

Captain John Clements Wickham, R.N. His Antecedents and Descendants

Presidential Address
by Dr. C.G. Drury Clarke, F.R. Hist. S.Q.

*delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Society,
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INTRODUCTION

Early in 1941 when I was a Sergeant in an Artillery Regiment stationed at Grovely Camp. I took part in a field exercise in which we withdrew from Pine Rivers to Brackenridge by night and dug in. My section was located in the immediate vicinity of the Bald Hills Cemetery. Early in the morning when we had been stood down I took a ramble amongst the overgrown grave sites. Close by the McConnel burial complex I found the grave of "Ellen Wickham relict of the late Capt. John Clements Wickham Govt. Resident of Queensland from 1853-1959".¹

My accumulated knowledge of Captain Wickham could have been written on the back of an envelope. I knew that he had sailed with Darwin in the *Beagle*. I believed, incorrectly, that he had built Newstead House. I knew that at Separation he had been replaced by Governor Bowen and that his name had been given to two of Brisbane's thoroughfares and a Park.

Post war my interest in the grave at Brackenridge and its almost forgotten occupant led on to this study.

The biographer contemplating Captain John Clements Wickham R.N. as a subject will find no dearth of material relating to his Naval career, his work as a hydrographer, his ability as an administrator or his competence as an artist.

What will not be found however is that body of source material comprising his correspondence, his journals, his official papers, together with such domestic records as he took with him when he left Queensland for Britain in 1860. Sadly most of this material is lost beyond recall, for it was destroyed in 1874 by a fire in the Depository where it had been left together with furniture and other personal effects.²

Whilst Newstead House stands, John Clements Wickham, as first citizen of the Moreton Bay District of New South Wales which he administered from the beginnings of free settlement to the establishment of the Colony of Queensland, is in no danger of being forgotten. This paper will deal with his antecedents, with his two wives and the children they bore him, and with his descendents.

Essentially it is an exercise in genealogy.

ANCESTORS OF J.C. WICKHAM

John Clements Wickham's earliest recorded ancestors were settled at Rowley, a village in Yorkshire that no longer exists. In 1638 two brothers from Rowley, Richard and Thomas Wickham left England and went to America. In all probability they migrated to escape religious persecution.

Richard, the elder brother went to Boston, Massachussets and gave the name of Rowley to the place where he lived.

Thomas, the younger brother who was born in 1624 is recorded as living at Wethersfield in Connecticut. In 1647 he married an English girl, Sarah. Her name is given as Churchill but this is disputed. He died in 1688, she in 1700.

Samuel Wickham, was born in 1664, the fifth son of Thomas and Sarah. His four elder brothers married and had children. From here on we will follow only the direct line from this Samuel. He settled in Rhode Island and became a Freeman of the Colony and a Deputy.

On July 1688 he married Ann - who died c.1690. Then on 4 June 1691 he married Barbara Holken aged 23 years. They also had a large family. She died in 1707, he in 1712.

Benjamin Wickham, born 17 November 1701 at Rhode Island, was fifth son of Samuel and Barbara. Nothing is known of his life until the time of his first marriage. On 1 September 1733, at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, he married Elizabeth Rebecca, daughter of George Watmough of London. They had two daughters, both of whom married Officers in the British Army. She died at Newport, Rhode Island in October 1741.

On Christmas Day 1743 he married Mary, daughter of Colonel John Gardner by whom he had ten children. Of their sons only two survived another Benjamin and Samuel born at Newport, Rhode Island on 13 October 1758 who was to be father of John Clements Wickham.

In 1756 the Assembly chose Benjamin Wickham to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment of 440 men ordered to be raised for the (second) expedition against Crown Point. He was also

appointed Muster Master. This force was never engaged. He was Deputy for Newport in 1757 and became Speaker of the Hosue of Deputies. He died in 1779, Mary lived until 1788.

Lieutenant Samuel Wickham, R.N., the sixth and youngest son of Benjamin and Mary, was born at Newport, Rhode Island in 1758. Four of his older brothers died in infancy. His surviving brother Benjamin never married.



Captain John Clements Wickham, R.N.

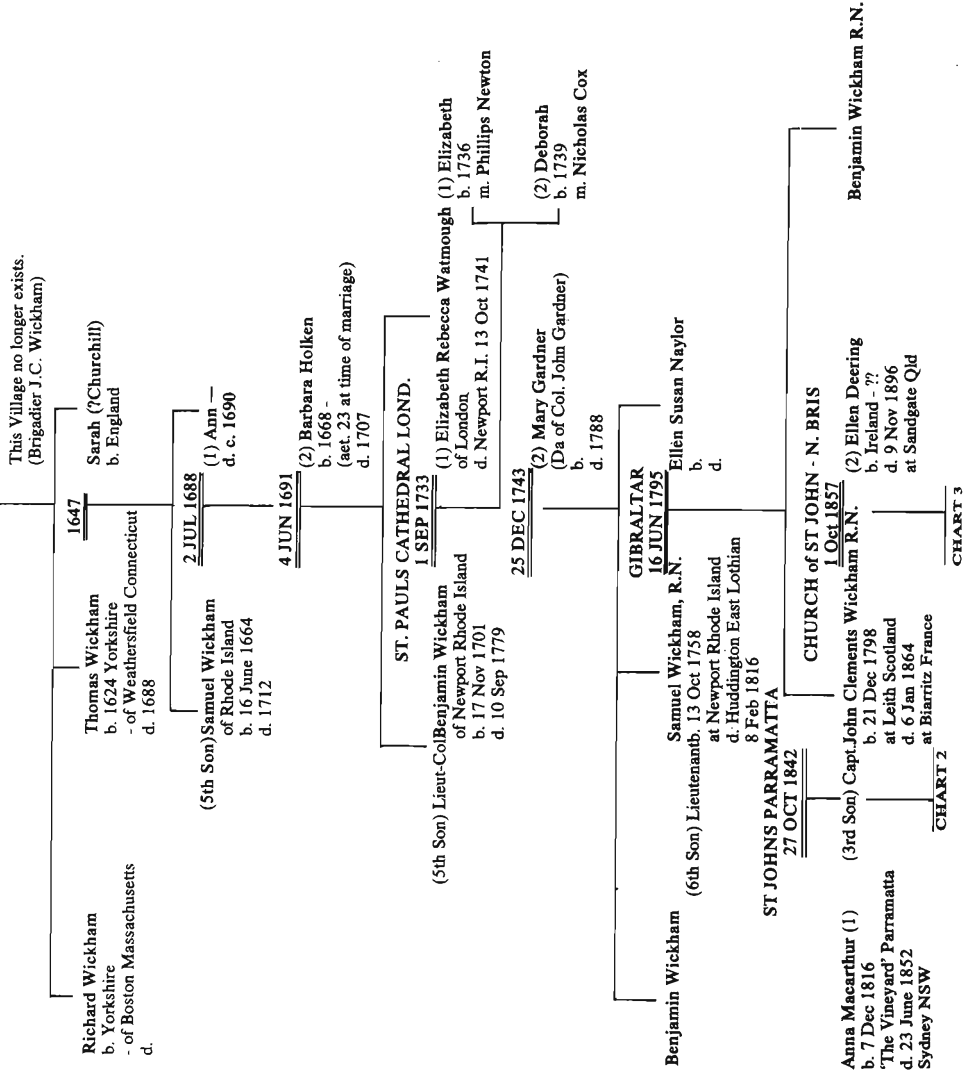
Samuel became an officer in the Royal Navy and attained the rank of Ljeutenant.⁴ He was on the British side in the War of Independence. He left America and settled in Scotland. His Naval career included a period in which he was attached to the Portuguese Navy and an instructor. He was given the rank of Captain - Lieutenant. At Gibraltar on 16 June 1795 he married Ellen Susan Naylor. Two sons were born to Samuel and Ellen, both of whom died in infancy. Then on 21 December 1798 at Leith in Scotland a third child was born and baptised John Clements.

Four more sons followed, three of whom did not marry whilst the fourth, another Benjamin, married and had three sons who died unmarried. Samuel died at Huddington, East Lothian on 8 Feburary 1816.

There is scant information about John Clements' childhood. His record of service^{5, 6} begins with his entry into the Royal Naval College in February 1812. His age is given as sixteen but he would

**ANTECEDENTS OF CAPTAIN JOHN CLEMENTS WICKHAM, R.N.
WICKHAM OF ROWLEY YORKSHIRE**

CHART 1



have been fourteen-and-a-half years at this time. In 1815 he became an Admiralty Midshipman and was posted to H.M.S. *Nightingale* and in 1818 to H.M.S. *Hyprion*. He was then paid off. In 1819 he passed his Lieutenant's examination.

In October 1827 he was commissioned Lieutenant R.N. and posted to H.M.S. *Adventure*, a surveying vessel commanded by Captain Phillip Parker King. He served under King until 1820. Their task was to chart the coasts of Peru, Chile and Patagonia. In company with *Adventure* was H.M.S. *Beagle*, a ten gun sloop commanded by Captain Pringle Stokes. Stokes committed suicide and was succeeded by Commander Robert Fitzroy.

On H.M.S. *Adventure* with Wickham as midshipmen were John Lort Stokes and Owen Stanley. Young Philip Gidley King aged 8, son of the expedition's commander was also aboard. He was destined to become Wickham's brother-in-law.

Lieutenant Wickham returned to England and was paid off in November 1830. In June 1831 he was commissioned First Lieutenant and appointed as second-in-command of the *Beagle* commanded by the youthful Captain Robert Fitzroy. With him on this expedition were:- John Lort Stokes, Second Lieutenant; Benjamin Bynoe, Assistant Surgeon; and the artist Augustus Earle, who was joined later by another noted artist Conrad Martens. Wickham himself executed some highly competent sketches which have survived. This voyage was to be made famous by the presence of Charles Darwin the naturalist, whose collections were a frequent source of irritation to the First Lieutenant.

Also aboard the *Beagle*, and now a midshipman, was Philip Gidley King who had sailed with Wickham on the earlier expedition.

On her return voyage to England H.M.S. *Beagle* visited Australian waters and on 12 January 1836 entered Port Jackson. At the end of the month she sailed for Hobart and, continuing on, reached Plymouth in October.

Wickham was put out of commission, but not for long. On 10 January 1837 he was advanced to the rank of Commander and on 16 February appointed to the command of H.M.S. *Beagle* with John Lort Stokes as his First Lieutenant. He was given the task of completing the survey of the coast of New Holland. The *Beagle* visited Swan River, sailed on to Hobart and reached Sydney on July 24, 1838. H.M.S. *Alligator* (Sir Gordon Bremer) and H.M.S. *Britomart* (Lt. Owen Stanley) were anchored in the harbour. Captain Phillip Parker King, Wickham's commander on the first expedition, was also in Sydney at this time.

H.M.S. *Beagle* was in Sydney again from 10 March to 21 May 1839 before setting out to complete the survey of the North West Coast. This was a task that Wickham was never destined to complete. Towards the end of his period in Western Australia his health deteriorated and he became seriously ill. In March 1841 he resigned the command of *Beagle* to his Lieutenant, John Lort Stokes, who was promoted Commander and proceeded to complete the survey and publish the report.

Wickham returned to England, retired from the Navy ⁷ and made preparations to come back to New South Wales to marry.

He had spent two periods of his service life in Australian waters during each of which he had visited Sydney. In 1839 he had spent more than two months there. He was on terms of close friendship with influential people with strong family ties in the country. More importantly, he had won the heart of Anna Macarthur, second of six daughters of Hannibal and Anna Maria Macarthur of "The Vineyard", Parramatta.

Just when Wickham and Anna met is uncertain. Her father, who was a nephew of John Macarthur of Camden, had married Anna Maria King, daughter of Philip Gidley King, Governor of New South Wales from 1800-1806. She was thus a sister of Captain Philip Parker King, Wickham's commander in H.M.S. *Adventure*, and young Philip Gidley King was her nephew.

It is reasonable to speculate that they first met when the *Beagle* was in Sydney in January 1836. We know for certain that he was a regular visitor to The Vineyard in 1839.⁸

Anna's sister, Emmeline Maria de Falbe, in her memoirs declared that Wickham's decision to retire from the Navy was for reasons other than ill health.

This is further supported by Ellen Susan Comber, daughter of Captain Wickham and Anna Macarthur and widow of Admiral Henry Wandesford Comber. Writing from Exmouth in 1927, she stated:-

'Also I do not think he left H.M.S. *Beagle* from ill health but because his wife's family would not allow the marriage until he retired from Naval Service on account of the long separations and so he sent in his papers and got a government appointment at Moreton Bay.'⁹

WICKHAM MARRIES

Wickham returned to New South Wales and in October 1842 he and Anna were married. The extract from the Register of Marriages in the Parish of St. John, Parramatta, is a genealogist's delight.



*Anna Wickham (nee Macarthur), first wife of Captain J.C. Wickham, R.N.
Photo by courtesy of Queensland Women's Historical Association.*

“John Clements Wickham of this Parish Bachelor and Anna McArthur of this Parish Spinister were married in this church by License (sic) this twenty seventh day of October in the year 1842.

This marriage was J.C. Wickham By me

Solemnised between us Anna McArthur H.H. Bobart

In the Presence of - H.H. McArthur of Vineyard, Parramatta; A.J. King - F.P. Blackwood; Philip G. King - Emeline McArthur; George F. McArthur - Emma McArthur.

His marriage with Anna had now drawn Wickham into an interesting web of family relationships, probably best understood if we study the six daughters of the Hannibal Macarthurs and their husbands.

APPOINTED TO MORETON BAY

Captain Wickham was not long in securing a suitable civil appointment. His distinguished Naval career, together with his years of association with the Colony of New South Wales, had qualified him for the administrative position he was now offered. He was forty-four, and the Governor preferred younger men for these posts. He had married into a family which carried great influence in the Colony. If there is truth in the belief that parental consent to his marriage with Anna was conditional on his becoming a landsman, then it is reasonable to believe that the Macarthur's used their influence in securing this appointment for their son-in-law.

The convict era had ended at Moreton Bay and Lieutenant Owen Gorman, the last Military Commandant, had left Brisbane in March 1842. Meanwhile Dr. Stephen Simpson had carried on the administration as Acting Police Magistrate.

The Governor of New South Wales, Sir George Gipps, now appointed Captain Wickham to the post of Police Magistrate to the Moreton Bay District,¹⁰ at an annual salary of three hundred pounds.

In a minute, dated 11 January 1843 his duties as Police Magistrate were set out.¹¹ He was to be the representative of the Governor within the District and was charged with the general supervision of all the interests of Government within it.

Late in January Captain Wickham and his wife of three months, arrived in Brisbane. They had travelled on the *Shamrock*, a paddle-wheel steamer belonging to the Hunter River Steam Navigation Company and commanded by Captain George Gilmore. Aboard with them was an Anglican clergyman, the Rev. John Gregor, who was accompanied by his wife.

The Commandant's Cottage from the old regime was available as a residence for the newly appointed Police Magistrate. It stood on the ridge above the Commissariat Stores and the Queen's Wharf, approximately at the site where the Government Printing Office was later built.

The building had not been occupied since Owen Gorman had left and it was now in a condition somewhat euphemistically described as "dilapidated". It was obviously not suitable as a long-term residence for the District's leading citizen.

Here on 1 November 1843 the first of their three children was born. The boy was baptised by the Rev. John Gregor and given the names Charles Brenton.¹²

Anna Wickham entered into the life of the community. Mrs. Gregor held Sunday School at 10 a.m. each Sunday being assisted by Mrs. Jones, wife of Mr. Richard Jones, member for Stanley Division in the New South Wales Parliament. Mrs. Wickham, wife of the Resident Magistrate also taught in the school. Whenever the Rev. John Gregor was absent from Brisbane the services were conducted by Captain Wickham.¹³

A periodic visitor to Brisbane was Patrick Leslie, who had married Catherine Macarthur, Anna's younger sister. He had taken up "Toolburra" on the Darling Downs, and on his visits to Brisbane he stayed with the Wickhams but there is no record that Catherine accompanied him at this time.

BEGINNINGS OF NEWSTEAD

As time passed Wickham saw the need to build a house more in keeping with his social and official status. At a land sale, held on 9 April 1845 at the Police Office in the Old Convict Barracks¹⁵ he and Patrick Leslie bought contiguous blocks of land which fronted onto the Brisbane River. Leslie's block of seventeen acres was bounded on the north by Breakfast Creek whilst Wickham's twenty-five acres spread up river from Leslie's southern boundary. The Eagle Farm Road defined their western limits.¹⁶

On the northern end of his land, which he called Newstead, on the high ground overlooking the junction of Breakfast Creek and the Brisbane River, Patrick Leslie proceeded to build a cottage. On 5 January 1846 when H.M.S. *Bramble* came up the river it was noted that building was in progress there. Patrick now divided his time between the Downs, and Brisbane where he was welcomed by the Wickhams.

On 12 September 1846, while still at the former Commandant's Cottage, Anna gave birth to a second child, a daughter whom they named Ellen Susan. She was baptised by the Rev. John Gregor on 4 October.¹⁷

Patrick and Catherine Leslie lived for only a short while at Newstead but they achieved much in that time. The land had been used as a government farm in penal times. Some further clearing and culling was done and they set about to develop a garden. Patrick described the house and its gardens in some detail in his letters home to Scotland and listed an extraordinary variety of trees, fruits, vegetables and flowering plants now growing there.

WICKHAM ACQUIRES NEWSTEAD

In a letter to his father in June 1847 Patrick Leslie told him of his intention to sell Newstead and invest the proceeds in a station on the Darling Downs. He knew that Wickham intended building a house on his allotment near Newstead, and moreover that he proposed to begin immediately as the government cottage in which he was living was tumbling down. He was however prepared to make an offer of a thousand pounds for Newstead to save himself the trouble and time of building on his own land.¹⁸

Patrick obtained his father's consent to the sale and used the money towards the purchase of Goomburra from the Dalrymple Estate and so Captain Wickham became the second owner of Newstead.¹⁹ As the house was destined to become the hub of the District's social activity, he embarked on a programme of extensions that form the basis of the stately home that we see today.

The story of Newstead and the Wickhams is well told in the booklet now published by the Board of Trustees of Newstead House.²⁰ Based on the earlier R.H.S.Q. editions, the sixth edition of 1983 has been edited and brought up to date by the present Curator, Mr. David Gibson. His elegant prose matches the tasteful restoration of Newstead for which he is largely responsible. I purpose only to add a supplementary note to this period and to press on.

Anna Wickham took over the fine garden which the Leslies had planted at Newstead and developed it with enthusiasm. Her uncle, William Macarthur of Camden, was an expert botanist and friend of Sir William Hooker of Kew. He and Anna carried on a lively correspondence,²¹ discussing acclimatisation and requesting and exchanging plants.

On 2 November 1849 Anna's youngest child Alfred William was born at Newstead,²² the first of the Wickhams to be born there. On 1 January 1850 he was baptised by the Rev. Benjamin Glennie. Their friend the Rev. John Gregor had been drowned on 22 January 1848 whilst swimming at the "German Station" now known as Nundah.²³

From this time on Anna Wickham's health seems to have deteriorated. In late 1851 or early 1852 she visited Sydney for medical reasons, it seems, and a change of climate. She took her children with her.

There are several accounts of her death and of Captain Wickham's rush to Sydney to see her after she suddenly suffered a severe turn for the worse. These differ in detail.

Captain Phillip Parker King writing from Newlands, Parramatta in October 1852 to Mrs. Charles Stanley in England, gives one version:-²⁴

"I believe you know enough of us to have heard of my sister Mrs. Hannibal McArthur - she died about two months since - and we have also had to mourn the loss of one of her daughters Mrs. Wickham who died under very melancholy circumstances - Wickham was an old friend of Owen's and I think you will know who he is - Mrs. Wickham came from Moreton Bay, where he was Police Magistrate, for medical treatment and change of air - she was in Sydney for eight months and he was on his voyage to Sydney to take her back in improved health, when she suddenly took ill and died after a fortnights severe and painful illness. He arrived in expectation of a happy meeting with her - but on reaching the house where she was he was told she was no longer in

the World - and so he was arrived in time to see her in her coffin just before it was closed and to follow her remains to the grave. It was a very sad event. Mrs. King nursed her through her illness and closed her eyes - it was a very sad event for we all loved her very much. She was a very superior person and a great friend of Owen's".

Prior to Anna Wickham's death there had been three of the Macarthur sisters in the northern outpost of the Colony. Catherine, who had married Patrick Leslie,²⁵ had come first to the Downs and, after their brief sojourn in Brisbane in which they built Newstead, had returned there to live on Goomburra, which had been purchased with the proceeds of the sale of Newstead. Anna, as we know, arrived in Brisbane at the beginning of 1843. Finally, Emmeline Mary's marriage with George Farquhar Leslie²⁶ in December 1847 brought a third sister into the community. She was to live at Canning Downs until 1852. There were no children of this marriage.

In her reminiscences she wrote - "though much alone I was never dull. I made a garden and had riding whenever there was leisure to accompany me. The monotony was broken by two trips to Brisbane, when we visited my sister and we brought little Charlie home with us for the hot weather, which is very trying in Brisbane".²⁷

In the course of time the sisters were joined by their parents. The depression of the 1840's had brought about the failure of the Bank of Australia of which Hannibal Macarthur was Chairman of Directors.²⁸ He retired in 1848 from the Legislative Council. Then after he had been declared insolvent he went north with Anna Maria and joined his family on the Downs.

They spent the winter of 1851 in a cottage near Catherine at Goomburra. In January 1852 Hannibal was appointed Police Magistrate at Ipswich²⁹, an appointment for which, from his earlier experience on the bench, he was well qualified.

George Leslie's health now steadily deteriorated. He had been seriously ill in Sydney and had made only a partial recovery. On medical advice he and Emmeline set out for Scotland, hoping that rest and a change of climate would help him regain his health. They were overseas when they received the news of Anna's death in Sydney in June, to be followed shortly afterwards by news of the death of Mrs. Macarthur at Ipswich in September. In 1853 Emmeline and George Leslie returned to Australia where they spent the next year winding up their affairs before returning to Britain for good.

Wickham came back to Brisbane and set about the reorganisation of his life. He had been ten years in office at Moreton Bay. His

official duties had continued to mount as the population increased, and now at last he was given a rise in salary to five hundred pounds. The three children had been in Sydney with their mother at the time of her last illness. Charles Brenton was nine-and-a-half, Ellen Susan five-and-a-half, and Alfred William two-and-a-half when Anna died.

The Macarthurs rallied to the family's support. Emmeline in her memoirs wrote -

“In the winter we went to Brisbane. I had charge of my dear Anna's little girl, she was to go to England with us; we not only wished a warmer climate but the child should spend some time with her father and little brother Charlie”.³⁰

The weeks Emmeline spent at Newstead were taken up with a variety of activities -

“Whilst there I amused myself making arrowroot and picking cotton from the garden, of which more anon. I had my horses there and enjoyed riding. We had taken our Chinese groom”.³¹

Ellen Susan Wickham went back to Sydney with the George and Emmeline Leslie. On the voyage down they were nearly shipwrecked. When her uncle and aunt returned to Scotland she was taken overseas with them. She never returned to Australia. She grew up in the household of the George Leslies, and eventually in April 1845 married, as his second wife, Admiral Henry Wandesford Comber, R.N.³² They had one child, Henry Cautley Comber, who married, and dying in 1931 left no issue. Ellen Susan died in 1933 in England.

Two of her letters, now in the Society's manuscript collection, contain some useful family data. The old lady's hand is firm and her mind appears active.

In September 1926 she wrote from Exmouth:-

“My dear Bessie

It was indeed kind of you to send me the Brisbane Paper and it arrived yesterday, the eve of my 80 birthday. Alas! I can no longer pass it on to my brother for he died at Montevideo about two years ago and I am the last of the family of my father and mother. . .”³³

The second letter of 1 March 1927 contains the paragraph quoted earlier regarding Wickham's reason for retiring from the Navy.³⁴

George Leslie died in June 1860, and after several years of widowhood Emmeline married Captain Vigant de Falbe of the

Danish Royal Navy.³⁵ They had two sons and her issue continues. He died in 1871. She lived for another forty years and died in December 1911 at Cheltenham in England. In 1909 at the request of her family she wrote her memoirs which provided a mine of information about her relatives and friends and her pioneering days in Australia.

WICKHAM REMARRIES

The year 1857 was a significant one for Wickham, both officially and domestically. His position was up-graded to Government Resident³⁶ and with this change in status he was automatically relieved of his duties as Police Magistrate and after five years as a widow he married again.

On 1 October his marriage with Miss Ellen Deering took place in the Church of St. John the Evangelist.³⁷ The witnesses were Charles George Gray and J. Leith-Hay. From the information in the marriage Register a number of relevant facts emerge. He gave his mother's maiden name as Ellen Susan Naylor, which allows the information in his death certificate issued in Biarritz³⁸ to be corrected.

Ellen Wickham gave her age as 30. She stated that her father was John Deering (deceased) and that his profession was Barrister. This should relegate the often repeated "Irish QC, later a Judge"³⁹ to the dustbin of history. Her mother's name is given as Rebecca Rose.



Ellen Wickham, nee Deering, second wife of Captain J.C. Wickham

Why or when Ellen emigrated to Australia has yet to be ascertained. From the data in her death certificate she could have arrived here as late as 1856. Her sister Mrs. Greenwood was also in Queensland, and Nehemiah Bartley in his reminiscences mentions her.⁴⁰ Bartley also refers to Colonel Charles George Gray, Police Magistrate at Ipswich, a veteran of Albuera and Waterloo with whom Miss Deering used to stay.⁴¹ She seems to have been his protegee. She was also a friend of the Leith-Hays. Just as Ellen seemed to have wasted no time after emigrating to Australia before she made a suitable match, so she wasted no time in producing a family.

John Harold Wickham⁴² was born at Newstead on 25 November 1858. He was second and last of the Wickhams to be born there. Two days before Christmas he was baptised in the Church of St John the Evangelist, North Brisbane.

SEPARATION — AND DEPARTURE

The events of the next year were destined to bring great changes in the life of the family. Separation of that area of New South Wales north of the Tweed River from the mother Colony was imminent. Captain Wickham had administered the region since 1842. Now he was to be replaced as first citizen by a Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. He was offered the position of Colonial Treasurer, which he declined. It was then given to his friend R.R. Mackenzie, who was in 1864 one of the executors of his Will. He had decided to return with his family to Britain. Ellen was again pregnant. On 24 January 1860 Captain and Mrs. Wickham and Master Wickham and two servants left Brisbane for Sydney on the steamer *Yarra Yarra*⁴³ and on 2 February the family departed for England on the *Duncan Dunbar*.⁴⁴

Henry Falkland Wickham related how on 11 March 1860, when the ship was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands, the Captain hove to whilst he was being born. His second name was derived from the locality of his birth.⁴⁵

The family after landing in Britain went to stay at Elgin in Scotland with Benjamin Wickham, R.N., one of John Clement's younger brothers. Benjamin was Paymaster-in-Chief of the Navy.⁴⁶

Captain Wickham waited for news of the pension for which he had applied. Neither the New South Wales Government which he had served for seventeen years, nor the Queensland Government, would accept the responsibility. He decided to move to the Continent where living was cheaper. Newstead had still to be sold, and his affairs in Queensland wound up. He moved with his family to the south of France and on 6 January 1864 he died at Biarritz as the result of a stroke.⁴⁷

DESCENDANTS OF WICKHAM AND ANNA MACARTHUR

Charles Brenton Wickham, the eldest son was educated in Australia before starting on his military career in England. At the age of eighteen he entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the Royal Horse Artillery. On 1 March 1881 he married Eleanora Mary Davie Wynch. They had two children: a daughter Evelyn, born 1881, died in 1937 unmarried, and a son, John Charles, born 23 July 1886 at Simla in India. Charles Brenton Wickham died on 1 August 1908 at Ealing, Middlesex.

John Charles Wickham is the only member of the family of Captain J.C. Wickham and Anna Macarthur to have re-visited Brisbane. In 1915, whilst on Service in the Great War, he was seriously wounded. He was awarded the D.S.O. Later he was A.D.C. to H.M. King George V. On 6 April 1921 he married Augusta Phyllis Amyand Haggard, daughter of Major Edward Arthur Haggard, B.A. and a sister of Lieutenant-Commander Haggard D.S.C. who was with the Australian Submarine AE 2 when it penetrated the Dardanelles. Sir Ryder Haggard the author was her uncle. In 1933 Colonel Wickham D.S.O., leaving his wife in Sydney, came to Brisbane and was entertained at his old family home, Newstead, by the members of the Historical Society of Queensland.

As Brigadier J.C. Wickham D.S.O., R.E., he was again in Brisbane in 1954 and this time Mrs. Wickham accompanied him. Commander N.S. Pixley, Vice-President, and members of the Historical Society entertained them at Newstead.

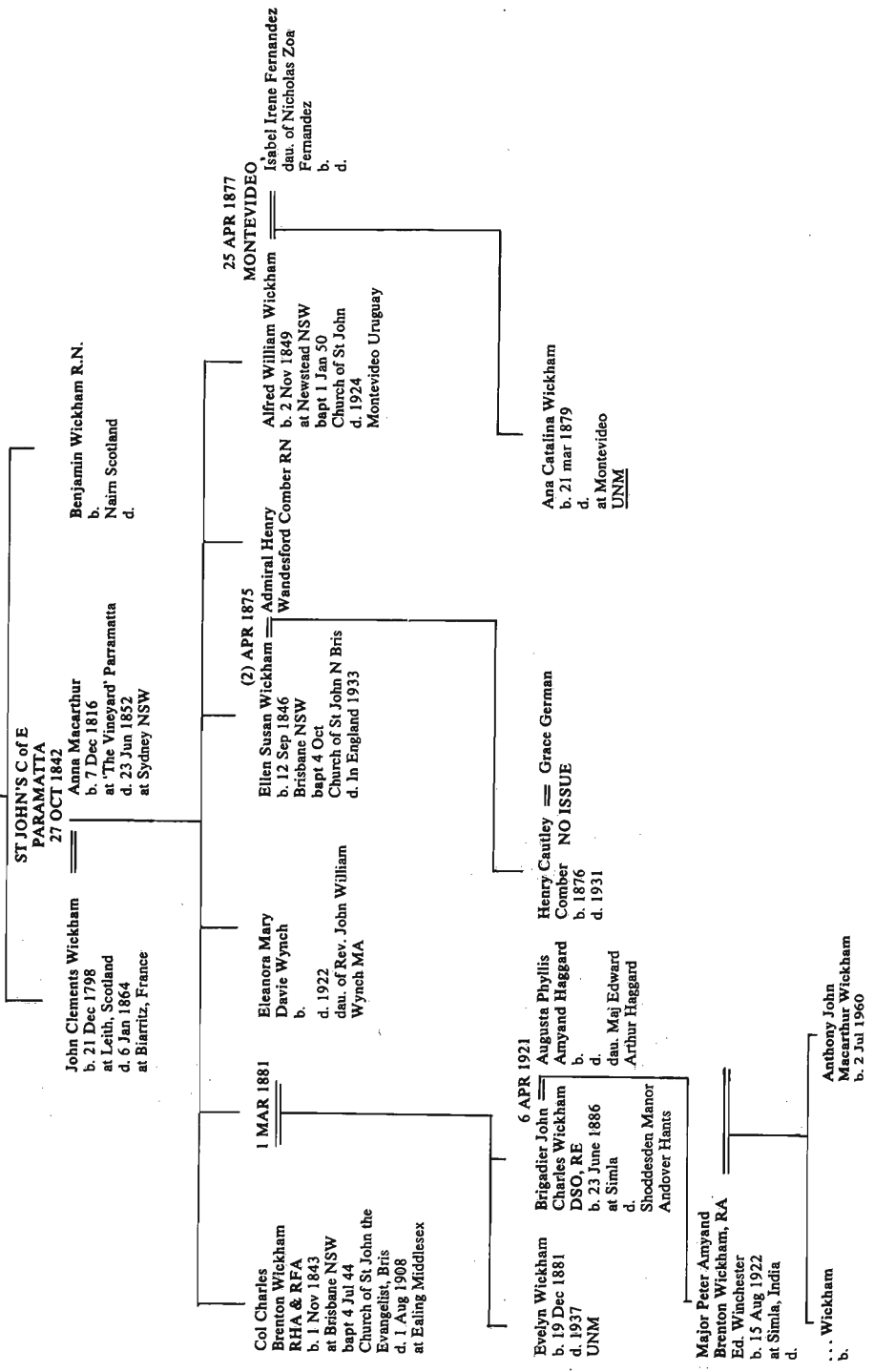
Following each visit a considerable volume of correspondence took place between John Charles Wickham and the Society's Honorary Secretaries who were, J.E. Round at the time of the 1933 visit, and Alex Morrison at the time of the 1954 visit. Mrs. Charles Young (Martha), President of the Queensland Women's Historical Association who met him during his second visit, thereafter maintained a long correspondence with him dealing with family and associated matters.⁴⁹

All these letters have proved to be rich source of genealogical material and further research has proved them to be a fairly reliable one.

Peter Amyand Brenton Wickham R.A., the only son of the John Charles Wickhams was born at Simla on 15 August 1922. He was educated at Winchester. In the war of 1939-45 he attained the rank of Captain.

DESCENDANTS OF CAPT. JOHN CLEMENTS WICKHAM R.N.

AND ANNA MACARTHUR



Alfred William Wickham, the first of the family to have been born at Newstead, migrated to South America and settling in Montevideo, Uruguay he married on 25 April 1877 Isabel Irene, daughter of Nicholas Zoa Fernandez of that city. Alfred William died there about 1924.⁵¹

Ana Catalina, the last of the South American Wickhams was born on 21 March 1879. In June 1928, writing from Calle, Montevideo she sent Archbishop James Duhig a large gold coin to be placed under the foundation stone of the Holy Name Cathedral adjacent to Wickham Street, Brisbane. The coin bore on one side the coat of arms of the Republic of Uruguay. On the other side it was inscribed "in memoriam, Captain Wickham R.N., first Resident Governor of Queensland". With its lightly incorrect inscription it is still under the stone overlooking the street along which Wickham rode between his office in Brisbane and his lovely home Newstead.⁵²

When Captain Wickham died at Biarritz in 1864, Ellen's two children were then living. John Harold was five years old and Henry Falkland nearly four. There is lack of information about the family in the period immediately following Wickham's death. The sale of Newstead took place and brought Ellen four thousand pounds⁵³ and other small amounts were realised.

Then in January 1869 misfortune brought them once more onto the stage of history. Ellen Wickham and her two boys were travelling in Germany, in the Black Forest, when John Harold, then just over ten years old, contracted an undisclosed illness from which he died.⁵⁴ She and the nine-year-old Henry Falkland returned to England.

HENRY FALKLAND WICKHAM

From here on we have to rely on Henry's reminiscences. He stated that he was educated at Rugby and Uppingham and that it was intended that he should qualify for entrance into the Diplomatic Corps. He also spoke of a legacy of five thousand pounds which he received at this time. He was now around seventeen years of age and somewhat precocious. He claimed to have used his legacy to make a sort of Grand Tour of Europe and he boasted "I was a well set up young man fortunate to attract the attention of the ladies'..

Towards the end of the 1870's he returned to Queensland. It is probable that Ellen came with him. I have not been able to verify this. In Queensland he was employed in pastoral work. In a letter to his daughter Brenda in the latter part of 1935 he wrote:-

"I can say quite truthfully that I did never actually fear death, although when I was 22 and away out in the Gulf of Carpentaria country and almost died of malaria I did think it hard that I should die so young".



Henry Falkland Wickham, son of John Clements Wickham and Ellen Deering. A contemporary sketch during his years in journalism in Sydney.

The year would have been 1882.

Eventually he came back to Brisbane where Ellen was living. He is mentioned briefly as belonging to the Brisbane Hunt Club at this time. Towards the end of the 1880's a small, vivacious, red-headed Irish girl came into his life. Born on 6 November 1870 and baptised Elizabeth Mary Josephine, "Lizzie" Keegan was almost nineteen years of age when on 23 October 1899 she and Henry were married at Nundah.⁵⁵ Their marriage was to last for forty-five years. Ellen was still living in Brisbane at the time of her son's marriage and she lived long enough to see two of her three grandchildren. As former first lady she had made many friends in Brisbane, and the Leith-Hays and Bancrofts were amongst her friends after she returned there.

She died on 9 November 1896 at the Sea View Hotel at Sandgate where she had gone to escape the summer's heat. Henry was present to close her eyes when she died, and she was buried in the Bald Hills Cemetery on the same day.⁵⁶

The details in her death certificate, which Henry must have supplied, though probably correct have led to some confusion about her date of birth and her age at the time she was married.⁵⁷ Some while after his mother's death Henry moved to Sydney. He followed his career of journalism and was for many years on the staff of the

Evening News until it ceased publication in March 1931. At one period he had travelled outside Australia and had become a friend of Sir Hubert Murray of Papua, with whom he continued to correspond.

In September 1934 “Lizzie” Wickham, whom her granddaughter Betty Barrett describes as “a lovely fiery little woman of Irish parentage”, died.⁵⁸ Henry survived her by about eighteen months, dying in 1936. Both are buried in Manly Cemetery, N.S.W.

The marriage between the protestant Henry Wickham and the catholic “Lizzie” Keegan was not universally approved by the family and he was disinherited by one of his aunts as a result, but they lived happily together for some forty-five years.⁵⁸

From the brief obituaries of the period we learn that he had resided in Manly for twenty-five years. Also that he wrote many short stories and contributed to newspapers throughout Australia. He also wrote for a number of magazines.

As he grew older he became deeply immersed in spiritualism.⁵⁸ His surviving letters are from this period of less interest to the genealogist.

There were three daughters of the marriage.⁵⁹

— Brenda Falkland Wickham, the youngest girl was born in Brisbane on 30 January 1897, the year following her grandmother’s death. She moved to Sydney when her parents settled there some time before World War I. In January 1933 she married Arthur Hazeldine Walker. They had no family and she died in 1959, shortly after his death, having decided that life without him was not worth living.

— Eileen Wickham born on 20 February 1892 in Brisbane, died in 1923, probably unmarried.

— Violet Wickham, the eldest girl was born on 8 August 1890 in Brisbane and educated there. She married on 23 November 1915 A.J. Swan. On 9 September 1916 she gave birth to a daughter, christened Betty. Two days later she died.

The Australian line continues through Betty Swan who in Sydney on 11 January 1938 married Jack Graham Barrett. They had one child, Elizabeth Wickham Barrett, born 12 April 1941 at Wahroonga, Sydney. On 11 August 1962, at Old Church, Chelsea she married Keith Cottier a well known Sydney architect. They have three children:-

— Sarah Jane Cottier, b. 11 December 1963 at Wahroonga, N.S.W.

— Benjamin John Wickham Cottier, b. 30 August 1966 at Paddington, N.S.W.

— Hugo Charles Cottier, b. 16 October 1969 at Paddington, N.S.W.

Mrs. Betty Barrett, to whom I am indebted for much of the information relating to the descendants of her great-grandparents John Clements Wickham and Ellen Deering, has given this Society a quantity of valuable photographic material.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland has undertaken the perpetual care of the historic grave of Ellen Wickham at Brackenridge, to the upkeep of which the descendants in New South Wales have contributed.⁶⁰



*Mrs. H. F. Wickham (nee Elizabeth Mary Josephine Keegan) 1870 – 1934.
(Photo by courtesy Mrs. Betty Barrett – Sydney.)*

THE MACARTHUR SISTERS

1. **Elizabeth**
 - b. 17 May 1815 at "The Vineyard"
 - d. 27 November 1899 at Sydney
 - m. 1 June 1843 St. Johns Parramatta
 - Philip Gidley King
 - b. 31 October 1817
 - d. 5 August 1904 Sydney (2S, ID)

2. **Anna**
 - b. 7 December 1816 at "The Vineyard" at Sydney
 - d. 23 June 1852 Sydney
 - m. 27 October 1842, St. Johns Parramatta
 - Capt. John Clements Wickham, R.N.
 - b. 21 December 1798
 - d. 6 January 1864 Biarritz (2S, ID)

3. **Catherine**
 - b. 14 June 1818 at "The Vineyard"
 - d. 10 April 1894 Sydney
 - m. 9 September 1840 St. Johns Parramatta
 - Patrick Leslie
 - b. 25 September 1815
 - d. 12 August 1886 Sydney (I.S.)

4. **Mary King**
 - b. 6 January 1822 at "The Vineyard"
 - d. December 1898 Sydney
 - m. 25 March 1841 St. Johns Parramatta
 - (1) Hugh Gordon of "Manar" N.S.W.
 - b. d. 21 December 1857 (6S.3D)
 - (2) Francis Wilson

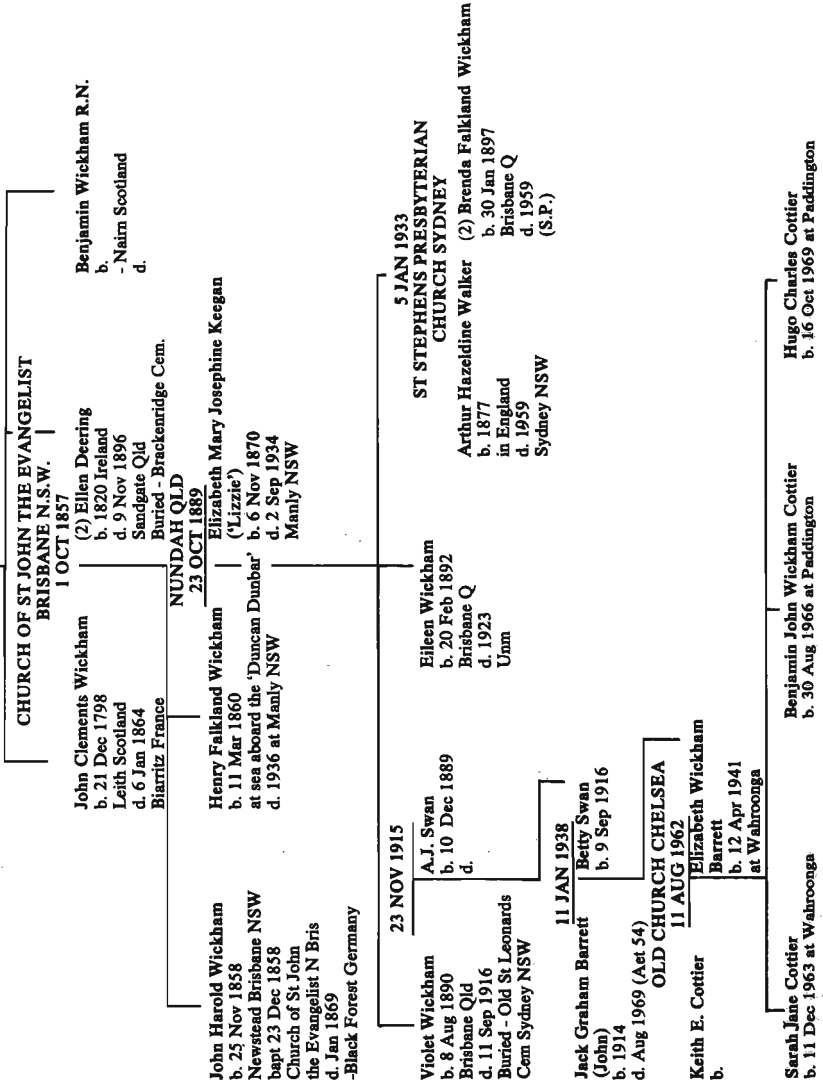
5. **Emmeline Maria**
 - b. 10 July 1928 at "The Vineyard"
 - d. 22 December 1911 in England
 - m. 2 December 1847 All Saints Parramatta
 - (1) George Farquhar Leslie
 - b. d. 22 June 1860 UK (Sp)
 - m. 12 September 1845 (2) Vigant de Falbe
 - b. d. 12 June 1871 in England (2S)

6. **Emma Jane**
 - b. 2 May 1832 at "The Vineyard"
 - d. 10 March 1866 Newtown Sydney
 - m. 21 January 1852 St. Johns Stroud N.S.W.
 - Lt. Francis Robert Chester Master
 - b. d. (2S.ID)

DESCENDANTS OF CAPT. JOHN CLEMENTS WICKHAM R.N.

and
ELLEN DEERING

CHART 3



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