter claimed she had a chill which developed into pleurisy and dropped. She was not expected to live for long but soon after taking pink pills she was quickly transformed from a helpless bed-ridden, pain-racked creature into a healthy woman.

All this could be yours from 2/9 a box or 6 boxes for 15/3.

Historical article not connected with any modern product of this name.

Researched by David Teague.
FLOWER POWER

In the May 2017 Journal, an article appeared about Kirkston, the home of John and Dora Flower. The origin of the family can be traced back to France before they came to England in the twelfth century. The name was then le Flo. John and Richard le Flo were recorded at serving on the Crusade (1269). Some of the recorded line are:

- John Flower 1580
- John Flower 1620
- John Flower 1652
- Jonathan Flower 1701
- John Flower 1635
- John Flower 1771
- Horace Flower 1818
- John Henry Flower 1852

Horace Flower migrated to Sydney in 1837. In 1850 he married Amelia Kirk, daughter of Captain Rupert Kirk, R.N. and his wife Jane.

After being involved in several business in the wool trade he moved to Belfast (now Port Fairy, Victoria) in 1851. Their eldest son, John Henry Flower was born there in 1852 and as a fourteen year old was sent to the King Edward Grammar School in Bury St Edmunds, Norfolk where he qualified as a solicitor. In 1876 he returned to Melbourne and formed a partnership with solicitor Graham Hart.

In 1886, John Flower married his cousin Dora Kirk in Victoria and the firm of Hart and Flower moved to Queensland. The Flowers lived at various addresses before Kirkston was built.

Third child Clara was born in 1890 and after her mother died in 1932, she decided to embark on a career of nursing. She trained at the Sydney Women’s Hospital and later obtained a position caring for the first grandson of the White family of Stanthorpe. After a year she was engaged by the Green family and went to China with them to care for their two little daughters for three years. She eventually stayed for eleven.

The family also had local servants and a chauffeur. She soon learnt the language and how to play Mah Jong.

When she left the Greens, she managed a hotel called The Seaview on the island of Amoy, for a Chinaman. There she met Maurice Fulker, a British Officer in the Chinese Maritime Customs.

At that time China was being invaded by the Japanese and Clara and Maurice were interned in the hotel and lost most of their possessions. Eventually they were allowed to leave on a neutral Portuguese ship and made their way to Australia via Portuguese East Africa.

Several of Clara’s (Gommell) letters from this period survived. The following is one of them:

The Seaview, 6th April 1939.
My dear Sis. (Dora)
Your letter arrived yesterday when I’d been meaning to tell you that with so many weddings and silver weddings in the family, there is one more for the list.
Morrie Fulker and I have got engaged since I wrote to you. He’s a pet. He is in the Customs here and has been living at my hotel for some months. I’ll try to get a photo of him to give you some idea of him. He is six years older than me, with white hair (rather a good thing as it makes mine look not quite so grey). He is short and stout with too much tummy though not as much as when he first came here which I tell him is not a good advertisement for me.

So far we’ve made no plans. My contract to Toh Bien Seng is not up until Nov 31st (sic) so I don’t know what we’ll do about that. Morrie is due for long service leave next April so we won’t buy furniture and set up house yet and - who knows?

The Japs might be running the Customs by then. All that matters is that we are both very happy at the moment. I forgot to say that Morrie is English and a bachelor and no father or mother, both are dead, So I won’t have that worry.

There goes the siren which heralds the Jap planes and some more bombing. I am sick of them all...

Your very happy,
Gommell.

P.S. I’ve only just found out that when the Japs started bombing Amoy last September, Morrie decided that I was his responsibility and he planned what we’d do if we had to evacuate and arranged finance and everything for me. I know he’ll make a wonderful husband, so thoughtful and the kindlest thing imaginable.

More letters from Clara are included in sister Dora’s reminiscences in our files.

Sisters Dora (Dolly) and Clara

Researched by David Teague.
Archibald McNish Fraser was born at Southend, in Campbelftown, Argyllshire, Scotland, on 1 August 1857. His education was as liberal as the common schools of his native place could impart. At an early age he was apprenticed to the building trade. In this he showed aptness, and made satisfactory improvement. In 1879 he came to Australia, sailing in the ship Selkirkshire on 14 November and landed in Brisbane on 15 March 1880. He had not much wealth to boast of in starting out in his new career, seven shillings and sixpence being the entire balance he possessed after paying the expenses of his voyage; but he had pluck, which is far better than money in a new country with the new conditions and trials that he was sure to encounter.

His own high purpose to work his way up honestly and worthily was to him the highest inspiration of his young manhood, and relieved him of all anxiety regarding the future.

His first employers were the firm of Lane and Rankin, where for nine months he worked faithfully, and then secured a position with the late Mr McFarlane, to whom he formed an attachment rarely seen in an employee towards his master.

Mr Fraser having won favour and success as a workman, had an ambition to begin life on his own account and went to Cleveland. He obtained several contracts for building, and succeeded in giving satisfaction to all who employed him; but in a monetary point of view his expectations were not realised, and he returned to Brisbane, feeling assured that it was a more congenial field. It was not long before Mr Fraser resolved upon entering a married state. Like many other wise men, he was convinced that it was not good for a man to be alone, and he fortieth with his convictions into practice by selecting as his wife, Miss Jemima Barclay, of Albion - a woman who must be accorded much praise for the share she honourably deserves in the success of her husband’s life, which, both being without mean, dates from this important period. His first experience in real estate was the purchase of a small allotment in the Albion District. This proved profitable, and led to a further venture, and step by step he rose.

His thorough knowledge of building, and his experience with workmen of various kinds, gave him the advantage, which his natural shrewdness is not slow to take into account. The Onward Real Property Mart in Queensland, which was established in 1887, and conducted by Mr Fraser, was opened with a banquet, and has enabled multitudes to avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from owning their own homes. Mr Fraser has not only accumulated a large property for his own benefit, but has guarded well the interests of those who have entrusted their affairs in his hands. It is with pride the city looks upon the prosperity of many such young men, who have won not only wealth, but public respect and confidence. His good judgment and honesty were last year recognised by the authorities in granting him the distinction of J.P., which may be accepted by the public as an indication of what may be yet secured as his worth to the colony may become more fully known.

The Aldine History of Queensland. 1888 by W. F. Morrison.

All did not stay rosy as in The Telegraph, 25 July 1893 appeared an article which started:

Meeting of Creditors.

A. M’Nish Fraser, Brisbane

A meeting of creditors in the estate of Archibald M’Nish Fraser, of Brisbane, auctioneer and commission agent, was held yesterday at the office of Messrs Wilson, Newman-Wilson, and Hemming ...
Benedict Stone is a composite stone invented by an American Mr Benedict. It had the advantage of cheapness of production and good strength.

The decision was made when planning to erect the Holy Name Cathedral in Brisbane to obtain the manufacturing rights and machinery from the United States.

William J. Brown, a New York expert in the manufacture of this stone arrived in Brisbane in 1929 to supervise the installation of the machinery in a specially built plant at Bowen Hills.

The stone was to be made from Brisbane Tuff aggregate and sand, bound with coloured Portland cement.

The architects for the cathedral were Hennessey, Hennessey and Co. On 15 January, Mr Jack Hennessey explained that a good deal of preparations had been made with the foundations and main floor of the cathedral.

He explained that a large amount of the stone would need to be prepared before they could start with the walls.

By May rumours were flying about that a certain woman was denied sacraments for the dying unless she left a large legacy for the cathedral. These were denied. There were also rumours of the situation of the building finances.

On Tuesday 30 July the State Governor, Sir John Goodwin visited the Bowen Hills stone quarry and on Saturday 3 August officially opened the Benedict Stone Works.

Declaring the works open, his Excellency said that the manufacture of cast stone for building purposes had been carried on for many years in Europe and America, and its use had increased enormously in the past few years. He believed that the works in which they were then standing represented the very latest development in its manufacture. Cast stone would appear to present many very great advantages.

First, it was extremely strong, and possessed great qualities of durability; second, the size of the blocks was limited only by the lifting capacity of the cranes; and thirdly, the jointing was inexpensive compared with jointing granite. As regards aesthetic consideration, they might see for themselves the beautiful appearance which the cast stone presented for facing material, and the varieties in colour which were obtainable. Another characteristic was the possibility of introducing moulded and ornamented surfaces at a very low cost compared with the carving of quarried stone. The factory had been established with the primary object of furnishing building material for the new Cathedral, in which they all were so greatly interested, but one could not but earnestly hope that the cast stone industry might prove an asset of immense value for Queensland in the future.

The ceremony of blessing and laying Benedict stones for the commencement of the new Roman Catholic Cathedral in Ann Street, took place on 6 October 1929. This ceremony was held in connection with the anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone by Cardinal Cerretti. By this time £100,000 had been spent and the depression was upon the world.

The cathedral was never finished and was demolished for Cathedral Square apartments.

The factory continued producing stone for a time. Shell House in Ann Street was opened in 1931. It was a building of seven storeys of brick faced with Benedict stone. It was of commercial palazzo style with applied art deco ornaments.

Another building clad with Benedict stone was built next to the General Post Office for City Mutual Life Assurance Company. It has elaborate masonry work - columns, gargoyles of eagles, owls and lions.

During World War II the derelict factory was used by the U.S. Navy as a torpedo overhaul shop. The submarine base was at New Farm.

Based on newspaper items from the Brisbane Courier and the Telegraph.
The Toombul Shire Council has been amongst the foremost of the suburban local authorities to recognise the vital importance of securing “lungs” for its people, while open spaces are yet to be had for the asking, or at a comparatively small cost. Some councils are still satisfied with the old short-sighted policy of the past - a matter for much concern in a country like ours, where air and room are such essentials to the public health; but Toombul, at least in this respect, has been progressive, and, as a consequence, the district is fairly well provided with breathing spaces for all time, let population spread where it listeth. Amongst the most recent acquisitions of the council is an area of about 20 acres in the valley of the famous Kedron Brook.

Thanks to the efforts of ex-Councillor J. F. Maxwell and his brother members on No. 1 Division, the area was obtained at a very reasonable cost, and at the council’s last meeting, on the motion of Councillor J. W. Wood, the reserve received its christening (dry) by the name of Kalinga. Kalinga is the name which the Clayfield Progress Association endeavoured to give the district a year or two ago, but the authority viewed the repainting of the station name boards with disfavour and the agitation dropped. Kalinga is a native word, bearing the meaning beautiful, and its application to the little park under notice is far from being inappropriate, as a visit will show.

Kalinga means beautiful...

About eight minutes’ walk down a straight track from Eagle Junction Station, the park is on the opposite side of the brook to the bluff which the Nundah coal miners are honeycombing for the black diamond, and is really within sight of the railway line at the bridges between that station and Nundah. It lies, as it were, in a corner of nowhere, and is “on the way” to no particular spot. Its surface is well diversified, contain-
From time to time in various publications, a set of rules for school teachers appears and they are purported to be Queensland Rules.

Actually they are reproductions of United States rules from one school district. Following is that U.S. list of rules for teachers in 1872:

* Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.

* Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day’s session.

* Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.

* Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church.

* After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

* Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

* Every good teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not be a burden on society.

* Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty.

* The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

Obviously there was a double standard for male teachers and women teachers.

The following is a list of rules for a teacher in 1915:

* You will not marry during the term of your contract. You are not to keep company with men.

* You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.

* You may not loiter downtown in any ice cream stores.

* You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have permission of the chairman of the board.

* You may not smoke cigarettes.

* You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.

* You may not dress in bright colors.

* You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he be your father or brother.

* You must wear at least two petticoats.

* Your dresses must not be any shorter than 2 inches above the ankles.
Just over a hundred years ago, the German tank Mephisto was immobilised in an area close to Villers-Bretonneux in France. In July 1918 soldiers from the 26th Australian Battalion, comprised mainly of Queenslanders, recovered the abandoned vehicle and dragged it back to the allied lines. It was sent to Australia as a war trophy, arriving at Norman Wharf in Brisbane in June 1919.

On the 22nd August 1919 it was towed by two steam rollers to the Queensland Museum which was then located in the Exhibition Building at Bowen Hills.

For decades it sat under a cover beside the museum. Strangely, Mephisto’s gun was later located and added to the exhibit. In recent times Mephisto was exhibited at the new Queensland Museum and even lent to the Australian War Museum in Canberra.