

# SURVEYOR GALLOWAY AND BRISBANE CHURCH SITES

*by J.S. Ryan*

In a paper<sup>1</sup> to the Society in August 1980, I gave an outline of the career of Surveyor Galloway at Moreton Bay concentrating on certain types of survey, without dwelling in any great detail on his activities in early 1856. Soon after that address had been given, there were found by me various details in the Colonial Secretary's papers<sup>2</sup> in Sydney which indicated that Galloway, a convert to Anglicanism<sup>3</sup>, had been involved in the applications by various laymen for grants of land for their church purposes. As Surveyor he had sent to the Surveyor General via the Bishop of Newcastle a letter from 'A. Herbert and others' on 5 February 1856, applying 'for a grant as site for a parsonage' at Gayndah — a request answered by the Colonial Secretary, on 1 May 1856.

A slightly earlier letter which has been misplaced in Sydney Archives is referred to on 27 February by the Surveyor General's letter of reply (currently filed with the Colonial Secretary's papers):

Sir,

The Lord Bishop of Newcastle having forwarded to the Colonial Secretary a Memorial signed by you and other members of the Church of England praying that two portions of and in the town of North Brisbane may be appropriated to Church of England purposes. I have to request that you will favour me with your full report in the matter by an illustrative sketch showing what you would propose as sites of one acre each for Churches.

The Bishop of Newcastle had sent off the laity's proposal with his covering letter on 7 February 1856. The official formal reply to the request is the following letter of 22 April from the Colonial Secretary to the Bishop of Newcastle:

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**Professor J.S. Ryan**, of the Department of English, University of New England, has written most of the modern biographical work on Surveyor John James Galloway.

My lord,

With reference to my letter of the 14th February,<sup>4</sup> last, I now do myself the honor to inform your Lordship this his Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to approve the application of one acre of land at the north side of Ann Street in the Town of North Brisbane, in addition to that already granted for Church of England purposes.

2. His Excellency has also been pleased to approve of the usual areas being appropriated as sites for a Church of England School and parsonage on the north of Fortitude Valley to which effect the Surveyor General has been apprised you will therefore have the goodness to communicate with that officer in order that the sites for each purpose may be determined, and the description of the land brought forward in abstract for final approval.

(Sgd.) W.G. Ward

(Letter Book to Clergy, A.O.N.S.W. 4/3624, p.442, No.56/3425.)

The consequence of these documents is of considerable significance for the growth of Anglicanism in what was to become Southern Queensland. After the petition in December 1843 of the Rev. John Gregor, M.A. and the residents of Brisbane for a licence for a temporary chapel, known as St. John's, there had been a succession of inexperienced clergymen<sup>5</sup> assigned to duties between Moreton Bay and Wide Bay. The inspection in 1856 by the Bishop of Newcastle, William Tyrrell, and his later funding scheme for a new diocese based on Moreton Bay were clearly assisted very considerably by the activities of John Galloway both as layman and surveyor from very soon after his arrival in Brisbane in late 1855.

Following the establishment of the parishes of Ipswich in 1849, and Wide Bay and Burnett in 1853, there followed that of Fortitude Valley in 1857, based on the land chosen by Galloway. After the arrival of Edward Wyndham Tufnell (1814-1896), the first Bishop of Brisbane, in September 1859 — in which welcome and settling-in Galloway much assisted — there began the development of the splendid site which would duly include the later Cathedral of St. John, to be more recently described as 'the last great piece of Gothic architecture'<sup>6</sup> in the capital. As the various documents indicate, Galloway had worked very closely in matters both educational and organizational with the Rev. E.K. Yeatman, Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle and master of the Grammar School. It is not to be doubted that he would have been a prominent Anglican in the settlement of Brisbane from his arrival in later 1855 until his departure for Sydney after 1872.

## REFERENCES

1. Printed in slightly reduced form in *Journal* XI, No.1, as pp.129-159.
2. See Letterbook A.O.N.S.W. 4/5439, p.418 and A.O. 5/2482 Register Odd Letters, p.1407.
3. See J.S. Ryan, 'The Religious Position of the Family of John James Galloway, pp.73-86, *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal* 25 (1982).
4. This letter is misplaced or gathered elsewhere.
5. See A.P. Elkin, *The Diocese of Newcastle*, Sydney, 1955, p.103 and notes.
6. Stated by E.V. Robinson, p.166 of his 'History in Granite and Sandstone', *Journal of the Royal Historical Society*, Vol.VIII, No.1, 1965-1966.

[In the original article on Galloway to which Professor Ryan has referred (JRHSQ, Vol.XI No.1, 1979-80), a sentence at the foot of page 152 should have read: 'He was personally to recommend G.L. Pratten to succeed I. Perry as draftsman, and to further the careers of Rawnsley and Wood (later to be Surveyor at Rockhampton) — two unassuming young men in the Galloway mould....'. This correction identifies two important Queensland Surveyors of the following decades.]

*Editor*