

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**“HISTORY ON A HILL”****A Notable Pilgrimage Through the  
Annals of Memory and Time**

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(Read at a Meeting of the Society on 24 September 1970.)

In a commanding position at Toowong Cemetery on the hill which faces the main gate, rises a tall slender column fashioned somewhat in the form of a minaret. Mounted on a base, it dominates the scene and marks the grave of Queensland's second Governor, Samuel Wensley Blackall.

In a semi-circle with a radius of no more than twenty paces from this monument, rest some whose names feature prominently in the history of the Colony of Queensland.

One of the verses in Grey's beautiful *Elegy Written in the Country Churchyard of Stoke Poges* reads:—

“Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid some heart  
Once pregnant with celestial fire.  
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed  
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre”.

But with those who lie within this small area on the hill at Toowong the stones which mark their resting places tell us who they were, also in some cases briefly what they did and one who wishes may find out more about them by researching through the records of the Colony.

After reaching the top of the hill by a winding road, the grave of Governor Blackall is approached from the rear, passing on the left the first of the graves on the perimeter. To these we will return later, pausing at each in sequence to record the inscriptions and perhaps to soliloquize for a space.

**GOVERNOR BLACKALL**

The inscription on this imposing monument reads simply:—

“Samuel Wensley Blackall

Governor 14th August 1868 to 2nd January, 1871.”

Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen

departed from Brisbane in the "*City of Brisbane*" on 2 January 1868, Sir Maurice O'Connell being Acting Governor until Colonel Blackall took office in August. The new Governor was surprised to hear on his arrival that Count von Attems had left Brisbane only a short time before in a small yacht named "*Hamlet's Ghost*". (This had previously belonged to Mr. George Harris of Newstead House, grandfather of Lord Casey). The Governor naturally queried this information, having not long before attended the funeral of his friend Count von Attems, whose valet it was then discovered had impersonated him!

The incident has been recounted in our Society's Journal and in various articles elsewhere.

Born in Ireland on 1 May 1809, Blackall was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, subsequently serving in the regular army and the Irish militia. He represented Longford in the House of Commons from 1847 to 1851 in which year he was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Dominica. Appointments as Governor of Sierra Leone and Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements followed, until he came to Queensland as Governor in 1868.

Blackall had married twice, but both wives had pre-deceased him.

He paid particular attention to agriculture and education during his term of office, being especially interested in linking grammar schools in Queensland with the University of Sydney.

### SIR CHARLES LILLEY

We now retrace our footsteps for a short distance to commence at the first grave of the semi-circle, where we read:—

"Sir Charles Lilley, Kt.

Born at Newcastle on Tyne 1830

Died at Brisbane 1897.

Attorney General and Premier.

For many years Chief Justice.

Founder of Free Education in the Colony".

Charles Lilley became the fourth Premier of the Colony, succeeding R. R. Mackenzie and remaining in office for three years until January 1870. His ministry besides repealing the Civil Service Act, passed measures dealing with court procedures in addition to amendments of the Electoral Law.

The tenure of pastoral leases was also changed by making provision for the resumption, at the discretion of the government, of lands required for settlement, subject, however,

to the approval of parliament. An act was also passed granting a bonus to cotton planters, which was of a distinctly protective character.

As Premier, Lilley farewelled Sir George Bowen early in 1868 and shortly afterwards, with Sir Maurice O'Connell as Administrator, welcomed Queensland's first Royal visitor, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh.

August of the same year marked the arrival of the new Governor, Colonel S. W. Blackall, and the summoning of parliament to meet for the first time in the new Parliament House in George Street.

### **"FAR-SIGHTED POLITICIAN"**

Lilley is described as a far sighted politician who deserves much credit for the gradual evolution of our system of local government.

Objecting to the high charges for subsidies for the A.S.N. Company together with the vexatious delays and omissions in bringing English mails from Sydney by the A.S.N. ships, he was instrumental in having the steamer "*Governor Blackall*" built for the Queensland Government to carry passengers and mails.

He had planned to have another ship built, but his term as Premier ended in May 1870 when, having no longer a majority in the House, he resigned, being followed as Premier by Arthur Palmer.

Charles Lilley was educated at the University College, London, and then, being articled to a solicitor, he commenced to study law, but enlisted in the army. Whilst serving, he gave some lectures on temperance and industrial matters; these were viewed with disfavour by his superior officers. Some friends purchased his discharge and Lilley came to Brisbane in 1856.

Joining the Crown Solicitor's office, he finished his law course, then took up journalism and acquired an interest in the "*Moreton Bay Courier*", becoming its editor for two years.

Active in the movement for Separation, Lilley was elected in 1859 to the first Queensland Legislative Assembly as member for Fortitude Valley.

Three years later he was called to the bar and established a good practice.

### **INTRODUCED FREE EDUCATION**

Whilst Premier he introduced a bill for free education which came into force in January 1870. This was a most

important measure and Queensland was the first of the Australian colonies to adopt this principle. Always greatly interested in education, Lilley was largely instrumental in founding the Brisbane Grammar School and was in 1891, chairman of the committee which reported in favour of founding a university at Brisbane.

Appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 1874 he became Chief Justice in 1879, being knighted in 1881.

By 1893 Lilley intended to retire from the bench but at this time, comments were made on some financial transactions of Sir Thomas McIlwraith resulting in threats to remove him from office. Lilley then resigned his position and stood as a Labour candidate against McIlwraith in the Brisbane North electorate, but was defeated.

After a severe illness in 1896, he lingered on until his death in 1897.

The Lilley Medals, awarded for scholarship each year since his death, serve as a reminder of his deep interest in education.

### **SIR SAMUEL GRIFFITH**

On the adjoining tombstone is inscribed:—

“Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, P.C., G.C.M.G., LL.D.  
Born at Merthyr Tydvil, Wales, 1845.  
Died at Merthyr, Brisbane 1920”.

There is much to add to this brief inscription, for here lies a scholar, jurist and statesman.

After the Eighth Parliament was dissolved in July 1883, the McIlwraith government was succeeded in November by one under the Hon. S. W. Griffith who retained office until April 1888.

Three months before Samuel Griffith took office Mr. H. M. Chester, the police magistrate at Thursday Island, instructed by the then Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, had proclaimed British authority over New Guinea. The Imperial Government refused to confirm the action and the opportunity was promptly seized by Germany to assume sovereignty over the north-eastern coast, with islands to the eastward, including New Britain and New Ireland, and establish a colony.

### **DEFENCE OF THE COLONY**

On 6th November 1884, Britain proclaimed a protectorate over Papua, the remaining portion. When, during the following April war between Britain and Russia appeared

imminent, a number of citizens offered their services for the defence of the Colony and the strength of the volunteer corps was increased. The Defence Act, an important item of legislation, provided for the establishment of a military force comprised of three distinct elements: a small permanent paid force, a partially paid militia, and a volunteer body with a capitation grant for efficient members.

### **"BLACKBIRDING"**

One act passed limited the duration of the law providing for the importation and employment of Pacific Islanders. Griffith had always been opposed to "blackbirding" and became Premier largely on his policy of prohibiting Kanaka labour from the Islands.

"Blackbirding" commenced in August 1863, when the first shipment of as a contemporary description put it, "soft-eyed and soft-voiced kanakas" were landed from the "*Don Juan*" by Robert Towns to work on cotton cultivation in the Logan district.

Soon afterwards Captain the Hon. Louis Hope of Ormiston followed suit, applying the labour to the cultivation of sugar cane.

Another act dealt with the pearl shell and beche-de-mer fisheries, whilst a Crown Lands Act provided for selection before survey, with liberal terms and conditions to bona fide occupiers of agricultural farms and a system of village settlement.

### **IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS**

In June and July 1887 commissioners appointed by the government of China visited the colony to enquire into the condition of subjects from that country resident in Australia. There had been a tremendous influx of Chinese into the Colony, particularly in the previous decade when 20,000 came to Cooktown and the Palmer goldfield alone: Queensland was presented with a serious immigration problem and Griffith had to consider measures restricting the immigration of Asiatics.

The Municipality of South Brisbane was proclaimed in January 1888 and, in the same month, through communication by rail was established to Sydney, thus connecting Brisbane with the capitals of the three southern colonies.

Griffith was brought by his family from Wales to Ipswich in 1854, then moved to West Maitland until coming to Brisbane in 1860. His father was a Congregational minister.

### **SCHOLASTIC CAREER**

Educated at a private school in Sydney, then at Maitland High School Griffith matriculated to the Sydney University at 15 and, after winning prizes and scholarships, became a Bachelor of Arts at 18 with first class honours in classics, mathematics and science.

Articled to a lawyer's office in Brisbane, he was called to the bar in 1867 and obtained his M.A. degree in 1870 one year before he entered parliament.

He proposed a local university as early as 1877 and had a commission appointed to formulate a plan. He continued to persistently advocate its establishment until the University of Queensland came into being in 1909.

### **MAIN AUTHOR OF COMMONWEALTH BILL**

An ardent advocate of Federation, he was the main author of the Commonwealth Bill which formed the basis of the Constitution eventually adopted. The draft Constitution was later discussed and signed on board the Queensland Government yacht "*Lucinda*" in Broken Bay, N.S.W., from 27 to 29 March 1891.

After his appointment as Chief Justice of Queensland, Griffith was careful to isolate himself from political affairs, including the Federation movement.

### **CHIEF AUTHOR OF CRIMINAL CODE**

He was the chief author of the Queensland Criminal Code, which was described as a model of clarity, completing it in 1899. From that year until 1903 he was also Lieutenant Governor of Queensland.

Going to England in 1900 to see the Commonwealth Bill through the British Parliament, Griffith managed unofficially to effect the inclusion of an amendment allowing appeals from the Federal High Court to the Privy Council.

When it was decided to constitute the High Court of Australia in 1903, he was the obvious choice for Chief Justice and assumed duty in October. He was chiefly responsible for clause 74 of the Constitution whereby the High Court became the interpreter of the Constitution. This is still much in evidence.

A constant patron of art and literature Griffith was a fluent Italian scholar, having learnt the language in order to study Italian constitutional law earlier in his career.

He died at his home "Merthyr", New Farm, which, in recent years, was demolished.

### MR. JUSTICE MEIN

The next inscription reads briefly:—

“C. S. Mein

Judge of the Supreme Court. Died 1890”.

Mr. Justice Mein died in Sydney at his mother's residence at Elizabeth Bay and his remains were brought by train to Brisbane for interment on 5 July 1890 at Toowong.

Mr. Mein went to Sydney University in the same year as Samuel Griffith and a close friendship was maintained between them over the years. The two old friends rest, appropriately, in adjoining graves.

In 1885 Mr. Mein was appointed to succeed Mr. Justice Pring on the Supreme Court bench. At the time of his appointment he was a member of the firm of Hart, Mein and Flower, solicitors. Being a solicitor when elevated to the Bench, his appointment was regarded as an unusual innovation.

Keenly interested in the defences of the Colony, Mein served in the Volunteer Defence Force and, before becoming a judge, commanded the 1st Queenslanders (Moreton Regiment) as a Lieutenant-Colonel.

Charles Stuart Mein was born in Maitland on 14 June 1841, went to Mr. Cape's school at Darlinghurst, Sydney, then joined Sydney Grammar School in 1857, becoming captain of the school in 1859. Leaving Sydney University with an M.A. degree in 1862, he was private secretary to the Attorney-General of New South Wales and came to Queensland in 1867 being admitted as a solicitor in 1870.

Mein was nominated to the Legislative Council in 1876, was on two occasions appointed Postmaster General of the Colony and, for a brief period, Minister for Public Instruction.

### SABRINA LOVEKIN

Inscribed on the next gravestone is:—

Sabrina Lovekin.

Founder and Teacher of an Infant School,  
Spring Hill 1863: 1866.

Born 1843 at Nottingham. Died 1917.

Also the Children of J. S. and S. Lovekin.

Died 2 Years 10 months 1875, 11 months 1882.

8 months 1884. Daughter 11 years died and buried  
Malta 1885.

One reflects sadly on the loss of her children who died so early, a happening all too frequent in past days.

But it is as founder at the age of 20, and teacher of the infant school that interest is aroused in Sabrina Lovekin herself and, particularly, those whom she taught soon after the establishment of the Colony.

### **WHEN SPRING HILL WAS A FASHIONABLE SUBURB**

For Spring Hill became a popular, fashionable residential and professional area quite early in Brisbane's development. The search for an improved water supply to replace that from the water holes at Roma Street, located a spring between Gregory Terrace and Leichhardt Street: the names of Spring Hill and Water Street are reminders of the town's early supply system, maintained until completion of the Enoggera reservoir scheme which was authorised in 1863.

The homes and surgeries of many of the medical profession progressively extended along Wickham Terrace which became the Harley Street of Brisbane. Dr. Peter Bancroft lived and practised in Ann Street, just around the corner from Wharf Street.

Of Sabrina Lovekin there were no records to be found such as those of the Governors, statesmen and judges who shared their resting places with her in the small area on the hill.

### **GRANDCHILDREN OF SABRINA LOVEKIN**

However, the telephone directory showed the names of several Lovekins, these fortunately being her grandchildren from whom I learned that Sabrina had a number of children in addition to the four who died at an early age.

Miss Mavis Lovekin, who has a large photograph of her grandmother, told me that the home built by her grandfather, J. J. Lovekin, is still standing at the corner of North Street and College Road, being now the Appeals Office for St. Andrew's Hospital.

A son, Harold Moreton Lovekin, attended the Brisbane Grammar School, whilst a daughter Elizabeth, at the Girls' Grammar School, won the Lilley Gold Medal, as recorded in the mid-winter report of the Lady Principal of the School, Miss Sophia L. Beanland, in 1887.

As to the main objects of the research, I was unsuccessful, as nobody could say where the small school was actually located, nor were there any records of the pupils who attended it.



### JACOB LOW

Jacob Low, one of the Earliest Settlers on the Darling Downs and for many years a Member of the Parliament of Queensland.  
Born at Welltown, Scotland.  
Died 1883.

A native of Perthshire, born in 1807, he came, according to his obituary notice in the Brisbane "*Courier*" of 15 September 1883, from an old Scottish family.

In his younger days he served under articles to a Writer to the Signet\*, his excellent penmanship coming as a surprise to some who later knew him only as an old Australian bushman.

Migrating to New South Wales in the 1830's, Low was employed on various station properties until he came to Queensland some years before Separation and became lessee of Welltown station on the Weir River. Elected as Member of Parliament for Balonne in 1874, he served in two Parliaments.

Jacob Low was a bachelor and died at his lodgings at Gowrie House, Wickham Terrace on 14 September 1883.

An account of his demise was recorded in the obituary as follows:—"Having returned from a visit to some old constituents at St. George, it would seem that, on his way down he caught a cold which developed into inflammation of the lungs and, the patient being advanced in years, the disease defied all medical skill and was not long in running its course to a fatal termination".

### JOHN McDONALD

John McDonald,  
First Superintendent of St. Helena.  
Died aged 58 years. 18 June 1885.

Too often one hears the old island prison of St. Helena referred to as a relic of the old convict days, when it was

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\*The Signet was one of the seals used in England for the authentication of Royal grants. Formerly all letters-patent for the grant of appointments to office under the Crown, of patents of invention, charters, naturalisations, pensions, creations of honours, pardons, etc., had to pass from the Signet Office to the Privy Seal Office in the form of Signet bills, verified by the Signet Seal and superscription, and on the Privy Seal being attached to them, they were forwarded to the Lord Chancellor, by whom the patents were completed in the office of the Great Seal. The principal class of solicitors in Scotland were called Writers to the Signet, from their having been originally clerks in the office of the King's secretary, it being their duty to prepare all warrants for charters or grants to be passed under either the Great Seal or Privy Seal, such warrants being called from an early period "signatures", because they bore the signet of the King. Writers to the Signet and Solicitors before the Supreme Courts were long the only Solicitors allowed to act as agents in the Supreme Courts.

in fact built by the Colony of Queensland and not occupied until 1867.

Mr. McDonald would therefore have been 40 years old when he became its first Superintendent.

Flinders during his sojourn in Moreton Bay appears to have landed on the island of 500 acres known as St. Helena and to have given a description of it. The name was given by the officer in charge of the branch penal settlement at Dunwich when a troublesome aboriginal, said by the whites to be called Napoleon, was exiled there.

Up to and including 1865, all vessels arriving in Moreton Bay were boarded by the Health Officer, whose headquarters were at Lytton. Passengers from ships ordered into Quarantine were housed at Dunwich, their food, bedding and other needs were required to be supplied by the shipowner; any failure on his part was made good by the Government, such supplies being forwarded by Government steamer and charged against the shipowner.

### **THE HULK PROSERPINE**

On the recommendation of Dr. Purdie, the Health Officer, approval was given by the Colonial Secretary for the Quarantine Station to be transferred to St. Helena, where it was established in 1866. The necessary buildings were erected with the aid of prison labour.

The hulk "*Proserpine*", which was anchored at the mouth of the river, had over 30 prisoners confined in cells on board to relieve the overcrowded Brisbane gaol; their sentences ranging from one to ten years.

Stationed on the hulk were the Water Police, who carried out water police duties, apprehended sailors, saw that the port regulations were observed, and periodically visited Dunwich.

The inspector in charge was John McDonald, who had two coxswains, a carpenter, eight constables and a cook with him; two turnkeys were also on board. The Health Officer, when boarding ships, was supplied with a boat manned by convicts from the hulk, a turnkey or constable being in charge.

### **ST. HELENA PROCLAIMED A PRISON**

A lock-up was built on St. Helena which, by proclamation dated 31 August 1866 was proclaimed a prison and the following year, was proclaimed a place where offenders under sentence of hard labour or penal servitude might be

detained; it was established with the object of sending there all long sentence men from Brisbane Gaol.

On 20 May 1867 the first prisoners came to the Island, but it was not until 1869 that long sentence men were sent there. At that time, the gaols in Queensland and the prisoners in the hulk "*Proserpine*" were under control of the Sheriff.

### **JOHN McDONALD**

However, on the establishment of St. Helena as a prison and the appointment of John McDonald from the Water Police to be its first Superintendent, the Superintendent became responsible to the Under Secretary, the Sheriff having no further control in the management of the prison.

The staff at St. Helena consisted of the Superintendent, two turnkeys and a military guard consisting of a non-commissioned officer and twelve privates, quartered in the former Quarantine buildings. The Superintendent's residence was built from bricks transported from a demolished quarantine building at Dunwich by the Water Police.

Later, in evidence before a select committee, John McDonald stated that his staff would be more efficient if he had warders instead of soldiers. The Hon. W. Thornton, as visiting justice, concurred with this recommendation; as a result the military guard was withdrawn and a police guard of one sergeant and eleven constables sent to the island.

### **BECOMES COLONY'S PRINCIPAL PRISON**

The establishment grew until finally there was accommodation for approximately 300 prisoners and St. Helena became the principal prison of the Colony, with a number of prison workshops. Such was the fertility of the red soil in the 60 acres of cultivation, that crops were grown continuously for over 60 years with little fertilizer used.

In April 1882, Wm. Townley followed John McDonald as Superintendent.

### **SIR ANTHONY MUSGRAVE**

The shabby headstone on the next grave is inscribed:—

Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G.

Governor of Queensland.

Born Antigua, West Indies, 31 August 1828.

Died Brisbane 9 October 1888.

Educated at the local grammar school, Musgrave was

for two years private secretary to the Governor of the Leeward Isles. Admitted to the Inner Temple in 1851, he was never called to the bar, soon afterwards being appointed treasury accountant of Antigua and subsequently Colonial Secretary.

Prior to coming to South Australia as Governor in 1873, he had been Governor of Newfoundland and of British Columbia. Created a K.C.M.G. in 1875, he left South Australia two years later to become Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica. From there he returned to Australia as Governor of Queensland, taking office on 6 November 1883, in the same month that Samuel Griffith became Premier, and was Governor during the whole term of the Griffith ministry.

Governor Musgrave had married twice, his first wife being from Antigua, whilst his second wife came from New York. It was on 2 April 1888 that the new opera house in Queen Street first opened with a gala performance in the presence of Sir Anthony and Lady Musgrave.

### **WILLIAM HOW IRVING**

William How Irving.  
Collector of Customs for Queensland.  
From 1893 to 1910.  
Died 19 April 1931.

As Queensland until Federation maintained its own defence, postal and customs services, Mr. Irving would have been the last head of the customs service in the Colony and the first in the State of the Commonwealth Customs Department.

### **SIR MAURICE CHARLES O'CONNELL**

Now we read the next inscription:—

Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell, Kt.  
Knight Commander of Isabella the Catholic  
Knight of the Second Class of San Fernando.  
Knight Extraordinary of Charles III of Spain.  
Born 15 January 1812. Died 27 March 1870.  
President of the Legislative Council for more than 18 years.  
Four times Acting Governor of the Colony.

Sir Maurice, a soldier and a Queensland Pioneer prominent in the Colony's history, was the son of a distinguished soldier, also Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell, and a grandson of Governor Bligh, as his father had married Mrs. Put-

land, a daughter of Bligh in May 1810. Mrs. Putland was the widow of Lieut. Putland, R.N., a member of Bligh's staff.

Sir Maurice was born at Sydney in 1812 and, after being educated at the High School, Edinburgh, entered the army as ensign at 16. Volunteering in 1835 for foreign service with the British Legion in Spain, he was given the rank of colonel. He fought with distinction and was created a knight of three Spanish orders.

He returned to Australia in 1838 as military secretary to his father, who came back to Sydney that year as a major-general in command of the forces. Later he resigned from the army and came to Queensland to take up land.

Elected as a member of the Legislative Council in 1846 he was appointed two years later Commissioner for Crown Lands for the Burnett district, then became Government Resident at Port Curtis, holding this post until 1860.

In that year he was nominated as one of the original members of the Queensland Legislative Council; shortly afterwards he was elected President and retained this position until his death.

He was commandant of the local military forces for a period and, as we know, four times Acting Governor of Queensland showing, so it is recorded, tact and ability whilst so acting.

Sir Maurice held the positions of President of the Australian Association, President of the Queensland Turf Club, and was a Vice-President of the National Agricultural Association.

### **SIR JOSHUA PETER BELL**

A few paces bring us to an impressive monument, second only in size to that of Governor Blackall, the inscription reading:—

Sir Joshua Peter Bell, K.C.M.G.  
President of the Legislative Council.  
Colonial Treasurer.  
Acting Governor.

Died at Brisbane 20 December 1881 aged 55.

Sir Joshua was a commanding, picturesque and dignified figure in the life of the Colony according to a contemporary description, which also says "Joshua Peter" was a household word. A large photograph in the possession of our Society shows his splendid set of side whiskers and moustache.

He was born in County Kildare, Ireland, on 19 January 1827 and came in 1831 with his parents to New South Wales, in due course being educated at Sydney College and the King's School, Parramatta.

His father, Thomas Bell, acquired an interest in "Jimbour" (Gimba) in 1843. It was from "Jimbour" that Ludwig Leichhardt left in 1844 for his epic journey to Port Essington, recording in his diary that Mr. Bell had assisted with arrangements for the expedition prior to its departure.

Joshua Peter commenced studying law in Sydney, but left to join his father, arriving in 1847.

He entered Parliament as Member for West Moreton in 1863, became a Member of the Legislative Council in 1870 and was Acting Governor from March to November 1880.

His K.C.M.G. came not long before his death.

The original dwelling at "Jimbour", a wooden slab house, was burnt down in 1867. Joshua Peter built a new home, but in 1874 commenced building the present "Jimbour House", a splendid stone dwelling with 24 rooms and an area of 23,000 square feet at a cost of some £30,000. The slates for the roof were imported from Wales and construction took two years, the Bells taking up residence there in 1877.

Joshua Peter had a distinguished racing career: founder of the well-known Grange Club near Ipswich and for some time President of the Queensland Turf Club, he won many races of importance.

He was keenly interested in country racing at Dalby and in the small townships round Jimbour. The Jimbour four-in-hand coach, which took the family to race meetings, was famous throughout the district.

A founder and original shareholder in The Queensland National Bank, Bell merged his interests in 1881 with those controlled by Sir Thomas McIlwraith and Smyth and formed The Darling Downs and Western Queensland Pastoral Company.

In December of that year Joshua Peter died suddenly in a cab in Queen Street, aged 55.

### **SIR ARTHUR PALMER**

Finally we come to the last grave in the semi-circle:—

Sir Arthur Palmer, K.C.M.G.

Lieut-Governor and President Legislative Council.

Born 28 December 1815. Died 20 March 1898.

As Queensland's fifth Premier he succeeded Charles Lilley and retained office for three years until January 1874.

These were eventful years. On 2 January 1871 Colonel Blackall, who had been a most popular Governor, died and was succeeded by the Marquis of Normanby, Sir Maurice O'Connell acting as Administrator until his arrival.

In the following year two important mineral discoveries were made: the tin fields at Stanthorpe, and the copper mines of Mount Perry. Extensive fields of opal were found on the Bulloo in the Warrego district.

The Queensland National Bank was founded in 1871 and opened its doors on 2 June, whilst cable communication with London was established in October.

In January 1873 the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane was commenced.

About this time much interest was excited by the reported discovery of Classon, a member of Leichhardt's ill-fated second expedition, which had been missing for nearly 30 years. The report was received with suspicion and subsequent enquiry left little doubt that a hoax had been perpetrated.

Born in Armagh, Ireland, and educated at Youghal Grammar School, Palmer emigrated to New South Wales where he worked for R. R. Dangar on his properties, eventually becoming general manager.

Coming to Queensland and taking up land, he entered Parliament as Member for Port Curtis in 1866. After his term as Premier he continued in Parliament until his resignation in 1881 to become President of the Legislative Council, remaining in this position until his death.

He was a fine whip and drove to town daily behind four Shetland ponies.

C. A. Bernays describes Arthur Hunter Palmer as "a strange mixture of bluntness, tenderness and almost coarseness, with a great command of language—of a sort gained in bullock driving".

Here our pilgrimage ends. It is time to leave the hill where we have briefly recalled some of the history of those who lie upon its crest and depart with a silent salute to their memory.

To quote George Eliot:—"Our dead are never dead to us until they are forgotten".