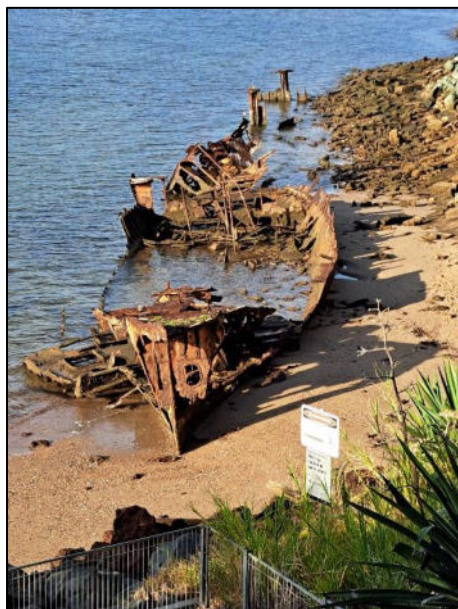


The First Settlement City Gazette

The Journal of the
Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc.
Established: 5th March 1987



The remains of the “**HMQS/HMAS Gayundah**” (left) can be seen at the base of the Woody Point Cliffs on the Redcliffe Peninsula, Qld. Is that a sailor standing at the left of the boat?

Before ending her days in Redcliffe as a tourist attraction, the Gayundah had an interesting life.

“**Gayundah**”, said to be the Aboriginal word for ‘lightening’ was the first of Queensland’s projected Navy. She was built for the Queensland Government by Sir William Armstrong Mitchell and Co of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, at a cost of £35,000.

The Gayundah, a flat-iron gunboat was launched on 13th May 1884, Commissioned on 26th September 1884 and arrived in Brisbane on 28th March, 1885.

Used by the Queensland Maritime Defence Force, her chief duty was the **protection** of the many bays, inlets and estuaries along the east coast of the Queensland coastline at a time when there was a perceived threat from the Russian Pacific Fleet. She was also used as a training ship. Later she was acquired by the Royal Australian Navy as **HMAS Gayundah**.



A structurally altered **Gayundah** acted as a guard-ship, patrol and mine sweeper vessel during World War 1. On 23rd August **1918**, she was decommissioned. A few years later, in **1921** (photo left) she was sold to the Brisbane Gravel Pty Ltd and used as a sand and gravel barge on the Brisbane River.

In **1958**, the Redcliffe Town Council* purchased the **Gayundah** and beached her in her current location at Woody Point Cliffs to serve as a breakwater **protecting the shore**, not from the enemy, **but from erosion**. * later Redcliffe City Council now part of Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Further information on the Gayundah can be found at: <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-gayundah>

MARCH 2023

Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc

Library: Clontarf Beach Scout Den, Cnr Maine Road and Isobel Street, Clontarf, Qld, 4019
The Scout Den, which has wheelchair access, also has a dedicated all weather car park.

Postal Address: 18 Collins Street, Woody Point, Qld 4019

Email: rdfhg2012@gmail.com

Website: www.redcliffefamilyhistory.com.au

PATRONS: The Hon Luke Howarth MP, Member for Petrie
Councillor Sandra Ruck, Division 5, Moreton Bay Regional Council
Councillor Karl Winchester, Division 6, Moreton Bay Regional Council

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Newsletter Editor	Committee Members	

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Financial Year: 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023

New Membership Joining Fee:	\$ 6.00
Single Membership:	\$35.00
Family Membership:	\$40.00

LIBRARY HOURS are Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Other times by appointment.

GENERAL MEETINGS of Members are held at the Group's Library on the second Thursday of every second month from 11.00am. Members are encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER: Members receive a copy of the Group's Newsletter "***The First Settlement City Gazette***" by email during the months of **March, July and November**. Hard copies are also available. Newsletters are also available on the Group's website.

The March 2023 Newsletter was produced by Committee Members of R&DFHG.

Disclaimer: The Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc (R&DFHG) does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed or statements made by the contributors of articles published in this Newsletter. Unless an article is marked 'copyright', Family History organisations have permission to reprint items from this Newsletter, providing the source is acknowledged.

***R&DFHG extends thanks to
The Hon Luke Howarth MP, Member for Petrie
and his office staff who kindly print and collate this newsletter.
Thank you.***

Editorial News – Newsletter Editor, Leonne Willis Signs Off



In January 2023, Leonne Willis resigned from her position as Editor of the Redcliffe & District Family History Group's Newsletter *The First Settlement City Gazette*.

Since taking up the position of Editor in July 2010 Leonne has worked diligently at producing the many interesting editions and kept us avidly reading her work until taking leave in March 2022 for a long due visit to her children and their families who live in America.

Leonne, a R&DFHG Member since September 1999, stepped in as President and Newsletter Editor for the group when it was going through a time of falling membership and financial difficulties. With the help of a new Committee, Leonne was able to encourage more people to join the Group as Members, preventing the Group from folding.

Over the years Leonne has kept readers informed about what was happening within the Group by encouraging many of the Group's Members to share their family stories in the Newsletter. Leonne was very adept at taking the bare bones of a story and fleshing it out by adding a social context or further research.

Thank you Leonne for all the work you put into making the Group a success.

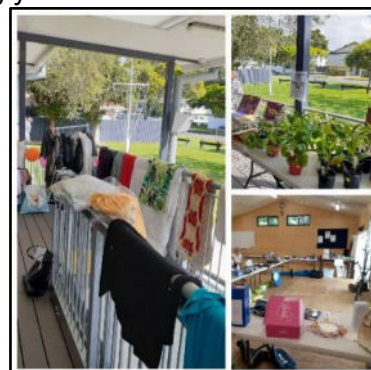


Relaxing lunch after a wonderful morning research family history ...

We were delighted to have the opportunity of having lunch with our UK Member, Jenny and her son Tom on 9th March (second and third from the front on the left of the photo). Jenny and Tom were visiting their son and brother and his family who live on the Sunshine Coast. Glad you had a safe trip home Jenny and Tom; it was wonderful seeing you both.

Group's Garage Sale ... thanks to our Members and visitors
On Saturday 18th March 2023 the Group was finally able to have our long awaited garage sale at the Clontarf Beach Scouts Den. Fortunately, as the day turned out to be rather warm, we were able to have the use of the Den's inside facilities, and with the fans whirling. Our online advertising and street signs appeared to have worked as we had a steady stream of visitors and customers.

The success of the day was as a result of the generosity of numerous members donating the goods for sale, in assisting in the set up and packing up and in the selling of the many and varied items, which ranged in size from a bike to a miniature perfume bottle, from doona covers to hand made bookmarks, and from an internal combustion engine to a toilet golf set game. How smoothly the sale took place which just goes to show the adage '*many hands make light work*' is certainly true as we were able to complete the event without too much trouble. **Thank you all** for supporting the Group. Also, thank you to Clontarf Scouts Group for the use of the facilities.



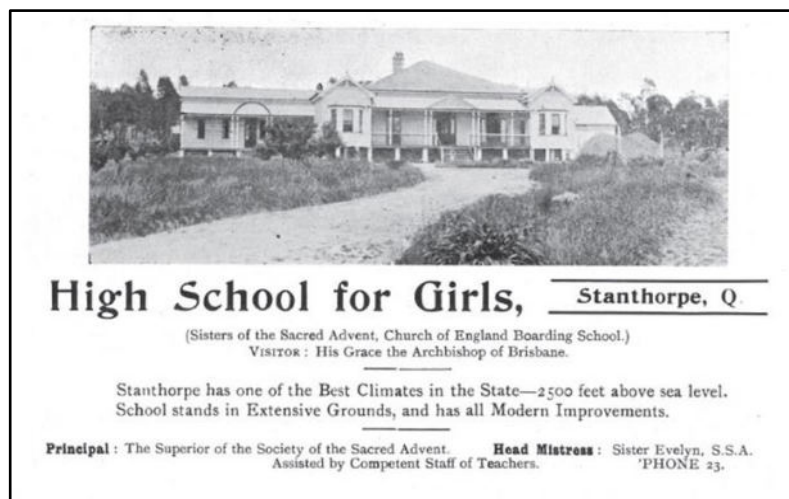
Dorothy Kathleen Greenup

A remarkable woman from a well-known Redcliffe Family

Dorothy Kathleen Greenup was born in Stanthorpe, Queensland on 7 March 1895 the daughter of Edgar Brodie Greenup (1847-1929) and Matilda Emily Hollinsworth (1855-1927).

Dorothy's father, Edgar B. Greenup arrived in Sydney with his parents in 1850. After attending Kings School in Paramatta he intended to study medicine but in 1872 joined the great "tin rush" to Stanthorpe. In 1877 he took up a tract of country in the Texas District and named it '*Copmanhurst*' where he and his wife, Matilda Emily Hollinsworth and their family farmed and grew tobacco.

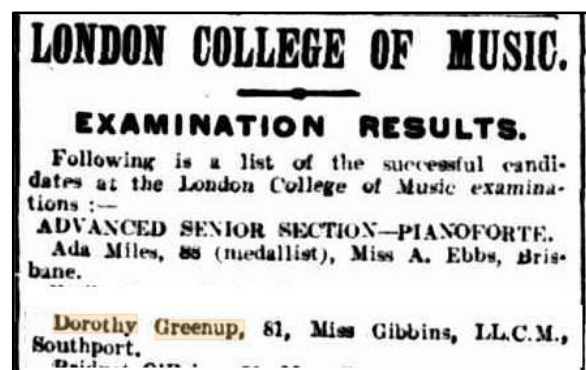
Dorothy Greenup attended "Cambridge Ladies College in Stanthorpe" and then "Gennie Memorial School" in Toowoomba.



As well as being an awarding winning tobacco farmer, for 20+ years, Dorothy's father, Edgar Greenup, served on the Inglewood Shire Council including a period in which he was Chairman. The Masonic Lodge in Texas was named after him. In 1897, due to difficult economic times, he sold the family property at Copmanhurst and moved to Redcliffe where he again became involved in politics as a member of Redcliffe Shire Council for a further 12 years.

In 1910, aged just 15, Dorothy, along with her father, travelled to London. It was here that Dorothy qualified with honours as a Royal Academy of Music pianist.

Returning the following year Edgar was elected to the Humpy Bong School Committee.



Twelve nurses aboard the “Kanowna”

On 16th December 1915, following the outbreak of War the previous year, **Dorothy enlisted** in the Hospital Transport Corps as a Probationary Nurse, Ward Assistant and departed Sydney aboard **HMAHS Kanowna** for the middle east on 22nd December 1915.

Her Attestation Paper said that her name was Dorothy **Katherine** Greenup and that she was 20 years 9 months.



Australian Hospital Ship **HMAHS KANOWNA**



HMAHS Kanowna transported soldiers and supplies to Egypt, then made for England, where she was modified for use as a hospital ship.

After completion, Kanowna could carry 452 wounded in cots, along with a medical staff of 88 in addition to her regular crew.

Sailing in September, Kanowna was used to transport Royal Army Medical Corps personnel to locations throughout the Mediterranean. She then collected wounded Australian personnel and transported them home. She would make a total of 10 voyages between Australia and England in the next three years.

Upon return to Australia in 1918, **Lance Corporal Dorothy Greenup** was honourably discharged and returned to live with her parents in Redcliffe where she was employed as a music teacher at Humpy Bong School.

Some years later Dorothy received advice that, as on 8th October 1923, she was entitled to the British War Medal 1914-1920 and the Victory Medal for her service during WW1. Correspondence among her military records indicate that **Dorothy believed** that she **had not done active service sufficient to be entitled to the medals** and **returned them**. The Medals were returned to her with the Department's reassurance that **she was entitled** to them. What a remarkable woman.

Dorothy enjoyed a happy social life after the war and on numerous occasions attending Glennie school reunions and concerts.

Dorothy taught music in and around Indooroopilly and Coorparoo within easy distance to her parents who were enjoying their retirement in Redcliffe.

Following the death of her mother, Emily Matilda Greenup in 1927, Dorothy moved to live closer to her father, Edgar Brodie Greenup. Edgar died on 11th November 1929 and is buried at Balmoral Cemetery, Brisbane.



Cr Edgar Greenup. Redcliffe Shire Council

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) / Thu 21 Jan 1909 / Page 7 / REDCLIFFE SHIRE COUNCIL.

REDCLIFFE SHIRE COUNCIL.
REDCLIFFE, January 20.
Following are the nominations for the Redcliffe Shire Council : Division No. 1, Edgar B. Greenup. Division No. 2, Dan. Roebuck. Division No. 3, A. J. Wylie. Extraordinary election for Division 3, E. F. Morgan.

On 11 December 1935, Dorothy Kathleen Greenup married Rupert Neville Wyndham in Queensland.

Rupert was born in 1893 at Greta, NSW. His WW1 Attestation papers, dated 13th December 1915 states that he was an Assistant Surveyor. After his extensive overseas service, Rupert was honourably discharged from the 15th Field Engineers on 21st June 1919.

Electoral Rolls show that **Dorothy Kathleen Wyndham** lived in western Queensland for some years before moving to Toowoomba, where she died on **25th July 1973**.



Dorothy Kathleen Wyndham

was laid to rest in the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance.

We thank you for your service.

Greenup Street, Redcliffe, which runs east from Oxley Avenue to Sutton Street, was named after Dorothy's family.

Our next article, by Member **Edith Henry**, is about her husband's
Great Grandfather, Ernest Henry, known to be
"The Father of Hughenden and Cloncurry"

This article has been gathered from letters written by Ernest Henry, his journals and presentations about him during the period mid-1800s to 1920s. Some words and phrases used, and written here, were acceptable within mainstream Australian culture at that time which may no longer be considered appropriate now.



Ernest Henry (left, aged 31) was an English prospector and pioneer grazier of North West Queensland. In later life he was known as **"The Father of Hughenden and Cloncurry"**

Ernest was the first settler on a property on the Flinders River, which he named **"Hughenden Station"**. Later the location became the town of Hughenden.

Abandoning pastoral pursuits, Ernest prospected in the Cloncurry River area, discovering and owning copper mines. One being **"The Great Australian Copper Mine"**.

In **1998**, in honour of **Ernest Henry's** exploration and discovery of copper in North West Queensland, the largest open cut copper mine in the Cloncurry area was named **"The Ernest Henry Mine"**

Ernest Henry was born on 1 May 1837 in Harrington, Cumberland, (now Cumbria), England. After leaving school he was apprenticed to the sea and on his maiden voyage in 1853, sailed to Australia on the steamship "Victoria" one of the vessels of the Australian Royal Mail Steamship Co. On his return from that voyage he found war had been declared against Russia and his father applied for a commission for him into the Army. He was gazetted as Ensign in his Father's old Regiment, the 72nd Highlanders, joining his regiment at Fermoy, Ireland in May 1855.

Like many others, he suffered much during the winter of 1855-56 and was invalided home shortly before peace was proclaimed. After the excitement of the war, barrack life was insufferable to his restless spirit. Hearing that gold had been discovered in Australia, he gave up his Commission and left Liverpool, England on 21st November 1857 for Australia, travelling on the sailing ship **"Red Jacket"**.

Writing to his parents from Melbourne on 7th February 1858, Ernest said *"The Red Jacket made a smart trip, only 68 days from Liverpool to Melbourne"*. He added that he *"became friendly with a fellow passenger, Mr. Cannon, and they arranged to keep together on a journey up country first to Ballarat and afterwards as circumstances might direct."* On 24th February, Ernest left Melbourne and proceeded by sea to Geelong then to Ballarat.

On 5th June 1858, in a letter to his father outlining his travels to Sydney, Ernest spoke about calling on Dean MacArtney and hearing a good deal about Moreton Bay (name used for Brisbane and nearby regions at that time) from the Dean's son, Mr J. Arthur MacArtney. He also wrote *"Cannon has gone to Moreton Bay. I am very glad to have the opportunity of gaining experience and making myself useful at last. I now hope before very long to be able to do something for myself."*

In a letter to his parents dated 22nd May 1859, Ernest wrote:

"I met in Brisbane a short time ago a Mr. Perry, whom I made acquaintance with on the Murrumbidgee. He informed me that he with some other gentlemen were making up an expedition to explore the Burdekin River and its tributaries with a view of taking up the land and stocking it with sheep should it prove as valuable as reported to be by both Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt and Explorer A. C. Gregory.

He offered at the same time to secure a place on the subscription list for my name if I felt inclined to join, which, on hearing the particulars, I did. The number of subscribers is limited to 25 at £50 each. They are most of them squatters, both from this part of New South Wales and from Victoria. There are six going on the expedition, I, being one of them, besides two blacks. Mr. George Elphinstone Dalrymple is the leader of the expedition "

The Expedition Party consisted of George Dalrymple, Phillip Sellheim, Robert Stone, James Hood, Richard Haughton, Ernest Henry and two Aboriginal guides who travelled from Brisbane to the upper Burnett River to Rockhampton, then onto the junction of the Suttor and Burdekin Rivers.



More is written about the Expedition and Mr George Dalrymple elsewhere, however, Ernest's participation in Dalrymple's expedition resulted in him securing three pastoral stations: **Baroondah** (now the locality of Baroondah) on the Dawson River, **Mount McConnel** at the junction of the Suttor and Burdekin Rivers, and **Conway** (which adjoined Mount McConnel) at the head of Sellheim Creek.

By 1861 Ernest and his brother Arthur had stocked the Stations with sheep and cattle driven from southern Queensland properties.

Ernest had a desire for new land and adventure. This was fed by promising reports of the Flinders River Country by Frederick Walker and William Landsborough who had returned from their separate searches for Burke and Wills in 1862.

Later Ernest took up land on the Flinders River which he named "**Hughenden Station**" after his mother's childhood home in Hughenden Manor in England. The township of Hughenden was laid out in the same area in 1876.

Ernest travelled from the Flinders River to Mount McConnel in March 1864, and sometime later that year went into Bowen to attend to the sale of some of his properties to cover his increasing debts. In a letter to his mother, Ernest called it "*rashness and too-eager ambition*" to acquire four properties in as many years and attempt to stock and improve them. He was more than £13,000 in debt. Baroondah was the first station to be sold, probably during 1864. Conway was sold the same year, but the buyers alleged misrepresentation. The £8,000 they paid remained lodged in a Rockhampton bank until a court could decide the outcome. In the meantime, Henry's creditors were circling.

Ernest wrote to his father asking for a £4,500 loan. He provided him with £5,000. The difficulties dragged on until the end of 1865 by which time **Hughenden** had been sold to his cousin, Robert Gray, and all of his remaining assets were consigned, on his father's advice, to his creditors in exchange for his debts.

Ernest was chastened by his failure and openly admitted his failings in a letter to his mother dated 23rd November 1865. In that letter, he again accepts blame, but he also expressed optimism *"for fresh exertions with a less aspiring, though steadier and more calculating, zeal. I am not daunted, but rather urged on by misfortune, which creates in me a fresh desire for action"*.

Following legal disputes of property and debts which resulted in him losing several properties, Ernest focussed his attention on the country west of Hughenden Station with the object of acquiring another run. At Eastern Creek (near the present-day township of Julia Creek) he saw the tracks of Duncan McIntyre who had passed north just a few weeks before with a party of men in search of Ludwig Leichhardt.

Ernest and Duncan McIntyre, separately, were heading to Burketown. Duncan McIntyre arrived there on 20th April 1866 and Ernest Henry on the 26th April. Both stayed in the vicinity for some weeks and both caught "gulf fever". Ernest Henry survived, however Duncan McIntyre didn't.

Ernest wrote in his journal how bad his sickness was and how it affected him for many days. When he regained some strength he travelled to Lara Station, resting there for a few days, then on to Roger Sheaffe's Station, Minnamere, on Nealia Creek on the 10th, where he rested until June 15th.

(Roger Sheaffe was a son of Major Sheaffe, of the British Army, who settled in New South Wales with his wife and family. Sheaffe and Henry had much in common. They were about the same age, both sons of army officers, both strong virile men, full of energy and enterprise. They were associated for some years in pastoral and mining pursuits. Sheaffe resided in Sandgate (Qld) for several years and was Mayor of that town in 1892.)

On 18th June 1866, Ernest was at Burleigh, a station on the Flinders River. Leaving there on the 28th he reached Marathon Station and then on 1st July 1866 he reached his old station, Hughenden. Considering his debilitated condition when he left Burketown Nth Qld he stood the 500 miles ride to Hughenden remarkably well. From there, Henry's journal of that period is a continuous record of excursions in every direction from Hughenden, Burleigh, Minnamere and Fairlight (Betts' Station) looking for centres suitable for pastoral purposes.

In the course of his explorations he reached the Cloncurry River (named by the explorer Robert O'Hara Burke after his cousin, Lady Elizabeth Cloncurry) 250 miles from Hughenden, the upper portion of which was not stocked at that time (15th October 1866). On that occasion he got as far as a remarkable isolated rocky peak which he called **Fort Constantine** (prompted, probably by some resemblance to one of the Russian forts of Sebastopol in the Crimea) some 18 miles below the site of the present town of Cloncurry.

On 12th November, after returning to Sheaffe's Station for rations, he was back exploring the Cloncurry River area. After discovering rich iron deposits, which he took to be copper, he decided to take about 10cwt to Copperfield (now Clermont) on the Peak Downs, in order to ascertain its value. Having loaded his drays, he and his Aboriginal companions returned to Hughenden, reaching there on 23rd December 1866.

On the 31st December he left Hughenden with pack horses carrying the iron ore for the Peak Downs, via Christison's Station, Lammermoor, Tower Hill, Bowen Downs and the Belyando River and arrived at Copperfield on 11th February, 1867. He remained there until 29th March 1867 and on 13th April he was back again at Hughenden. On the 30th he again started for the Cloncurry district arriving in the neighbourhood of Fort Constantine on 14th May.

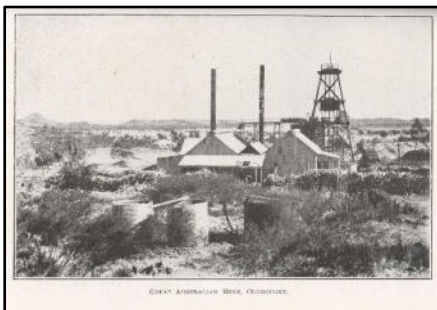
On 18th May he found a copper lode between two barren hills, and on the 20th May 1867 he found a larger outcrop of copper ore which subsequently came to be known as **The Great Australian Mine**. He remained on the river until 12th July. During this time, almost daily, he found further outcrops of copper in various places on either side of the river, all of which he carefully measured and noted in his journal. Being satisfied that he had made a valuable discovery, Ernest commenced the return journey to Hughenden, which he accomplished on 20th July 1867, only eight days from Fort Constantine. On the 22nd, after only one day's rest, Ernest left Hughenden for Peak Downs carrying his copper specimens on pack horses.

Ernest arrived at Copperfield on 3rd August, three days later he left for Rockhampton where he arrived on the 13th. The same afternoon he boarded the S.S. Clarence for Sydney, arriving on 19th August 1867.

On 24th September 1867, then in his 31st year, **Henry left Sydney for England** by the mail steamer Geelong, his business being to endeavour to form a company to take over and work the Great Australian Copper Mine. In that he was not successful, so it was decided that, in conjunction with certain partners, he should work the mine. With that objective in view, Mr. Roger Sheaffe and Mr. I. S. Sleep were dispatched from Sydney on 30th September 1867 with two labourers and a light wagon and equipment in order to make a start and hold the leases (which comprised 2,500 acres). They arrived at **The Great Australian Mine** on 13th November, commencing work with two miners opening up the lodes.

Meanwhile, **on his arrival in England, Ernest** engaged a number of Cornish Miners under Captain Osborne as Manager. This party, about 30 all told, arrived at Normanton (just south of the Gulf of Carpentaria on the Norman River, North Qld) in April 1868 and at the Mine on 7th May when work on The Great Australian Mine was commenced in earnest. **Upon his return from England in October 1868, Ernest** Henry worked The Great Australian Mine, bagging and exporting copper ore.

Ernest Henry met his future wife, Marianne (Marian) Elizabeth Thomson in Warwick, Queensland. In **August 1870**, they were married in that town. Marian was second daughter of William Thompson, Manager of the Bank of New South Wales at Warwick. After their marriage Marian travelled north with her husband. Their first child was born in Cloncurry in 1872.



Ernest continued working in The Great Australian Mine until it was sold in **1879**.

Although the lode was rich, copper was low in value and it was costly to cart ore to Normanton and bring back stores to the mine.

Early in **1882**, Ernest Henry discovered the **Argylla** group of copper mines, some 50 miles west of the town of Cloncurry, and **Mount Oxide**, 90 miles from Argylla.

On 13th February 1882 Ernest was prospecting on the **Argylla Mine** with four Aborigines as his only companions, three of the Kalkadoon tribe, further north, the other was a Waggaboonga Tribesman. Previous to this, Ernest had often asked the latter if there were any copper deposits in his country, to which he invariably replied "No," and seemed to discourage any idea of going there. But on first sight of the bright display of colour on the Argylla outcrop, the Aboriginal guide exclaimed, "*My word, all the same like it that longa my country.*" "*Which way?*" Henry asked, and the man pointed in the direction.

Next day, without giving any explanation of his intentions, Henry saddled up and accompanied by the four Aboriginals, travelled for two days in the direction indicated. Turning suddenly to the Waggaboonga blackboy, Ernest said, "*Where copper now?*" "*Straight on,*" the Aboriginal replied, and he was then told to take the lead.

After reaching the Waggaboonga country they followed a creek for some days, which proved to be a tributary of the Leichhardt River. The country was fearfully rough, so close and precipitous indeed were some of the gorges, that the party often had to leave the watercourse and climb the rugged spurs running at right angles. This they did for miles in order to head the impassable ravines, descending to the creek only a short distance below the point of ascent. It should be mentioned that the rainy season was in full swing, rendering progress more difficult. The Aboriginals travelled on foot, which Ernest had to do often owing to the rough nature of the country.

On the evening of 25th February Ernest was advised "*Copper close up now*" pointing over the creek to the west. Early next morning, after being advised that it was impossible to ride further, Ernest, with his four companions, set out on foot to cover the 10 miles (as it was later proved to be) between that point and what is now known as "**Mount Oxide**", a hill hidden among rough country, with narrow valleys between. There on the summit they found a well-defined outcrop, rising in height to about 50 feet, with great vivid splashes of green and blue carbonate.

When Ernest started from Argylla in search of the copper outcrop, he followed his almost invariable practice of keeping a record of the bearings by compass and the estimated distances of the various courses they pursued on the journey. While being very tedious, it ensured sufficient accuracy to obviate any risk of not being able to find the required locality at some future time.

In the course of a lecture to the Royal Historical Society, George Phillips (1843-1921 who was a Surveyor prior to being a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for Carpentaria 1893-1896) stated that he had a copy of Ernest Henry's journal on this trip and had prepared a traverse table of the various courses and estimated distances from which he found that the copper outcrop shown to him by the Waggaboonga boy, and which he later called it **Mount Oxide** - bears from Argylla Mine N. 23 degrees W. 94 miles as the crow flies. The result places the mine somewhat more to the north than the railway survey made by the Government, but Ernest's rough survey was sufficient to ensure that the locality could be verified and re-found when required. As a second string to his bow, he kept a record of his courses on the return journey to Cloncurry, as far as the crossing of the Williams or Corella River (27 miles from Cloncurry).

All this was very characteristic of Ernest Henry, who was a very exact and painstaking man in all that he did. His letters to his parents, even at an early age, reveal the exactness of his mind in all details. His words were always well-chosen and conveyed the exact meaning he intended, leaving no room for doubt or double meaning.

About 20 years after the discovery of the outcrop Ernest took up his first lease on Mount Oxide, which had remained undiscovered by anyone else, and was still virgin country, absolutely untouched, and nothing was done to it in any way until two or three years later.

In 1904-05 Ernest Henry, accompanied by his son, Arthur Douglas Henry, started from Cloncurry for Mount Oxide via Kamilaroi Station on the Leichhardt River; for the first time with wheels. They got by that route within three miles of their destination without much difficulty, though with a certain amount of pick and shovel work. From thence they had to make a road in earnest.

While there, a telegram, which was a week old, was taken to them by hand from a firm in Burketown, stating that teams would arrive in ten days from the date of dispatch, for the purpose of loading up with copper-ore. The Henrys, therefore, had to leave their road work, ride to Mount Oxide, and then and there they carried out the first work on that mine.

Using crow bars, they commenced breaking down from the outcrop, blocks of partially detached ore, weighing from one ton upwards, which they napped into sufficiently small pieces, bagged, packed a certain quantity on horses which they drove three miles to where they ceased roadmaking, unloaded, and returned for more.

To supply these first wagons took some days, but in all, over 30 tons were accounted for in this manner. From then on Henry continued to develop his mine with more employees.

In his lecture, George Phillips also stated that he had resided in the State (of Qld) for 58 years, but he knew of none who could be compared to Ernest Henry as a pioneer of civilisation or whose labours had resulted in greater advantage to the people as a whole. He also said:

"It has been well said that some men are born great, some have greatness thrust upon them, whilst a few achieve greatness. Ernest Henry emphatically belonged to the latter class."

At the conclusion of George Phillips' paper, Mr. Alexander Kennedy, a pioneer and pathfinder of the Cloncurry district, who had known Ernest Henry for over 40 years, stated that he had first met Henry in 1877, after Ernest Henry had just blazed the track from Cloncurry to Boulia. This was the beginning of a warm friendship which lasted until Ernest's death in 1919.

Mr Kenney said that Ernest Henry's objective in 1877 was to open a store in Boulia (situated on the Burke River, south of Cloncurry) as at that time all the country in this neighbourhood was being taken up and stocked with cattle and the prospect of a store being a paying proposition was very good. At that time, all station supplies had to be carted from Normanton by team. The long and uncertain land carriage prevented the venture from being a success and the store was closed.

In the meantime a public house had been opened, and with the many droving plants that were then on the road Boulia became a very lively place. Horse racing, gambling, and drinking went on night and day, but this probably applied to all western towns, as the surrounding country was taken up.

Alexander Kennedy spoke about the "Great Australian Copper Mine," of which Ernest Henry was the discoverer, and which had been sold. He said that owing to the long haulage to Normanton, by team, it was only the richest ore that could be sent away, and then there would be very little left over after paying working expenses. A slump in copper values took place, which caused the closing down of the mine, but for a time a store that Ernest Henry had opened in Cloncurry did fairly well.

Gold had been discovered at a place called the 'Top Camp'. This kept a fairly large population for a time, but the few rich patches were soon worked out and the population gradually left the district. This was before the present town of Cloncurry was built. As all pioneers of North Western Queensland knew, there was a large extent of mineralized country to the north, south and west of Cloncurry. Ernest Henry was satisfied that rich minerals would be found and had put a plant together and started prospecting.

During one of his trips Ernest advised his friend Alexander Kennedy of some very good pastoral country that he had traversed. Knowing him to be very well-up in pastoral matters Alexander accompanied Ernest on an inspection of the country. When Alexander found the report was correct, they both decided to take it up as partners in equal shares. This property was well-known in later years as **Calton Hills Station**. In 1923 it was owned by Sir Robert Philp and Son. This property was originally acquired in 1881.

Ernest Henry still continued prospecting and discovered many mines on the Leichhardt River. He discovered a **large slab of pure copper weighing 8 cwt**. This slab travelled all over the world. The last Alexander Kennedy saw of it was in London at the White City Exhibition in 1909.

Amongst Ernest Henry's best discoveries were the **Mount Oxide** and the **Argylla**, both very fine properties, and later the property of the Mount Elliot Company. Later on, Alexander Kennedy and Ernest Henry, in conjunction, took up the **Duchess Mine**, which became the richest copper mine in the Cloncurry District, if not in Australia. This property was sold to the Hampden Company for £15,000, which at that time looked an extra good price, but it turned out a good speculation for the company.

Alexander Kennedy said: ***"Very few of the residents, even of the Cloncurry District, can realise the many hardships the pioneers had to face in those by-gone days."***

Mr. Kennedy further stated, ***"No person had done more to advance the mining and pastoral interests of North Western Queensland than Ernest Henry."***

Ernest Henry left the district after the sale of Mount Oxide in June 1913.



Ernest Henry died at Epping, Sydney, on 26th March 1919, in his 82nd year. He was survived by a daughter, Ernestine Marion and a son Arthur Douglas Henry (who followed him in mining and grazing pursuits. Arthur died, aged 80, at Miles, Queensland in June 1954.)

Ernest Henry left an estate worth £37,000.0.0.

Ernest's wife Marian, known as a fearless horsewoman, had returned to Warwick in 1875, living there until her death in 1888.

To commemorate the importance of
Ernest Henry
to the Cloncurry area,
"The Ernest Henry Mine"
was named in his honour.

"The Ernest Henry Mine", 38 kilometres northeast of Cloncurry, began commercial production in 1998 as an 'open' copper mine. It transitioned to underground mining in 2011 in a \$589 million life of mine extension project.

Both Hughenden and Cloncurry have honoured Ernest by naming a bridge in their towns
"The Ernest Henry Bridge"

Ernest Henry's life was summarised by S.E. Pearson:

"Few men have encompassed more in their lifetime than he, and not many have known greater toil and hardship. In his unassuming way he probably did more for North Queensland than any other man. The wide untrammelled bush was his home and he revelled in it."

A period of Ernest Henry's work in the development of North Queensland is preserved in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

"The First Settlement City Gazette" is kindly printed with the compliments of The Hon. Luke Howarth MP, Federal Member for Petrie

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