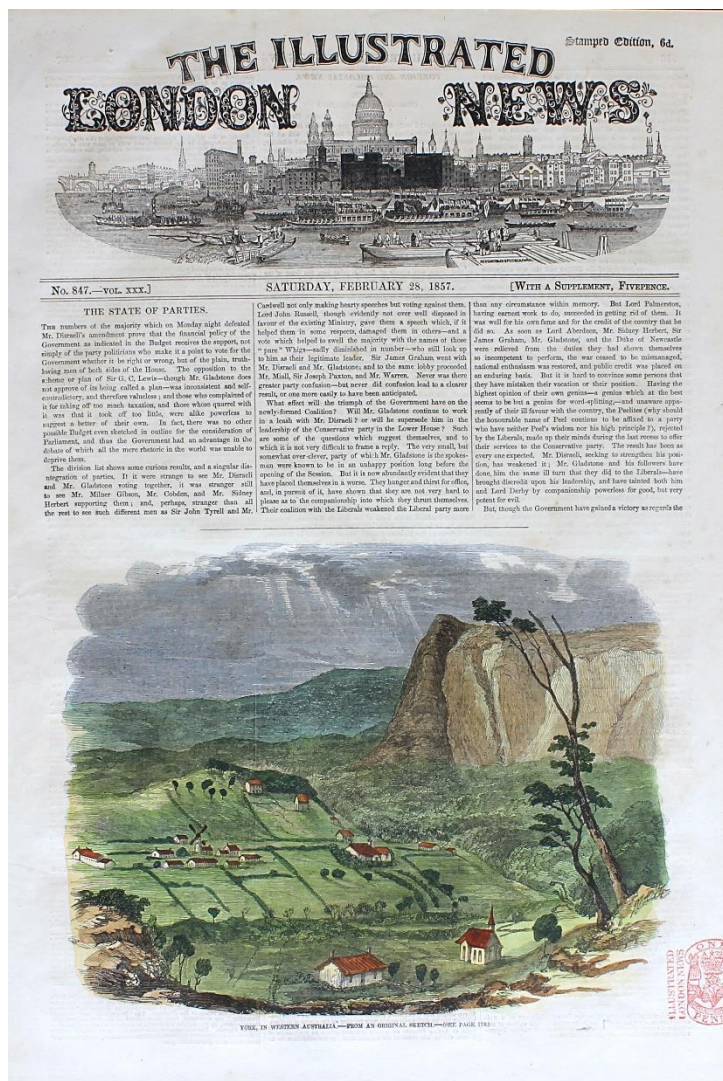


THE EARLIEST PANORAMA PHOTOGRAPH OF YORK

The Illustrated London News engraving

The earliest known panorama of York was the drawing by Captain Edmund Yeamans Walcott Henderson, the colony's first Comptroller-General of Convicts, which was copied for an engraving published on the front cover of the Illustrated London News edition of 28 February 1857.



This drawing was the subject of a presentation by me for The York Society in 2020. The drawing was criticised as being inaccurate.

The Photograph

The photograph the subject of this presentation is in the York Society archives. Another copy, or the original, is owned by the Royal WA historical Society and was lent to Battye Library in 1975 as part of a batch of 23 photographs.¹ The index says that the negative is also held by Battye Library. Battye Library indexes the photograph with the date 1890, but for reasons which I will go into, I think the date is November 1877.

¹ 5002B/23.

This photograph is the earliest known photograph taken of the York panorama. We will look at all the buildings and then at the end, show the steps in trying to work out the date for the photograph, and who might have taken the photograph.



Notice a few things

There is no railway line, hence the photograph is pre 1885.

There are no trees. This is the same in the Henderson drawing.

An explanation for this is offered by Janet Millett who was welcomed to her home in York by an old pensioner:

After glancing my eyes around me for a few moments after my arrival, I should have been truly glad if someone had had the forethought to light the kitchen fire, and provide a kettle of hot water for tea; but on looking at the hearth I saw that all was as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, and when I turned quickly to an old man in charge of the house, who was wandering about in his shirt sleeves, and asked "Where's the firewood?" his only reply was a slow hoarse whisper of "Welcome to Barladong."

The Floods of 1861 and 1862

Another thing to notice is that some buildings in the Henderson drawing have disappeared.

This is because many buildings in the town were washed away in two floods, in July 1861 and an even worse flood in July 1862.

Water reached a height of a metre in the Castle Hotel cellar. On both banks small cottages near the river were all washed away. The old court-house and police stables below where the post office

now stands were washed away.² A steam mill at the rear of 152 Avon Terrace operated by the Meares family was also washed away.

Notice in the photograph that the old court house and police stables are not there, all washed away.

Morris Edwards Drive

Finally, notice that you can see the main road to Perth (it was called “Guildford Road” - now Morris Edwards Drive), stretching around to the left towards Cut Hill. When Janet Millett entered the town, she came down this road.

On perceiving shortly afterwards one or two small houses in the valley, and a round building with a peaked roof, out of which rose a weathercock, I thought that we must be approaching a village of some kind, and my driver informed me that we had at length reached Barladong [that is, York].

Let’s now look at each building in the photograph in detail.

Wesleyan Chapel and Manse

The Wesleyan Chapel (now the Uniting Church Meeting Hall) was being constructed in October 1853, and was opened in April 1854. This does not appear in Henderson’s engraving but is in the photograph. Note there is a field between Chapel and Manse on the west side and Avon Terrace.

Wesleyan Chapel (top right), Manse (top left) and Solomon Cook’s Mill below:



Penola House

Next we look at the buildings along Avon Tce on the right hand side and move left, that is, going south down Avon Tce.

The first building on the right is what was 20 years later, around 1900, called “Penola House” when it was a restaurant.

² Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

Penola House:



Penola House is on Town Lot 1. The first owner of this lot was John Henry Monger Snr who received the lot as a trade-off for surrendering part of his property so that Avon Tce could continue northwards.³ On John Henry Monger's death in 1867, Lot 1 was left under his will to his youngest son, George Monger.⁴

George was born in 1842. At 14, in 1856, George went on a trip to England with his father and sister⁵. While the others returned in 1859⁶, George did not return until 1865. He farmed in the York region, including Fern Hill, and explored the North East of York with Whitfield in 1870.⁷

In 1868, George Monger built the front house,⁸ stable and other buildings on Lot 1 which he occupied for "some" years.⁹

In the photograph, what is on the left hand side of Penola House is a little difficult to work out but is there not a large nave like room on the south side matching the nave like room which you can still see at the front of the building. This is unlike the original Victorian Georgian building. The highly ornate architect designed addition is in a completely different style, Victorian Free Gothic style¹⁰, so might have been added by George Monger as a ballroom.

In March 1878, the Union Bank announced that a branch of the bank will be opened for general Banking business in York "under the management SP Needham as soon as the necessary alterations

³ Rodger Jennings: *Over the Hills, A History of York 1834-1880*, p.83.

⁴ Landgate: From declaration made by George Monger on 11 June 1884.

⁵ *Inquirer and Commercial News* 17 March 1858, p.2.

⁶ Short biography at Battye Library.

⁷ Rica Erikson, *Dictionary of Western Australians*.

⁸ *Inquirer and Commercial News*, 27 May 1868, p.3. Is this an incorrect reference to George's home?

⁹ Landgate: From declaration made by George Monger on 11 June 1884.

¹⁰ Apperly, R, Irving, R and Reynolds, P, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson, 1989, pp.82-85

have been made in the premises taken for that purpose".¹¹ George Monger had leased his house to the bank and the bank opened for business on 9 April 1878.¹² It was the first bank to open in York.¹³

The photograph is unclear but it does look like the circular nave-like room at the front may be repeated at the back. If the building was altered for the bank, what were those additions, was it squaring off and extending at the rear? Whatever constituted the "necessary alterations" might not have begun at the time of the photograph.

John Henry Monger Jnr's new store diagonally opposite to the right (not in the photograph), built to compete with his brother Joseph who owned Monger's original store being probably the stone section of our Sandalwood Gallery building, was constructed in November 1878.¹⁴

CWA Building

The next building to the left in the photograph is the CWA building, originally constructed by Robert Doncon as a butcher's shop¹⁵.



Doncon sold the property to Captain Meares who was the Resident Magistrate for York and Beverley, that is, he represented the government in York and Beverley.

Meares (or his son Richard Gamble Boyce Meares¹⁶) ran a store on these premises or next door into the 1860s. There are no records as to which building was the store. Because of foliage, it is very difficult to discern from the photograph what buildings are on Town Lot 2 (now 152 Avon Tce).

What else is on what is now at today's 152 Avon Tce is unclear because of foliage.

¹¹ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 23 March 1878, p.2.

¹² Eastern Districts Chronicle, 5 October 1901, p.2.

¹³ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 18 May 1878, p.2.

¹⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle 16 November 1878, p.2; 13 December 1879, p.2.

¹⁵ *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 10 October 1856, p. 2.

¹⁶ Erickson, Rica [comp] *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australia pre 1829-1888*, Vol 3 UWA Press, 1979, p. 2138.

Solomon Cook's Mill

A prominent building in the photograph is Solomon Cook's mill. This was discussed in my presentation on Henderson's panorama drawing and I will pick up from where I left off in that paper.



Thomas Mead's widow's new husband, John Vernon Warren, sold the property with the mill to William Kett in November 1877.¹⁷ You can see some structure or stacks of something just to the west of the mill. This was probably Kett's produce. The yard opposite the mill (the bank site) and perhaps the mill property too were owned and used by William Kett for storing hundreds of tons of sandalwood, chaff, wheat, gum and other produce that his teams conveyed to Perth and Fremantle to the order of various merchants. William Kett, was described in 1921 as once being "in the foremost rank of drapers, and when he lived in England, he was considered to be the best-dressed man in Regent Street".¹⁸

Kett's widow sold the mill property to Joseph Pyke in 1889.¹⁹ Pyke or his family continued to own the mill property until August 1917²⁰. I have not been able to establish when Solomon Cook's mill was demolished.

Hoops' store

Where the York Palace Hotel now is, was William Hoops' store. He had owned the property since 1871.²¹

To quote the same 1921 article:

In those days the York Post Office stood upon the site that is now occupied by the Palace Hotel, the postmaster being Mr. William Hoops, one of whose daughters (Mrs. Stokes) was

¹⁷ Landgate: VIII/22/84: Conveyance of Lot 4 22 November 1877 from John Vernon Warren and Mary Ann Warren to William Woodhouse Kett for 50 pounds.

¹⁸ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 24 June 1921 p.3.

¹⁹ Landgate: X/187/687: Conveyance 8 February 1889 from Annie Kett to Joseph Pyke for 95 pounds.

²⁰ Eastern Districts Chronicle 3 August 1917. p.2.

²¹ VII/54/449: Conveyance John Lott to William Wigmore Hoops 1 July 1871 for 450 pounds.

postmistress at East Perth a few years ago.²²

Hoops operated as post master from 1869²³ and also had a licence to sell stamps. However, the possibility that his store replaced other mail functions of the post office is doubtful.

Hoops store was demolished for the construction of the York Palace Hotel by JV Miles, contractor, in 1908.²⁴

Below: Hoops Store (to the right):



Henry Stevens' blacksmith's shop

Henry Stevens bought the property to the south in 1868, then sold it to Richard Hoops in 1873. It may be that he had moved his blacksmith's shop by then.

Henry Stevens was a former convict, who had been transported for larceny and was working for Solomon Cook as a blacksmith and whitesmith and probably helped build Cook's steam engine.²⁵ He became a builder and appears to have built St John's church, Settlers and probably Edwards' original store.

From the photograph, there appear to be two structures, a kind of store on the street, and to the rear a home surrounded by a stone wall.

This property was described in an ad in 1857 as follows:

"Containing a substantial six-room house and blacksmith's shop, sawn roof etc, etc . also on the same allotment, a two-roomed house."²⁶

²² Eastern Districts Chronicle, 24 June 1921 p.3.

²³ 'York Post Office & Telephone Exchange' notes for tourist bureau guide, in Buildings Sites Accommodation Heritage York Post Office, Australia Post File 049-A97 (1997-98).

²⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 11 July 1908, p.2. The same article says that a portion of Hoops store served as a post office in the early days.

²⁵ Inquirer and Commercial News 17 June 1857, p.2.

²⁶ Inquirer and Commercial News 17 June 1857, p.2.

If the property was unchanged since 1857, the substantial six room house appears to be at the rear and so the blacksmith's shop must have been the building at the front.

Below: Henry Stevens' blacksmith's shop



Below: Six roomed house behind Henry Stevens' blacksmith's shop:



Residence / Post office

To the left of Hoops store, on the East side of Avon Terrace, on the current post office property, appears to be a residence.

I believe this same building appears in the Henderson drawing, roughly where the current post office is situated. The building has the same well marked out chimneys.

I commented at some length on this building in my presentation on Henderson's drawing last year.

Below: Residence / Post Office (to the left):



An Australia Post file refers to “a single storey Georgian style building with a shingle roof” being constructed on the current post office site in 1866.²⁷ That is clearly not the case. It was a single story Georgian style building but the same building that had been there since the 1840s, having had occupants with a number of occupations including post master.

In April 1873, William Kett was awarded the contract to construct the new telegraph office in York for 370 pounds. The Clerk of Works was dissatisfied with the standard of work, the carpentry being considered inferior with doors ill fitting. Construction was also months behind schedule. Kett was fined 20 pounds and one pound for every day the completion of the building was late.²⁸

If this building was the post office building, then it has an additional section at the rear which is not in Henderson’s drawing. Could this be the new telegraph office?

The York Hunt Club was supposedly photographed in front of the “post office” in 1889. This appears not to be the post office but a different building, possibly the police station.

The Courthouse complex, Cell block and police quarters

The cell block and police quarters were constructed in 1852.²⁹

In 1859, the front of the building was expanded and a courthouse added, and a verandah.³⁰ This work was finished in October 1859.³¹

The troopers’ cottage and yard were added in 1865.³²

The No 2 courtroom was doubled in size in 1874.³³

²⁷ Buildings Sites Accommodation Heritage York Post Office, Australia Post File 049-A97 (1997-98)

²⁸ Rodger Jennings: Over the Hills, a history of York 1834-1880, pp288 and 289 and footnotes referred to therein.

²⁹ The National Trust of Australia (WA): Old Police Station, York, p.10.

³⁰ The National Trust of Australia (WA): Old Police Station, York, p.14.

³¹ Inquirer and Commercial News 19 October 1859, p.2.

³² The National Trust of Australia (WA): Old Police Station, York, p.16.

Courthouse complex:



Settlers' Inn

The former convict, blacksmith and builder Henry Stevens appears to have built Settlers' Inn from 1860 onwards, and sold it to Mary Craig on 18 February 1875. She also owned the Castle Hotel following the death of her husband Samuel Smale Craig in 1864. So at the time of the photograph, Mary Craig was the owner of the two major places to stay in York, the Castle Hotel and Settlers' Inn.

The Eastern Districts Chronicle established an office on the left hand side of the building and first published on 31 October 1877. The editorial offices were on the top floor and the printing plant was situated on the ground floor (where the bar now is).³⁴ What are the long strips in front of the building that look like columns? Are these banners to celebrate the commencement of the Eastern Districts Chronicle?



³³ The National Trust of Australia (WA): Old Police Station, York, p.10.

³⁴ AM (Tony) Clack and Jenni McColl, York Sketchbook, The York Society, 2003, p.14.

The name "Settlers' House" or "Settlers' Inn" was never used. I have looked for a name for the place in the 1860s and 1870s and cannot find it.

Bakery

In the 1870s, the building on the left next to the courthouse was a bakery.



The building was probably built by George Wansbrough in 1860.³⁵ He sold the property to Henry Hardey in 1861.³⁶ Henry Beard operated a bakery from here in the 1860s until he went to prison and lost his wife Mary Batty to William Marwick.³⁷ He returned in the 1870s and was still running a bakery business here until 1879. He was succeeded by James Archdeacon³⁸, George Scrivener and then Henry Thielemann.³⁹

Henry Thielemann was the son of a baker and had learned his trade in England. He operated from here from the 1880s. Below is a picture of Henry Thielemann in about 1894 in front of his bakery, standing with his daughter Etta and Mrs Wiseman's sons Charlie and Lou. The York Society holds this photograph.

Thielemann continued to run his bakery until 1907 when the council ordered that both buildings on the property be removed "owing to their dilapidated condition".⁴⁰

His wife bought and constructed a bakery on the opposite side of the street, namely where Jules now is. His oven can be seen in "Hairitage".

Henry Thielemann standing in front of the bakery in 1894 (acknowledgment to The York Society):

³⁵ Crown Grant ET1655 12 May 1859.

³⁶ Landgate: VI/141/933: Conveyance George Wansbrough to Stephen Stanley Parker and Henry Hardey 26 December 1860 for 100 pounds.

³⁷ Bill Marwick: *The Marwicks of York*, 2011, pp 30 and 31.

³⁸ *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, 28 June 1879, p.2, 2 August 1879, p.4, the bakery being described as "next door to the courthouse".

³⁹ R Erikson: *Dictionary of Western Australians*, who describes the bakery building as a two storeyed building.

⁴⁰ *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, 21 December 1907, p.3.



Rechabite Hall

The next building down the street set quite back from the street must be Rechabite Hall. The land was purchased by Stephen Samuel Parker in 1859.⁴¹ In June 1875, part of the land was sold to Vernon Birch, Thomas Robson and William Andrew Boyd for 15 pounds.⁴² This must have been the rear section, on Howick St.



The Star of the East Lodge No 5 York announced in September 1875 that “it was gratifying to see that the IOGT and Rechabites are progressing favourably in York, and that HE the Governor has been pleased to grant the Templars of York a piece of land for building a Temperance Hall upon which will not only be an embellishment to the Town, but prove a great boon to those who are advocates of the cause of Temperance, and for which we are exceedingly grateful.”⁴³

In the same newspaper, the very next article notes that “Bro” V Birch, T Robson and W A Boyd were

⁴¹ VI/93/565: Conveyance 4 April 1859 James Dyer to Stephen Stanley Parker 35 pounds.

⁴² Landgate Deeds VII/299/1943: Conveyance 30 June 1875 Stephen Stanley Parker to Vernon Birch, Thomas Robson and William Andrew Boyd for 15 pounds.

⁴³ Western Australian Times 10 September 1875, p.2.

elected to the Rose of York Tent No 40 of the “IOR” (International Order of Rechabites). In other words, Birch, Robson and Boyd were acting as trustees in acquiring portion of the Parker property, for the purpose of construction of the Rechabite Hall.

The Hall was first used for a “New Year’s Night” function at the end of 1877⁴⁴ and was opened on 29 January 1878.⁴⁵

In the photograph, the hall does not appear to be quite finished. Are those piles of shingles on the roof? The wall facing is not done. Let’s say it’s a few weeks off completion, that is, November 1877.

Edwards’ store (current pharmacy / Central Buildings)



Settler William Edwards Snr was the original grantee of Town Lot 21 in 1853⁴⁶, what is now the pharmacy, and then sold it to Henry Stevens, the blacksmith / builder for 30 pounds in 1861.⁴⁷ William Edwards Jnr bought the property in 1866 for 180 pounds, indicating that Henry Stevens had constructed a building on the property.⁴⁸

William Edwards Jnr opened a store in 1867⁴⁹ (quoting the Edwards family historian) “near where the present Castle Hotel stands; this was to be the precursor of the larger ‘general store’, with its wide variety of merchandise, that was to be opened in 1871. He is quoted as saying, after this milestone in his life had passed, ‘...Monger and Parker had half each of York, but I jumped in the middle and pushed them out’”⁵⁰. So it seems that the William Edwards had two buildings and the building in the photograph was not built by Henry Stevens but was built by William Edwards in the early 1870s.

There are a few questions to ask about Edwards store. The first is whether the store abuts Avon

⁴⁴ Eastern Districts Chronicle 22 December 1877, page 2

⁴⁵ Eastern Districts Chronicle 26 January 1878, page 2

⁴⁶ Landgate Deeds Crown Grant ET1177 3 January 1853.

⁴⁷ Landgate Deeds VI/144/961: Conveyance William Edwards Jnr to Henry Stephens 1 February 1861 for 30 pounds.

⁴⁸ Landgate Deeds VI/350/2183: Conveyance Henry Stephens to William Edwards 12 December 1866 for 180 pounds.

⁴⁹ From an advertisement in the Eastern Districts Chronicle 7 April 1882, p.2, William Edwards says he had been trading for 15 years.

⁵⁰ “Over the Hills”: William and Jane Edwards of Hearleap Hill York, compiled by LR Jupp, pp.27-28

Terrace or is set back from the street. Tony Clack thought that Joseph Pyke was the first to construct a building which abutted Avon Tce (the laundromat is part of his building).⁵¹

Note the rise in Avon Terrace from the Castle Hotel to Edwards store. This rise was removed by the council in 1907,⁵² which then facilitated the construction of the Motor Museum building and the remaining buildings on the east side in the direction of South St. From the photograph, the street level appears higher than the entrance to the building. Yet the entrance to “The Good Life”, one of the shops in Central Buildings shows a rise from the street.

Perhaps the building did not abut Avon Terrace because of the rise in the level of the street in front of the store. It appears that the store might have been set back a little with a verandah.

Another question is how much of Edwards Store (and Henry Stevens’ store) is preserved in Central Buildings. The first four metres or so of the entrance to the shops in Central Buildings rises to the floor level. Look at the entrance to “The Good Life”. Did the builders use the same flooring or foundations as were used in the original Edwards Building?

Note the flooring change in the middle of the store. Was this Henry Stevens’s original flooring?

William Edwards handed over his business to his sons Charles and Kenneth Edwards in 1882, who constructed the building which now houses the IGA store. However the Central Buildings property remained in the Edwards family at least until the property was brought under the Transfer of Land Act in 1892 and Central Buildings were constructed.

The next building appears to be stables for the Edwards.

Boys’ School



⁵¹ AM Clack and J McColl: York Sketchbook, The York Society, 2003, p.10.

⁵² Eastern Districts Chronicle, 20 April 1907, p.3.

Behind these buildings on Howick St was the boys' school. This land is designated "School" in Landgate records from the first surveys.

Castle Hotel



Samuel Smale Craig died on 12 December 1869,⁵³ so throughout the 1870s, Mary Craig owned and ran the Castle Hotel.

The small building to the south of the Castle Hotel is probably stables.

St Patrick's Church, the Convent and Convent School

Behind and to the left were St Patrick's, and on the left the convent and convent school. You can see that St Patrick's was still under construction as there is scaffolding against the tower. The tower continued to be under construction until 1909.⁵⁴

Tenders were called for the roof in May 1877 indicating it must have been installed say within 4 or 5 months of May 1877,⁵⁵ namely, by November 1877

Note the old presbytery jammed up to the church on the right (blown up by John McCabe in 1894). Tony Clack thought the presbytery was on the block to the right of the church, opposite the Castle Hotel car park.

St Patrick's

⁵³ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 17 December 1869, p.3.

⁵⁴ AM (Tony) Clack, *Glorious Apostle, A History of the Catholic Church in York, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church*, 2009, p.100.

⁵⁵ WA Catholic Record, 6 September 1877, p.4b.



Convent and Convent School and Chapel



Mechanics Institute and the Girls' School

Moving to the south along Avon Tce, the next two buildings are the Mechanics' Institute, opened in 1866 by the Rev Edward Millett,⁵⁶ and the Girls School.

Here is a drawing of the Girls' school, which does not quite match the photograph.⁵⁷ The Mechanics' Institute was demolished to build the town hall, and some of the materials are used in the town hall. The Girls School became the Salvation Army Hall and was demolished for their new hall in 1918/1990.

Mechanics' Institute

⁵⁶ Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 10 April 1868, p.2.

⁵⁷ From Early Beginnings: A History of York's Schools, York District High School Parents and Citizens Association, October 1881, p.8.



Girls' school:



The Mechanics' Institute and the Girl's school were described by a writer in 1883:

"I asked per-mission of the Caretaker to have a look round. I was shewn the Library and Hall. It is not very large And I was told that it is the largest public room on hire' so that it has very good call. A Piano is provided for which if engaged yon are expected to pay, five shillings per night besides rent twenty-five shillings. I looked at some books and papers but little or no attention seemed to be paid in keeping pace with modern ideas. I expected to find in a country district quite a different state of affairs. The next building I discovered to be the Girl's & Infants Schoolroom, the former under the tuition of the Misses Boyd, and the latter Miss Horley. These two buildings are built on ground given by Messrs. J. H. & J. T. Monger, both these gentlemen possessing large acreage surrounding."⁵⁸

In the background

The house on the north west corner of Pool St (now Centennial Drive) and Georgiana St can be

⁵⁸ Eastern Districts Chronicle, 20 April 1883, p.3.

vaguely made out. I have not been able to identify what building this is.

On the right bank

We will now cross the river to the right bank.

House on the River



My starting point in identifying the houses on the right bank was to work out what house is the house on the river, which appears to still be there being at the rear of 27 Clifford St, but modernised. Here is a view from opposite the carriage burger place. The staff at Landgate tell me this is on York Town Lot A10. The first owner of this lot was Robert Viveash, who received a grant for the property in 1852.⁵⁹ Robert Viveash was the medical officer at the York Convict Hiring Station from 1851 to 1858,⁶⁰ so it was natural that he would live on the right bank of the river.

He was originally only to visit York occasionally to look after convicts, but came to live in York because

“Mr [Walkinshaw] Cowan was far sighted enoughto see that an opportunity was presented to improve the situation (of lack of medical expertise) in York. [There was money available from England for convicts and aboriginal care so] He suggested that if Mr Viveash were offered a reasonable salary to provide medical attention for prisoners, sick Aborigines, and the Native Institution, in addition to what he could conceivably receive from private practice, he might be prepared to move to York. This idea the government accepted and as a reward offered the alternative of two rations of 25 pounds per annum.”⁶¹

Robert Viveash nearly lost his life crossing the Avon River in 1852 when returning to York from Toodyay.⁶² In March 1859, Viveash was summarily dismissed and charged with inhumanity in

⁵⁹ Crown Grant ET 1123.

⁶⁰ Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, p.3154.

⁶¹ Roger Jennings: Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880, p.175.

⁶² Roger Jennings: Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880, p.190.

relation to the death of an aboriginal.⁶³ He retired to live with his brother in Middle Swan.⁶⁴

He was the owner of Yangedine and sold it to John Taylor in 1860.

He appears to have sold the property to Samuel Waterman Viveash in 1865,⁶⁵ who sold to Simeon William Viveash in 1892.⁶⁶

The Parsonage



After identifying the house on the River, it is not too difficult to count the fields and work out where you are in relation to the next structure on the right. This is an exercise I did at Landgate looking closely at this 1857 map of the area. This structure must be the Parsonage, that is, where Rev Edward Millett and Janet Millett had lived in the 1860s. Janet describes the yard as follows:

“Close to our house, and within the enclosure of our field, we had an empty cottage in which at different times we lodged several poor sick wayfarers”.

She also comments on the house which is the Parsonage:

“We now entered our future residence, which was built somewhat upon the model of an Indian bungalow, being low and long and thickly thatched, and surrounded on all four sides by a verandah, formed by the continuation of the roof itself, until its eaves came to within seven feet of the ground.”

So far, the description fits, but we do know that the Parsonage was reconstructed in 1875, so in 1877, the building was an expanded version of the building Janet Millett described.

The next buildings are obviously in Suburban Rd. With Landgate’s assistance, it is not too difficult to

⁶³ Roger Jennings: Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880, p.208.

⁶⁴ Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, p.3154.

⁶⁵ Landgate Deeds and Ordinances VI/1867, 19 June 1867.

⁶⁶ Landgate Deeds and Ordinances XI/593 20 May 1892.

work out the location of and owner of the buildings on this road, as they are all pensioner lots.

Pensioner Henry Davey's House



This house appears to be on Lot P2 and therefore was that of Pensioner Guard Henry Davey. I believe that this house still exists today, being either 50 or 56 Suburban Road.

Henry Davey was a pensioner guard who arrived in 1850 on the first convict ship, the *Scindian*. He was a stonemason and builder by trade and was mainly employed as a builder and bricklayer. He trained his sons as builders and many of the buildings in the Avon Valley were built by them.⁶⁷ He died in York in 1892.

Pensioner George Bagg's house

The next house to the right appears to be on lot P3 and was the house of Pensioner George Bagg. Bagg received a Crown Grant for this house in 1859. The house today appears to be 42 Suburban Road.

George Bagg also arrived on the *Scindian*. He sold his house to Catherine Bagg in 1861 and died in 1877. He was also a stonemason and builder.⁶⁸

George Bagg's house:

⁶⁷ Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.764.

⁶⁸ Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.99.



When was the photograph taken?

There are a number of clues as to its date:

- The new Edwards store (the IGA) is simply a vacant block with no sign of construction. Construction was nearing completion in July 1882⁶⁹, so construction must have been under way early in 1882. Hence, the photograph is certainly pre-1882.
- The roof of St Patrick's appears to be completed following the calling for quotes in May 1877. Hence the photograph could be from October / November 1877 onwards.
- Rechabite Hall behind the block where Jules now is can be seen and (with some doubt) appears incomplete, that is, still under construction. This building was first used on New Year's Night at the end of 1877⁷⁰ and was opened on 29 January 1878, so this allows for a date around November 1877.⁷¹

Who was the photographer?

A clue to who the photographer was and what was the purpose of the photograph is offered by an article in the West Australian Times of 19 October 1877 (page 2). The newspaper reported that Manning was in Northam photographing "some views" for the Paris Exhibition, presumably of 1878.⁷² On the next page of the same newspaper he is also reported as being in Newcastle (Toodyay).

York from Mt Brown is a great "view" for an exhibition, so it is not an unreasonable assumption that Manning photographed York on this same trip.

The following sentence appears in an article by "QUIZ" in the Eastern Districts Chronicle of 10 November 1877: "We are to put in an appearance at the Paris Exhibition, and an aspiring young

⁶⁹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 7 July 1882 p.3.

⁷⁰ Eastern Districts Chronicle 22 December 1877, page 2

⁷¹ Eastern Districts Chronicle 26 January 1878, page 2

⁷² The Western Australian Times, 19 October 1877, p.2.

artiste of renowned talent has recently erected a Photographic Gallery, under instructions from the Directors of the Paris Garden of Zoology to produce copies of each specimen likely to please those worthies.” This has to be an oblique reference to James Manning who at the same time as photographing plants was also photographing towns, and photographed York.

Manning also made a habit of photographing panoramas. In 1885 he photographed 360-degree panoramas from the spire of the Perth Town Hall.

Who was James Manning? I now quote from the website: historyofwaphtography:⁷³

James Manning, born in London on 22 Jan 1842, arrived in WA with his parents and sister Jane, aboard the first convict ship *Scindian* in 1850 [that is, at the age of 8]. His father James Manning was an engineer and helped design many of the colony’s convict-built buildings including the Perth Town Hall.

James had dabbled in photography for a few years as an amateur while working as a draughtsman with the Convict Establishment then as a third-class clerk in the Postmaster General’s Department. He finally opened a permanent photographic studio behind the Cathedral in Howick St, Perth in March 1867.

James soon went into partnership around October 1868 with a Mr Knight (possibly C. Knight, a painter/photographer from Hobart) and not long after decided to head bush to spread his services to more rural areas.

His sister Jane, who had her own photo gallery in Fremantle, took over his part of the partnership in March 1869 so that James could spend more time in country areas.

James doesn’t appear to open a permanent studio again until 1874 when he reopens his Howick Street gallery before moving to King William St in November 1875. He stayed for 3 months before again going on a country tour.

So we conclude, with a little guesswork and some uncertainty that the photograph was taken by James Manning in November 1877.

Rob Garton Smith
President
The York Society (Inc)
26 February 2022

⁷³ I have emailed this website but did not receive a response.