

THE MUSE

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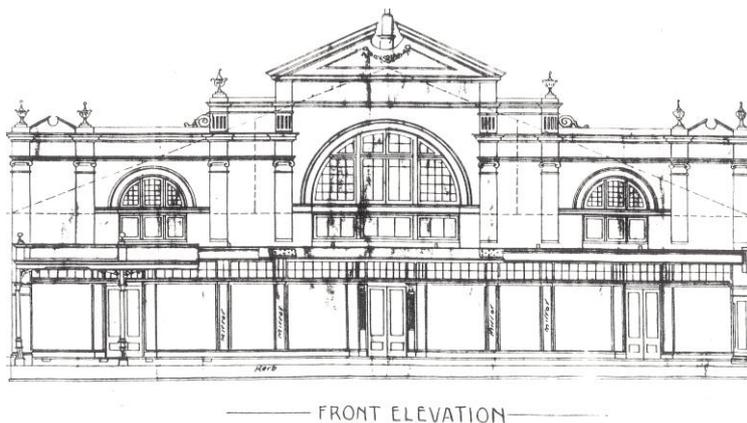
KELLETT'S STORE

Many locals will remember 'The Day that Mudgee Cried', as the words in the headlines of the *Mudgee Guardian* read, when Kellett's store burnt down in the early hours of Sunday morning, 4th April 1970. A significant and familiar part of Market Street's impressive streetscape was lost forever in just a few hours.

The business of William Kellett & Sons Pty Ltd was established by William Kellett, in partnership with Nicholas Rowell, in 1859. Kellett and Rowell had been sent to Mudgee on behalf of Macarthur & Co of Sydney to deal with a local merchant who was in financial trouble. They convinced their employers to allow them to take over the business which they called the Old Flagstaff Stores. Rowell left the partnership in 1864 and, after being initially established in Market Square, now called Lovejoy Street, the business moved to premises in West Mudgee on the south-eastern corner of Market and Court Streets. This building remains, although with additions, as two semi-detached dwellings.



In the early days of Mudgee, Market Street west was a hive of industry with many shops and factories. Gradually the factories disappeared and the focus of commerce moved further east. In the early 1900s William Kellett decided to relocate his store to the north-eastern corner of Market and Perry Streets. In 1905, Bathurst-based architect, Joseph Job Copeman, was commissioned to draw up plans for a grand new store which featured an impressive front facade, extensive glazing and an elaborate verandah with cast iron posts; these posts were regrettably removed by orders of Mudgee Municipal Council in 1963. Throughout the 1960s the majority of two-storeyed verandahs and posts were removed from Mudgee's CBD, destroying the country-town atmosphere; ironically, Federal streetscape grants in the late 1990s and early 2000s enabled the re-installation of several verandahs. The new Kelletts store, containing an expansive cellar, was opened for business in 1907. Copeman's original plans, stored in a safe, survived the fire slightly smoke-damaged and remain in the possession of the Kellett family.



Plans of the Market Street facade by architect J. J. Copeman

In 1911 the business became William Kellett & Sons Ltd and William Kellett retired to Sydney, leaving his two sons in charge; he died in Sydney in 1913. In 1930 an addition was made to the eastern side of the store, adjoining the Commercial Bank. This area initially housed the furniture section, and later the first supermarket. The company, which became William Kellett & Sons Pty Ltd in 1937, was one of the oldest family-owned businesses in the country.

After the 1970 fire, the business operated temporarily in McCully's building, now the Mudgee Newsagency, in Market Street. The replacement store, designed by Green Knight & Partners and constructed by the Mudgee Woodworking Company, reopened for business on 11th October 1972.



Kellett's store in 2003, just after closure

In 2003 Kellett's store was closed for business and the following year approval was given for the store's demolition for redevelopment of the site: the construction of a BIG W department store, the third major building on the site since 1907.

There were two other buildings of interest on the Kellett's store site, both dating from the early 1900s, which have similarly disappeared. The produce section was originally housed in a separate building on the corner of Perry and Market Streets before being moved to a saw-toothed shed at the rear of the site and facing Perry Street after the fire. This saw-toothed shed was originally located on the north-western corner of Market and Court Streets, now the site of the Mudgee Veterinary surgery, where it served as the produce section of the original Market Street store. The produce section moved to the Sydney Road in 1999 and the vacant sawtooth building was dismantled in 2001.



The produce store in its original Market Street location

Concealed behind the produce section and facing the interior courtyard was a brick stables building which was built circa 1910 by John Kurtz, owner of the nearby Post Office Hotel, to provide additional stabling for his patrons. The stables site, acquired by the Kellett family in 1929, was subsequently used for storage; the building was ultimately demolished for the Big W development.



The stables at the rear of Kellett's store viewed from the north-west, revealed after surrounding shedding was removed

The Cox Family of Mudgee and Mulgoa

An explanation of the Cox family

The founder of the Cox family in Australia was Lieutenant William Cox who arrived per *Minerva* in 1799 with his first wife Rebecca and several of his children to serve in the New South Wales Corps. Three of his sons were pioneers of the Mulgoa Valley, with George settling at Winbourn (e), Henry at Glenmore and Edward at Fernhill. George and Henry Cox were pioneer settlers of the Mudgee district, although Mulgoa remained their base. The Cox family has long left the Mulgoa Valley, but they retain a strong presence in Mudgee where Burrundulla homestead is still owned and occupied by descendants of both George and Henry. Edward Cox of Fernhill was also a pioneer of the Rylstone district, taking up Rawdon which was a vast holding in its heyday. The most significant Cox of the third generation was the Hon. George Henry Cox, MLA and MLC, eldest son of George Cox and a long-serving NSW parliamentarian who, along with his brother James Dalrymple Cox and cousin Edward King Cox of Fernhill, was a pioneer of Mount Wilson; George Henry built the current Burrundulla homestead. An unpublished history of Mudgee, collated in the early 1900s, is attributed to George Henry Frederick Cox, eldest son of George Henry Cox, and so called to distinguish him from his father George Henry and grandfather George.

HISTORIC CHURCH AT MULGOA

With acknowledgements to *The Land* Newspaper September 2nd 1955.



St Thomas's church at Mulgoa

The Church of St. Thomas, Mulgoa, one of the first churches to be built in New South Wales will celebrate its 117th anniversary on Sunday 11 September. (Would now be the 172nd anniversary.)

The President of the Council of Churches, Archdeacon T. C. Hammond, will take the service. It will be an historic day for Mulgoa.

More than 200 visitors whose family roots were set in the district in the very earliest days of the colony have been invited to attend the service.

The parish church stands on a hill overlooking the undulating land that produced some of the colony's first and finest wheat crops. Mr. J. Bowles, secretary to the church, and now over 80 years old, sent out the invitations.

From its eminence can be seen "Fernhill" the stately colonial residence of Edward Cox, one of the three sons of William Cox, whose liberal support made the establishment of the church possible.

It was Edward Cox who gave the 10 acres of land on which the church stands and his brother George of "Winbourne" gave 40 acres adjoining for the rectory.

Bell Tower

Built of solid sandstone, the Norman tower which is its feature stands 50ft high. The bell for it was made by J. W. Walker of London in 1865, and weighs half a ton.

Mr. J. B. McCulloch, until recently a district resident, gave a new rope with which to toll the bell on September 11.

The foundation stone for St. Thomas' was laid by Miss Jamieson, daughter of Sir John Jamison of "Regentville", near Penrith, on August 22, 1836, and the church was consecrated by the Bishop of Australia, Bishop Broughton, in September, 1838.

First Church Service

However, services were being conducted in the district as far back as 1827, the Rev. Thomas Hassall, holding Sunday services in the barn at the back of "The Cottage" the district's first residence. This was built in 1806 by William Cox, and lived in successively by George, Henry and Edward before their own estates were built. This lovely old colonial cottage is still occupied as a dairy farm.



The Cottage, Mulgoa

Contrary to rumour, the church was not built by convict labour, but with free labour. Funds privately raised came from the Church of England Church Societies of Appin, Sutton Forest, Camden, Cooks River, Cobbitty and Mulgoa and were earnestly canvassed by the Rev. Thomas Hassell, its first rector, who also had charge of the parishes of South Creek (now St. Mary's) Cabramatta, Cobbity, Camden, Narellan and Argyle.

In the early days, when Mulgoa was a flourishing district, the church, which has seating for a congregation of 200, was always full.

Memorial Window

At the eastern end, above the altar, a beautiful stained glass window depicting the incredulity and confession of St. Thomas Nathaniel as seen by Our Lord under the fig tree, and Jesus with the two disciples at Emmaus, has in more recent years replaced the coloured window put there by the Rev. T. C. Makinson, the second incumbent, and coloured by his own hand. This small paned blue and gold window has unfortunately disappeared.

The Present window was given in memory of George Cox Esq., and eight side windows have also been given by various families.

The Aisle is flanked by tall brass lamps, specially made in England for the church and donated by different parishioners and friends. They have not been in use for many years now, electricity having replaced them.

First Music a Seraphine

The first musical instrument used in the church was a Seraphine but this has been replaced by the present pipe organ. This was built by the same firm in London as supplied the bell. It was put together and erected by the late Canon O'Reilly, for many years rector of St. Philip's Church, Sydney.

The choir gallery was removed to make way for the organ. The pew gates have also been removed in recent years.

Occasion will be taken, on September 11, to dedicate an avenue of silky oaks, planted to the memory of Mrs. Mary Anderson, widow of the late John A. Anderson, and a daughter of Edward Cox, of "Fernhill".

The avenue of trees skirts the graves of all the members of the Cox family who are buried there in the family vaults.

It is a tradition in the Cox family, that wherever they die throughout the world, the remains of the descendants of Lieutenant William Cox, are returned to Australia, to rest beneath the gum trees of St. Thomas' Mulgoa.

NB A seraphine is a 19th century keyboard instrument similar to an American organ

TIT BITS

HIDDEN TREASURE

Lynne Robinson, Mudgee Historical Society Inc. volunteer and researcher, was recently included on the Department of Industry & Investment Hidden treasure Honour Roll. This listing gives recognition to rural women for their contributions to their local communities. Lynne has been an active participant in both the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. and the Country Women's Association. For a number of years Lynne has done weekly duty at the museum and has been on the family history research team which earns considerable income for the society. Lynne has also compiled histories of many district families associated with the Robinson family and transcribed numerous hand-written records onto computerized data bases. Congratulations Lynne!

BUS VISITS

The Colonial Inn Museum has recently hosted several coach and bus groups which are always welcome. In October it was a pleasure to see a group from the neighbouring Dunedoo Historical Society who had just celebrated a railway centenary and presented the Mudgee Historical Society with a copy of their book produced for the occasion. Well done! A coach group from the Ryde and Hunter's Hill area in Sydney was equally appreciative of the excellent job done by our curators, as was a group on a house inspection tour to Mudgee held by the National Trust. Another group from Chevalier College in Bowral visited in early November.

COUNCIL GRANT

For some time the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. has been planning to construct additional shedding at the rear of the Museum site and approached the Mid-Western Regional Council for assistance. The Mudgee Historical Society Inc. is pleased to announce that the Mid-Western Regional Council has granted \$5,000 towards the project, for which additional funds have been dedicated. The Mudgee Historical Society Inc hereby acknowledges the generous gesture of the Mid-Western Regional Council.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



The annual Society Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 28th November at the Mudgee Golf Club, with pre-dinner drinks and savories at 6.30pm for a 7pm dinner. Cost is \$21 per head and bookings and payment can be made at the Museum by Tuesday 23rd November.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Three of our Society's members have celebrated or will celebrate milestone birthdays. Laura Wallis was 102 in September, Molly Saville will be 100 in November and Edna Strike will be 90 in December. Congratulations to all three of these generous and supportive members.

BEQUEST

The Mudgee Historical Society Inc. has been fortunate in recent years to be remembered in the wills of members and supporters. A recent generous bequest of \$1,000 has been dedicated towards the cost of new shedding.

DONATED FARM MACHINERY

The Museum has been fortunate enough to receive two significant items of farm machinery: a mull board plough and a header. Thanks to Harley Feringa of Harley Feringa Transport and Scrap Metal for bringing the latter in from Buckaroo. The Museum now has a very interesting array of all sorts of farming machinery.

AUSTIN

The Society's Austin A40 Ute is now registered (MM2850), where MM stands for Mudgee Museum. Registering it was quite a saga, but it will hopefully be seen around the streets of Mudgee quite often from now. Thanks to all those involved in the restoration process (see the Society's website www.mudgeemuseum.com). Thanks to Kevin Smith for the marvelous job of painting signs on the sideboards and tailboard of the Ute.

SHED LIGHTING

Our very versatile big shed which houses two archive rooms, an old-fashioned general store and a vast amount of storage space is going 'green'. White laser panels have been installed in the general store which now requires no artificial lighting, even on dull days. Additional panels will be installed in the central display section of the big shed and these panels will mean considerable saving on our ever-spiralling electricity bills. Senator Bob Brown would be very pleased!

GARAGE SALE

On Saturday 16th October the Society held its second garage sale for the year. Although there were ten garage sales advertised in town on the day and the weather was horrendous, over \$850 was taken in pore-purchases and sales on the day. Thanks to all donors and workers on the day and before and after the sale. These garage sales are lucrative fundraisers.