

Orphaned at 15 months and consigned to an English workhouse: this was Peter Field's bleak start in life. But he made the most of his opportunities, and with a sense of adventure, set out for Australia. There, with energy, hard work and entrepreneurial skill, Peter built up a prosperous boot manufacturing business in Toowoomba with retail stores throughout southern Queensland. He survived insolvency in the 1890s depression and contributed generously to the local community and the Church of England.

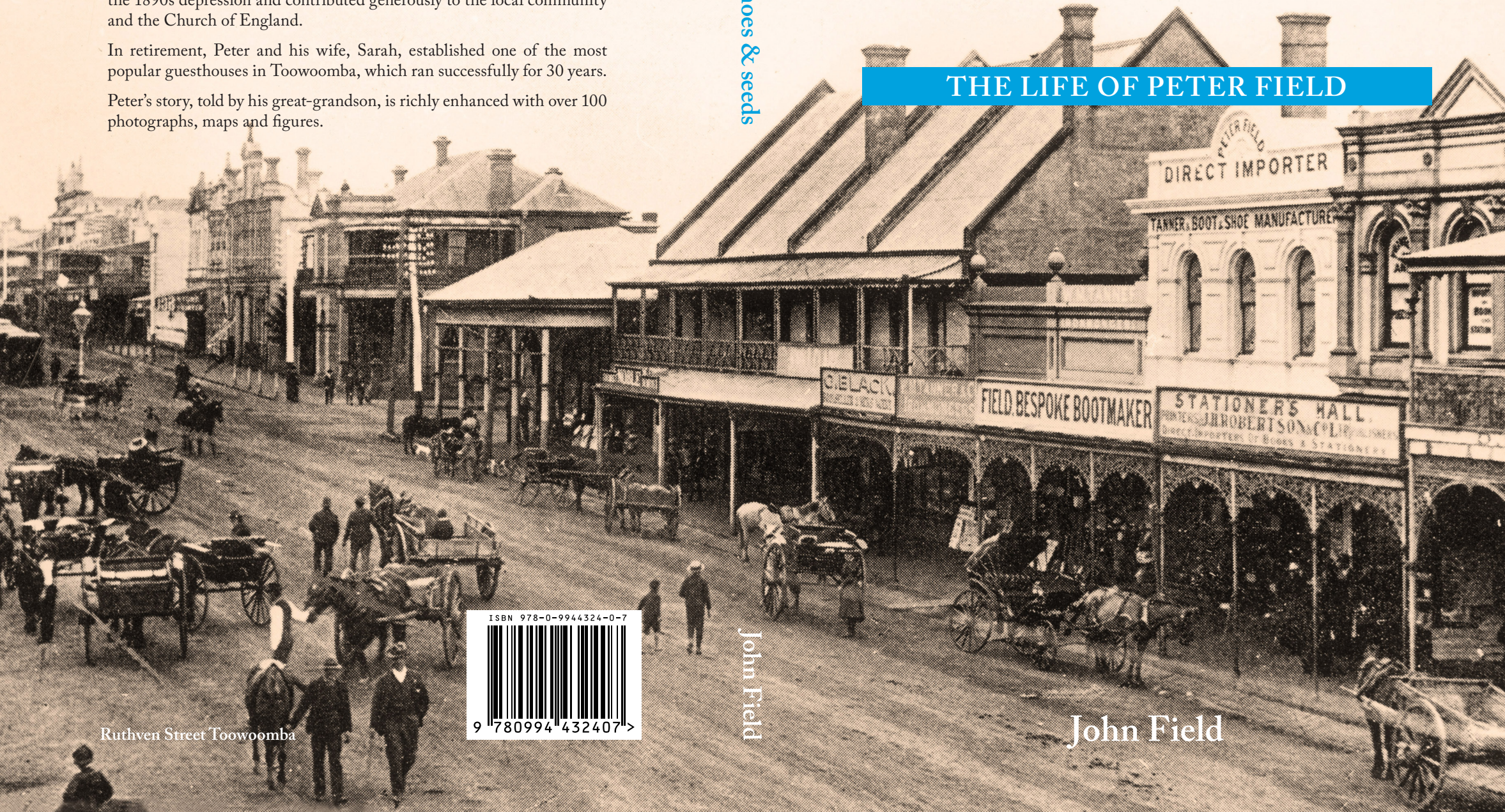
In retirement, Peter and his wife, Sarah, established one of the most popular guesthouses in Toowoomba, which ran successfully for 30 years.

Peter's story, told by his great-grandson, is richly enhanced with over 100 photographs, maps and figures.

Boots, shoes & seeds

Boots, shoes & seeds

THE LIFE OF PETER FIELD

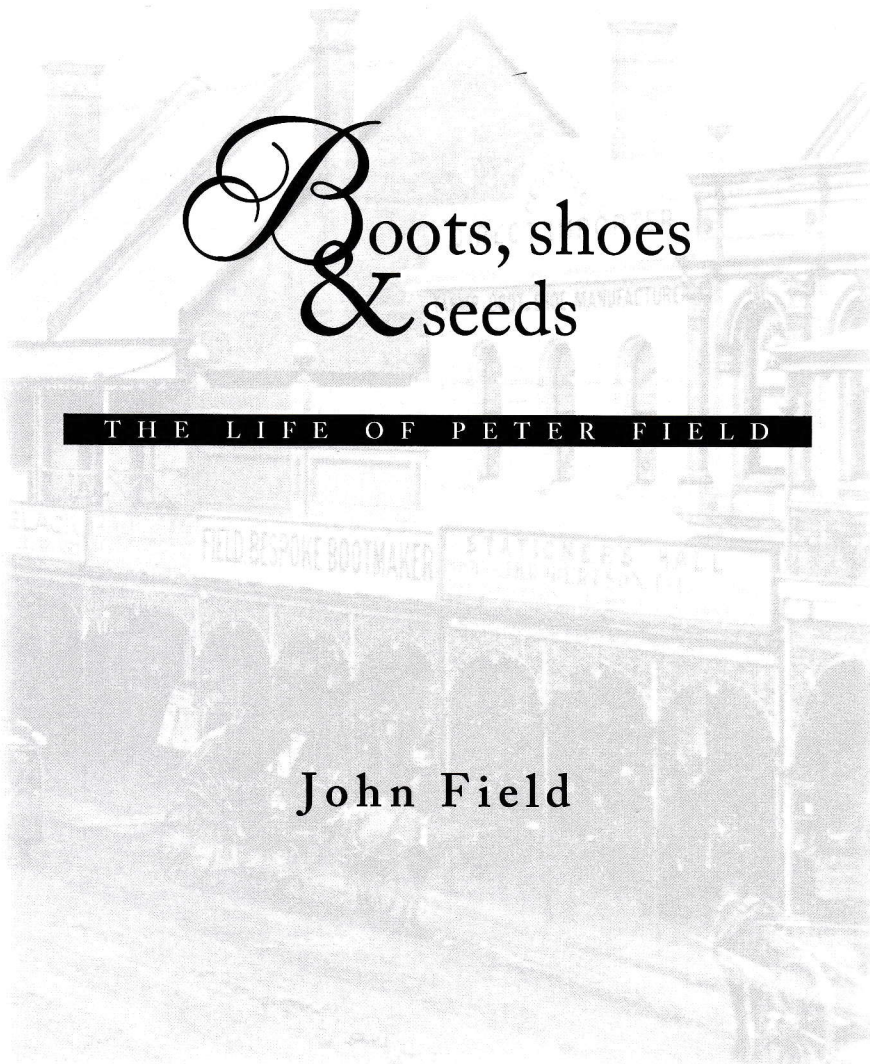


Ruthven Street Toowoomba



John Field

John Field



Boots, shoes
& seeds

THE LIFE OF PETER FIELD

John Field

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First published in 2015

Cover image: Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, c. 1902. [John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Negative 172539]

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For
Sally, James and Tess

FOREWORD

Australia's bicentenary produced an outpouring of family histories based on exhaustive genealogical searches and featuring complicated family trees. Most illuminated the idiosyncratic minutiae – and a few challenged the orthodox interpretation – of the European settlement of Australia. In Toowoomba – Australia's largest inland city (before the advent of Canberra) – local historians produced a book that explored the family entrepreneurs who created successful businesses – foundries, flour mills, large merchandising stores, and newspapers – or entrepreneurial collectives that nurtured bacon and dairy co-operatives and building societies. One industry not covered was the manufacture of leather goods.

We often forget that, before the modern world of motorised transport and synthetic materials, the working of leather was a major industry requiring skilled vocations. The nineteenth century world could not function without fellmongeries, tanneries, saddleries, and boot and shoe manufactories. Every Australian town had a fellmongery or tannery circumspectly located on the urban outskirts where, optimistically, the prevailing winds carried offensive smells away from the citizenry; saddleries and boot-making factories were closer to the customer, often in the 'main' street above or behind a retail shopfront.

Initially, bootmakers (often known as cordwainers) were one-man operations – perhaps assisted by a boy apprentice. In 1858, Toowoomba, with a population near 1000, had three or four. By the mid-1870s, with some 4700 residents, there were seven or eight separate small-scale operators. However, from the 1880s, as the population increased and the new railways opened up regional markets, larger workshops appeared, employing 30-40 skilled workers and producing tens of thousands of boots annually. One of these was established by Peter Field.

John Field's biography of his great-grandfather encapsulates the experience of a hard-working migrant in late nineteenth century Queensland. An orphan, raised in an English county workhouse and

apprenticed as a nurseryman, Peter Field created a prosperous boot manufactory and retail operation in south-western Queensland. He warded off economic depression, insolvency, and rival entrepreneurs (in part by adopting co-operative principles), contributed generously to community organisations and the local Church of England parishes, branched into the hotel business and, in retirement in the early twentieth century, established a prestigious boarding house in a city then known as the ‘Simla of Queensland’. In some ways a quintessential ‘rags to riches’ story, Field’s life-story throws another illuminating spotlight on an hitherto neglected aspect of the business and social life of an important regional city.

Maurice French AM FRHSQ

President, Toowoomba Historical Society

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PREFACE

Nearly twenty-five years ago my uncle, Noel Field, wrote a booklet about the history of our family, to celebrate 200 years since one of our ancestors first arrived in Australia.

That person was Robert Alcock, a convict from Yorkshire, who arrived in the colony of New South Wales in 1792, only four years after the First Fleet arrived at Sydney Cove. He was a forebear of Noel's mother, my grandmother, Irene Field née Bates.

When I read Noel's account I was intrigued to see that of the 20 pages of information he had managed to collect, less than two were devoted to the 'Field' side of the family reaching back from my grandfather. There was a lot of interesting information on my grandmother's family, but I wondered why so little was known about my grandfather's parents and siblings. So began an interest in my great-grandfather, Peter Field.

Over the intervening years I have periodically tried to find out more about Peter Field, and occasionally exchanged information with my cousin, Caroline Golden, who helped Noel with his research and who still has an interest in the area.

Family history research was a much more difficult pastime twenty-five years ago than it is now. Today so much can be done from the comfort of home in front of a computer, although the abundance of data available makes it even more essential to carefully check its veracity.

It was not until I retired in early 2014 that I was able to devote large amounts of time to the project. But once I had started some systematic research, I came to realise that not only was there a considerable amount of information available about Peter, but also that he had lived a fascinating life. This was the genesis of this book.

I wanted the book to be accessible to those who might balk at reading many footnotes so I have confined this information to a Timeline following the narrative. The Timeline includes, in chronological order for each chapter, brief descriptions of individual events, with a reference to the event. Detailed arguments and reasoning about people and

places are also included here so as not to distract from the main narrative. The Timeline also includes some events not referred to in the narrative.

In writing this book I have tried to be explicit about any assumptions or speculations made from the facts presented. The Timeline will also allow the reader to decide their own versions of events.

A bibliography of other books and articles referred to, and an index, are also included.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the chief pleasures of this project has been meeting descendants and other family members of those involved in Peter's story, hearing their recollections and seeing photographs of Peter, his family and their lives, in many cases for the first time. Just as there was little information about Peter and his family within my immediate family, there were no photographs of them either. In particular, I would like to thank Mary Wensley, wife of Peter's grandson Colin, and her daughters Joyce and Margaret; Peter's grand-daughter Penny Barrs, who, sadly, died just before this book was printed, and her husband Henry; Susan Field's niece Sheila Rolland and grand-nieces, Yvonne Erwood and Susan Swan. All these people have been extremely generous with their time, recollections and photos, and without their input this book would be a much poorer effort.

I have been greatly helped by many people in Warwickshire and Australia. Christine Hancock of the Rugby Local History Research Group went out of her way to collect information about the Victoria Nursery in Rugby for me. My thanks also to the staff and volunteers at the Warwickshire County Record Office in Warwick for guidance about the records in their care, and for providing access to them.

In Brisbane, Kaye Nardella of the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying tirelessly answered my many questions about Peter Field's land holdings in Toowoomba. The staff at the State Library of

Queensland, the Queensland State Archives, the Fryer Library of the University of Queensland and at the Anglican Archives willingly provided advice and assistance.

Several people in Toowoomba have been extremely supportive, and interested in Peter Field's story. In particular I would like to acknowledge the generous input from Maurice French and Peter Cullen of the Toowoomba Historical Society and Lyn Hodgson of St James' Anglican Church. The Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society, the Toowoomba Regional Council Local History Library and the Council's Information, Communication and Technology Group have been generous with their knowledge and time. I am also indebted to Noel Lipp for introducing me to Margo Sharpe who, as a young girl, met Susan Field, and to Phil Turnbull for information about the Darling Downs Lodge. Joanne Marsh kindly invited me to see through her home – Peter and Sarah Field once lived there – and I really appreciated this experience.

In the early stages of writing, discussions with Martin Playne about publishing matters were invaluable. Also in Melbourne, Patricia Downs, Archivist at the Melbourne Cricket Club, kindly provided useful information about William Henry Treen.

I thank Genealogy SA for providing a forum to discuss issues of writing in this genre, as well as access to much background information.

To those who read, commented, discussed and improved various drafts, I am deeply grateful: to Keith Rayner, Chelsea Field, Caroline Golden and Joan Field. Wendy Barnaby made many comments and her meticulous proof-reading has improved the final book greatly. James Field gave patient and expert assistance with fine-tuning photographs. My thanks to you all.

Finally to Rosie Field who has lived this project with me and has been a wonderful sounding board for ideas and problems, my heartfelt thanks.

PROLOGUE

‘It is a wonderful place – vast, strange, new and impossible to describe. Its grandeur does not consist in *one* thing, but in the unique assemblage of *all* things.’ So wrote Charlotte Bronte about the Great Exhibition of 1851 in the wonderfully ethereal Crystal Palace in London’s Hyde Park. The first large structure to be built of prefabricated metal and glass, it covered nearly eight hectares, and was longer than the arch on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It included more than 100,000 exhibits, from heavy machinery to delicate gold and silver work, from nations all round the world. More than six million visitors came to the exhibition, with the new rail network making it possible for people from all over England to get to London easily.



The Crystal Palace [Haghe, Nash and Roberts, 1854]

That year, 1851, marked the start of the mid-Victorian era, a time of increasing prosperity and progress in England. It was also the year Peter Field was born. He, like many others, would see a less glamorous side of life in England.

On the other side of the world in Australia, 1851 was also a watershed year. Gold was found at Bathurst in NSW and Ballarat in Victoria,

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

starting the gold rushes. Over the next ten years, Australia would produce one third of the world's gold, and the population would nearly triple as people from all over the world flocked to the goldfields. But even after the main rush ended, Australia would still attract those, like Peter, who sought a better life.

Also in 1851, the colony of Victoria celebrated its separation from NSW. However it would be another eight years before Queensland would become a separate colony. And the railways in Queensland would open up the country enabling Peter to expand his business, just as the railways had opened up England enabling many people to experience the Great Exhibition.

After the Great Exhibition ended, the Crystal Palace was taken apart and reassembled to a different design in South London, where it remained until it burned down in 1936. Coincidentally, this was the year of Peter Field's death in far-off Queensland.

CHAPTER I

PETER FIELD: EARLY YEARS

Wolston

Wolston, where Peter Field was born in 1851, was described at the time as ‘a large cheerful village’. Tucked beside the River Avon between the larger towns of Coventry and Rugby in Warwickshire, it must have been a bustling place: it contained two blacksmiths, four shoemakers, three tailors and a few shops (typically for the time a grocer, a baker, a butcher and a chemist) along with four inns – Frog Hall, the Malt Shovel, the Red Lion and the Rose and Crown. It boasted a population of about 800 in Peter’s day.



Wolston in the early 1900s [Warwickshire County Record Office PH 733/2]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

The village dates from Anglo-Saxon times. The Fosse Way, a Roman road running from Exeter in south-west England to the north-east and ending at Lincoln, ran nearby.

The first church in the village was built shortly after the Norman conquest of England in 1066. Peter was baptised at St Margaret's Church, which now sits on this site. St Margaret's dates from 1140, although there have been many additions since then.



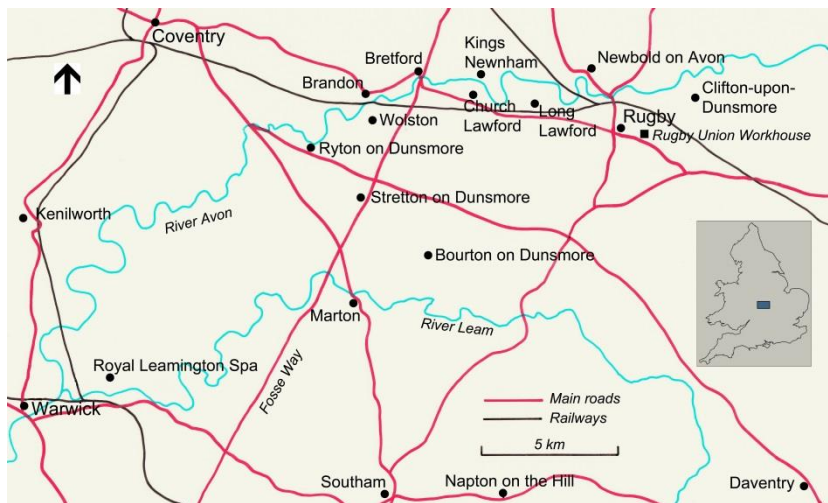
St Margaret's Church, Wolston [Rosemary Field, 2015]

Peter's baptismal record identifies his mother as Elizabeth Fields and notes that the baby was illegitimate. 'Field' and 'Fields' seem to have been used interchangeably at the time: Peter was a 'Fields' on the church baptismal records, but a 'Field' on the more formal birth certificate. The certificate tells us he was born on 21 November 1851.

Peter's mother, Elizabeth Fields, was the youngest of twelve children. She was 20 years old, unmarried and working as a servant, when she gave birth to Peter. But when Peter was just 15 months old, Elizabeth died from 'inflammation of the bowel' (appendicitis, which was at that stage unrecognised). Her parents, Marshall and Sarah Fields, had

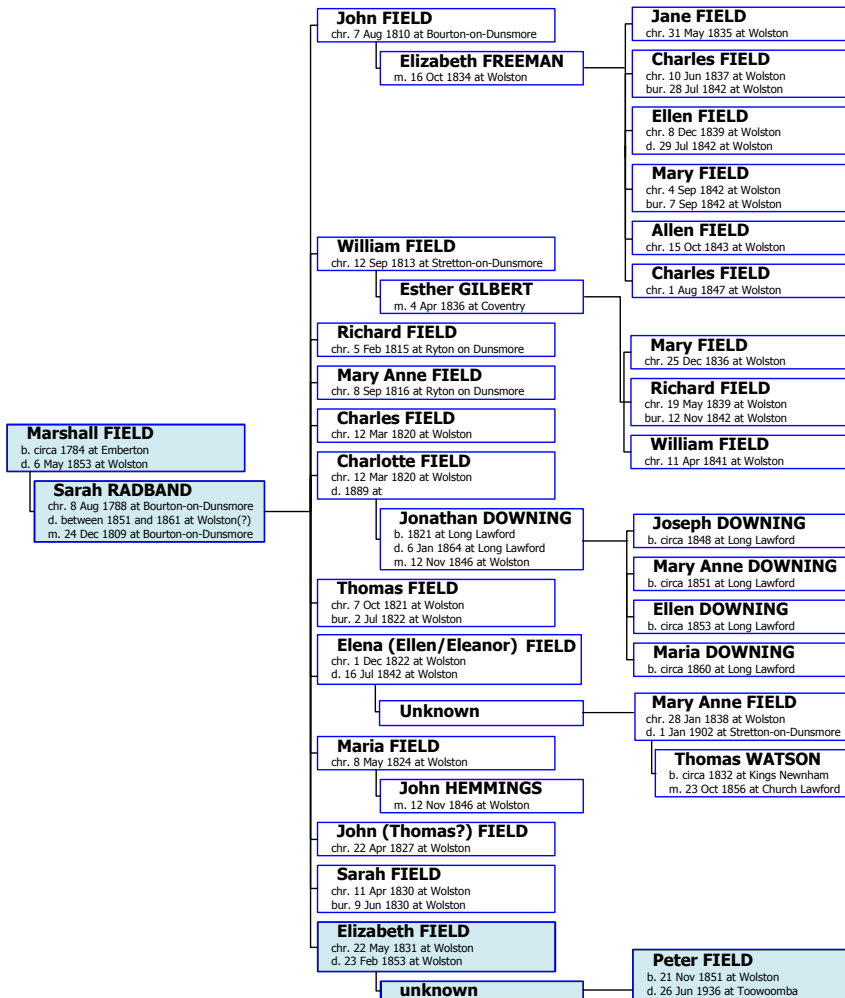
moved to Wolston from a neighbouring village, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, around 1820. At that time they had four children, and they had eight more over the next ten or so years. In 1841, when Elizabeth was nearly ten years old, the family was living at Marston, a hamlet east of the main village of Wolston. The household also included Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Fields (aged 14), and her niece, Mary Ann Fields (aged 3), the daughter of Elizabeth's unmarried sister, Ellen Fields. Her eldest brothers, John and William, were also living in other cottages in Marston with their own families. The family tree on the next page may help explain these relationships.

There were many 'Field' or 'Fields' families living in the towns and villages around Wolston. Almost all of the men in the Field families, including Elizabeth's father, were agricultural labourers who worked on the farms of the district. This is unsurprising given that, in the mid-1800s, a quarter of all employed males worked in agriculture. Typically agricultural labourers lived in small one- and two-room cottages in the villages, or in groups of a dozen or so cottages scattered among the farms.



Part of Warwickshire showing places mentioned in this chapter

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Children and grandchildren of Marshall and Sarah Field

The censuses of the time locate Field families living in neighbouring villages of Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Marton, Southam, Church Lawford, Newbold on Avon, Brinklow and Napton on the Hill, to name a few.

Some agricultural workers had lived in the one place for generations, while others moved to where work was available. There was usually an annual fair in a nearby market town at which labourers could be hired. Markets for hiring were held in September, October or November at Rugby, Dunchurch, Southam and Kenilworth.

Farm work was physically demanding, but varied with the season. There was little or no farm machinery at the time, and so almost all work was done by hand and required many labourers. Wolston's light topsoil overlaying clay favoured crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans, with turnips for feeding cattle. The busiest time of the year was at harvest. Getting the grain in required everyone to work from dawn to dusk to prevent rain ruining the crop or the cut sheaves. Men, women and children would help with the harvest, scything the crop, collecting the stalks into sheaves, preparing bindings for them, and then stacking them. The sheaves were then threshed before they lost their grain. Everything had to be kept dry so it did not rot or sprout. When the harvest was completed the farmer usually put on a splendid dinner for all who had helped.

At other times of the year work might not be so demanding, but there was still ploughing to be done using a horse and rudimentary plough, ditches to be dug, hedges and fences to be mended, weeding and hoeing to be done and animals to be looked after. Women helped in some of these tasks, but for young women like Peter's mother, Elizabeth, domestic service was the main occupation. At mid-century about one in every eight employed people were in domestic service.

It was a hard life for all. Poor nutrition and long hours of heavy work, much of it before their bodies had matured, meant that by their forties, many labourers were too infirm to continue working. By 1851 when Peter was born, his grandfather, Marshall, was in his sixties and working as a gardener. He and his wife, Sarah, were living in a house called The Derry (demolished in 1936 for road-widening). Unfortunately he

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suffered a cut finger which became infected and he died in 1853 aged 69, only three months after the death of Peter's mother, Elizabeth. Sarah appears to have died sometime between 1851 and 1861.

Premature death was common at the time. In just five months of 1842, from July to November, five members of the extended family died. Elizabeth's sister Elena (variously called Ellen and Eleanor), aged 19 and working as a servant, died from 'inflammation of the lungs' (pneumonia). Three of the children of Elizabeth's eldest brother John and his wife Elizabeth also died. They were between 8 weeks and 5 years old and at least one (Ellen, aged 2) died of scarlet fever. Deaths from epidemics were common. At that time there were no vaccinations for scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, polio, smallpox, whooping cough, tetanus or typhoid, nor any antibiotics to control infections like pneumonia. The result was that more than one baby in ten died before their first birthday.

Rugby Union Workhouse

We can imagine that the death of Peter's mother in 1853 must have left the wider family with a difficult decision about young Peter's future. The situation would have been compounded by the death of his grandfather, Marshall, so soon afterwards, and the death of his grandmother, Sarah, before 1861. We do know that by 1861, at age 9, Peter was an inmate of the Rugby Union Workhouse. One reasonable assumption is that he was looked after by his grandparents until they died, and he was sent to the workhouse after that, although we don't know this with any certainty.

At this time, the workhouse was the main way England looked after its poor who had no family to help them. There was great stigma attached to having to go into a workhouse. Before 1834 each parish (the basic unit of local government, not necessarily the same as the church parish) was responsible for caring for its own poor. Funds for this were raised by taxing those who owned or rented property over a certain value. These taxes were called 'poor rates', and dated from the time of Queen

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Elizabeth I in 1601. However, in 1834 the ‘New Poor Law’ grouped the thousands of parishes into about 650 ‘unions’ which could then provide greater uniformity of care in a union workhouse.

Wolston was part of the Rugby Poor Law Union, and the Rugby Union Workhouse was in Hillmorton, a village near Rugby. It had first been built under the old laws in 1818 and became a series of large red brick buildings after several additions over the years. These days Hillmorton is a suburb of Rugby.



Rugby Poor Law Union Workhouse main building (left, built c. 1818) and the Guardians' Board office block. The photo was taken in 1954 after the Workhouse had been converted to St Luke's Hospital. The Guardian's Board building is all that remains of the workhouse today. [Photo: Rugby Library, no. 1556]

The workhouse was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians; in Rugby's case, 43 guardians represented the 39 parishes involved in the union. Regrettably, the only substantive records of the Rugby

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Workhouse which survive today are the minutes of the guardians' meetings held each week (or fortnightly during the hay and corn harvests). However these show that the guardians genuinely cared for the poor, both inside and outside the workhouse. For example, there are several instances during Peter's time where doctors were censured or removed from the workhouse payroll because they failed to attend to sick paupers in a timely fashion. Similarly, bakers were called to account if the bread they supplied to the poor was below weight or adulterated.

The New Poor Law specified a concept of 'less eligibility', and the guardians were to make sure that the people in the workhouse had a 'less eligible' standard of living than the poorest working people outside. This was to discourage people from seeking help from the workhouse.

However by the time Peter entered the workhouse, children were treated differently from adults and 'less eligibility' was not enforced as strongly for them. The guardians wanted children to be educated so they could break the poverty cycle and poor rates could be reduced. Even though good teachers were hard to attract, many of these children would have received little education outside the workhouse.

Around the time that Peter probably entered the workhouse, Rachel Wood was appointed as schoolmistress there. She was 18 at the time and was appointed after her predecessor married the Master of the workhouse. There were 32 children under 16, about two-thirds of them male. They made up about 40 per cent of the total workhouse residents, who ranged up to 80 years. Children were required to have at least three hours a day of 'reading, writing and arithmetic, and the principles of Christian religion, and such other instruction shall be imparted to them as may fit them for service, and train them to habits of usefulness, industry and virtue'.

This 'other instruction' aimed to fit children for work. Younger children might learn to knit, sew or plait straw. Older boys might learn to make and mend their clothes and shoes. Trades such as carpentry and joinery, plumbing, metal-working and agricultural work fitted the boys for work, so getting them off the workhouse books. For girls, this instruction was aimed at domestic service: knitting and sewing, cleaning

rooms and making beds, and for the older ones, working in the kitchen and laundry were skills which would lead to employment. It was the teacher's role to oversee this training. She also saw to the children's conduct and cleanliness and accompanied them outside the workhouse, for example to attend church. At Rugby, the guardians had ordered the schoolmistress to 'take the children out for a walk one hour each day weather permitting and Sundays excepted'. So teachers worked long hours, supervising the children for 14 or so hours each day. Their efficiency was also assessed periodically.

One other area where workhouse children were more advantaged than those living outside was medical care. Medical officers often prescribed whatever was necessary to treat sick workhouse children, which would not be the case for children outside. Social diseases of itch, ringworm, scabies and eye infections were common in workhouses where the children lived in close proximity, although the workhouse did act as insulation from epidemics like measles and scarlet fever.

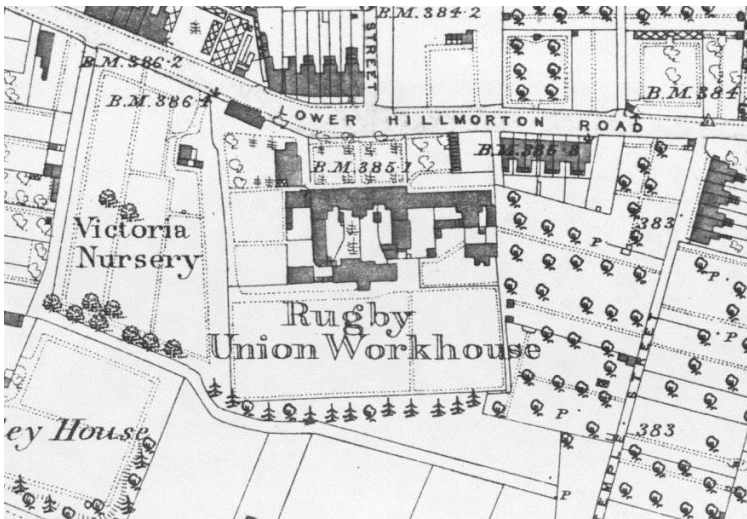
To sustain them, the food given to children consisted largely of bread and gruel – thin oatmeal porridge – with soup or meat and potatoes for the main midday meal. The food was dreary, but nutritionally adequate, and prepared under sanitary conditions. The food improved over time, as the guardians recognised it was necessary to feed children well if they were to learn and so get employment outside the workhouse. The workhouse gardens provided a seasonal supply of vegetables and fruit.

The workhouse continued to function in this role until after the Second World War. During the war the infirmary was used as an emergency hospital, and later became St Luke's Hospital. This was demolished in 1993, and there is now a housing estate and a new medical clinic on the site, fronting on to Lower Hillmorton Road. The only workhouse building which now remains is the Guardians' Board office block, now a well-appointed residence.

Victoria Nursery

When Peter opened his first boot shop in Toowoomba, he claimed that he had ‘served seven years to the seed and floral trade in one of the best nurseries in England’.

It seems most likely that Peter was apprenticed to the Victoria Nursery right next door to the Rugby Workhouse. Apprenticeship was a common feature of workhouses, and Peter was lucky to have been working in a nursery and not a mine or a cotton mill, as were children in some other parts of England. After 1845 new regulations protected child apprentices: the child had to be at least nine years old and able to read and write his or her own name. Also, increasingly at this time the conditions of the apprenticeship were monitored.



Rugby Union Workhouse and Victoria Nursery, c. 1887

[Rugby Local History Research Group]

The Victoria Nursery was set up on land originally owned by the Rugby Workhouse, but sold off in 1828. It was established by William Henry Treen about 1861. Born in Rugby in 1841 and elected as a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, Treen won many prizes for his blooms

VICTORIA NURSERY,
Lower Hillmorton Road, Rugby.

This Nursery is now replete with all kinds of
Stove & Greenhouse Plants,
And all kinds of Florist Flowers, including
ALAMANDAS, ACACIAS, BEGONIAS, ACHIMENES,
Abutilons, Clerodendroms, Cinerarias, Cytisus, Cyclams,
CALCEOLARIAS, STEPHANOTIS, IXORAS, CORLUS, CROTONS,
Dracaenae, Gloxinias, Ericas, Camellias, Ferns, Lycopodiums,
Fancy & Show Geraniums, Fuschias, Verbenas,
PETUNIAS, HELIOTROPES, &c.

Ornamental Trees & Shrubs of every description.
STANDARD & DWARF ROSES, all the LEADING KINDS.

AN ASSORTMENT of all the BEST KINDS OF FRUIT TREES, &c.
A CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF
GLADIOLI, HOLLYHOCKS, DAHLIAS,
Pansies, Phloxes, &c.
ALL KINDS of SEEDS for the FLOWER & KITCHEN GARDENS.

Bulbs and Roots of every description.
STRAWBERRY PLANTS, MUSHROOM SPAWN, ARCHANGEL MATS,
Hyacinth Glasses, &c.
CUT FLOWERS & BOUQUETS made to order.

PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.
Gardens laid out and attended to, by contract or otherwise.

JAMES PARKER,
Proprietor.

Advertisement for the Victoria Nursery from Tait's Rugby Almanac, 1870

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

across southern England, including the Crystal Palace Flower Show in 1862 and 1863. A comment in the *Birmingham Daily Post* about a class for single truss roses at the Birmingham Rose Show, open to nurseries only, is revealing about the conditions of the time:

The class as a whole is an excellent one for the neighbourhood, indisputably proving that with proper care the rose may be brought to absolute perfection, even in a smoke bepoisoned atmosphere, and a climate much colder than that in which the best varieties are usually grown.

The nursery was taken over by James Parker, Treen's foreman, in 1865. Parker continued exhibiting flowers and winning prizes, and ran the Victoria Nursery until his death in May 1913. The advertisement on the previous page gives an idea of the extent of the nursery's holdings.

William Treen emigrated to Australia in 1866 and had a colourful career. He was one of the first curators of the Melbourne Cricket Ground; he won £350 damages [more than \$50,000 in 2014 dollars] after suing his employer for libel over comments about his gardening column in the *Town and Country* magazine. He published a widely-circulated pamphlet about growing a blight-resistant apple variety. However after absconding with £6 13s. [about \$1000] from his job with a leading nursery, he spent eight years under an alias in New South Wales, before dying in Sydney in 1884, aged 43.

Peter's seven years at the nursery would have spanned both William Treen's and James Parker's ownerships, and he was probably there until 1869, shortly before his 18th birthday. Later in Toowoomba, Peter's first business would be a 'Boot and Shoe and Seed Warehouse', so his experience at the nursery stood him in good stead. Perhaps William Treen's decision to emigrate to Australia influenced Peter's decision to do the same some eight years later.

Rugby Post Office

In 1869, aged nearly 18, and while still living at the workhouse, Peter joined the Rugby Post Office. We know he first had to pass an examination set down by the government, and since this was conducted under the auspices of the Civil Service Commission, he had to provide evidence of his age.

For this, he wrote and signed a Statutory Declaration giving his date of birth, and producing as evidence a Family Bible 'belonging to my aunt Ann Watson of Long Lawford'. In the Timeline we discuss the implications of this statement in identifying his family. The document is reproduced here as it shows his handwriting and signature at this age.

* Here I*
 insert Name
 Address
 and
 Descriptive
 of
 Declarant.

*J. Peter Field of Lower Hillmorton Road, Rugby,
 a Stamp & in Rugby Post Office.*

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that I was born at *Walton* in the County
 of *Warwick*, the *21st* day of *November*, 1851 as shown
 by an entry in a *Family Bible* belonging to my aunt
Ann Watson of Long Lawford, the Bible now produced

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true,
 and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the sixth year of
 the reign of His late Majesty, intituled, "An Act to repeal an Act of the present
 Session of Parliament, intituled 'An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths
 and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the State, and to sub-
 stitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire suppression of voluntary
 and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits,' and to make other provisions for the abolition
 of unnecessary Oaths."

Declared Before me at *Rugby* *Peter Field*
 this *1st* day of *November* 1864. *Declarant
 to sign here.

Signature of Magistrate or other
 qualified Person taking the
 Declaration. *James Atty J.P.*
 Qualification *for County of Warwick*

Evidence of Age Declaration (blank section omitted)

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

The declaration also notes that he was then a ‘temporary stamper in Rugby Post Office’. The examination set down for such a position consisted of three tasks: ‘writing from dictation, reading manuscript, and arithmetic (of an easy kind)’. Clearly his workhouse education had provided him with these skills.

Peter also had to provide a medical certificate to say that he enjoyed good health. As Rugby was a provincial town, the power of appointment lay with the local postmaster. Peter’s salary would have been about 18 shillings per week, and he would have been entitled to a fortnight’s leave of absence each year. He would have welcomed it – the Post Office, on the corner of Chapel St and Market Place, was open from 7 am (7.30 am in winter) until 10 pm Monday to Saturday and 7.30 am until 10 am on Sundays. Although the exact size of the staff is unknown, the Rugby Post Office would have included half a dozen clerks and up to 30 sorters, stampers and letter-carriers who delivered the mail. There were two mail deliveries per day.

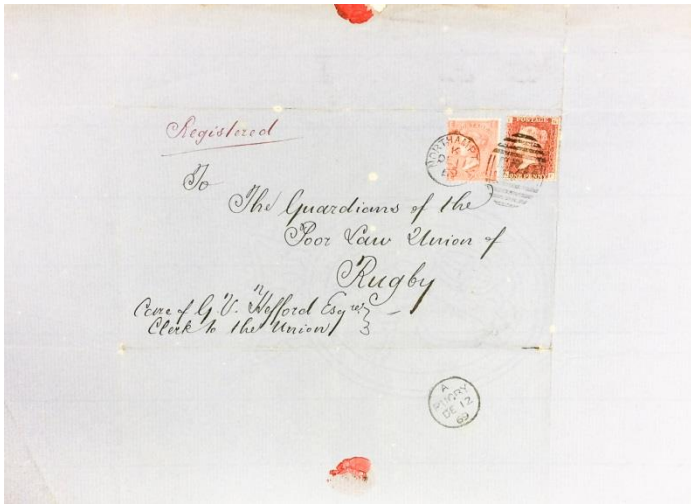
By this time the British Post Office employed more than 25,000 people. Over the previous 30 years the volume of mail had increased ten-fold following the introduction of penny post in 1840 – all letters weighing less than half an ounce [14 grams] cost one penny to send, regardless of the distance involved. This reform, championed by Mr (later Sir) Rowland Hill, met resistance from the Conservative Government of the day, but was roundly welcomed by the general populace. Coincidentally, Hill had a connection with Australia; he was previously the secretary of the commission conducting the colonisation of South Australia, following the plan of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, a position at which he laboured tirelessly.

The coming of the railway to Rugby in 1838 had increased the importance of the Rugby Post Office. It had also increased the speed of delivery between larger towns, with two mail trains a day in each direction, and on-board processing – the travelling post office. Each train was able to simultaneously receive and dispatch mail bags from an arm-like construction beside the line, eliminating the need to stop to transfer mail bags. The mail delivered to Rugby from London included

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bags for places such as Leicester, Derby, Lincoln, Leeds, York, Newcastle and Edinburgh, so these had to be correctly forwarded on. It must have been a busy post office.

The stampers had a role with both outgoing and incoming mail. Letters which were about to be despatched for the first time had to be counted and have their postage stamps cancelled with an imprint bearing the hour, date and place of posting, while those which arrived from other parts of the country for local distribution had to have a date stamped on the back. For this, a table well-padded with leather was used. The letter stampers could do this work at 'a speed and accuracy which rivals machinery' which was coming into use in London and Paris.



*Envelope from 1869, showing sealing wax and Rugby receipt stamp
[Warwickshire County Record Office CR51/558]*

By 1871 at age 19, Peter had left the workhouse and was a lodger with six other people in a house at Harrall's Court in Rugby, run by Mary Lee. This address does not exist today, but appears to have been off Drury Lane in the centre of Rugby. He was still working at the post office. Although we do not know his position then, if he had been

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promoted to a first class stamper or a sorter, his salary would have been up to 35 shillings a week [about £180 in 2013 pounds Sterling, or \$240].

We don't know how long Peter worked in Rugby. If he remained there until he emigrated it would have approached five years.

Emigration to Queensland

In September 1874, nearly 15 years after Queensland became a separate colony, Peter set sail from London on board the sailing ship *Indus*, bound for Brisbane. He was 22 years old.

When the new colony of Queensland was created in 1859 hardly anyone knew of its existence. By then most of the gold rushes in Victoria and New South Wales were over, slowing the rate of immigration to Australia. The Queensland Treasury had little money, but was keen to attract immigrants to help develop the colony.

Much of the credit for Queensland's success in doing this goes to their energetic Agent-General for Immigration in London, Henry Jordan. He tirelessly gave public lectures and wrote pamphlets extolling Queensland's virtues, personally answered thousands of enquiring letters and encouraged satisfied colonists to share their experiences. During the colony's first 20 years, nearly 120,000 people arrived from Britain and Europe to settle there.

Even so, those immigrants heading to Queensland represented only about three per cent of migrants leaving Britain. There was intense competition from North America, although the American Civil War (1861-1865) acted in Queensland's favour. Unassisted fares to Australia were three or four times higher than fares to North America, and tradesmen preferred the shorter voyage to North America as they were unemployed for less time. The advertisement opposite from Exeter's *Western Times* of 1 November 1872 is one of many in that issue exhorting people to migrate to various locations in USA, Canada and Queensland. It advertises free and assisted passages to Queensland.

EMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND,
 AUSTRALIA.
 Queensland Government Offices,
 32, Charing Cross, London.

Owing to the great demand in the Colony for Labour, the Agent-General will grant, under the New Immigration Act, passed on the 2nd August, 1872, FREE PASSAGES to AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, married and single, and to FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS, without undertaking to repay the cost of passage, and ASSISTED PASSAGES to Mechanics and other eligible persons, at lower rates than the cost of Passages to Canada or the United States.

£20 Land Order Warrants, per adult, issued to persons paying their own full passage to the Colony. Further information on application.

Appointed Agent for Yeovil:—
 5142] H. M. CUSTARD, Savings Bank.

Advertisement from The Western Times, Exeter, 1 November 1872, page 3

By 1874 when Peter emigrated, Queensland was the only Australian colony offering subsidised fares, using a Land Order scheme. Those who paid for their full passage received an order for land in the colony on arrival. However emigrants with particular skills needed in Queensland could travel for free, and for these passengers the government gave the land order to the shipping company. The company could then sell it later. We don't know which skill Peter Field stated in his application to justify his free passage. Sought-after skills changed over time but usually included agricultural labourers and female domestic servants. Other skill groups were given assisted passages, and yet others were sponsored by relatives or friends.

What pushed all these people to leave their home and families and take this leap of faith, seeking a better future? There were various reasons: increasing over-population of towns; escape from economic hardship brought on by poor harvests; job losses caused by increasing mechanisation; and lockouts following the formation of agricultural unions. Union managers were promoting emigration of agricultural labourers in the battle against poor pay rates, and the Queensland Government agents worked actively with the unions to this end.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Indeed, as the *Indus* left London carrying Peter Field, the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* (11 Sep 1874) reported

A great number of agricultural labourers with their wives and families, numbering several hundreds, left London on Tuesday by the ship Indus for Queensland, under the care of Mr. Richardson, one of the delegates of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union. These labourers are from the counties of Bucks, Oxfordshire, and a few from Northamptonshire. On Sunday afternoon last a large meeting was held in the Market Square, Aylesbury, at which Mr. Richardson spoke. A brass band was in attendance, and played several Union hymns. Mr. Richardson stated that he should accompany the emigrants to Queensland, and should not leave there until they were all in comfortable situations. A collection was made towards finding books, periodicals, etc, for the emigrants, to enliven them on their journey out.

The *Indus* was a regular in the Queensland immigrant trade, making the trip eight times – the voyage carrying Peter Field was her fifth. She had been built as an iron paddle steamer in 1847 on the Thames in London. In 1862 she was converted to a sailing ship and for some years was used for carrying cargo. In 1870 she was rigged as a barque (a three-masted ship with square sails on the front two masts). She was registered as 1319 tons, 74.5 metres long, 10.6 metres wide (about one and a half times the length of an Olympic swimming pool, and less than half the width) with 6.5 metres depth under the deck. She would have been regarded as a medium-sized ship carrying passengers or cargo, although these days many luxury yachts are larger than this.

Preparing an immigrant ship for sail took at least nine days, and someone from the Queensland Agent-General's office would have been on hand for a week before departure to inspect and check the loading. Conditions on immigrant ships to Queensland were, by 1874, controlled by the Queensland Government, with detailed specifications for the safety and welfare of the future colonists. Emigrants for Queensland were said to be 'the best supplied people in any ships conveying Emigrants' and conditions were generally quite good compared to earlier times. Basic weekly food allowances for each adult included 1.5

kg of preserved and fresh meat (live pigs and sheep were carried on deck), 700 g of preserved vegetables, along with biscuits, flour, oatmeal, tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, pickles, mustard, salt, pepper and 175 ml of lime juice. The ships carried a distilling apparatus for drinking water.



The Indus [John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg. 8826]

The area below the main deck was divided into three by substantial and well-secured bulkheads, separating single men, families with children and single females. Two-tiered bunks were arranged along the sides of the ship. Single people slept two per bunk, with a dividing board separating the two, and for families, a bunk held a married couple or four children under 12 years. Passengers were allowed about two-thirds of a cubic metre of luggage, some to be stored in the hold and some for use on the voyage. They supplied their own bedding.

On board, passengers were rostered to help with daily cleaning, keeping watch at night, maintaining law and order and teaching children. The matron was responsible for the welfare of single women and unaccompanied mothers – a role which embodied policewoman, guardian, governess, nurse and midwife.

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The *Indus* which carried Peter Field to Australia left from the East India Docks in London around 10 September 1874, and would have been towed down the Thames to Gravesend, a distance of about 30 km. She left Gravesend on 13 September. The *Indus* was the 141st vessel to sail under the Queensland Government's Land Order emigration system, and carried nearly 600 emigrants, 308 being members of families, 164 single men and 115 single females. It was a young group: the median age of the 416 adults (15 years and over) was only 24, while the median age of the 166 children was only 6 years. Only five per cent of passengers paid full fare, and 70 per cent travelled free.

A reporter from the London *Daily News* accompanied the ship as it was towed down the Thames from London, leaving it at Gravesend. Extracts from the report are shown below.

BOUND FOR BRISBANE

People happening to pass near the East India Export Dock basin yesterday forenoon might have wondered at the commotion on shore, and the excitement on board the handsome barque, painted French grey, and crowded with men, women, and children. Who were they, and what was the mission upon which the *Indus* was engaged, was answered in the laconic reply, "Bound for Brisbane." The emigrants' farewell, for many reasons, is not the painful separation it once was. ... These 620 souls, as the formal language of the ship's papers terms them, manifest little if any regret at the thought that their hours on English soil are numbered, and that they are bound for a very distant land. ... We have seen many emigrant ships leave port, but never a finer than the *Indus*. ... While the Government have on the one hand insisted upon certain conditions being complied with, the shipowners, the officers and all concerned have discovered that it is in their interest as well as duty to give their passengers every consideration. Room, air, wholesome food, and water, strict supervision, discipline, and organised amusements to

pass the time and engage the attention, are now essentials on board every immigrant ship.

Some three hundred of the passengers of the *Indus* have been brought by Mr. Richardson from the Aylesbury district. Last year he accompanied a smaller consignment to Australia, and is now again making the voyage. The Baroness Rothschild sends a contribution also of Buckinghamshire labourers; and the rest are made up of Irish, a few Scotch, and miscellaneous English men and women. ... Handkerchiefs are waving on the edge of the quay, music is playing, voices are raised in farewell cheers, and all these tokens must be duly answered by the women on the poop, the married folks in midship, and the young single men on the forecastle.

There are some circumstances which deprive the particular farewell of the sadness which even the poorest must be inclined to feel on leaving his native land. Our friends have slept one night on board the *Indus*, and furthermore, they said their real good-byes in the quieter countryside, where from their youth up they have tilled the soil and dwelt amongst their own people. True, there is here and there, as the docks are left behind, a tearful eye and trembling lip; but, as a rule, everybody is gleeful, many burst into song. ... Bound for Brisbane is not so terrible a business after all. The *Indus* is tugged out into the stream; the bosom of the Thames heaves and glitters in the bright sunshine; the voyage has commenced, and the emigrants neither moan nor weep; sniffing the savoury odour that steals out of the galley and pervades every part of the vessel, they put by their hymn-books and inquire when dinner is to be served. The pocket-handkerchiefs disappear, and the tin dish and humble pannikin take their place.

Off Plumstead Marshes we are able to inspect, and by moving about educe something like order out of chaos. If appearances go for anything, the Queensland Government, for whom the *Indus* is chartered, and whose representatives, Mr. Daintree, the agent-general, and Mr. Allen, the despatching officer, are on board, will have no

cause to regret the material which is sailing towards them. Indeed it is not altogether a pleasant reflection that these 620 souls represent to an unusually strong degree the flower of the English labouring class. There are some, of course, who cannot be at all included in the description; but the bulk are strong, well-behaved, comfortably dressed, healthy agricultural folks, invaluable to a new country where there is hard work to be done. Captain Hunt, the experienced skipper, stands by while his chief officer, for the first time, musters the crew – an assortment of English, Americans, Lascars, Malays, and a negro, all clustering together round the captain. The gentleman who is technically known as the ship's husband, and who in this instance is Captain Roberts, one of the partners, is a court of appeal for everybody; while the berthing clerk, Mr. J.R. Allen, acts as vice-chancellor to numerous suitors who cannot find their berths or their kit, and who urge their small troubles with dreadful persistence. Even so soon as this the doctor is in request, "Plaze, sorr, are ye the dhochter?" and Dr. McLean acknowledges the soft impeachment. The surgeon of an emigrant ship has naturally a responsible post, and perhaps the one least to be envied. To a great extent in the keeping of the matron and doctor rests both the moral and physical well-being of the passengers; ... happily the Indus has a well-appointed hospital and dispensary. It is unnecessary at this time of day to describe with minuteness the admirable arrangements of the emigrant ship, the seclusion of the berths, the anxious care with which both the sexes are kept to their own quarters, the routine observed day by day ... Very cheerful, and contented, and hopeful the passengers appear after their first dinner is cleared away. They swarm to the side when the last visitors go down the gangway into the Gravesend wherry [rowing boat], and watch it make headway against the racing tide, which tries hard to keep it from the landing steps; and the wind meanwhile whistles through the Indus's rigging, and out to sea there will be reefed sails to-night.

[*The Daily News* (London), Friday September 11, 1874]

Two years beforehand, on the *Indus's* third voyage to Queensland in April 1872, a weekly illustrated newspaper, *The Graphic*, sent an artist to capture scenes on board the *Indus* before she left Gravesend. These were printed on the cover of its edition of 29 June 1872. Two of these, shown below, give an idea of conditions on board.

The accompanying story paints a rosy picture of life on board, and we might question its veracity. However, there is evidence, as in the *Daily News* article above, that by this time, most emigrant vessels were reasonably happy places. One passenger on a later voyage describes the shipboard community in a letter to her parents: 'It is like being in a village, the time flies along while we are chatting . . . There are all classes, all trades, and one or more from nearly every County, and every religion'.



'On the poop were some fifty voyagers of the fair sex, laughing and chatting possibly more cheerfully than they will when the unquiet waters of the Bay of Biscay are reached.'

[The Graphic, 29 June 1872, page 2. State Library of South Australia]

On Peter's voyage one adult died of heart disease, and six children also perished. There were a few cases of measles, and some diarrhoea and throat infections among the children. A single case of scarlet fever was prevented from spreading by isolating the passenger involved. Two children were born on the voyage.

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Forward between decks were the quarters of the bachelor emigrants. Here a thin sineny Irishman was dancing a jig to the tune of a violin, the scraping of which combined, with the mewling of a litter of black kittens, and the laughter of the audience, to make up a very Babel of discordant sounds.'

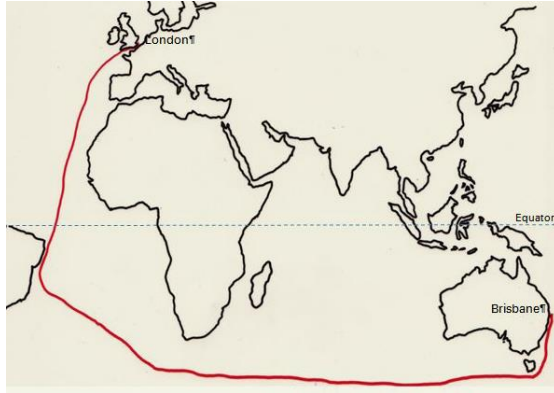
[The Graphic, 29 June 1872, page 2. State Library of South Australia]

It took 103 days, or three and a half months, to reach Brisbane (the fastest recorded trip was 75 days). Having left England behind and reaching the Atlantic, sailing ships headed towards the South American coast, but could be delayed in the doldrums near the equator. They bypassed the Cape of Good Hope and picked up the Westerlies to help them across the next 13,000 km to Australia, before rounding the southern tip of Tasmania and heading up the east coast to Brisbane. A typical route is shown opposite. As with most voyages at the time, passengers would have had to contend with seasickness, wet conditions, hot sticky weather and freezing cold weather (the *Indus* crossed the Southern Ocean at 44°S, south of Tasmania).

The *Indus* anchored in the lee of Moreton Island on Saturday 26 December 1874. Because of a delayed telegram, a health officer did not inspect the ship for signs of sickness among passengers and crew until the following Monday. Having been given the 'all clear' the passengers

were transferred to a government steamer on Tuesday 29 December 1874 and landed in Brisbane about 6pm.

Since the *Indus* drew about five metres of water, she had to wait until 7 January until the tides allowed her to be towed up the Brisbane River to her berth and begin unloading cargo. This was a six-hour trip.



Typical sailing ship route from London to Brisbane

The voyage was probably a good one. After the *Indus*'s previous voyage, the *Brisbane Courier* of 10 October 1873 described the passengers' arrival:

During their voyage up the river they cheered heartily the knots of people who had assembled on the banks at different points to welcome them. They are evidently not of the grumbling sort, for not a single complaint was heard of the treatment they had received on the voyage out; on the contrary, they highly praise the conduct of both Captain Hunt and the surgeon-superintendent, Mr McLean. The single girls also speak warmly in praise of their matron.

Captain Hunt and surgeon-superintendent Mr McLean were also in charge of the *Indus* on the voyage which carried Peter Field.

It is beyond doubt that the immigrants on the *Indus* with Peter were welcomed in Queensland. The *Brisbane Courier* reported the arrival thus:

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Everybody will be glad to welcome once more the Indus, with her well known and deservedly popular captain, and her experienced and successful surgeon-superintendent. We shall thus have an addition of nearly 600 souls to our population, and if they are equal to those which the Indus has brought before they will be welcome indeed to share their fortune with us. She has made the run from London in about 100 days, and reports all well. She will be inspected today, and it may be expected that her passengers will be landed tomorrow. Our old friend Mr. Richardson is on board, and brings with him a strong contingent of farm laborers from the Vale of Aylesbury. We do not regret to see that there is a considerable proportion of married people and a fair sprinkling of children. It is from amongst these that many of our most useful immigrants are obtained. They do not perhaps so immediately satisfy the cravings of the "labor market." They are not quite so easily moved up country, but having given hostages to fortune for their adopted country, we feel that they are ours for better for worse, and it is gratifying to know that the "better" is very much in the ascendant. The 113 single women will bring hope to many a despairing house-keeper, and if ninety two of these are really domestic servants, that hope which springs eternal in the human breast may not yet be doomed to the disappointment which has so often overshadowed the best regulated households. We can promise to the immigrants by the Indus a hearty welcome. [Brisbane Courier, 28 Dec 1874, p 2]

Once landed in Brisbane, new arrivals who had no other arrangements were housed at an Immigration Depot in William Street. They were provided with free food and lodging for one week while they looked for work and accommodation. Conditions were far from luxurious. It had been built in 1865-66 and in 1887 was declared unfit for human habitation, and a new depot built. The building now houses the National Trust.

Peter went to Toowoomba soon after his arrival where he was employed by FH Holberton and Co., general merchants. We know that within four years, in 1878 at age 27, he was living in Bridge Street, Toowoomba. His future wife, Sarah Mullins, aged 21, was also living in Bridge Street. Maybe they were neighbours!

In the next chapter we look at how she came to be living there.

CHAPTER 2

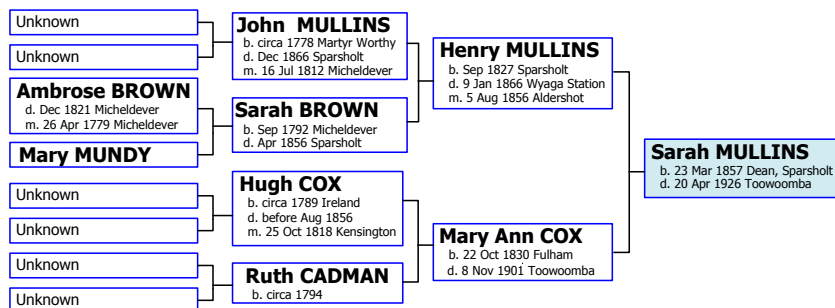
SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

Sarah's family history in Hampshire

Unlike Peter Field, Sarah Mullins spent only the first few months of her life in England, and would not have remembered it. Her childhood in Australia was marked by hardship and tragedy although, as is the way with children, the tragedy would have been felt far more by her parents, particularly her mother, Mary Ann.

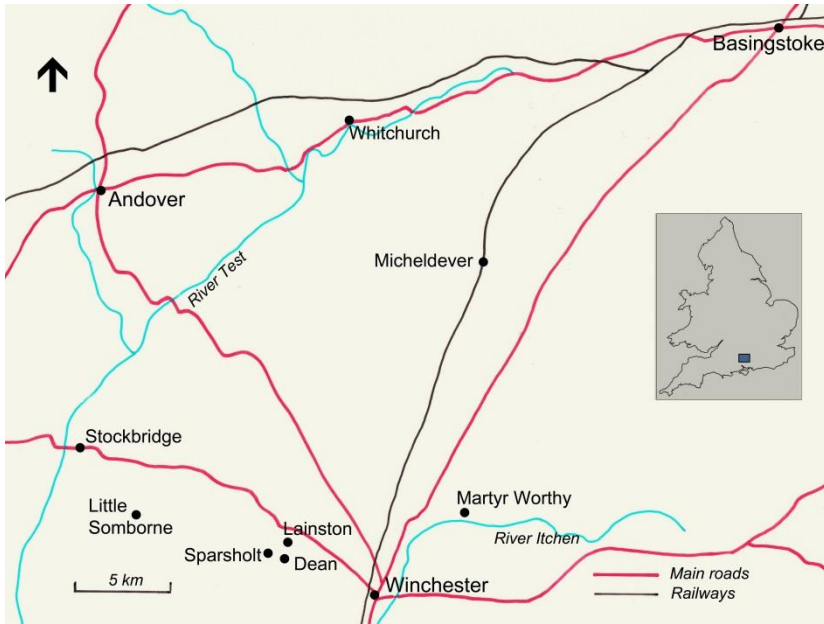
Sarah Mullins was born in March 1857 in the tiny hamlet of Dean, near the village of Sparsholt in Hampshire. Sparsholt is just west of Winchester, the ancient capital of England, and these days Dean is a prosperous-looking group of houses along a country road, Dean Lane. They were probably workers' cottages attached to the local farm when Sarah was born. These places are shown on the map on the next page.

We know something about Sarah's grandparents, and a little about one set of great-grandparents. Some details are shown in the family tree below, and further information is given in the Timeline.



Sarah Mullins's family tree

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Winchester and northern Hampshire

Both Sarah's paternal grandparents, John and Sarah Mullins, came from agricultural families – John Mullins, born about 1778 in Martyr Worthy, and Sarah née Brown in 1792 in Micheldever. The two married in Micheldever in 1812 but moved to Sparsholt soon afterwards. Their first child was born there the following year, and they remained there for the rest of their lives.

This is a beautiful and varied part of England, with rich farmland, gentle hills, extensive woodland areas and productive valleys with crystal clear streams – quintessential English countryside.

For the first couple of years after moving to Sparsholt, John Mullins was a dog feeder at Lainston. Lainston is a large country house, now a luxury hotel, set in 120 acres [about 50 hectares], just outside Sparsholt. It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren for Charles II, and started in 1683; it was known as the home of Charles and his mistress until he

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

died in 1685. When John Mullins was working at Lainston, a Mr William Powlett-Powlett lived there. He was Master of the Hampshire Hunt Club and maintained a pack of fox hounds at Lainston until he sold them in 1816. It is probably these hounds which John Mullins looked after. In those days hounds were fed on bread or biscuit, usually soaked with milk or water; very few had meat.



*Hampshire countryside and St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt.
Sarah Mullins was baptised here at three weeks of age.
[John Field, 2015]*

John Mullins's employer, William Powlett-Powlett, must have been an arresting sight:

Mr Powlett was lame, and could not mount his horse without assistance; he had nearly lost the use of one leg, which was withered by a blow he received in riding against a gate; in consequence, he wore a long laced-up boot, and went about on crutches.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

When hunting, he wore a long grey coat, with a blue spencer over it, and leather breeches. His hats were peculiar, being very much turned up to let the rain run off... Were he alive, the irreverent youth of the present time would probably inquire the maker's name. ...

From the alliteration of his name, Mr Powlett was commonly called Pontius Pilate. [Aesop, 1864]

William Powlett-Powlett was probably a good employer to John Mullins. When he died in 1821 the *Hampshire Chronicle* reported of his funeral on 18 March that ‘The little church at Somborne, and the church-yard and avenues leading to it, were crowded with labouring poor and their families, who have lost, by this melancholy event, a most kind and liberal benefactor’. John Mullins may well have been among the crowd at the church.

After his time as a dog feeder, John Mullins returned to farm work, which involved shepherding duties, at least in part. A few months after Mr Powlett-Powlett died, in June 1821, John Mullins won the shearing competition at the Hampshire Agricultural Society Exhibition of Stock, near Winchester. As a prize he was given a ‘coat and waistcoat, with the Society’s buttons’. We can imagine that this was a prize to be worn proudly.

In September 1827, Sarah Mullins’s father, Henry Mullins, was born to John and Sarah. He was their seventh child. As a boy and youth he would have learned about farming and shepherding working with his father, or on neighbouring farms. But by 1851, Henry, aged 23, had left Sparsholt and was a Private in the 2nd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards. He was based at Kensington Infantry Barracks in Kensington Church Street, Kensington. The barracks, opposite Holland Street, were demolished in 1980, and Lancer Square now occupies their place, although a new development on the site is due for completion in 2017.

Had Henry been in the 1st battalion rather than the 2nd, he would have gone to the Crimean War in 1854. However his battalion stayed in England, and Henry left the army about 1856. His old battalion went to Canada in 1861 to reinforce the frontier during the American Civil War.

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

The Scots Fusilier Guards later dropped the ‘Fusilier’ from their title, and became the Scots Guards, a regiment which still exists today. The picture below of the regiment saluting Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace before leaving for the Crimea shows how dashing they looked. Presumably it was while Henry was based in London that he and Mary Ann met.



Scots Fusilier Guards at Buckingham Palace, 28 February 1854.

[Watercolour by George Housman Thomas

Royal Collection Trust/ © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014]

Mary Ann Cox, Sarah’s mother, was born in London, one of at least six children. She was born in October 1830, and was baptised at both All Saints Church of England, Fulham, and the Hammersmith Roman Catholic Church – her father, Hugh Cox was Irish while her mother, Ruth (née Cadman), was English.

In 1851 Mary Ann, aged 20, was working as a servant at the house of Richard and Mary Anne Dixon and their two children, in Chelsea.

Henry and Mary Ann were married at the Church of St Michael the Archangel at Aldershot, on 5 August 1856. Henry was still a Private in


BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

the Scots Fusiliers at that stage, and so possibly was stationed at Aldershot – there is an extensive military camp nearby.

It seems that Henry moved back to the Sparsholt area within a few months of his marriage. Henry and Mary Ann's daughter Sarah Mullins came into the world on 23 March 1857 in the beautiful Hampshire countryside at Dean. She was to spend only seven months there before she emigrated with her parents to the much harsher landscapes of Queensland. The memory of the soft-toned Hampshire countryside must have stayed with her parents long after they left.

Emigration

We do not know precisely what prompted Henry and Mary Ann Mullins to emigrate to Australia with their seven-month-old daughter Sarah. However farm labourers' real wages in the south-east of England had not changed greatly over the previous two hundred years, and there were numerous articles and letters in papers about better wages and conditions in Australia providing one was prepared to work hard and



FREE EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.
PASSAGES ARE GRANTED TO NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA, in ships chartered by Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, to the **LABOURING CLASSES**, such as Agricultural Labourers, Shepherds, Herdsmen, Masons, Bricklayers, Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, Sawyers, Carpenters, and Female Domestic and Farm Servants.
Forms of application, and all necessary information, may be procured on application, either in person or by letter, pre-paid, to
W. H. SMITH, 4, Oriental Place, Southampton,
Selecting Agent for H.M. Emigration Commissioners for the County of Hants.

not expect instant fortune. The many advertisements for free passage to Australia must have looked tempting indeed – this one is from the *Hampshire Advertiser* in May 1856. So in 1857, Henry, 30, and Mary Ann, 26, with their baby Sarah, made their way to Liverpool and boarded the *Irene*, bound for Brisbane.

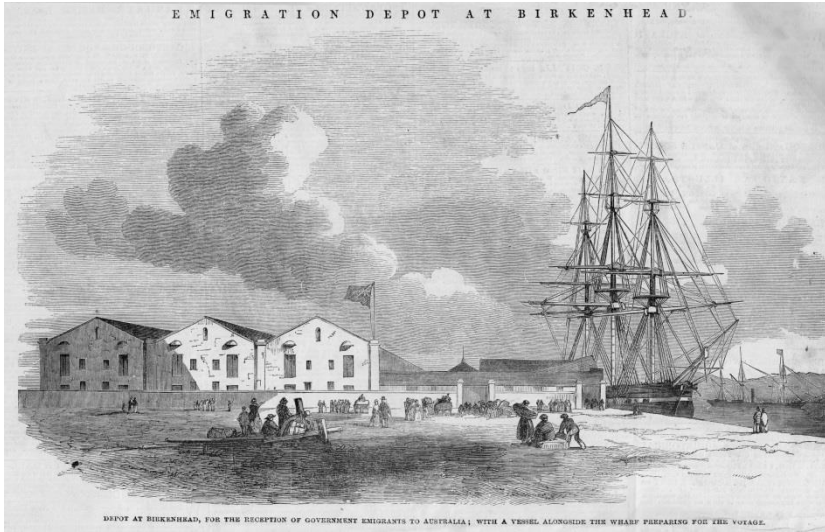
The *Irene* was one of the ships commissioned by the (British) Colonial Land and Emigration Commission, which oversaw emigration to all British colonies – Australia, North America, South Africa, New Zealand, the Falkland Islands and more. The Australian colonial governments provided funds from Crown land sales to the Emigration Commission to organise and supervise emigrant voyages. There were also private voyages which the commission merely inspected, but conditions on these ships were inferior. The British Parliament passed a consolidated Passengers' Act in 1855 in response to various problems in the emigrant trade and this improved conditions on emigrant ships greatly – Henry and Mary Ann were fortunate to be sailing after 1855 and on an Emigration Commission ship. All this of course was before Queensland was declared a separate colony in 1859. After that, Queensland appointed its own Agent-General in London to oversee emigration, and it was under the aegis of the Queensland scheme that Peter Field emigrated 17 years later.

The *Irene* sailed from Birkenhead across the River Mersey from Liverpool, and it is likely that Henry, Mary Ann and Sarah made the trip from Hampshire to Liverpool by train. By 1857 the British railway system was well established, with legislation in 1844 making it compulsory for a third-class train each day on each line, with passengers protected from the weather and provided with seats, with fares of one penny per mile. So a single fare from Winchester to Liverpool probably cost about £1 [\$130 in 2014 dollars], which would have been a substantial amount for a farm worker.

Emigrants could only board the ship the day before sailing, so most had to stay in Liverpool for a few days beforehand. A depot had been established at Birkenhead some five years previously to protect emigrants from disreputable 'runners' who preyed on them before departure by offering lodgings, food and goods for inflated prices. Sometimes they snatched the emigrants' luggage and would only return it for a large fee. The depot was a converted warehouse, and gave the emigrants a taste of the lack of privacy of communal living. There were separate dormitories for families, single males and single females while

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

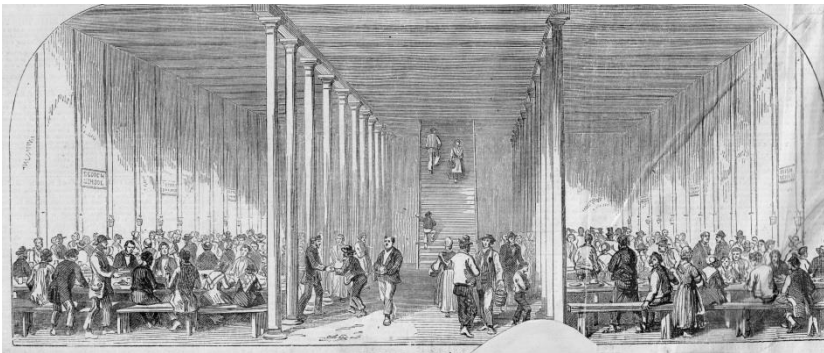
the dining area would accommodate about 600 people, with each table being marked for English, Irish or Scots emigrants.



DEPOT AT BIRKENHEAD, FOR THE RECEPTION OF GOVERNMENT EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA; WITH A VESSEL ALONGSIDE THE WHARF PREPARING FOR THE VOYAGE.

Birkenhead emigration depot

[*Illustrated London News*, 10 July 1852, *State Library of South Australia*]



Emigrants' mess area at Birkenhead

[*Illustrated London News*, 10 July 1852, *State Library of South Australia*]

The Mullinses left Liverpool on 24 October 1857. Their ship, the *Irene*, was fully rigged (ie had three masts, all with square sails), registered at 823 tons, and was probably about 45 metres long (slightly less than the length of a 50 metre Olympic swimming pool). She was built in Canada in 1852 from oak, spruce, birch and pine, and carried 350 government emigrants. We know little of her voyage.

However we do have a diary kept by one Fanny Davis of her trip from Liverpool to Melbourne; it has been reprinted by Don Charlwood. Fanny's ship, the *Conway*, left Liverpool seven months after the *Irene*. Fanny was the same age as Mary Ann Mullins, and although a single woman, it is likely that her experiences would have been similar to the Mullinses'. The extracts below give a flavour of life on board.

Thursday June 3: Having got all prepared to sail for Australia I go to the Depot at Birkenhead to prepare for embarkation. I think such a bustle I have never seen. I expected to have found everybody looking miserable and melancholy, but with only one or two exceptions all seem merry and amused at the novelty of their situation though a greater confusion cannot well be imagined.

Saturday June 5: ... We all march on board with a canvas bag on each arm and nothing is allowed to go on board but what they will contain...

Saturday June 12: We went to bed expecting to have a good night's rest but about twelve o'clock we were awake with heavy peals of thunder and the lightning was very dreadful. ... The wind rose very high and now began our troubles – the ship rolled and creaked and every mentionable article in the shape of water kegs, cans, teapots, buckets, with innumerable other things all pitched off the shelves and the tables and onto the other side of the ship and then in a minute after the ship would roll over to the other side and all our things come back joined by all the articles from the other side of the ship with the most horrid noise as most of them were made of tin.

Monday June 14: All still very ill and the sailors are obliged to come down with buckets of water and mops and clean our apartment up as there is no one able to do the least thing but lay in bed and

groan.

Friday June 18: ... A girl ordered to keep below for a week for speaking to one of the sailors as it is against the rule.

Wednesday June 30: All in a bustle as all the boxes that are marked 'wanted on voyage' are brought out of the hold for us to put by our dirty clothes and get out clean ones for another month.

Monday July 5: ... it is so hot downstairs that we are afraid to go to bed; however we do go about ten o'clock but we lay and toss about for hours with our clothes dripping wet with perspiration and of course cannot sleep.

Wednesday July 21: ... Quarrels are quite the fashion, there is not an hour in the day but the Doctor is fetched to quell some riot.

Friday July 23: ... It would amuse anyone to be suddenly introduced onto our poop on a moonlight night – in one of the corners will be about two dozen singing, in another a lot talking scandal about everybody – how the captain of their mess makes one pot of tea stronger than the others for herself and 'they won't put up with it, that they won't' and lots more complaints that would make a cat laugh. In another place will be a lot of Scotch girls dancing with one of them imitating the bagpipes and not one of them with either shoes or stockings on; then the Irish will be squatting down under the boats talking over everybody's business but their own and vowing eternal hatred to the English ...

Friday August 6: ... it blows a perfect hurricane, we have only two sails up and the sea seems to move all in one huge mass.

Wednesday August 11: A very fine day but freezing cold, we cannot even keep warm in bed ... We have got stoves, a sort of fire basket hung from the beams by chains, put up this morning but they are no use to our part except to smoke us out ...

Sunday August 29: It has been snowing all the morning, the snow is very deep on deck and it seems to get colder. ... They say we shall be in Melbourne in ten days.

Friday September 10: It is such a fine day that it has put fresh spirits in us. We are getting near the end of our voyage and all the sailors are very busy getting the ship ready.

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

The *Irene* arrived in Moreton Bay on 11 February 1858, after a trip of 109 days, with all passengers in good health after a ‘prosperous voyage’. Three children, but no adults, died during the voyage. There was a delay of five days in transferring the passengers to Brisbane, as all the river steamers were otherwise engaged in moving produce. However on 16 February they were inspected by the Immigration Board and transferred to the Immigration Depot in Brisbane.

The passengers placed an advertisement in the *Moreton Bay Courier* on 27 February, thanking Captain Lewis Jones for bringing the *Irene* safely to Moreton Bay. However the wording suggests that the relationship between Jones and his passengers was not always a happy one:

*On board the ship Irene,
Moreton Bay, 30th Jan., 1858.*

Captain Lewis Jones,

WE, the Emigrants on board the ship Irene, under your command, being now near the termination of our voyage, beg to express to you our best thanks for your attention and courtesy to us while superintending our “safe conduct across the trackless deep”. Although your relationship to us has been more of a negative, than positive character, we have often sympathised with you and your responsibilities, and now congratulate you at the close of our voyage in your securing the utmost expedition, compatible with safety, in seeking advantage of every circumstance, current, course, and canvas, to speed us quickly to our desired haven, and as our relative duties are now implemented, and our relationship about to be broken up, we trust that your success on the present occasion may only be the harbinger of great prosperity and that you may be long spared to ornament the profession to which you belong.

*We are, Sir,
Your very obedient servants,*

The message was followed by the names of about half the passengers, including Henry Mullins, but not Mary Ann – probably husbands spoke for their wives. The passengers obviously thought highly of Jones’s skills, but maybe his discipline or manner did not meet with their approval.

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There were only 35 emigrant boat arrivals in Brisbane between 1850 and 1859, and so demand for workers was high. Within the first two days, two-thirds of the emigrants gained employment, although it was noted that only six shepherds had found work. It is probable that one of these was Henry Mullins, but we do not know for certain. Within three weeks, only 21 families remained unemployed. Rates for couples ranged from £30 to £60 per year [about \$4000 to \$8500 in 2014 dollars], plus rations. Single women received from £18 to £30 [about \$2500 to \$4200]. The lowest rate for single men was £30 per year.

One family of a couple plus five boys was employed for more than £200 [about \$28,000], and the *Moreton Bay Courier* correspondent urged them not to waste the money 'as so many labouring men do, on degrading intemperance'. The paper noted also that there was 'no prospect of a further supply' of emigrants in the foreseeable future (because of the shortage of money from the government).

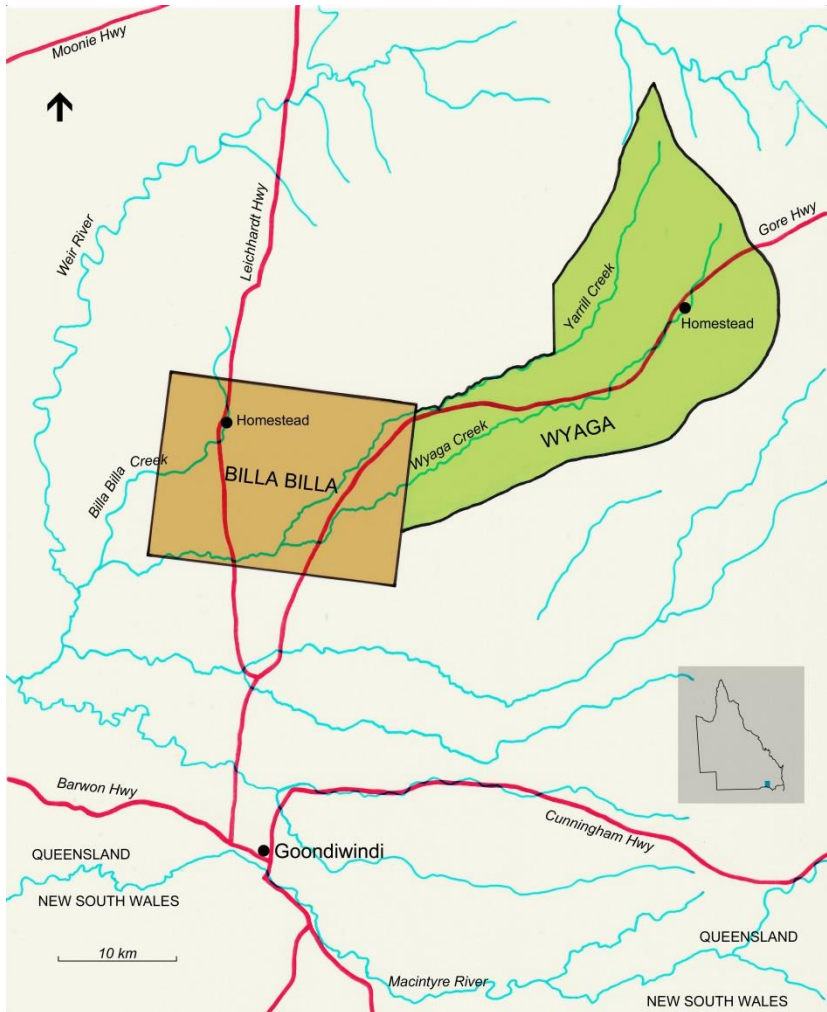
Life was not always easy for the immigrants. About five weeks after the *Irene* arrived in Brisbane, one found himself before the Ipswich Police Court, charged with absconding from his employment at a local hotel. He complained that his 'bush hay' mattress in an old hen house had been hard and uncomfortable, and so he had slept in hay in the loft, whereupon the publican had shut him out. The publican argued that the bedding had been acceptable to the previous married couple who had slept there. The magistrate dismissed the case and told the man to return to his employment, admonishing him that 'as a new colonial, not to expect feather beds and sheets'.

A hard life on the western Darling Downs

On arrival in Brisbane in 1858, Henry found work as a shepherd at Billa Billa run, 40 km north of Goondwindi. Runs, or pastoral leases, in the Goondiwindi area dated from before Queensland's separation from New South Wales, and it was only after 1860 that boundaries began to be defined, usually by two-rail fences. The run boundaries on the map

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

are taken from a run map of the Darling Downs in 1883, some twenty years after Henry was working here.



*Part of western Darling Downs area, Queensland.
Pastoral run boundaries approximate 1883 positions. Roads are as in 2014.*

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

The journey from Brisbane to Billa Billa at that time was not an easy one. Donald Gunn described the trip of the Strofield family after their arrival in 1862, when the Mullinses had been at Billa Billa for four years:

On arrival in Brisbane they were hired by an agent to go to Billa Billa, then owned by Henry Easton... They travelled from Brisbane to Ipswich by river steamer. And at Ipswich they joined a convoy of bullock drays. ... the route was via Rosewood, Drayton, Leyburn, Yandilla, Western Creek, and Wyaga. ... The trip from Ipswich to Billa Billa took two months and three days. The bullock teams never tried to break speed records. When they came to an hotel they took a two gallon keg that usually hung under the dray and had it filled with rum. Then they made for a camp where there was good cattle feed, and camped until the keg was empty!

Henry's duties as a shepherd on Billa Billa would have been to look after a flock of sheep during the day – possibly up to 2000 or so – and at night to herd them into a sheep yard, to protect them from dingoes and prevent them from straying. Typically he would have been based at an outstation some kilometres from the homestead. The outstation would consist of a hut and a set of yards made of moveable hurdles. Shepherds' huts at this time have been described as being made of wooden slabs with bark roofs, about 7 × 3 metres, with two rooms and an earthen floor. Other descriptions are of smaller huts with bark walls as well as roofs.

As a married couple, Henry and Mary Ann would have been paid about £75 a year [about \$11,000 in 2014 dollars] (single shepherds received about £40), and free rations were delivered to them each week. They would have been given about 7 kg flour, 1 kg sugar, 110 g tea and 13 kg meat each week, twice the single ration. On some runs, rations included soap and tobacco. The flour was almost always made into damper. This diet based on meat, damper and tea was almost universal for all people living in the bush at the time, regardless of their situation. Many married couples also grew fruit and vegetables, which helped prevent scurvy. Most runs had a store which stocked foodstuffs, boots, clothes, and general needs such as axes and writing paper.



Shepherd's hut, c. 1850s. [Photo courtesy of Jondaryan Woolshed Pty Ltd]

It would not have been an easy existence for the young family. It is possible that Henry was assisted by a 'hut-keeper' who lived with the family. The hut-keeper's job was to watch the sheep overnight and move the yards every few days when the ground got dirty or wet. Hut-keepers had a 'watchbox' – a long wooden box with wooden wheels or poles at each end so that it could be moved easily – near the gate of the yard in which they could sleep if they so wished, assuming that their dog would wake them if a dingo approached. One possibility is that Mary Ann filled the role of hut-keeper herself – wives of married shepherds often did this. It would have been an arduous job on top of looking after her children and cooking for the family! Hut-keepers were dispensed with once dingoes were largely killed off.

The hurdles forming the yards were made of cut bushes woven together. However it was at Billa Billa that prickly pear was reputedly first introduced to Queensland about 1860, when the station owner, Henry Easton, brought a few pear leaves back from the Hunter Valley and planted them. He gave leaves to his shepherds to plant around

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sheep yards to keep out the dingoes. But prickly pear flourished and eventually took over Billa Billa and then millions of hectares of grazing land, only being effectively cleared by the larvae of the *Cactoblastis* moth in the 1930s.

Donald Gunn records that Henry Easton was very good to his employees. Certainly he did not forget them, as he attended Mary Ann's funeral in Toowoomba some 40 years later. Mrs Easton taught the employees' children to read and write, and she may well have given the young Sarah her first formal education.

On 19 March 1860 when Sarah was three years old, Mary Ann Mullins had another daughter, also named Mary Ann. Henry was working at Billa Billa, but the baby was born at Toowoomba, about 200 km away. Mary Ann returned to Billa Billa with the baby. We do not know if Henry accompanied her to Toowoomba.

Three years later, in 1863, Henry had become a sheep overseer. This role involved supervising the shepherds, delivering the rations each week, counting the flocks and checking the physical condition of the sheep at regular intervals, and arranging the sheep washing and shearing. Sheep were usually washed before shearing to remove the black soil stains. When washed, the fleeces lost more than half their weight and consequently were cheaper to transport. Commonly, washing was done in pens made in a water hole, with sheep being washed by shepherds while progressing through a series of pens. Some stations had more elaborate set-ups. Sheep would then be shorn as soon as the fleece was dry.

The next few years saw a sequence of tragedies for the Mullinses. In August 1863, little Mary Ann's clothes caught fire in some burning grass, and she died five hours later from the burns she suffered. She was only three years old and was buried at Billa Billa. Henry and Mary Ann and the station owner, Henry Easton attended her burial. The exact site of her grave is unknown. Sarah was six when her sister died.



Shearers' quarters, Wyaga Station, constructed of timber slabs
[John Field, 2014]

Whether Henry and Mary Ann left Billa Billa immediately after this is unknown, but they were living in Toowoomba when their son Harry was born in March 1865. Henry was working as a butcher at Black Gully, on the northern outskirts of Toowoomba. However, just the month before he had advertised in the *Darling Downs Gazette* for work as a 'sheep overseer and storekeeper', stating that he had 'considerable experience amongst sheep'.

He obtained a position as sheep overseer on Wyaga station, which abutted Billa Billa. At that time Wyaga was considerably larger than its extent shown on the map above. But sadly, in January 1866, Henry, aged only 38, died at Wyaga of asthma which had been a chronic problem for many years. He is buried at Wyaga, although, like his daughter before him, we do not know the exact location of his grave. Sarah was nearly nine years old by then.

Had Henry lived, he may have been out of a job within a few years. On the western Darling Downs, free grazing of sheep in fenced paddocks replaced shepherds during the 1870s. Several factors were involved in

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the change, including more secure land tenure making investment in improvements worthwhile, the realisation that sheep camped in the open were less prone to disease, eradication of dingoes, reduction of theft by aborigines and cheaper iron wire.

Following Henry's death, Mary Ann returned to Toowoomba. Only three months later, on 17 April 1866, her son Harry died of marasmus, a form of acute malnutrition caused by a severe deficiency of nearly all nutrients, especially protein, carbohydrates, and lipids. We do not have any details of the circumstances of this death.

So in the space of two and a half years, Mary Ann had lost a daughter, a son and her husband. It is hard to imagine the effect of such a string of tragedies on the young Sarah, but more particularly on her mother, Mary Ann.

Mary Ann's later years

Eighteen months after her son Harry's death, in October 1867, Mary Ann Mullins, aged 37, married George Butterfield, a 53-year-old widower. George was a carrier and had been born near Cambridge in England. They had two children; further details are given in the box overleaf and in the Timeline. But George died just seven years later, leaving Mary Ann with three children: Sarah aged 17, and her half-sisters Ruth aged 4, and (another) Mary Ann, aged just 3 years old. This was six months before Peter arrived in Australia.

We will hear more about the role Mary Ann played in Peter's and Sarah's lives in the next chapter.

Mary Ann Butterfield lived on for another 26 years, dying in 1901 at age 71. Her funeral was attended by 'many old valued friends', including Henry Easton, who by then had left Billa Billa station.

Both George and Mary Ann Butterfield are buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. Their headstone is engraved

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

Through paths of suffering, strange and dim
God sometimes calls his own to Him

That Mary Ann's life contained much suffering is indisputable.



Mary Ann Butterfield (formerly Mullins, née Cox)
[Wensley family photograph]

George Butterfield

George Butterfield does not figure prominently in the lives of Peter and Sarah Field. He was Sarah's step-father for less than seven years, and he died six months before Peter arrived in Australia. But he has a colourful history.

George, the first son of Thomas and Sarah Butterfield, was born in 1814 at Radwinter in Essex, England. A few years later the family moved to Castle Camps, just over the county border in Cambridgeshire, and about 25 km south-east of Cambridge.

One evening in December 1843 when George was 29, he and his younger brother James were drinking at the George Inn in Castle Camps. A local farmer bought George a beer, and this allowed George to see where he kept his purse. The farmer had gone about half a mile towards home when two robbers 'rushed on him, they pushed [him] off his pony into the ditch; one opened his greatcoat and took the money out of his breeches pocket while the other held his hand over [the farmer's] mouth'. Three sovereigns, fifteen shillings and a cheque for £33 17s were stolen. George and James were arrested for the robbery two days later.

They were tried at the Cambridge Assizes in March 1844, and George was sentenced to transportation for ten years, while James was acquitted. George spent three months in Millbank Prison in London, and was then transferred to a prison hulk, the *Justitia*, at Woolwich on the Thames near London. He spent the next five years here.

Prison hulks were old decommissioned navy ships, no longer capable of going to sea, introduced in 1776 when the American War of Independence stopped the flow of convicts to America. Conditions on board were initially terrible, although by the time George Butterfield was held there conditions had improved but were still worse than in prisons. During the day convicts undertook hard labour on the docks or dredged the Thames. Prison hulks were

discontinued about 1857.

George finally left England on the *Mount Stuart Elphinstone* bound for Moreton Bay in June 1849. He arrived there in November, and was given a conditional pardon seven months later, on condition he didn't return to England. He was allowed to work for one L J McKenzie on the Darling Downs for 12 months.

The next we know of George Butterworth is ten years later in 1860 when he purchased land in Toowoomba. In 1861, aged 46, he married Mary Perry, and unsuccessfully tendered for various works projects with the Toowoomba Council.

Mary died in April 1867, and in October that year George married Mary Ann Mullins. George was then aged 53, Mary Ann was 37, and her daughter Sarah was only 10.

George and Mary Ann had two more daughters: Ruth in 1870 and Mary Ann in 1871, who were half-sisters to Sarah.

George died in Toowoomba in June 1874, aged 60, from 'bronchial haemorrhage', most likely caused by tuberculosis.

More detailed information about George Butterfield is given in the Timeline.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Sarah Field circa 1896, aged about 39 years [Barrs family photograph]

CHAPTER 3

FAMILY LIFE

Peter and Sarah's marriage

We know little of Sarah Mullins's adult life before her marriage to Peter Field, and we can only speculate about how the two first met. We know that Sarah was living in Bridge Street when Peter was first recorded as living there in 1878. But Bridge Street is a long street and we don't know if they lived near each other. Possibly they met each other through their involvement with St James' Church of England, or perhaps Sarah and Peter worked in the same general store during his early years in Toowoomba.

Regardless of how they first met, Peter Field, aged 32, married Sarah Mullins, aged 26, at St James' Church, Toowoomba on New Year's Day, 1884. The Reverend Thomas Jones, who was to play a crucial role in Peter's life, officiated.

On the marriage certificate, Peter gave his parents' names as Peter Field, soldier, and Elizabeth Downing, but as was noted earlier, Peter's baptismal record and birth certificate show his mother's name as Elizabeth Fields, with his father's name unknown. It is probable that he invented these names to avoid the stigma of illegitimacy, a common practice at the time. He used the names on several official forms throughout his life.

Early family life at Bridge Street

Bridge Street in Toowoomba features prominently in Peter and Sarah's story. In 1869, two years after Sarah's mother, Mary Ann, married George Butterfield, a block of land was bought in Bridge Street in Sarah's name, when she was only 12 years old. This block is half of what is now 205 Bridge Street; there were no street numbers in those days. The other half was bought by Mary Ann herself in 1874, shortly

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

after George's death. Peter bought Mary Ann's half from her after his marriage to Sarah. The house is built across both halves of the block.

Peter wasted no time in opening his first boot store only a few months after he and Sarah were married. They mortgaged the Bridge Street property to finance this, although when Peter ran into financial difficulties a few years later he sold it back to Mary Ann.



205 Bridge Street, Toowoomba [John Field, 2015]

As a couple, Peter and Sarah lived at Bridge Street for nearly 20 years, from 1884 to the end of 1902. During their first six years there they had three children: Cyril, Nessie and Raymond. All three births were at home and were attended by Dr Edwin Roberts and Sarah's mother, Mary Ann Butterfield.

There were eight people covering three generations living in this small house. Along with Peter and Sarah and their three children were Sarah's mother and her other two daughters, Ruth and Mary Ann (usually just called Ann within the family).

Ruth was 15 when Sarah's first child was born in 1885, and Mary Ann was a year younger. However they may not have had a lot of time to help look after their young nephew – it seems probable that both girls worked in Peter's boot store from the time it first opened. Certainly by 1891 both Ruth, 21, and Mary Ann, 20, were working for Peter, Ruth as a saleswoman and Mary Ann as a clerk. It is not known how long this continued.

Peter's energy was well known, and as his business expanded, his children would have grown up in a household accustomed to a strong work ethic. Both Sarah and Peter were committed Christians and would have ensured that the children's spiritual welfare was not neglected.

When the family moved from Bridge Street, Cyril was 17, Nessie 15 and Ray nearly 13, so most of the children's schooling was undertaken while they lived at Bridge Street.

Brief information about the children's lives is given in Chapter 8.

Stuart Street: Daphne

Mary Ann Butterfield died in 1901, and left the Bridge Street property to her three daughters. At that time, Sarah was 44, Ruth 31 and Mary Ann was 30. After probate was granted on the will, they sold the property at the end of 1902.

It is likely that Ruth and Mary Ann wanted their equity in the property to enable them to get on with their lives. However the sale also came at a propitious time for Sarah and Peter, as Peter had just finished building the Empire Hotel in Ruthven Street. Chapter 5 has details about this.

For the next few years, the Fields rented a house on the western side of Stuart Street just north of Bridge Street, at what is now 135 Stuart Street. This house had been designed by James Marks, a well-known Toowoomba architect, and was built in 1886 on land which originally spanned the current 133-139 Stuart Street. It was owned by Thomas May while the Fields lived there.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Peter and Sarah lived in the Stuart Street house from about the end of 1902 until the latter half of 1911. For the duration of their stay the house was called Daphne, although it has been called Vauxhall for most of its existence.



135 Stuart Street, Toowoomba [John Field, 2015]

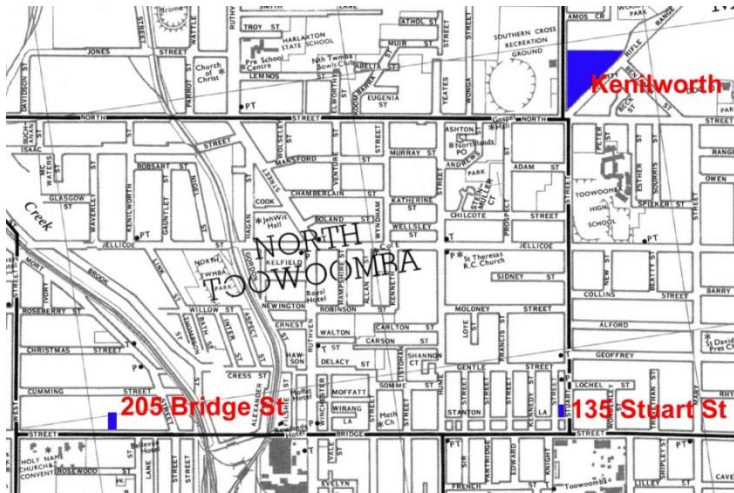
Over the time they lived at Daphne, the size of their household shrank. Ruth married Niels (“George”) Clauson in 1903 and Mary Ann married David Booker in 1904. In about 1908 Ray joined the Queensland National Bank and, after short periods at Jondaryan and Mitchell, was posted to Nobby. At about the same time, Nessie lived at a local hospital while doing her nursing training. In 1909 Cyril married Mabel French and moved to Dalby, although it is possible he moved before this – his best man came from Dalby.

By 1904, Peter had bought five acres of land on the corner of Stuart Street and Rifle Range Road. There, in 1910-11, he built a large home, Kenilworth, which was to play a major part in the rest of Peter’s and Sarah’s lives. Kenilworth is considered separately in Chapter 6.

The map opposite shows the locations of the Toowoomba houses.

Glimpses of family life

We can get an idea of family life through the social pages of the local newspapers. In April 1910, for example, we can see that they were not idle! At this stage, Peter and Sarah, with Nessie, were living at Daphne in Stuart Street. Easter had just passed, and Ruth and Niels Clauson (Sarah's sister and brother-in-law) and Sarah's son Ray had spent Easter at Daphne. Ray had come home from Nobby for the weekend. Added to these guests, Miss Stella Gribble (who had been one of Nessie's fellow students at Eton High School) had just left after a stay of several months.



Locations of the Fields' Toowoomba houses

A few days later, Sarah and Peter, with their daughter-in-law Mabel and Mabel's mother, Mrs Susan French, went to a film evening at the Austral Hall, along with many others. The films on show that night were *Tour through Ireland*, *Les Miserables*, *The Hostage* and *An Indian Romance*, indeed a mixed bill! The Austral Hall had been converted from part of the old Toowoomba gaol by William Hodgen, a noted

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Toowoomba architect. It was reputed to hold 500 performers on stage and 5000 in the audience.

The following week Sarah attended a euchre party and dance at the Alexandra Hall, hosted by Mrs Lane in honour of her son who was to be married the following day in St Luke's Church. Music was provided by Smith's Orchestra, some solos sung, and supper enjoyed. 'There was dancing until midnight.' A couple of years previously Sarah had organised such an evening in aid of a widow and child.

Showing animals seems to have been something of a family activity; in 1909 Ray had won second prize at the Toowoomba Show in the poultry section for a Pit Game cock. This was a chicken bred by English soldiers in Australia for cock fighting. Peter also shared his son's interest in poultry, because in 1912 he won several prizes for Pit Game and other varieties of game poultry, as well as for an Indian Runner duck and drake. In 1909 and 1910 Sarah entered some of her spaniels in the Toowoomba Show, and won first prize with her dog Bobs in both years, and a second prize as well in 1910 with Rollo.

Sarah also shared her husband's patriotic spirit. In June 1911, she attended a Grand Patriotic Evening at the Austral Hall in honour of the coronation of King George V. A 'magnificent programme of patriotic choruses, solos and recitations' followed a torchlight procession of Boy Scouts, various societies and bands.

CHAPTER 4

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Toowoomba

It is probable that Peter obtained his first job in Toowoomba soon after he had disembarked from the *Indus* in Brisbane in December 1874. It was common for employers to seek staff among newly arrived immigrants. Unlike the Mullinses before him, he would have been able to take a train from Ipswich to Toowoomba after a boat trip from Brisbane to Ipswich. The railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba was completed in 1867, but it was not until six months after Peter arrived that the railway connection between Brisbane and Ipswich was finished.

Toowoomba sits at the top of the escarpment of the Great Dividing Range, about 130 km west of Brisbane. It is the principal town of the Darling Downs, a rich agricultural area extending to the west of the town. In the 1850s it gradually took over from nearby Drayton as the main town in the area, as it had better water supplies and a better track down the range to Brisbane. When Peter arrived he joined a population of about 3200. Toowoomba had several churches, a School of Arts, a hospital and more than 20 hotels. Today it is a major centre of commerce, industry and education, and is renowned for its fine gardens.

Peter worked for several Toowoomba general merchants in his early years there. These stores imported a large variety of goods. According to the *Town and Country Journal* in an article on FH Holberton and Co.'s new store in 1874 'the stock comprised everything that is required for country use': drapery, boots and shoes, clothing, hats, groceries, glass and china, sewing machines, general ironmongery, and seeds. They sold to both locals and those from the wider Darling Downs. Peter began at Holberton's, and then moved to Fullarton, Rooke and Co. when Mr Holberton sold his business to Messrs Fullarton and Rooke in 1878. Fullarton and Rooke subsequently sold the business to Messrs Paul and Boys in 1883. All three businesses occupied the same building on the

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

corner of Ruthven and Margaret Streets, and all three were listed in *Pugh's Almanac* under the headings of Drapers, Storekeepers (General) and Tailors.

Peter later advertised that he had 'long Experience as Manager of the Boot, Shoe, and Seed Departments in both Buying and Selling' for all three firms. In November 1883, Paul, Boys, and Co. advertised that the boot and shoe department was under the able supervision of Mr Field 'and has received most particular attention'. The stock could not be excelled 'even in Brisbane', the advertisement continued, 'for Variety, Excellence, Style, Quality [or] Price'.



Holberton and Co. general store, Toowoomba, 1874
[*Town and Country Journal*, 19 Dec 1874, State Library of South Australia]

Peter's experience working for these general stores would have been very different to working in the Rugby Post Office, but as an ambitious young man, it would have had given him a good grounding in many aspects of retail trade, both buying and selling, and the boot and shoe trade in particular. Maybe more surprisingly, his time in the Rugby

Workhouse stood him in good stead: according to a later advertisement, he had successfully managed the ‘seed trade in all its branches’ for all three firms over his nine years with them. So his time at the Victoria Nursery had not been wasted.

A boot and shoe and seed warehouse

Peter made good use of his experience. In February 1884, just after his marriage, he opened his own retail shop in Ruthven Street, the main street of Toowoomba. It had the unlikely title of ‘Boot and shoe and seed warehouse’. But as he had shown since coming to Queensland, he had skills in both the footwear and seed trades.

There had been a fire in July 1883 which had destroyed two single-storey wooden shops between two two-storey brick ones. The shops destroyed had belonged to Samuel Stephens, but housed a bootmaker, Henry Campbell, and a hairdresser, Andrew Glover. Stephens decided to rebuild the two shops, and called for expressions of interest from those who might lease them. The *Darling Downs Gazette* described the location as ‘the only vacant spot in this, the best business part of Ruthven Street’, and predicted there would be many ‘eager claimants for the privilege’ of obtaining the leases.

We do not know how many applicants there were, but Peter Field was successful in acquiring one of the leases; the young couple mortgaged their house in Bridge Street to start the business. The shop was part of what is today 411 Ruthven Street (Miller’s Family Fashion). He would later move next door to larger premises (409 Ruthven Street, now Ruthven Street News). The successful applicant for the other shop was Thomas Holliss, a Tailor and Habit Maker, who leased his shop until June 1887 when his stock was auctioned off to cover unpaid rent.

Peter’s announcement of his shop told the public of Toowoomba and the surrounding district that he had a ‘new and well-selected stock of gent’s [*siz*], ladies’ and children’s boots, shoes and slippers of every description, of the best quality in English, French, German, and Colonial manufacture’.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

He made much of serving ‘seven years to the seed and floral trade in one of the Best Nurseries in England’. He hoped his business would merit ‘a fair share of Public Patronage’. This was echoed by the *Darling Downs Gazette*, who thought him deserving because of his ‘long residence, business experience and generally obliging disposition’. Similarly the *Toowoomba Chronicle* commented that ‘Mr. Field has a great deal of experience in both branches of the business, and if energy and attention are necessary to success he should succeed’.

The *Gazette* also commented:

The assortment of fancy shoes, boots, &c., in the window is very tasteful, but on entering the premises one at once becomes aware that the stock has been selected by a well-trained tradesman, and comprises all branches of that art of beautifying the feet which has become general since the days of Adam, and macadamised roads.

The *Chronicle* described the shop as ‘very commodious’. It was partitioned by a nest of drawers and a curtain, with the rear section which was ‘very neatly fitted up’, set apart for lady customers. The front part was called the ‘colonial department’.

Initially there were only four assistants, one of whom was Sarah who looked after the ladies’ department. The photo opposite must have been taken between 1884 and 1887; the two young female shop assistants next to Sarah are possibly Ruth and Mary Ann Butterfield, Sarah’s sisters, who would have only been about 14 and 16 at the time. We know that they were both working for Peter a few years later.

Less than a month after opening Peter advertised the arrival of a ‘splendid shipment of new and choice flower and garden seeds of every description’. For ten shillings he would make up a collection ‘sufficient for half-acre gardens’ [0.2 ha or 2000 m²], with free delivery to any town in the colony with a postal service.

At about the same time, Peter employed a ‘first-class bootmaker’ so that customers could have boots and shoes made to order ‘in pegged or stitched work’ (two methods of attaching the sole to the rest of the

boot), and repairs could also be undertaken. Looking after his customers seems to have been one of Peter's strengths.



Peter and Sarah (at left) with other staff at Field's Boot and Shoe and Seed Warehouse in Ruthven Street, c. 1886. The photograph must have been taken before June 1887 when Thomas Holliss, Tailor and Habit Maker, vacated his shop. The two women next to Sarah are possibly her sisters Ruth (front) and Mary Ann.
[Barrs family photo]

The business quickly gained a good reputation. Only a year after it started, two of Peter's staff opened their own boot shop and advertised 'Powell and Callaghan's work being so well known in connection with Peter Field, comment is unnecessary'.

However it was not without its setbacks. On New Year's Eve 1884, Toowoomba suffered an extremely heavy hailstorm – within the

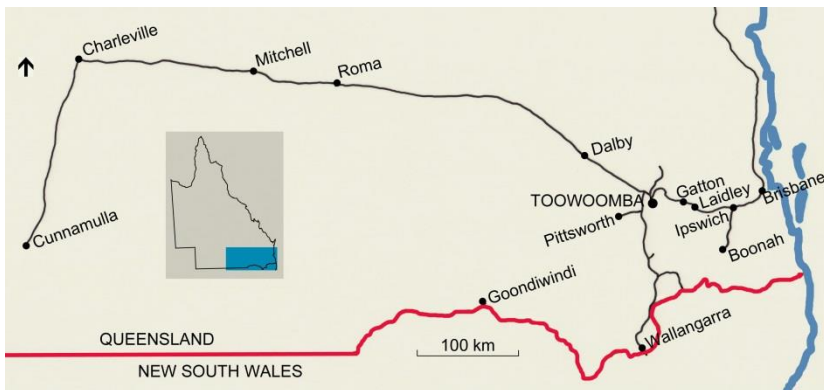
BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

memory of its oldest inhabitants there had been nothing like it. Peter's shop, along with others on the same side of Ruthven Street, was exposed to the full effects of the storm and suffered very heavily. Both the shop and a lot of the stock were saturated. Cleaning up after this was probably not how Peter and Sarah would have wished to spend their first wedding anniversary!

The railway to Roma and beyond

Despite this setback, a month later on 1 February 1885, Peter opened his first branch shop in McDowell Street, Roma, and a month later advertised that he had employed a first-class bootmaker from Brisbane so that repairs and boot-making could be done on the Roma premises.

Roma, 350 km north-west of Toowoomba by rail, was, in Peter's day, a thriving town of about 1800 people. The fertile plains grew excellent vines and fruit trees. Today, cattle, sheep, grain and forestry are the main agricultural industries, although one of the original wineries, built a few years before Peter established his boot warehouse, is still operating.



Extent of railways in Queensland, c. 1900

The black and red clay soils of the Darling Downs often made travel difficult – in wet weather it was not uncommon for drays, and later,

cars, to be bogged down up to their axles. The coming of the railways enabled travel in all weather. Queensland is notable for its narrow gauge (3 feet 6 inches, or 1.07 m) railways, used because it was cheaper to construct than the more common standard gauge.

Queensland's first railways were built to connect the fertile Darling Downs with port facilities. Toowoomba was first linked with Ipswich in 1867, and the line westwards reached Dalby in 1868. Slow funding meant that it did not reach Roma until 1880, Mitchell until 1885, Charleville until 1888, and Cunnamulla until 1898. The map opposite shows the extent of railways in the area by the turn of the century. It was the construction of the railway which enabled Peter to set up branch stores in these towns.

Why did Peter choose Roma instead of Dalby for his first branch, when Dalby was much closer to Toowoomba? According to *Pugh's Almanac* in 1884, there was only one shoemaker in Roma, while Dalby had half a dozen bootmakers and boot warehouses, and a seed warehouse, and only two-thirds the population. These factors probably influenced his decision. However when he did open a branch in Dalby some 11 years later, it would be one of his longest lasting.

Peter's decision to open branches of his business was modelled, at least in part, on the leather and boot manufacturing company Stead, Simpson and Nephew in England. This was a major boot company based in Leicester while Peter was in Rugby, about 50 km away, and by the time Peter was establishing his business, they had some 80 retail branches in towns around England to sell their boots and shoes directly to the public at wholesale prices.

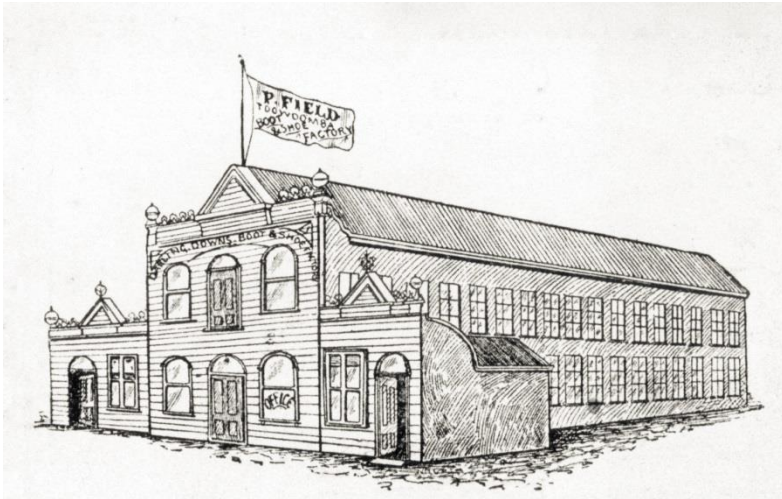
A boot factory ...

Peter's early advertisements describe him as a 'boot importer'. Soon after starting his business he had employed a bootmaker, and by the middle of the following year he describes himself as an 'Importer and Manufacturer of every description of Ladies', Gents', and Children's Boots and Shoes of Latest Styles and Finish'.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

In February 1886 he advertised for a ‘first-class clicker for the bespoke trade, one competent to cut his own patterns’. ‘Clicking’ was the first stage in making a pair of shoes. The clicker selected the hide and cut the upper from it by hand. This was an important part of the process, since a good clicker could reduce the cost of boots by arranging the patterns on the hide with minimum wastage of expensive leather. At the same time he had to avoid flaws in the hide to produce good quality boots and shoes.

Peter decided to move into boot and shoe manufacture in a larger way. SH Whichello had successfully been making boots and shoes in Toowoomba for eight years. Their boot factory was for sale, and around Christmas 1886, Peter bought the business together with stock and machinery. He established his own boot-making factory behind his shop in Ruthven Street. It was described as ‘very compact, a store room being immediately behind the shop, and the work room still further to the rear. Except the finishers, the workers are in one room where, in one glance, can be seen boots and shoes in all stages of construction’.



Peter Field's boot factory behind his shop in Ruthven St, Toowoomba c 1887
[Toowoomba Regional Council Local History Library]

Six months later, the factory was employing 42 people and making about 450 pairs of boots per week, including 30 pairs of bespoke boots.

The reporter from the *Toowoomba Chronicle* was obviously impressed with the factory when he visited in June 1887. He wrote glowingly:

Now-a-days ... machinery plays an important part in the making of boots, hence Mr. Field's workshop is full of machinery. Instead of picturing the village cobbler with blocks between his knees, with spectacles across his crown, and hammer in hand belabouring leather for the sole, heel, or upper, there is the machine roller driven by steam, gas or hand. No longer is the keen edged knife required for shaping soles: that is done by machinery, and there is the blocking machine, which is capable of shaping 16 dozen pairs of uppers per day. Besides these there are the eyeleting, punching and riveting machines, the sewing machines and other necessary appliances. The most intricate of the whole, however, is Blake's improved sole-sewing machine. This is contained in a simple framework, but at the same time the machinery is an intricate combination of cams, but it is so effective that one man can sew as many as 350 pairs of boots in a day. A channelling machine prepares the soles for the reception of the stitches, by cutting a groove and, combined, both machines do their work to perfection. The stitching which joins sole and upper together is simply perfect and better than that made by hand. ... It is a matter for congratulations that we have such a promising industry in our midst. Mr. Field's boot factory promises to be more prosperous in the future than in the past, and as an addition to our industries we willingly say "Advance Toowoomba".

In the middle of 1887, Peter opened another retail branch in Toowoomba, this time in 'Mr Roggenkamp's old shop'. Mr Roggenkamp was a storekeeper in Ruthven Street who opened a wine shop instead. The *Toowoomba Chronicle* noted that 'judging by the amount of business done during the last fortnight it certainly appears to have found favour with the general public'. However he closed the branch a little over a year later.

Later that year, in September 1887, Peter sold his Roma branch to the previous manager of the store, William Stuart. We do not know the

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exact reason but can surmise that the costs associated with the new boot factory put pressure on his finances.

... and a tannery

Now that Peter had a boot factory, he moved to get his own source of leather, and purchased a block of land in June 1888 on which to build a tannery. The block was at the western end of Isaac Street, on the southern side, with a frontage onto Gowrie Creek for a ready source of water (and maybe convenient effluent disposal, although in 1878 SH Whichello's tannery and fell-mongery, which were across Gowrie Creek from Peter's, used all their wastewater for irrigating an acre [0.4 ha] of lucerne alongside the tannery. In the previous 15 months the lucerne had been cut 26 times, yielding a barn full of fodder as well as feeding four cows and four horses).



Peter Field circa 1890
[Toowoomba Regional Council
Local History Library]

Peter's block was initially mortgaged to Frances Jones, the wife of Reverend Thomas Jones. This was not the last time that Reverend and Mrs Jones would be of financial assistance to Peter.

The tannery, 86 m × 9 m, became operational the following year. It was divided into several departments. Tanning is a complex series of processes, and many which would have been carried out manually in Peter's day are now done by machine. The first few processes prepared the skins for tanning: a 'beamsman' removed the outer layers of the hides leaving the middle layer, the corium. The skins were soaked in a lime solution to loosen the hair for removal. Removal of wool from

sheep skins, or fellmongering, uses a different process. The hair was then removed and excess lime and any remaining protein removed. Sheep hides would be pickled in a salt and sulphuric acid solution. Hides could then be split to the required thickness, depending on end use.

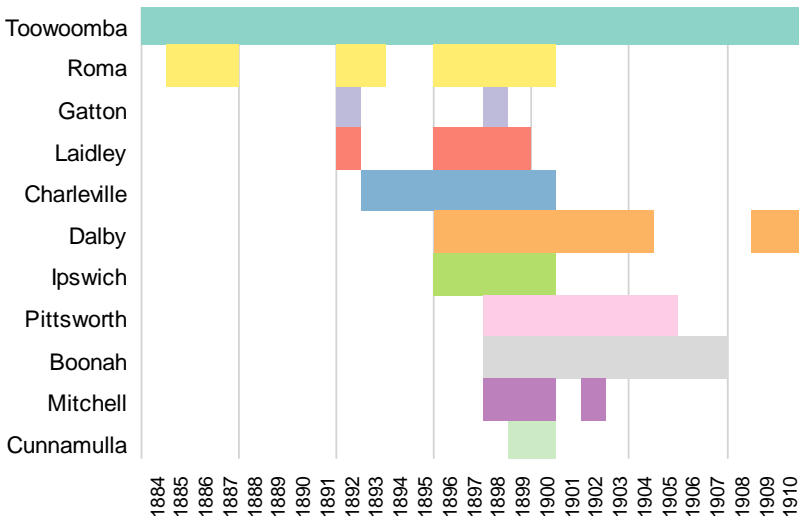


*Peter Field's first boot store, c. 1890, after he had opened his tannery and factory
[Toowoomba Regional Council Local History Library]*

The tanning process itself used a solution of tannic acid from soaking wattle bark to chemically change the hide. For thick leathers to be used for soles, this process could take a year or more with various intermediate steps. The leather was then compressed and dried. Grease or fat was incorporated into it ('currying') and the leather finished to enhance the appearance, texture or strength.

A retail chain

Over the next few years, Peter established retail branch offices in Dalby, Roma, Mitchell, Charleville and Cunnamulla along the main western railway, at Pittsworth just west of Toowoomba on a branch line, and at Gatton, Laidley, Ipswich and Boonah on the railway heading back towards Brisbane. The diagram below shows the approximate years of the operation of these branches. It has been compiled from newspaper reports of branches opening and closing, and business directories in almanacs from the time, although these latter sources are somewhat unreliable given the delay between information gathering and publication, and the seeming republication of out-of-date information.



Towns where Peter Field had boot shops, and the approximate years of their operation. Cyril Field opened the Dalby shop c. 1909.

Several things are immediately noticeable from the diagram. The main Toowoomba business seems to have operated more or less continuously from 1884 until Peter retired in 1910. Several branches closed at some

stage but later opened again, the Roma branch having three incarnations. We will address the reasons for this below.

Boom and bust

The 1880s in the Australian colonies saw a boom in investment, among them the continuing expansion of railways, improvements on pastoral properties, building of suburban houses for the children of gold-rush immigrants and new businesses like Peter Field's. This investment was funded largely by loans from British banks.

The boom years came to an end in the early 1890s. The near-insolvency of one London bank echoed through the banking system in London, and London banks recalled funds invested in Australia, putting pressure on Australian banks and building societies, and on the colonial governments. Many banks and building societies closed their doors. Many who had their savings in these institutions, as well as businessmen, pastoralists, small and large investors, were ruined. The depression lasted most of the 1890s.

The expansion of the railways and other public works programs were severely curtailed, leaving many unemployed. And to add to the woes, the 'Federation drought' affected most of the country from 1895 to 1903, and there was a drop in the price of wool. Unemployment was further exacerbated by unsuccessful strikes by stevedores, shearers and miners who were objecting to the use of non-union labour. These industrial struggles led to the formation of the Australian Labor Party, and also to a renewed movement to join the colonies into a united Australia, which ultimately came to pass with Federation in 1901.

How did all this affect Peter Field?

Peter, like many businessmen of the time, was having trouble paying his creditors. A private meeting of creditors was held in Toowoomba in mid-September 1891, at which Peter offered 7s 6d in the pound [37.5 cents in the dollar], payable over two years. This offer was 'unhesitatingly refused'. It emerged that about three and a half years

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

previously, Reverend Thomas Jones and the Union Bank had lent money to Peter, for which Peter had signed bills of sale covering all his business. However he had stated in a letter some seven months before the meeting that such bills did not exist. To quote the reporter: ‘The production of this letter led to the interchange of language not very complimentary between Mr. Schoenheimer [another bootmaker] and Mr. Field. It is said that the former, losing his temper, endeavoured to strike Mr. Field, and was only prevented doing so by other persons present’. Subsequently, Thomas Jones explained: ‘practically the bill of sale does not exist’; he would ‘never use it provided [Peter’s] creditors gave him the time and consideration that other businessmen, commercially stronger than he, had asked for and received’.

Peter filed a petition for liquidation of his estate in the Supreme Court shortly afterwards, quoting liabilities of £12,983 17s 9d [about \$1.9 million in 2014 dollars].

A formal meeting of creditors was held in Toowoomba on 2 October 1891. The reasons given for Peter’s insolvency were depression in trade, pressure of creditors and the inability to find further accommodation to expand his retail shops. Again Reverend Thomas Jones’s role as a secured creditor was called into question; he agreed to forego security on cash he had advanced Peter, provided money he had guaranteed on Peter’s behalf was indemnified.

After some discussion Peter agreed to offer 10s in the pound, payable in bills at 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21 and 24 months, at 6 per cent interest. Thomas Jones’s wife was the guarantor for this arrangement after a Mr Kebble said he thought ‘Reverend Thomas Jones might in the natural order of events become by death unable to meet such an obligation’. He lived another 27 years!

A second meeting of creditors was held on 12 October 1891 in Toowoomba at which the outcomes from the first meeting were confirmed by further creditors, and on 14 November Peter held a ‘great clearing sale’ of stock, with sale by cash only.

Toowoomba Co-operative Tanning and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd

Faced with the necessity of making some money to pay off his debts, Peter set up a co-operative boot manufacturing business, with his staff as shareholders and co-owners. This was done quickly, and was registered by Christmas 1891, just three months after the liquidation of his previous business. He opened the new business with a 'grand opening celebration' and cash sale on 21 December.

The Memorandum of Association of the co-operative state the objects of the company as

The purchase of the Tannery, Boot Factory, Plant and Stock in Trade of the Wholesale and Retail Business lately carried on by Mr. Peter Field, and for carrying on Business as Tanners, Curriers, Leather Merchants, and for the manufacture and sale of Boots and Shoes, at Toowoomba ...

The shareholders could only be people involved directly in the business.

There were five Directors: Peter Field, Charles Wise, Thomas Hicks, George Maber and Alfred Walker. George Maber had started work with Field's in April 1888 and worked there for 17 years. His three children also worked there at various times. Wise and Hicks enter the story a little later.

Names, Addresses, and Descriptions of Subscribers.	Number of Shares taken by each Subscriber.
<i>Peter Field Toowoomba Manufacturer</i>	<i>100</i>

Peter Field's signature on the Memorandum of Association for the Co-operative
[Queensland State Archives, book 6, file 281]

The company had a nominal capital of £10,000, arising from 1000 shares at £10 each [about \$1450 each in 2014 dollars]. Peter took 100 shares, Thomas Hicks took 60, with the rest of the staff taking between two and 40 shares. Shareholders would not have had to pay the full value of their shares up front, but 'calls' would be made on their shares

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

as the business needed it. Within the first six months there had been a call of £1 0s 3d per share [about \$145].

The extent of the company is shown by the number of staff: there were 87 shareholders at the end of the first six months, and this number remained reasonably constant, for when Peter opened his Roma branch a year later he still employed about 90 people.

Roles of initial shareholders in Toowoomba Co-operative Tanning and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd, 1891

Area	Role	Number
Admin	Manager	1
	Secretary	1
	Clerk	1 (♀)
Shop	Salespeople	1 (♂), 1 (♀)
	Assistant salesperson	1 (♀)
Factory	Foreman clicker	1
	Clickers	6
	Blocker	1
	Pressman	1
	Assistant pressman	1
	Machinists	10 (all ♀)
	Foreman bootmaker	1
	Bootmakers	34
	Bespoke bootmaker	1
	Finishers	11
	Assistant finisher	1
	Packer	1
	Assistant packer	1
	Repairer	1
	Parcel boy	1
	Tannery	Beamsman
Curriers		4
Labourers		3
Yardsman		1
TOTAL		87

The summary opposite of the roles of these shareholders shows the range of skills and trades needed in the business. They have been divided into areas for convenience. All were men except where otherwise noted.

Some of these trades may need explanation. While the clickers cut the upper from the leather, blockers cut heels and pressmen pressed out soles from the leather. Machinists, usually women, sewed the various parts of the upper and lining together. The bootmaker joined the uppers to the soles, and the finisher made the boot or shoe ready for sale.

As with many manual jobs at the time, safety was sometimes a problem. One incident which was reported in 1895 involved a factory employee who slipped and grabbed at some machinery to break his fall. His hand was 'horribly mutilated' by a cog wheel and he had to have two fingers amputated.

Among the initial staff are listed both of Peter's sisters-in-law, Mary Ann and Ruth Butterfield. Ruth, 21, was a saleswoman while Mary Ann, 20, was a clerk. Also listed is David Booker (a packer) who was to marry Mary Ann, but not for another 13 years in 1904.

The *Darling Downs Gazette* welcomed the new co-operative: 'This is the kind of movement that should receive every encouragement, calculated as it is to satisfactorily solve the vexed problem of capital and labour'.

Within nine months of its establishment, the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative had opened two new cash stores in Gatton and Laidley, towns on the railway 'down the range' heading back towards Ipswich, and three months later Peter reopened a store in Roma next door to his previous one. These were all accompanied by large advertisements in the local paper – the one for Roma is shown on the next page. All three stores worked on a cash only basis, with cash having to be provided with all orders as well as for local purchases.

**PROTECTION v. FREETRADE.
ADVANCE ROMA!**

Boots and Shoes for the Million.
Boots and Shoes for the Million.

GOOD NEWS FOR ROMA.

New Boot and Shoe Establishment.

THE TOOWOOMBA CO-OPERATIVE TANNING and BOOT and SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Limited (late Peter Field), have much pleasure in informing the residents of Roma and district that they will

OPEN A BRANCH CASH SHOP

ON

SATURDAY, December 3

in the premises situated in M'Dowall-street, and adjoining Mr. Carter's Auction Mart and the *Western Star* printing office. The Company intend having the branch for a Cash Shop only, and will keep a large and well assorted stock of colonial made

BOOTS & SHOES

of their own manufacture, and in addition will keep a nicely assorted stock of English Boots and Shoes made by first class manufacturers, including Messrs. Bostock and Co., of Stone, Stafford and Northampton and Messrs. L. Simpson and Co., of Leicester, and other makers whose names are a guarantee of the genuine quality of the goods. These goods will arrive monthly per British-India and Orient Steamers direct to this Company's order.

The Roma branch has been opened after many requests made by customers, and it will be conducted on the

CASH SYSTEM ONLY,

and all goods will be sold at WHOLESALE PRICES for cash. We guarantee our goods to be of the best quality, and nothing but the best material and workmanship put in. We feel sure the boots we make are far and away superior to many that are now being sold by persons quite ignorant of the boot trade, not knowing one material from the other, it being out of their calling. Our manufactures will bear comparison with the best made in Australia, but we can with confidence leave the public to be the judges. Customers will save from twenty to twenty-five per cent on their purchases, which now goes to the middleman. The public can save this enormous profit by buying their Boots and Shoes from our branch shop.

Some may ask, how can this Company afford to sell so much cheaper than the storekeepers? Our answer is, because being Tanners as well as Manufacturers, and direct importers, which we claim to be, our position enables us to compete with any dealer in the market. We pay cash down for all goods we buy, thus gaining the trade discount, and we are also backed up by over ninety working members of the company, who are united by the principles of co-operation, and none but operators are permitted to join our company.

We have placed in charge of the Roma branch a thorough practical tradesman as a bootmaker. The making and repairing department is a speciality in our business, and any orders entrusted to us, will be done in a first class manner, and we can guarantee to all who give us a trial, quality, style, fit, and finish second to none in the colony, while our prices will be strictly moderate for cash. The Company respectfully invites inspection before purchasing Boots and Shoes elsewhere. We court co-operation, and feel assured that public favor will be on our side.

P.S.—Cash must be sent with all orders.

N.B.—The Firm secured first prize for Boots and Certificate of Merit for Leathers at the Toowoomba Show.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

The Toowoomba Co-Operative Tanning, and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company, Limited.

PETER FIELD, General Manager.

Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 11 Jan. 1893

Peter also opened a branch shop of the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative at Charleville, the terminus at the time of the western railway line¹. Charleville was a town of about 1400 on the banks of the Warrego River, largely serving the stations in the area, and it must have been an interesting place.

During the decade from 1890 to 1900 the town was full of life. The townspeople always had something new to discuss. For instance there was the recapture of Bogan Billy, who had escaped from custody in N.S.W., Garry Owen was prosecuted for selling ice-creams on Sunday, this action being taken under a statute of Charles II. (This Garry Owen was a most versatile gentleman. He was bellman – i.e. town crier – he distributed circulars, sold fresh and smoked fish, bedsteads, cots, harness, violins and furniture, and in 1896 he was the first to sell ice in the town.) [Morrison, 1947]

Despite opening these new branches of the Toowoomba Co-operative Boot Company, it is clear that money was still an issue for Peter. In June 1893, Sarah's mother, Mary Ann Butterfield, bought back 205 Bridge Street from Peter and Sarah.

The matter came to a head four months later, in October 1893. The Union Bank called on the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative to repay an overdraft of £3500 [about \$500,000 in 2014 dollars]. The co-operative could not pay the amount, and the bank foreclosed on the business, taking over its shops, the factory, and the tannery. All the company's staff left. A few days after taking possession of the company the bank tried to sell it to other firms but could not find a buyer. The bank then offered the company back to Peter Field on condition he take over the liability of £3500 plus some legal expenses and outstanding wages. Peter agreed. So despite a large overdraft, he again owned his business.

The sale of the co-operative to Peter had an interesting sequel. In April the following year (1894) Mr James Bennett, manager of the Union Bank in Toowoomba, arranged a meeting in the evening with Peter Field. Bennett said that as he had lost all his money in a speculative gold-mining company, he was going to charge a 10% commission on

¹ The Timeline has a discussion of probable dates for this branch.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

the £3500 for selling the business back to Peter. Peter regarded this as blackmail but was afraid to refuse since the bank held his overdraft. Since he had little money he gave the bank manager £50 in cash [about \$7000 in 2014 dollars], and a cheque for £350 [about \$50,000] which, according to Peter, the manager agreed would not be presented for payment until the overdraft had been paid off. From time to time the bank manager demanded other sums from Peter – some as cash and some as commission on other transactions – but in 1901 Bennett died, and amongst his papers was found the unpaid cheque for £350 drawn by Peter. Peter subsequently undertook to pay the money by monthly instalments to Mrs Alice Bennett, but in 1907 asked for a declaration from the Supreme Court to the effect that both agreement and cheque were null and void, as it was a corrupt consideration. The Chief Justice credited Peter with perfect honesty in the matter, but while the bank manager's conduct was open to very strong criticism, he could see no fraud or illegality in it. He found that Peter should continue with the repayments, as he had made this agreement with a full knowledge of the facts.

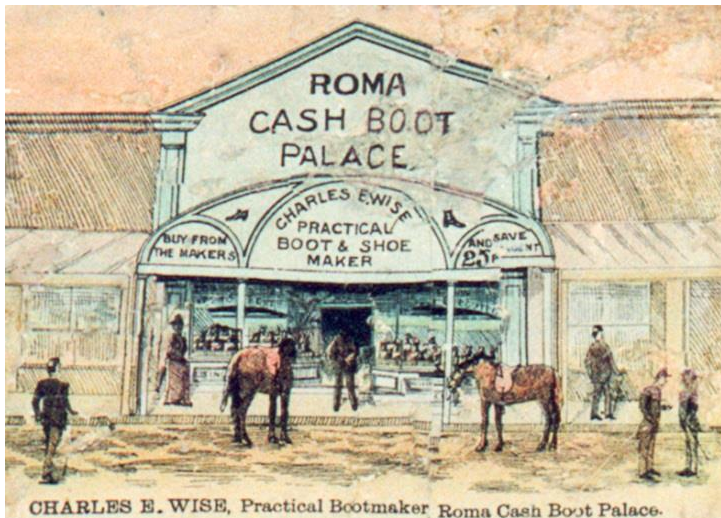
Peter appealed the judgement. The appeal judges thought the initial consideration was an illegal act, and so tainted any subsequent agreement. Peter was not entitled to the court's assistance in relief from payment, but neither was Mrs Bennett entitled to its assistance in enforcing payment. We don't know whether Peter continued paying the instalments.

Field's boots and shoes again

In November 1893, Peter advertised that the Boot Co-operative's business had been 'reconstructed and purchased by Peter Field from the mortgagee'. He then sold the Roma business to Charles Wise, one of the directors of the former Boot Co-operative, although the existing manager, William Stuart, continued to manage the store.

By 1896, Peter had regrouped and was ready for a large expansion. In that year he opened four shops. Two were at towns on the western

railway line: Roma (for the third time) and Dalby. Peter's factory provided him with known, competent and trusted staff to manage these branches: the Roma branch was managed by its former owner, Charles Wise (from whom Peter must have bought it back), and the Dalby one by bootmaker Frederick Kahler. The other two branches were on the railway heading back to Brisbane from Toowoomba, in the agricultural township of Laidley and in Ipswich itself. Ipswich was the second oldest town in Queensland, originally called Limestone. Peter already had shops in Toowoomba and Charleville, making six in all.



*The former business of the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative in Roma
[From a poster of Roma firms c. 1895, State Library of Queensland, Neg. 190294]*

By this time, Peter was producing 40,000 pairs of boots and shoes annually. He sold these under the 'Reliable' brand, and had a large wholesale trade to other boot sellers throughout Queensland, as well as selling them through his own retail shops. He employed more than 100 people with an annual wages bill of £5000 [about \$720,000 in 2014 dollars], a substantial amount. His tannery produced about 80 hides a

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

week for boots and shoes, and another ten were turned into harness leather.



Peter Field's shop at Pittsworth c. 1903. The person is probably Henry Poulton, the manager of the shop.

[John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg. 199223]

As well as making his own stock, he imported boots and shoes from the major British boot-making centres of London, Northampton, Stafford, Stone, Leicester and Dundee, and also from Vienna and America. He also did repair work and made bespoke boots and shoes at his retail shops, and apparently did good business in these areas. He had most of the boot trade covered!

Business must have been good because in 1898 he opened another four retail shops: in Gatton and Boonah, east of Toowoomba; at Pittsworth,

an agricultural and pastoral town on a branch railway line about 40 km west of Toowoomba; and at Mitchell, between Roma and Charleville on the western railway.

The manager at Pittsworth was also an employee, bootmaker Henry Poulton. The Pittsworth shop continued until 1905, when the Railway Hotel and several shops, including Field's Boot Shop, were burned down in a fire started in the hotel by the publican's wife. There was no reticulated water in Pittsworth, and so the only means of fighting the fire was with buckets. It was only a strong easterly wind which saved the fire doing far more damage. Henry Poulton continued on with his own boot business for 17 years in Pittsworth after this.

So in 1898, Peter had his store, factory and tannery in Toowoomba, together with branches in Gatton, Laidley, Ipswich and Boonah to the east, and Pittsworth, Dalby, Roma, Mitchell and Charleville to the west. And the following year he opened his last branch at Cunnamulla after



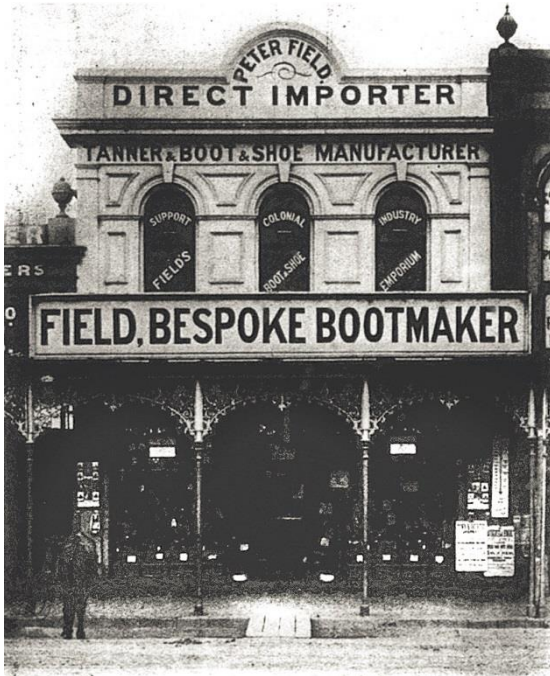
Boonah station c. 1900

[John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg. 22763]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

the railway line finally reached that far. Added to these, his wholesale business distributed boots and shoes to ‘a very large portion of Queensland’, although there are few details of the extent of this trade.

For Peter to visit all these branches periodically must have required considerable time. The train journey from Toowoomba to Ipswich took about five hours, with Boonah another three hours on. Heading west from Toowoomba, Dalby was about three hours travel, Roma another six hours, and Charleville a further six hours. Cunnamulla was yet another six or so hours.



Peter's shop in Ruthven St, Toowoomba, 1900 [The Queenslander, 6 Oct 1900]

Most of these journeys would have been in ‘mixed’ trains – trains which carried both passengers and freight. So the travel times could vary with the amount of freight to be loaded and unloaded, and its nature – unruly

cattle may have taken a while to load. There were passenger-only trains – the *Western Mail* left Brisbane at 5.50 am Saturday, arrived at Toowoomba about 7 hours later and then at Charleville at 6.30 am Sunday. There were sleeping berths for first class passengers if they paid a ten shilling supplement [\$70 in 2014 dollars] on top of the first class fare, but most people sat up all night. The *Mail* trains were so called because they had travelling post office vans on them.

Around the turn of century, Peter's focus appears to have changed slightly. About September 1899, he leased the larger shop next door to his existing one in Ruthven Street. It had a double front instead of the previous single front. He took a 15-year lease on both shops which he later extended by about six years, and when he later retired from the boot business he sub-leased the shops to others. Several photographs exist of Ruthven Street around this time, which show his shop.



Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, c. 1902, showing Peter Field's shop, third from right. His original shop (by then occupied by WM Tanner, ironmonger) is immediately to the left of his new shop. The facade of the stationer's next to it still existed in 2015.

[John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg 172539]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

In the first half of 1900 he closed his branches in Cunnamulla, Charleville, Mitchell, Roma and Ipswich, keeping only those in the (mostly) closer towns of Pittsworth, Dalby and Boonah, as well as his main Toowoomba shop. Maybe he became fed up with so much travel. Almost certainly his business interests were expanding beyond boots, shoes and seeds.

Peter kept the Dalby shop until 1904, and the Pittsworth one until the fire of 1905. He did not relinquish the Boonah store until 1907. In March 1910 he sold the business to John Hunter and Son Ltd, a boot and shoe company based in Sydney with branches in many country towns, including Toowoomba. Peter retired from the boot and shoe trade, although he held the lease on his shop until 1920 while subleasing it to Hunters.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS.

PPETER FIELD wishes to inform all his old Friends and Customers and the General Public that he has sold the **BOOT AND SHOE BUSINESS** so successfully carried on by him for the past **Twenty-six Years** to

MESSRS. JOHN HUNTER & SON, LTD.,

of Sydney, and trusts that his old Customers will accord his successors the same liberal support that they have favored him with.

PETER FIELD also takes this opportunity of very **SINCERELY THANKING** all those who have favored him with their patronage and support during the time he has been in business

N.B.—ALL ACCOUNTS owing to Peter Field can be paid at the old Shop. John Hunter & Son's receipt will be a sufficient discharge, or sent to private address, Stuart Street, Kennedy Estate, Toowoomba, for the **NEXT THIRTY DAYS**. All Accounts still owing after the 30th of April must be handed to a Solicitor for recovery to close all business transactions.

PETER FIELD.

March 14, 1910. 1980

*Peter's announcement that he was retiring
[Toowoomba Chronicle, 15 Mar 1910, p 1]*

Industrial relations

The little material available about Peter's relationship with his staff tends to show him as a firm but fair employer, although possibly volatile at times, and not frightened to use legal processes if he felt he had been wronged. A few examples serve to illustrate this.

In 1890 there was a bootmakers' strike in Brisbane over the failure of employers to pass on an increase to their employees following the government's imposition of a tariff which had enabled the employers to charge more for their products. The workers' more immediate complaints were generally low wages, child labour and the use of 'sweat' labour – piecework undertaken at the artisan's home for very little pay. The bootmakers' union drew up a 'statement' of desired prices to be paid for piecework, but the Brisbane employers declined to consider it, and so eventually the bootmakers went on strike. The *Worker*, a trade union journal, decried the employers' inaction but commented 'Up in Toowoomba the trade is peacefully working under the new statement'. Peter appears to be one of the employers sympathetic to the plight of his workers.

However, at a public meeting in Toowoomba in support of the striking shearers in March 1891, a Mr Bowman condemned the conditions of employment of apprentices who worked for Peter as 'unfair and shameful'. When Peter was told of this, he called all his apprentices together and told them what had been said. He stated that anyone not satisfied with the agreement could have it cancelled, receive their wages and leave his employment. Not one apprentice accepted the offer – hardly surprising since this was at the start of the 1890s depression!

One of Peter's apprentices, 'an apparently incorrigible youth aged about 16', who absconded from his employment four times, was at first jailed for three days, but finally sent to a reformatory for 12 months after his parents had 'asserted their disability of reforming him'. Peter said he was willing to re-employ him when he had served his term.

In January 1893 he took one of the other directors of the co-operative, Thomas Hicks, to court. At a meeting of directors, Peter had refused to

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

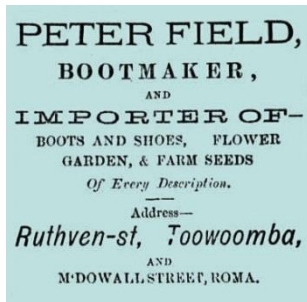
pay a private debt to Hicks, and Hicks had called Peter a 'liar and other opprobrious names'. Peter was awarded £5 damages.

In 1896 when there was a movement for shops to shut at one o'clock on Thursday afternoons so that employees could have some recreational time apart from Sundays, Peter signed an agreement in Charleville to this effect. This was the start of the five-and-a-half-day working week.

Advertising

Peter's advertising changed over the years, possibly influenced by changing styles but almost certainly by the reducing need to advertise as his business became well known, and also the costs. An example of his long, informative-style advertisements has been given on page 74. These were mainly used when he was about to open a new branch, and sometimes for a few months after he had done so.

But as his business became more established he adopted a different style, aimed at keeping his name before a public who presumably knew of his boots and shoes. For example, by December 1885, after his Toowoomba shop had been open for nearly two years, he used a much smaller advertisement.



[*Darling Downs Gazette, 5 December 1885*]

When he opened his Boonah branch in 1898, his customers already knew him through his Toowoomba shop, so he did not require such a large advertisement.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

PETER FIELD

WISHES to inform the Inhabitants of Boonah and the Surrounding Districts that he
OPENED

On SATURDAY, April 9th,

In Premises opposite the School of Arts, a BRANCH SHOP for the SALE of BOOTS and SHOES at Factory Prices for Single Pairs for CASH ONLY. Orders will also be taken for MEASURES or BESPOKE WORK, and none but best Materials used. Repairs will be well and promptly done by a Good Workman.

**Peter Field's Goods are too Well and Favourably Known to
Need much Comment.**

A TRIAL RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED. 210

[Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 26 Apr 1898]

The following advertisement is from the same paper in December 1896, after he had established his branch in Roma for the third time.

No business of public interest has been transacted at the Police Court since last issue.

TRY FIELD for repairs and boots made to order

IN consequence of the rain last night, the meeting of the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society was adjourned till Wednesday next, 23rd instant.

Here his advertisement was placed between news items which people would scan. Other advertisers used this technique as well. There were several variants of the words.

- Have you tried FIELD for Boots and Shoes (cheap and good)

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

- Yates' Reliable Seeds are the best, and can be obtained at FIELD'S

In some cases he used the slogan Field's Fine Footwear.



Advertisement in Groom's Darling Downs Book Almanac, 1905

Undoubtedly Peter realised the power of advertising. However his most unusual advertising was some of his earliest. Shortly after he opened his Roma store (for the first time, in 1885) the following appeared in the Roma newspaper.

A Roma poet gone mad

In accents low these words we speak,
Knowing our eloquence is weak
The poets wreath we yield.
But what is that when boots are tight,
And we ourselves come home at night,
And bless the genius Field.

Toowoomba fame has greeted work,
That many an able man would shirk,
And thus his praise enhance.
Field's Hessian boots and low cut shoes,
With all varieties you can choose
Give all a right good chance.

From Austria, France and Russia come
The best of boots wher'er you roam,
And this is Field's best care,

To serve all customers alike,
And on monopolies to strike,
With prices 'yond compare.

The Russian COSSACKS brave in fight,
By Field are straightway brought to light
At prices very "reasy",
And swagmen travelling on the road,
Have found there's many an irksome load
Relieved by boots so easy.

In seasons out and seasons in,
We think that FIELD is sure to win,
Because of price so reasonable.
But Ladies try his famed KID BOOTS,
And then you'll give him his first fruits,
Of competition seasonable.

Should e'er a man require a fit,
And want it right within a bit,
P. FIELD will take your measure.
For boots he makes and understands
He must employ the best known hands,
And always gives great pleasure.

And leaving boots alone just now
He sells all seeds for those who sow,
At prices the most reasonable.
And ne'er from horse seed people roam,
To catch the profits that must come
From every month that's seasonable.

In Roma just near Hawthorn-street
This generous tradesman you will meet,
If e'er you want a bargain.
And if once you've ever dealed
With the firm of PETER FIELD
You'll certainly deal there again.

Public life and community involvement

Both Peter and Sarah were well thought of in Toowoomba public circles. Vernon Redwood, an Alderman, and later Mayor, of the Toowoomba Council wrote in a reference for Nessie Field in 1909 that ‘Miss Field belongs to a highly respectable family, her father being one of Toowoomba’s most prominent citizens’. Similarly, Canon Pughe, a former Rector at St Luke’s Church of England, commented about Nessie that ‘The influence of her home and her up bringing [*sic*] leaves nothing to be desired’.

Peter appears to have enjoyed his part in public life. He took an interest in the communities where he had branches, although no doubt this could be seen as being good for business as well as being community-minded. His obituary noted that ‘there were very few citizens better versed in current problems. His knowledge of the early business life of Toowoomba was extensive’.

Some examples will serve to amplify his involvement.

In 1899 when interviewed about Federation of the colonies, he was generally supportive but was wary of removing Queensland tariffs too quickly. One of the effects of Federation was the abolition of tariffs on trade between the colonies. Before Federation, Queensland had higher average tariffs on goods imported from other colonies than did NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Peter was concerned that suddenly reducing these tariffs would make boots and shoes from other colonies cheaper.

He was a Justice of the Peace from 1902 until at least 1919, and is recorded as sitting on various local cases throughout that time, including one where the accused was charged with stealing a pair of shoes from Peter’s shop, and was committed for trial.

Peter had been part of an elected deputation of ratepayers to urge the Toowoomba Council to reconsider its plans for sewerage works at Black Gully in 1901, and then stood unsuccessfully for Council himself in 1907. His successful opponent was Job Eagles Stone whose family had emigrated from Kenilworth, Warwickshire on the same voyage of the

Indus as Peter. Job, 11 years younger than Peter, was a successful printer and bookseller in Toowoomba. After his election in 1907 he served on the Toowoomba Council on and off until 1933, including serving as Mayor of Toowoomba in 1909.

Peter was a founding member of the Toowoomba branch of the Royal Society of St George, serving on the inaugural committee in 1909. This society is a patriotic English one, fostering the love of England, its history, traditions and ideals. Its major event is a dinner to celebrate St George's Day, England's national day. The Toowoomba branch had 400 members within a year of its founding, and held social events and concerts as well as the annual dinner. The society still exists and has branches around the world.



Peter (third from right in centre row) was an inaugural member of the Council of the Toowoomba Branch of the Royal Society of St George [Toowoomba Historical Society]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Peter was also a member of the Darling Downs Lodge of the Manchester Unity International Order of Oddfellows, a social support organisation in the days before government social services and health insurance. He joined in January 1876, only a year after his arrival in Toowoomba, and remained a member all his life. One of the Oddfellows' activities was running local sports days, and Peter supported these with trophies and prizes for individual events.

He also donated a silver cup for a shooting competition between regional school cadet teams, and prizes at the Toowoomba Grammar School annual Speech Day.

In 1907 Peter entered a team in a tug-of-war competition to help the Austral Brass Band raise funds to compete in a band contest at Inverell in NSW. His team was defeated in the final by the asylum warders.

He sponsored an entrant in a Poster Ball – ‘the latest craze’ – in aid of the Toowoomba Hospital, where young women were dressed to represent their sponsor. Miss Marlay's outfit was described in detail.

Miss Marlay went as poster for Peter Field, in a beautiful evening dress of blue Mexique Bayadere silk. From each shoulder depended long streamers of blue satin ribbon with black lettering, "Peter Field, for high-class boots and shoes of every description." Across the bodice a band of the same ribbon, with "Peter Field for boots and shoes" in black letters. On the skirt a prettily-designed black shoe, with a Louis XV heel and a large silver buckle. On one shoulder were fixed a dainty pair of white shoes, and on the other a large steel slide, with a bunch of black shoelaces. In the hair a small blue shoe, with band of blue satin ribbon with "Field's" in black letters, and from the waist was suspended a chatelaine of button-hooks, shoeorns, &c. She carried a wand of blue ribbon with black lettering, surmounted with a large black shoe with silver buckle. This costume was most effective and appropriate. [The Queenslander, 10 Nov. 1900, p 990]

Both Peter and Sarah were also life-long members of the Church of England, and made substantial contributions to church life. Chapter 7 covers this area of their lives.

CHAPTER 5

THE EMPIRE HOTEL

Newspaper reports in 1896 and 1897 show that Peter Field's boot business was booming. He had about eight branches including his main Toowoomba shop, was employing between 90 and 100 people, had a yearly expenditure of about £13,000 [about \$1.9 million in 2014 dollars] including £5000 on wages and was making about 45,000 pairs of boots and shoes each year. He was in his late forties.

After his experiences during the depression earlier in the decade, he would have been acutely aware how easily a successful business could suddenly deteriorate. He may have been looking at other, more long-term, sources of income. In a thriving community, owning a hotel which would provide rent may have been an attractive proposition.

In May 1898, Peter bought two adjacent blocks of land in Ruthven Street North (now 334 Ruthven Street) opposite the railway station. However it wasn't until 1901 that he applied to the Licensing Commission for a licence to build a hotel 'estimated to cost over £2000' on the site. Peter's was one of three applications for hotels put to the Licensing Commission on the same day in October 1901, and the Commission refused them all on the grounds that the public interest did not require the new licences. There were at the time about 30 hotels in Toowoomba servicing a population of about 12,000.

Peter successfully resubmitted his application the following January, together with plans which showed the hotel would be called the Baden-Powell.

In the second Boer War in South Africa, between October 1899 and May 1900, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell of the British Army defended the town of Mafeking with about 2000 men against a force of some 8000. He became a national hero in Britain, and in Australia too – the Queensland Government declared a holiday to mark the occasion.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Later, in 1908, Baden-Powell (affectionately called B-P) was a founder of the Scouting Movement.

However when the hotel opened it was called The Empire. In the aftermath of Queen Victoria's death in 1901 and the end of the Boer War in 1902 there was a heightened feeling for the British Empire. Empire Day was established on Queen Victoria's birthday, 24 May, although this was not formally gazetted in Australia until 1905. The Empire was probably a more topical name.



Proposed Hotel Baden-Powell

[W. Hodgen and Hodgen collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland]

William Hodgen was the architect for the hotel. Hodgen was one of several Toowoomba architects whose designs have given the city a rich architectural heritage. He was born in Toowoomba in 1866 and gained experience in the Colonial Architect's Office in Brisbane and with architects in London. He returned to practise in Toowoomba in 1897, where he designed many private homes and commercial buildings, including the Empire Hotel.

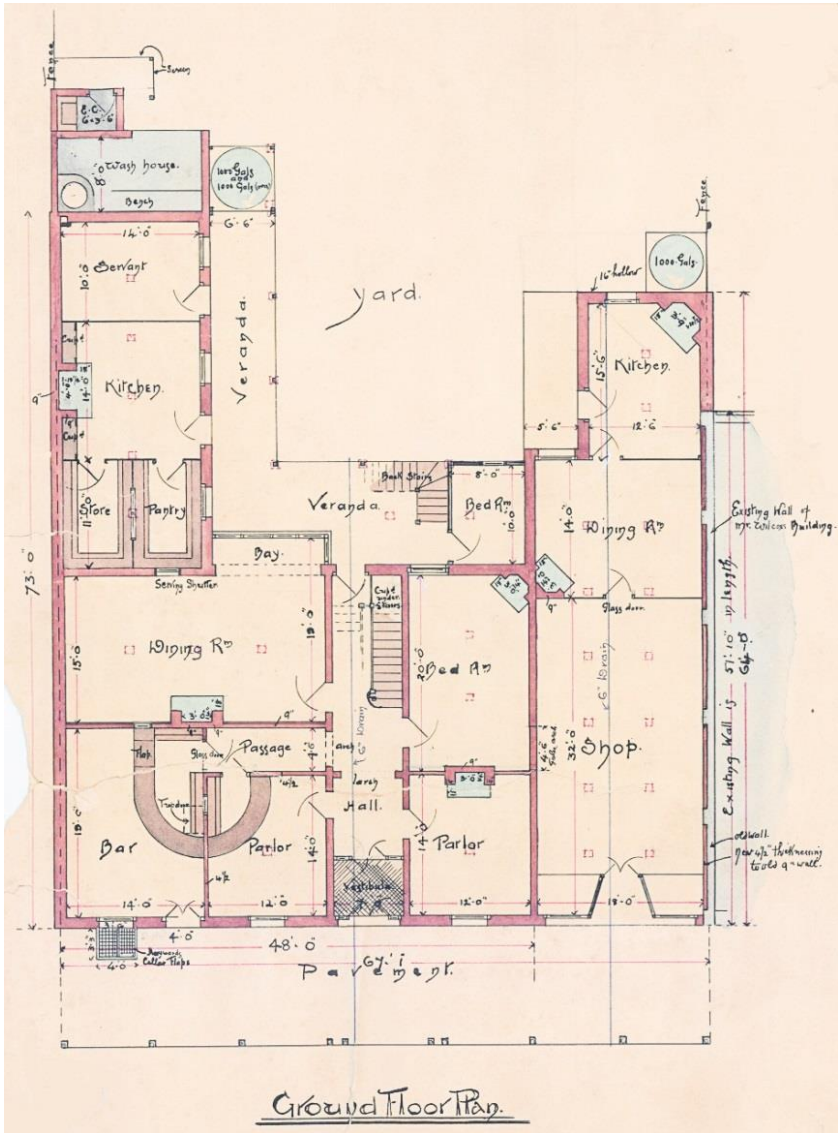
The box below reproduces a *Toowoomba Chronicle* description of the hotel about the time it opened. The building also included a shop on the ground floor, opening onto Ruthven Street. It can be seen on the plans on the following pages.

THE EMPIRE HOTEL
MR. PETER FIELD'S NEW BUILDING

... The hotel has a large frontage to Ruthven-street, and presents a splendid and commanding appearance, with a large balcony on the second story [sic] the full width of the footpath, and extending along the whole frontage. There is a spacious hall at the main entrance with the bar and the sitting-room on one side, and a sitting-room on the other. The dining-room is all that could be desired to suit the accommodation of such an hotel, being 26 ft. by 19 ft. [7.9 m × 5.8 m], and furnished with small dining tables. Opposite this table is a private bedroom. There is a covered verandah outside and along here is the kitchen with pantry and a small room fitted with a shutter that leads to the dining-room. A little further on is the wash house and other out houses, every attention being paid to the sanitary arrangements, while the stabling and yard accommodation is all that could be desired. A stair-case leads to the top story in the entrance hall. Here are located a large number of nice roomy bedrooms, every attention being paid to light and ventilation, while two attractive sitting-rooms have large glass doors leading to the verandah where a splendid view can be obtained of the surrounding neighborhood. At the rear are also a number of bedrooms, and the verandah is fitted with sliding glass panels. Here are also ladies and gentleman's bath rooms so arranged that either hot or cold baths can be indulged in. Throughout the building every care and attention has been paid for the convenience of the public, and when furnished and thoroughly going it will be one of the most up-to-date and comfortable hotels in the district. Mr W. Hodgen is the architect, and he is deserving of great praise for the manner in which the place is planned, while the contractor, Mr. W.T. Smith, has faithfully carried out his work. ... We must congratulate Mr. P. Field on his enterprise in erecting such a beautiful building that is an ornament to the town, and although at present we are all feeling the effects of the very severe drought we sincerely hope Mr. P. McHugh will do a fair share of trade in the Empire Hotel.

Toowoomba Chronicle, 6 Sep 1902, p 3

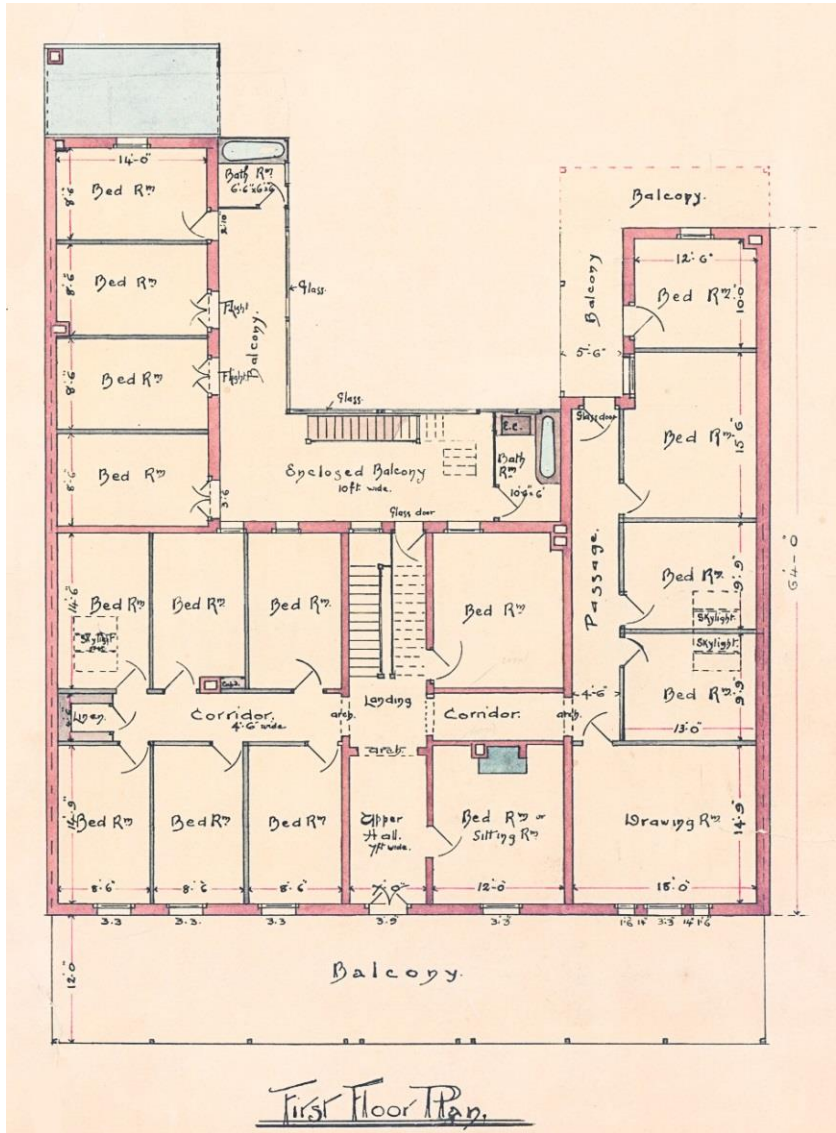
BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Ground Floor Plan.

*Empire Hotel – ground floor plan
[W. Hodgen and Hodgen collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland]*

THE EMPIRE HOTEL



Empire Hotel – first floor plan
 [W. Hodgen and Hodgen collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

After the hotel had been in operation a few years, *The Queenslander* (13 Oct 1906, p 38) wrote a glowing review. One excerpt reminds us of advances in accommodation over the last century.

Everything about its appearance indicates a well-managed, well-built, well-kept hotel. ... upstairs there are upwards of twenty handsomely furnished bedrooms, bathrooms fitted with hot and cold water (hot water being available at any hour, day or night), ...

The article also included a photo of the hotel.

Hot water occasionally caused a problem. In 1922 the architect wrote to Peter to tell him the water heater and floor had been repaired. The coil of the heater had been covered with 'an enamel like substance' from the water.



The Empire Hotel
[*The Queenslander*, 13 Oct 1906, p 25]

Peter did not run the hotel. However he owned it until 1927 and it must have produced a steady income stream.

Soon after the Empire was finished, Peter advertised a 15-year lease on it at £350 [\$47,000 in 2014 dollars] per year, with the tenant to furnish it. By December 1902 it was leased to John T Brigg, an adventurous man who had taken part in many of the early gold rushes in NSW, and then made a life in bridge and general construction, the pastoral industry and gold escorting before taking up running hotels. He ran the Empire himself for about seven years before selling the lease.

Some of the other licensees had their lease recorded on the hotel title, and are shown in the Timeline.

Peter sold the Empire to Henry McGoldrick in 1927. McGoldrick was later a long-serving licensee, from 1934 to 1948.

The Toowoomba Chronicle related a story from the early 1930s, a few years after Peter had sold the hotel. At that time the hotel was managed by two women, Alice Ainsley and Gertie Steer.

Memories of the pub extend also to a meat safe and a 'guard dog' cockatoo. The customers had to walk out the back door, past the kitchen, to get to the old toilets close to the back lane. On the way they had to pass a big pine meat safe, with gauze sides and back. There was no kitchen fridge in those days and the cook had to place cooked joints of beef and so on in this safe to cool. There was trouble from time to time as hungry customers helped themselves to food. That is, until the local big white cocky was moved to sit right alongside the safe. Cocky was a good talker, being taught by the owners as well as the permanent customers. Whenever a hungry fellow tried to invade the unlocked safe, Cocky would set up a screech and call 'Gertie, Gertie, the b-----ds are into the safe!' Gertie would be out in a flash and the culprit sent on his way. [Toowoomba Chronicle, 18 May 1993]

In July 1994, the owner, Jimmy Aspromourgos, closed the Empire Hotel. He blamed the introduction of random breath testing and the establishment of sports clubs for its demise. The hotel was demolished in 2004, and the site is now a pizza shop and a fitness centre.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Unfortunately the elegant architecture of the Empire Hotel has been lost.



The site of the Empire Hotel, 334 Ruthven St, in 2015 [John Field]

CHAPTER 6

KENILWORTH

A house on Tick Hill

It is clear that Peter was considering his retirement from the boot and shoe trade for some years before it happened in 1910. He had bought land for the Empire Hotel in 1898 and opened the hotel in 1902. He disposed of his most distant shops in 1900 and kept only the closer ones of Boonah, Pittsworth and Dalby.

By early 1904 he had bought five acres of land at Tick Hill, on the northern edge of the town near the escarpment of the range. It had commanding views over Toowoomba, and was less than half a mile [750 m] from Mt Lofty lookout. There were stunning views over the main range with intersecting gorges and valleys to keep the eyes absorbed.



View over the rear of Kenilworth towards Toowoomba [Wensley family photo]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

At the time, Mt Lofty was called Tick Hill, probably because in 1879, an Inspector of Schools, John Kilham, had built a house in the area and called it Tick Hill after his home village of Tickhill in south Yorkshire. The area was referred to as both Tick Hill and Mt Lofty from about 1906, and both names were in use throughout Peter's lifetime.

Peter's land was on the corner of Stuart Street and Rifle Range Road. At the time the house was built, Peter and Sarah were living at Daphne, further down Stuart Street. We do not know who designed the Mt Lofty house. William Hodgen, who had designed the Empire Hotel for Peter, later drew up plans to enclose an extra room underneath the house, but the initial design does not appear in Hodgen's published body of work. But there are other possibilities: for several years Peter served on the St Luke's Church Parish Council with another well-known Toowoomba architect, Harry Marks, and so probably knew him well.

Peter called the house Kenilworth, after the town of this name just over 20 km from where he grew up in Rugby. Perhaps he visited it as a young man and was impressed. Certainly the ruined castle at Kenilworth is noted for its beauty. It seems the house was finished in 1911, since Sarah's sister, Ruth, and her husband stayed at Kenilworth with Peter and Sarah in October that year. A month later, Peter, Sarah and Nessie registered this address with the electoral office.



Kenilworth in its original form [Wensley family photo]

KENILWORTH

Peter and Sarah's Kenilworth was a fine example of what has been called 'the larger early house' in a classification of Toowoomba house styles. It was indeed a 'splendid, substantial residence'. Built on a block which sloped towards the city, the house was built on stumps, tall at the front and shorter at the back, with wooden lattice-work concealing the space under the house. The front had an imposing central staircase with a decorative fretwork gable topped with a finial; over the years the stairs were the scene of many group photographs. The staircase led to a wide verandah encircling most of the house and featuring an ornate cast iron lacework balustrade. As the house faced west onto Stuart Street, the front had canvas roll-up blinds to ward off the sun. Many of these details can be seen in the photograph opposite.



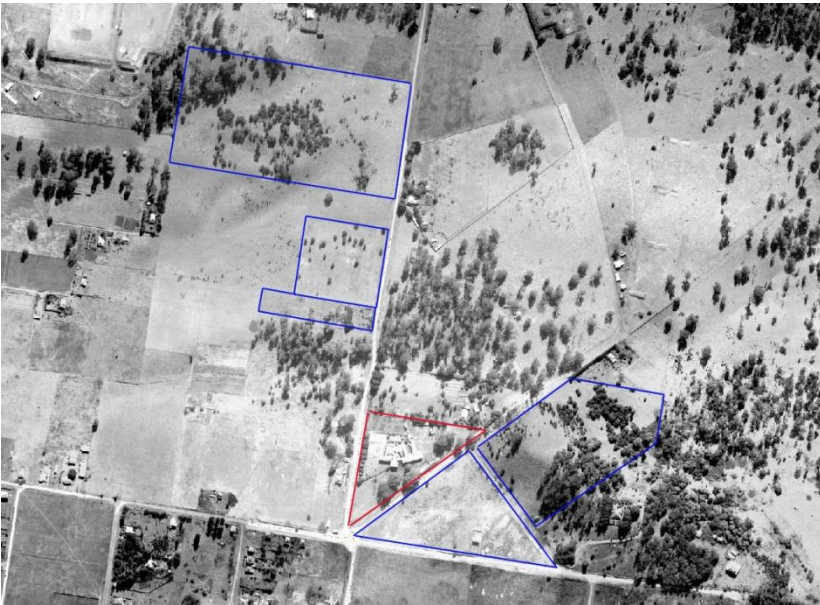
Kenilworth from the air, 1946. The original house can be seen with its stairway leading to the garden. The L-shaped wing to the south of the original house was added in Peter's time. [Toowoomba Regional Council TRMAPS system]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

No details have been found about the interior of the house, but external photographs suggest that there was a central hall with rooms on each side, at least at the front.

Peter bought up land north of Kenilworth along Stuart Street during 1911-15, and some of this may have been used to graze cattle, although no records have been found about this.

Later, in 1924, he also bought land to the east of Kenilworth on Rifle Range Road. These blocks are shown below. They were eventually disposed of in the 1940s after Peter's death.



*Kenilworth (outlined in red) and surrounding areas owned by Peter Field (blue) superimposed on a 1946 aerial photograph.
[Toowoomba Regional Council TRMAPS system]*

The heyday of guesthouses

It is not clear what first prompted Peter and Sarah to have paying guests staying at Kenilworth, or whether this happened from the time they first lived there. Perhaps he was emboldened by the number of guests staying at the Empire Hotel.

Just as the railways had opened up southern Queensland allowing Peter to establish his boot shops, so the railways made the country accessible to everyday Australians to go on holidays. But they had a secondary effect: they could deliver many people to a single place over a short period, and the consequent economies of scale sustained tourism development. In this way, the coming of the railways led to the emergence of guesthouses. This happened from the 1880s on.

Guesthouses were often away from the main commercial centres of towns. Guests at Kenilworth had to make a slow trip by horse and buggy from the railway station, although by the mid-1920s Kenilworth was only a 'three minute walk' from the bus route to Mt Lofty. A 1938 tourist brochure showed the 30 minute bus trip from the Town Hall cost four pence [\$1.40 in 2014 dollars] each way.

Guesthouses were temperance establishments with an emphasis on common decency and domesticity. So they were places where whole families might stay for a week or two, or even longer – at Kenilworth some stayed for months at a time.

Most guesthouses started out their lives as large family homes, and had additional wings tacked on as necessary. They were usually run by women, with a cook and kitchen staff, maids to make the beds and clean the rooms, and maybe additional staff for washing, grounds maintenance and so on.

As it was a time when some public formality was still observed, and expected, guesthouses usually ran to established routines. Meals were usually substantial, with a choice of foods. Guests would smarten up for dinner, and for the time of their stay they formed a loose community, often returning to the same place year after year. Various activities were arranged for the guests – tennis or croquet during the

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

day, and cards, singing around the piano, dances and fancy dress dances at night. Penny Barrs, Peter's grand-daughter, recalled the old Kenilworth gramophone later entertaining the family at her home in Dalby. Popular records were Gilbert and Sullivan operas and Dame Clara Butt singing 'Land of Hope and Glory' in her deep contralto voice.

Judging from photographs and newspaper reports of Kenilworth guests and their activities, Kenilworth was, in many respects, a typical guesthouse for the time. Toowoomba promoted itself as a mountain retreat for Brisbane – the 'Simla of Queensland'. Just as Sydney had the Blue Mountains, Melbourne the Dandenongs and Adelaide the Mt Lofty Ranges, so Brisbane had Toowoomba to escape the heat and humidity of summer. In 1911 when Kenilworth was built, *Pugh's Almanac* notes 15 boarding houses in Toowoomba. Kenilworth had not been listed by 1920 when the Almanac dropped the classification. Presumably it didn't need advertising this way.

Kenilworth guests

Kenilworth immediately became a leading Toowoomba guesthouse, attracting guests from all over Queensland and from interstate. It became noted for its fine cuisine and quality accommodation.

The first advertisement found for Kenilworth is at the end of 1913, when it was advertised under 'Board and residence, health resorts, invalid homes' in the *Brisbane Courier*.

Visitors to Toowoomba. "Kenilworth," Mount Lofty, beautifully situated, overlooking city, wide verandas, large rooms, every home comfort. Terms and particulars, apply Mrs. Field.

The advertisement appeared every few days for a couple of months, and was then rested for a while.

For the next ten years or so, Peter and Sarah advertised in the Brisbane paper using the same strategy, although in 1923 the *Courier* changed its category to the more upmarket Resorts.

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From 1915, regular lists of guests staying at Kenilworth appeared in the Brisbane papers. Coincidentally, the first guests mentioned are Mrs Harry Field of Sandgate and Miss Field – not known to be related to Peter and Sarah. But it was only in the 1920s that such listings became a common occurrence. Most of the early guests came from Brisbane, and some stayed for lengthy periods of time. In February 1922, Mrs AD Walsh and her children returned to Brisbane after a stay of several months at Kenilworth. There are records of guests from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and even from overseas.



Kenilworth with extension [Barrs family photograph]

At some stage an extra wing was added to the original building, and later extended. Although it lacked some of the charm of the original building, it enabled Kenilworth to house up to 50 guests.

From 1911 until the middle of World War II Kenilworth witnessed a very turbulent time in Australia's history, covering both World Wars and the Great Depression of the 1930s with its mass unemployment. Yet the social pages of the newspapers of the time record a constant stream of guests.

It has been suggested that escape from everyday worries was one of the main reasons for the popularity of many activities in the spheres of

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

sport, entertainment and outdoor life. Guesthouses were relatively cheap compared to other forms of holiday accommodation and could be afforded by many. Added to this, society was changing, and outdoor pursuits were no longer the preserve of just the well-to-do. Even technology played a part, with the advent of the box Brownie camera creating a new mass market for photography. And of course, the increasing availability of cars enabled more people to travel where they wished.

The last Kenilworth guests noted in the social pages were in May 1941, a month after a newly wed couple spent their honeymoon there.

Life at Kenilworth

Kenilworth was blessed with large eucalypts which were remnants of the original forests in the area, and guests enjoyed walking along the range, both for the tranquillity of the bush and the spectacular views. Bushwalking was becoming increasingly popular at the time and Kenilworth was ideally suited to it.

Fetes and garden parties were also a feature at Kenilworth. In November 1922 a fete was held to raise funds for the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. According to the *Brisbane Courier*, it was an unqualified success, raising about £100 [\$7750 in 2014 dollars]. Peter was part of the committee organising it, and Nessie was a 'capable secretary'. Kenilworth lent itself to pony rides and swings, and a tennis tournament was arranged as part of the fete. Many of the activities have not changed much over the intervening century – gaily coloured stalls for refreshments, sweets, produce and flowers, soft drinks and linen. But a couple of the prizes in the raffle would now be unusual – a calf and a rooster.

Sarah and Nessie were gracious hosts for garden parties, and a photo of guests enjoying tea and small cakes survives. Although Nessie married Jack Wensley in 1917 she remained actively involved with Kenilworth.

Peter and Sarah's grand-daughter, Marjorie DuBarry, remembered enjoying the children's playground at Kenilworth when she was a child. There was a swinging boat, swings and a see-saw, and she thought it ahead of its time in having these facilities. There were also pony rides for children and two tennis courts, and in the early 1930s a billiard table was added.



Garden party for guests at Kenilworth; Nessie in the middle of the front table, Sarah behind her to the left [Wensley family photograph]

Sundays would have been different from the other days of the week. Sarah was a lifelong member of the Church of England, and had a deep concern for the spiritual development of children. When she moved to Kenilworth she found no local Sunday Schools, so she started one at Kenilworth for local children. Some of the staff were involved as teachers. We will examine this aspect of Sarah's life in more detail in the next chapter.

Kenilworth kept its own chooks and cows to provide eggs and milk. Peter became a registered dairyman from 1912, having acquired a cattle

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brand as early as 1904. His herd included a bull, well-known in the district for escaping on amorous adventures. Perhaps this was 'Pearl King', a young bull which had won first prizes at both the Crow's Nest and Toowoomba Shows, which Peter bought for 25 guineas in April 1915. He sold it again three years later for 27 guineas. Peter was still listed as a dairyman in *Pugh's Almanac* in 1919 when the final listing of 'registered dairymen' appeared.



Peter Field with his cattle, taken in a yard behind Kenilworth [Wensley family photo]

The photo above shows Peter wearing leather leggings. Marjorie DuBarry recalled that he always wore these and when he stopped wearing them the *Toowoomba Chronicle* ran a humorous piece about his 'major operation'.

Peter was seen regularly in Toowoomba going about business for Kenilworth. Several times each week he went to the Bank of NSW, and each week he bought supplies at the Downs Co-op Store, a large

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discount grocery store established in 1918 by the Dairy Co-operative. Peter held shares in both businesses. Maurice French relates that the Co-op's distinctive feature was a 90-metre-long counter. Younger members of the 30-40 staff serving customers would relish running and sliding on the floor polished each day with sawdust and kerosene.

It took quite a few staff to support the guests at Kenilworth. The front staircase proved the perfect place for a staff photograph, shown below, as it did for guests on other occasions. It would not have been an easy life for the staff. Electricity did not reach the suburbs of Toowoomba until about 1913, and as Kenilworth was on the very edge of town, it was probably somewhat later. Even then it may have only been for lighting in the early years. Gas for lighting however had been available



*Sarah and Nessie (at bottom of stairs) with Kenilworth staff
[Wensley family photograph]*

in central Toowoomba for 30 years when Kenilworth was built, although it was not until 1926 that advertisements for Kenilworth included 'gas in all rooms'. So for many years the cook would have had to contend with a wood stove which had to be lit early in the morning

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before breakfast could be cooked, and then endure a hot kitchen for much of the day.

The cook at Kenilworth for many years was Daisy Chapman. Her sister Elsie was a housemaid. In the early 1930s Daisy alleged she caught a chill through leaving the hot kitchen and going out onto a cool verandah. The chill turned into pleurisy and after some weeks in hospital she developed a thrombosis in her leg. She attributed the thrombosis to the pleurisy. After much court discussion she was granted workers' compensation until she was fit for work again. Daisy and Elsie eventually left Kenilworth to set up their own guesthouse, called Panorama, in Alford Street, Toowoomba.

Fifty guests generate a lot of clothing and linen needing to be washed. Australian laundries took a long time to be modernised and Kenilworth was probably little different. Washing day would have been hard work, and meant heating water to boiling in a copper over a wood fire, washing the clothes using soap and a stout stick to repeatedly dunk them in the boiling water, lifting them out into troughs for rinsing in cold water, manoeuvring them through a mangle to squeeze out the water and finally hanging them on a line to dry, no matter what the weather conditions.

We know that some members of staff were included in at least some of the social events for guests. Press reports of fancy dress dances in the 1930s include some of the staff among the lists of those dressing up. This is in line with the family-friendly atmosphere which guesthouses engendered. And we may depend that when Peter organised the Peace Bonfire at Mt Lofty as part of a chain of fires around Toowoomba at the end of the First World War, both the guests and the staff joined in the celebrations.

Sarah's death

In February 1926 Sarah suffered a stroke. Nessie and Jack Wensley looked after her at their home in Mary Street, Toowoomba, for about ten weeks, until she died, aged 69 years, on 20 April. Her funeral left

Nessie and Jack's house for the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery where she was buried.

Peter had inscribed on her grave

She did what she could

And was beloved by all who knew her.



Sarah in Melbourne c. 1923 with her daughter-in-law Irene Field and (from left) grandchildren Peter, David, Dorothy, Frank (Tom) and Daphne [Field family photo]

After her mother's death, Nessie took over Sarah's role in the running of Kenilworth, although her son Colin would have been only seven years old at the time. Advertisements under 'Resorts' in the *Brisbane Courier* now read

Toowoomba – Kenilworth. Mount Lofty, ideal position. Superior rooms, second to none. Tennis courts, garage, sports ground, gas in all rooms and verandabs. Kenilworth will in the future be run as in the past. Manageress, Mrs Wensley. For terms and particulars, apply to P. Field, Kenilworth, Mount Lofty, Toowoomba.

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Later in that same year, both the *Brisbane Courier* and the *Queenslander* carried a publicity article about Toowoomba, which read in part ‘At the approach to Mt Lofty on the city side is Kenilworth, admirably managed by Miss Field, and one of the most popular guesthouses in the district’.



Nessie, Peter and one of the dogs
[Wensley family photograph]

Susan Emma Filce

In May 1930, four years after Sarah's death, Peter married Susan Emma Filce. Peter was 78 at the time and Susan was 43.

Susan was born in Croydon, south of London, in September 1886. Her father, John Robert Filce, was a carpenter, and he and his wife, Catherine Elizabeth née Ash, had ten children. Susan was the third.



The Filce family c. 1897. Susan, aged about 9 years, is at top right.
[Sheila Rolland]

Like many young girls of her time, Susan was a domestic servant from an early age. In 1901, aged 14, she was one of three domestic servants working for a married couple and their three sons in Croydon. Ten years later she was still a domestic servant, but now living at home with her parents and seven of her siblings.

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However by the time she was 38, in 1924, she was a dressmaker, and had decided to emigrate to Australia. She left London at the beginning of December that year, travelling on the *Hobsons Bay*. This was a new ship, less than three years old. The ship was one of five ‘Bay’ ships built for the England – Australia run, and sailed via the Suez Canal. They were essentially one-class ships carrying 720 third class passengers and 12 first class ones. Their publicity boasted amenities similar to a first class hotel ashore, including ‘spacious and airy public rooms for the use



The lounge on the Hobsons Bay
[Björn Larsson, Maritime Timetable Images]

of one and all’, ‘broad expansive decks for games and exercise’ and ‘free cinema shows, dancing, deck games and concerts, and in the tropics, swimming’. Passengers found the voyage ‘all too short’. It must have been a very different voyage for Susan to those of Peter Field and the Mullins before her.

After calling at Perth and Adelaide, the *Hobsons Bay* arrived in Melbourne in the middle of a maritime strike which had isolated Tasmania for a week. The Prime Minister, Stanley Bruce, arranged for the *Hobsons Bay* to sail to the mouth of the Tamar River near

Launceston to pick up stranded tourists and return them to Melbourne. The ship then continued on to Sydney and Brisbane, arriving there on 21 January 1925 after a voyage of seven weeks.

Susan found work as a dressmaker at Finney, Isles and Co. in Brisbane. Usually called just 'Finneys', this was a well-established early version of a department store, with branches in various Queensland country towns. The firm was eventually purchased by David Jones in 1955.



Susan Filce in Brisbane, c. 1927
[Sheila Rolland and Yvonne Erwood]

Like many retailing firms, Finneys made many of the clothes it sold, and would regularly send its dressmakers to regional towns to attend to the fitting of their clients. As early as the 1880s it had enlightened

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conditions for their staff: the 'work rooms where numerous girls were sitting at their sewing machines' were well ventilated, a dining room was provided for the staff with 'a servant ... who will cook anything in the adjoining kitchen that the employee may require'. Susan Filce became a 'cutter', a senior dressmaker who had her own regular clients. She must have been a highly competent dressmaker.

In 1927 there are reports in the social pages of her attendance at parties with others of the Finneys dressmaking staff, and of her helping on an ice-cream stall at the Clayfield Baptist Church fete. She lived in a three-bedroom house near the Toowong railway station, most probably sharing it with others.

Susan moved from Brisbane to Toowoomba in late 1928 or early 1929 to take up a position as dressmaker at Kenilworth. She was then about 42, not quite a year older than Peter's daughter, Nessie. We do not have much information about Susan's time at Kenilworth as a dressmaker. However her niece and grand-niece remember her from a later time as hardworking, and a good cook. These qualities, along with her dressmaking skills, must have been valued at Kenilworth.

Fancy dress dances were a popular pastime at Kenilworth around this time. Some of these were reported as impromptu occasions, while some took place at specific times such as New Year's Eve.

It reflects on the homely nature of guesthouses at the time that the costumes do not sound like the racy ones associated with the 1920s. Although there were a couple of Flappers, costumes like Nurse, Sunflower, Pavlova, King of clubs and School mistress were more common.

At the New Year's Eve fancy dress dance at the end of 1929 the judges for the evening were Peter Field and Susan Filce, the first time their names were reported together.

May 1930 was an eventful month for Peter. On May 13 he won £5000 [\$389,000 in 2014 dollars] in the Queensland lottery, called the Golden Casket. Peter's obituary stated that his two main hobbies in life were the Golden Casket and Tattersalls lottery in Tasmania. When he won

he showed no concern and went about his everyday life as if nothing had happened.

Then on 24 May 1930, Peter and Susan were married at St Luke's Church, with Peter's sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Ann and David Booker, as witnesses. There does not appear to be a report of the wedding in the Toowoomba press, possibly reflecting societal disapproval of a respected member of the community marrying someone nearly half his age. Susan took over Nessie's role in managing Kenilworth with Peter, and together they continued running it for the next six years.

Family anecdotes suggest that a rift occurred between Peter's children around this time. It must have been a difficult situation for all involved.



Susan and Peter playing Table Bobs on the verandah at Kenilworth [Susan Swan]

The following year, Peter and Susan opened a new billiard room at Kenilworth with a dance and card night, and among the guests were some of Susan's friends from her work days in Brisbane.

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Life at Kenilworth continued on much as before; in early 1933 the children staying there put on a concert to raise funds for a home for crippled children, and the newspapers continued to list many of the guests each week. This changed in 1936.

Peter's death

Peter died of diabetes-related nephritis and cardiac failure on 26 June 1936 at Kenilworth. He was 84. His obituary noted that he had enjoyed 'customary robust health' up until a few weeks before his death, but despite the best attention from 'medical men and nurses' he failed to rally after a brief illness. He was buried next to Sarah in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery the next day, as was customary at the time, after a funeral at St Luke's Church. Susan was the informant for his death certificate, and it is apparent that Peter had maintained the story of his parents being Peter Field and Elizabeth Downing until the end of his life. His grave is inscribed 'In memory of my loving husband'.

Peter's last Will was drawn up in March 1936, three months before his death. It was written in a shaky and angular hand, certainly not Peter's, on a pre-printed will form. Peter's signature, despite his age, is almost indistinguishable from those of 45 years previously. The witnesses were two housemaids at Kenilworth, Maude Wecker and Ada Volker.

The will appointed Susan Field and George Nutt as Executors and Trustees, and then continued:

I give devise and bequeath to my wife all money of mine at the time of my death whether at current account Fixed Deposit or on hand for her sole use also my live stock with liberty to buy and resell, and as to all my real estate and all furniture and personal effects of mine used in my boarding house I devise the same to my trustees upon trust to hold the same for my wife for her life or while she shall continue to keep the said boarding house. And after her death or should she relinquish the keeping of the said boarding house I direct my trustees to sell and convert into money my said real estate furniture and effects (other than that which is the personal property of my wife) and shall pay and divide the proceeds to and amongst my said wife and my two

sons Cyril Henry Vivian, Raymond Stanley and my daughter Nessie Evelyn in equal shares. And I direct that should my wife re-marry my trustees shall sell and convert and distribute my estate as hereinbefore directed. And I direct that in the event of my wife dying before the final distribution I desire the whole of my estate to belong to my three children in equal shares.



Peter's and Sarah's graves at Toowoomba Cemetery [John Field 2014]

Peter's Will was submitted for Probate in November 1936. Peter's estate on his death included the several blocks of land at Mt Lofty shown in the diagram on page 102, furniture, harness, gardening implements,

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livestock, debts due by boarders, cash in hand, a credit balance in his current account, a fixed deposit at the bank, and the shares in the Downs Co-op Store and the Downs Co-operative Dairy Association. For Probate and Succession Duty purposes the land was assessed at £3946 and the remainder at £2910 [respectively \$355,000 and \$262,000 in 2014 dollars, or \$617,000 in total].

Affidavits from the bank teller and the Downs Co-operative Stores manager asserted that Peter was in a 'fit and proper condition' to conduct all kinds of business, and had done so until about a month before his death.

Probate was granted in February 1937. In June that year, Susan returned briefly to England on the *Largs Bay*, a sister ship to the *Hobsons Bay* on which she had come to Australia. It seems likely that she went to see her father, as he died while she was in England. She returned to Australia in December 1937, sailing with Elizabeth Nutt, the wife of George Nutt, the other Executor of Peter's Will. George ran a grocery and hardware business in Russell Street, Toowoomba. George and Elizabeth were probably friends of Peter and Susan.

When it came to acting on the Will, there were problems interpreting precisely its legal meaning. It contained contradictory statements, for example, there are two statements about what was to happen in the event of Susan's death. It was unclear what the 'final distribution' referred to. There were other more moot legal issues.

Susan, George Nutt and the three children took the case to the Supreme Court in Brisbane to get a determination of the meaning. Despite the fact that the case is described as 'Susan Emma Field and George Nutt (Plaintiffs) v. Cyril Henry Vivian Field, Raymond Stanley Field and Nessie Evelyn Wensley (Defendants)', Susan and the children agreed together that the case should proceed.

The case was heard in October 1938 by three judges including Justice William Webb who was later the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland and then took a seat on the High Court of Australia.

The judges decided that Susan was entitled to the money and livestock at the date of Peter's death. The fate of Kenilworth and the other real estate was contingent on which event happened first: Susan giving up the keeping of the boarding house, remarrying or dying. There were other minor conditions covering increases to the estate since the date of Peter's death.

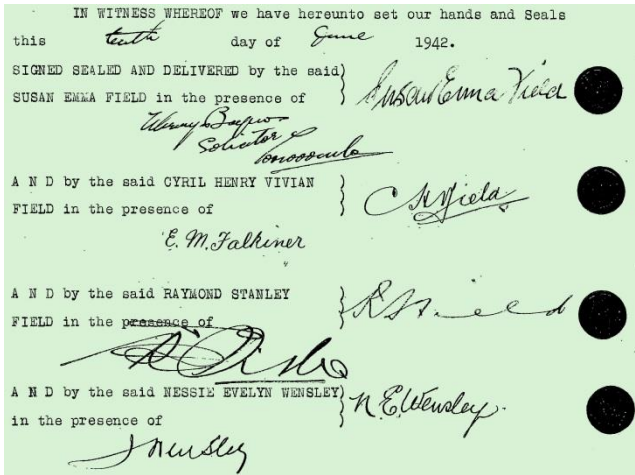
In broad terms, Susan would have received half of Peter's estate and Cyril, Nessie and Raymond would have shared the other half. If the valuations made after Peter's death were realised, Susan would have received £2229 [about \$200,000 in 2014 dollars] from cash deposits and sale of the livestock. She and the three children would have shared the proceeds of the rest of the estate, giving them a payment of £1157 [\$104,000] each. Whether the valuations made after Peter's death were realised is not known.

It is interesting to compare this settlement with a comment in Noel Field's 1993 booklet about the Field family. 'The story goes that the family were very put out by [Peter's marriage to Susan], as Peter's estate would pass out of the family, as indeed it appears to have done.' Given that Susan still had to run Kenilworth after Peter's death, the settlement does not tend to support Noel's comment.

Once Probate had been declared on a Will, accounts for the administration of the estate had to be filed within fifteen months. However the uncertainties about Peter's Will meant that a series of delays was agreed to by the Court, and finally the necessity to file accounts was dispensed with. Susan and Peter's three children signed an affidavit exonerating the administrators of the estate from filing accounts for the estate in June 1942, once Kenilworth had been sold.

This ended the matter as far as the Supreme Court was concerned, but it deprived us today of knowledge about how the estate was finally settled. However, as shown on the next page, it did provide the rare event of all four signatures on the one page.

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Signatures of Susan, Cyril, Raymond and Nessie on the affidavit agreeing to 'release exonerate and discharge' the Executors from filing accounts for Peter's estate

Kenilworth after Peter's death

Kenilworth was not easy to sell. After Peter died, Susan continued running the guesthouse for another six years. While it is unclear what effect the War had on house and land prices in Toowoomba, the Australian Government used its wartime powers to fix rents at 1939 levels, and then house and land prices at 1942 valuations plus ten per cent. In 1939 Kenilworth was put up for auction but not sold. Again in 1940 it was offered for private sale as a going concern, together with the 51 acres around it which Peter had bought earlier, but again it did not sell. So the land was sold separately during 1942-43, with seven acres going to Nessie Wensley, presumably as part of her settlement from Peter's Will. In 1944, five of these acres were requisitioned by the Toowoomba Council for park purposes, and are now part of Horn Park in Stuart Street.

In 1942 Kenilworth itself was sold to the Red Cross and renamed the WT Robertson Red Cross Convalescent Home, for soldiers in need.

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KENILWORTH GUEST HOUSE

Mt. Lofty, Toowoomba

“ KENILWORTH ”
(on the Heights)

IS THE LEADING HOUSE
IN TOOWOOMBA.

SECOND TO NONE.
IDEAL POSITION.

Large Airy Rooms and
Verandahs.

Everything Up-to-Date.

Beautifully-Lighted Billiard
Room with Full-size Table.

TENNIS COURT.

WIRELESS.

'BUS TERMINUS.

Personal Supervision—Excellent Cuisine.

Terms:

**9/- Per Day—From £2/10/- to £2/15/-
Per Week.**

S. Field - - - Proprietress

“ Kenilworth,” Mt. Lofty,
TOOWOOMBA.

'Phone 961. 'Phone 961.

*Advertisement for Kenilworth in 1938, from a Toowoomba Tourist Bureau booklet
[State Library of South Australia]*

Walter T Robertson had been the Chairman of the Queensland Red Cross for 25 years and had set the organisation up so that it could play a substantial role during World War II. The Home accommodated 24 patients, and was first filled with soldiers from New Guinea in 1943. It

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must have been a wonderful change for them after the rigours of war there.

Susan moved out of Kenilworth once it was sold. She returned to England, where she had been born, in 1945 and lived the rest of her life there. We return to Susan later.

In 1945 the Red Cross set up a scheme to mind children of former prisoners of war while their parents went on holidays, and some of these children were housed at Kenilworth.



Kenilworth as a Red Cross convalescent home, c. 1943
[Toowoomba Historical Society]

In 1946 the demand for convalescent homes was dropping, and the Australian Government bought Kenilworth from the Red Cross. It was initially run by the Department of Social Services as a Rehabilitation Hostel for ex-servicemen and women. The following year the patient mix was extended to civilians, and Kenilworth was used to treat invalids who suffered from ‘certain physical and mental ailments to regain

confidence in themselves and rehabilitate them to take their places again at work?.

In 1951, Australia suffered a polio epidemic. Toowoomba was particularly badly affected, with more than 180 people in hospital as a result. The Commonwealth Government handed over Kenilworth to Toowoomba Hospital to house the overflow of polio patients. It was then called the Mt Lofty Centre. By 1954 the epidemic was over and the Commonwealth transferred the title to the Queensland Government for the Toowoomba Hospital Board. In 1957, the building was renovated to accommodate 100 men suffering from senile dementia. This became the Mt Lofty Nursing Home.

In 1993, Kenilworth was demolished to make way for the new Mount Lofty Heights Nursing Home. A sketch of the original Kenilworth hangs in the Nursing Home.



Water colour sketch of Kenilworth by Jim Deignan which hangs in the entrance hall to Mt Lofty Heights Nursing Home [used with permission]

Susan's life after Peter's death

Life would not have been easy for Susan following Peter's death. Peter had been closely involved in the running of Kenilworth, purchasing supplies at the Downs Co-op Store, doing the banking, looking after the cows and horses. Suddenly, Susan found herself without Peter's support, but continued to run Kenilworth as a guesthouse for six years until it was sold in 1942. She then moved into a house in Kenric Street, Toowoomba (now demolished) and remained there until she returned to England on the *Stirling Castle* in 1945.



Susan in Toowoomba, May 1943
[Sheila Rolland]

Susan's voyage was an eventful one. The *Stirling Castle* was one of a series of ships used to bring British troops to Australia to take part in the final stages of the Second World War in the Pacific, travelling in both directions via the Panama Canal. Susan probably joined the ship in Brisbane on 27 March 1945. It carried troops and other passengers returning to the UK, travelling via Sydney, Wellington, the Panama Canal and Bermuda and thence to Liverpool. Several reports of the trip exist, and the description below draws on two of them.

In Wellington the families were treated by the locals to a wonderful picnic in a park, with the children plied with ice-cream. 'We were pitied as going to a place of privation, war time England.' Meanwhile the ship was loaded with chilled lamb. 'I remember watching the loading of the muslin-wrapped carcasses.'

From Wellington, the *Stirling Castle* took a southerly route to Panama to avoid Japanese submarines. At one stage the engines broke down and the ship was becalmed for several days rolling in the South Pacific swell as the engineers 'ominously banged away down below'. At Bermuda the passengers heard about VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945, when the Allies accepted Germany's surrender). 'The ship's Captain was not apparently known for his jollity, and would let no one ashore for celebrations. We watched all the fireworks and illuminations from the decks. I still have my Victory tea menu, very ordinary. Listening to relatives later we had the worst of the deal, unlike our "starving friends".'

From Bermuda the ship joined a convoy for the journey across the Atlantic, where it had a brush with an enemy submarine. 'I remember the depth charges rolling off the decks.'

Susan finally reached Liverpool on 20 May 1945. She initially stayed with her eldest sister, Catherine, in Beckenham in Kent. In 1954 and 1964-65 Susan is recorded as living nearby, although at different addresses each time.

Susan's niece, Sheila Rolland, and great-niece, Yvonne Erwood, remember their 'Aunt Sue' from occasional visits over this time as a

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hardworking, kind aunt, and, unlike some of her sisters, she was usually serious 'although she could be funny'. She was an excellent cook.

She died, aged 89 years, of bronchopneumonia and influenza on 22 February 1976 at a nursing home, Farleigh View, at Addington in Surrey. Her ashes were laid to rest in the Garden of Remembrance at the Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery, London.



Susan with her niece and some of her sisters, 1951
From left: Florence Triggs, Sheila Rolland, Susan Field, Catherine Twaites,
Alice Huddleston [Yvonne Erwood]

CHAPTER 7

THE CHURCH

Both Peter and Sarah were introduced to church at an early age. One of the roles of the school teacher at the Rugby Union Workhouse, where Peter spent his childhood, was to teach the children the principles of Christian religion and to escort them to church. This was most likely to St Andrew's Church of England, about half a mile from the workhouse. Later statements from Peter make it apparent that he had been a member of St James' Church of England since his arrival in Toowoomba in 1875.

Sarah too was involved with St James' from the time her family returned to Toowoomba from Wyaga Station where her father had died. She sang in the choir at St James' on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone on 1 May 1869. She was just twelve years old.

Early history of St James' and St Luke's Churches of England

The origins of St James' and St Luke's churches are not the subject of this chapter, but a brief history will give some context to later events.

In 1854 Reverend Benjamin Glennie bought land at the site of the present-day St Luke's Church. Three years later a wooden slab room was built on the site for use as a schoolroom during the week and as a church on Sundays.

With the arrival of the railway at Toowoomba in 1867, the town centre moved further north towards the station. James Taylor, MLA for Western Downs and a wealthy landowner, offered land for a church nearer the centre, at the site of the present St James' church. There was dissension among the parishioners about the best site for a permanent church, and eventually the bishop decided on the St James' site. St James' was built and opened in 1869. Services still continued in the wooden building on the St Luke's site.

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St Luke's original slab hut schoolroom, built 1857
[John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, neg. 36932]

The church erected at St James' was originally designed for the flat land of the St Luke's site, not the sloping site it was built on. Its rubble foundations led to problems with the building, as it tended to slip down the hill. Over the next 35 years there was a continual need for extra funds for repairs. One early suggestion was to sell or lease the land at the St Luke's site to repair or replace St James'. The St Luke's congregation opposed this and proposed subdividing the Toowoomba parish into two. For a variety of reasons this did not happen at the time. As we shall see, this was to prove an ongoing issue.



St James' Church, c. 1870
[John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, neg. 63952]

Peter Field and Thomas Jones

On New Year's Day 1884, Peter and Sarah were married in St James' Church by the Reverend Thomas Jones. 'Tommy' Jones – as he was familiarly known – was, by all accounts, an extraordinary man. He came to Queensland in 1860 and served with the Church of England for more than half a century. He had been the Rector at St James' for two years when he celebrated Peter and Sarah's marriage.



Canon Thomas Jones
 [Canon DJ Garland Papers,
 John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld]

Jones believed that worship should be enhanced with beautiful things. In this, he was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement – a movement emanating from the University of Oxford which sought to reduce Protestant tendencies within the Church of England. However the increased use of ceremony and ritual in worship was always secondary to his faith.

Keith Rayner, former Anglican Primate of Australia and church historian, has written about him:

Behind all that Jones did was a spirit of love and zeal for souls; and so strong were his convictions that he was prepared to fight with all his power against anyone who stood in the way of what he conceived to be right – be it the bishop or the ultra-respectable members of his congregation. ... The thing above all that endeared Jones to his fellow citizens was that with all his strong opinions there was nothing of the bigot in him. At a time when rigid sabbatarianism prevailed in the church at large, Jones could be seen on a Sunday afternoon umpiring a cricket

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match at one end, while the Reverend John Sutton umpired at the other end – provided the players had been to church in the morning. ...

Jones' character had all the ingredients – love, generosity, loyalty and unconventionality – that appealed to his fellows ... Perhaps more than any other single figure he helped to shape the direction of the early development of the Church of England in Queensland, and to set it on the path of broad catholic outlook that was consistently to be its mark. ... [He] ended his life universally beloved by all who knew him.

Thomas Jones had private means as well as his church income, and he spent much of this on buying land in towns likely to need a church, and then selling it to the church later at the original price, without interest.

In Thomas Jones, Peter had a staunch friend who was prepared to support him in bad times as well as good. We have seen in Chapter 4 that Jones and his wife financed the land for Peter's tannery in 1888 and guaranteed Peter's settlement with his creditors in 1891. It is not overstating the case to say that without Thomas Jones's lasting friendship and support, Peter's career would not have been as successful as it was.

It seems that Peter shared Thomas Jones's love of beauty in the church. In 1890, the year before his bankruptcy, he presented St James' with an ornate Italian baptismal font exquisitely carved from alabaster and malachite. Since this was while Jones was back in England, it is quite possible that he chose this on Peter's behalf and had it shipped back to Toowoomba.

Thomas Jones's friendship extended to the rest of Peter's family. When Sarah's mother, Mary Ann Butterfield, died in November 1901, Jones officiated at the funeral in St James' and at the graveside 'in fulfilment of promise long since made to the deceased'. Thomas Jones, aged 65, was by then the Rector at Indooroopilly, a Brisbane suburb.

Jones also returned to Toowoomba to officiate at the marriages of Mary Ann's two daughters, Ruth and Mary Ann. Ruth married Niels Clauson in 1903 and Mary Ann married David Booker the following year. Both these weddings took place in St Luke's Church, since, as we shall see

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shortly, Peter (and his family) had parted company with St James' a few months before Mary Ann Butterfield's death.



*Baptismal font at St James' Church, a gift of Peter Field.
A brass ewer accompanied the gift. [John Field, 2014]*

Peter and St James' Parochial Council

In 1886, Peter was elected to the Parochial Council, or Parish Council, of St James' Church. He remained a member until 1901, being re-elected by the parishioners each year.

The administration of the parish at that time was in the hands of the Rector and the churchwardens. The Rector was responsible for the spiritual health of the parish, while the churchwardens were responsible for the secular health: financial affairs and the upkeep of the buildings and any other assets. One warden was elected by the parishioners and the other appointed by the Rector. The Parochial Council appears to have been mainly a consultative body. For those occasions where it is recorded in the annual report during Peter's term, it met only once in 1891 and 1896 (to consider financial matters), and in 1895 there was 'no need to call a meeting'.

But in 1897 one important decision *was* made. A committee of the Rectors of St James' and St Luke's churches, and 12 Parochial Councillors, including Peter, agreed that land should be bought for a school. The money had been raised by Reverend Benjamin Glennie, one of the great pioneers of the Church in Queensland. He sold fruit and vegetables he grew in his own garden and collected money from people in his travels around the Darling Downs. On the recommendation of the committee, twelve and a half acres [5.1 ha] of land was purchased for educational purposes. This was eventually to become the site of the Glennie School, one of Australia's oldest and most renowned girls' schools.

The role of women

Only men served on the Parochial Council. Rayner has pointed out that this reflected the social conditions of the time. Only men over 21 who owned or leased land were entitled to vote, and these were seen as the natural leaders of the church as well as society. After Federation, all men and women were entitled to vote in Commonwealth elections, but the restrictions were not removed for Queensland elections until 1905.

One custom which appears bizarre from today's point of view was the role of women in collecting funds for the church. Although this practice had been used in some churches for many years, it appears to have been Peter Field who suggested it for St James', Toowoomba. At the 1885 Annual Meeting, after a discussion about the necessity of money to repair the crumbling church, he moved 'That the ladies of the congregation should go round and canvas for subscriptions from the members of the congregation'. He was 'sure no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining the necessary money; he himself would give £10'. The motion was seconded by James Taylor, and carried. It must have been acted on: the following year's annual report states 'Great praise is due to those ladies who made, and are still making an effort to obtain regular subscribers to the Parochial Fund'. There were apparently not many women involved however: the 1897 vote of thanks, moved by Peter Field, named only four. In 1902, after Peter had left St James', 'the Parish Fund had fallen considerably owing to the want of ladies to collect it', and the following year 'the collection of the Parish Fund, owing to the disinclination of ladies of the congregation to undertake this duty ... remains in abeyance'. At least in 1902 'Mr. Fowler asked why the task of collecting was always allotted to the ladies. He thought the gentlemen should also do their share of the collecting'. Nothing seems to have come from this suggestion.

Ongoing discord

By 1890, St Luke's was becoming more independent of St James', partly due to the liberal attitude of Thomas Jones. In that year Canon Thomas Warner was appointed to St James', and the following year Reverend Thomas Pughe was appointed Vicar of St Luke's. Pughe increased the vigour of the congregation and its financial position, and oversaw the building of a more substantial church at St Luke's, although the St Luke's parish did not become independent of St James' until 1905.

The press reports from the last decade of the century show increasing friction between the parishioners of St James' and St Luke's. In 1891 Bishop Webber and Canon Warner agreed to make St Luke's an

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independent entity, although not yet with its own parish. The churchwardens and parishioners at St James' were incensed that Warner had not consulted them first, as the decision had financial implications.



Canon Thomas Warner
[*The Church Chronicle*, 1 Nov 1898]

There are also several mentions of class consciousness between the two parishes, with St James' being seen as catering for more well-to-do people than did St Luke's. The incumbents of both churches were aware of the problem and spoke out against it from time to time, although this did not do much to reduce the problem. Some examples are given in the Timeline. However as Rayner has pointed out, this was a general problem within the church and not just specific to Toowoomba.

The perception was not helped by the pew-letting system whereby those who paid for their pew got better seats than those who did not. This system had been dispensed with at an increasing number of Queensland churches, including St Luke's, but was still in use at St James'. Thomas Jones had wanted to abolish pew rents in 1884, but the churchwardens opposed this, and the matter was deferred for a year on the motion of James Taylor supported by Peter Field. However the system was still in place in 1901 when Peter resigned from St James'.

Thomas Warner, William Forster and Peter Field

In August 1900, Canon Warner, then aged 52, appointed a curate to assist him after the Parochial Council advised him that it could afford £200 to cover the salary. Reverend William Henry Forster was approaching 30 when he arrived in Toowoomba with his wife, Jessie, and their baby daughter Dorothy.

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William Forster was enthusiastically received. He looked after the congregations at Highfields, Geham and Crow's Nest (townships north of Toowoomba) and 'never failed to be at Sunday School when in town'. However it was apparent that Mr Forster was not well. Three months after he arrived the parishioners quickly collected £40 to buy him a horse and trap (a light two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage). The trap was necessary as he was too weak to ride a horse. But the following month, in December 1900, just four months after his arrival, he wrote to Canon Warner saying that his medical advisor insisted that he give up his work as the climate was unsuitable, and that he needed to have a long rest. He nominated mid-April, just after Easter, as a time to leave.



Highfields Church, 1868 [photo courtesy of Lyn Hodgson]

Just before he left, Reverend Forster took the Easter services at Crow's Nest, Geham and Highfields, and the congregations expressed their 'very general and sincere regret' at his departure. At Geham there had been a steady increase in numbers since his arrival, requiring more seating, and a plan to improve the comfort and appearance of the church was being carried out. The church at Highfields had already been renovated and greatly improved. Mr Forster was given the

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offertories from the Easter Sunday services, a common practice at the time. Mr Forster ‘in feeling terms spoke a few words of gratitude and farewell to those present, many of whom were visibly affected at the thought of parting with one who had so won their esteem and affection’.

In reporting his final sermon at St James’, the *Toowoomba Chronicle* described Forster as ‘one of the most eloquent [preachers] that has ever occupied the pulpit at St James’.’ The parishioners who had subscribed to the horse and trap agreed to sell it and donate the proceeds to Mr Forster. Fifty-one pounds was deposited in his account, again with a very supportive letter. It was Peter Field who canvassed the subscribers about their willingness to do this; of those he spoke to, 80 agreed and only three were not in favour of the gift.

Mr Forster’s brief time at Toowoomba brought simmering dissatisfaction at St James’ to the surface. The next Annual Meeting of the parish was held on Thursday 11 April 1901, just a few days before William Forster left Toowoomba. Peter was clearly a great supporter of Reverend Forster – one of the first things Canon Warner did in discussing the matter was to thank Peter and two others from Crow’s Nest and Highfields for the ‘many especial and continued acts of kindness they have shown Mr Forster’.

At the end of his report, Canon Warner wrote:

In conclusion, I cannot ignore the fact that since Mr Forster came, parties have been formed in the Parish; you became like the Corinthians in St Paul’s days, divided when there should have been the strongest unity. Unfortunately the experience of many Rectors is the same as mine, though in no way may it be the fault of the Curate, and I know of clergy who found it better for the peace of the Parish to work single-handed, rather than have a Curate. ... I have had this year to submit to an annoyance as cruel and unjust as it was possible for any annoyance to be, and from those who should have known very much better.

The elections for churchwardens and Parochial Council followed. Peter was again elected to the council by the parishioners, but the election of people's churchwarden was postponed to another meeting.

'Lively proceedings' was one of the subheads used by the *Gazette* to describe the postponed meeting. Newspapers today would be more inclined to use 'sensational', 'dramatic' or 'shocking'. Peter firstly proposed Mr George Crisp as the people's warden, and this was duly seconded and Mr Crisp elected. Mr Crisp's response started out:

I thank you for the honour done me in electing me, but I cannot accept it. If you ask me why, it is because that my friendship with Canon Warner has ceased so long as he is Rector. I am sorry to stand up and speak like this, but those are my sentiments tonight. The Rev. Mr. Forster has left us, and my heart and my prayer goes with him. 'Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom.' May it be so with Mr. Forster. I want everyone to look at St. James's parish as it ought to be looked at. Since first I set my foot in Toowoomba ten years ago Toowoomba has doubled itself. Has St. James's doubled itself? I say no. As a business man I ask you why it has not done so? ... Tonight I want to know on which side is the wrong; on ours, or on the Rector's?

Peter rose to support Mr Crisp, but he was cut off by the Chairman, Canon Warner, as being out of order. Two other men were nominated, both of whom declined to stand, and then Peter Field was nominated. Before he was seconded he rose to decline.

I will be very sorry to act while Canon Warner is in the parish. And while I am on my feet I wish to withdraw my name from the list of Parochial Councillors.

Canon Warner declared that a motion which was proposed but not seconded could not be discussed. His nomination was then seconded, and carried unanimously. Peter could then speak again.

I am very pleased for the honour done me; but under the circumstances I cannot accept it ... not so long as Canon Warner is Rector of St James'. You can see the church has gone backwards over the last seven years. [He gave some financial illustrations.] The church is in a deplorable state. The majority know it, and it is wrong to close our eyes to it. The sooner that

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Canon Warner resigns the better for the church. It is disgraceful for him to hold office when there is 70 or 80 per cent of the people against him.

The figure of 70 or 80 per cent came from canvassing Peter had done while obtaining opinions about selling Forster's horse and buggy. He continued:

Those who favoured Canon Warner are a few new chums, people who have been here only a few months, and I protest against them interfering with those who have worked for the church this twenty five years, and have been staunch churchmen. I have been such although I don't often tell people what I do, or what I have done.

The meeting was unable to find a candidate who was prepared to be nominated. Canon Warner then proceeded to discuss matters concerning Reverend Forster, and said he did not think Mr Forster had been sufficiently frank about his health before coming to Toowoomba. The meeting closed. In a subsequent letter published in the *Chronicle*, Forster maintained that he had made his physical condition known before taking up the position.

A third meeting was convened in mid-May. Again more heat than light was shed on matters. After the meeting was officially closed and Canon Warner had left the meeting, the parishioners passed a unanimous vote of confidence and sympathy for the Reverend Mr Forster, exonerating him from any concealment as to the state of his health prior to coming to Toowoomba. The Chairman was also requested to write to the Bishop giving him full details of the meeting, and of the 'disorganised state of matters in St James' Church generally'.

There were several outcomes from this prolonged meeting, and afterwards.

- The Bishop subsequently appointed Mr George Crisp as people's warden, but he resigned, and Mr TW Davidson was appointed by the Administrator in August 1901.
- Canon Warner became ill and was given a month's leave of absence, during which time he went to Tasmania. After he returned he suffered a more serious breakdown and was given a year's leave. He returned to England and on coming back to

Queensland he was posted to Dalby, but his 'nervous prostration' returned. He was granted another year's leave and resigned from Dalby in April 1905. He officiated in the parish of Oakey until 1916 when he retired, again due to ill health.

- Peter Field and several other parishioners transferred to the St Luke's congregation.
- The Reverend William Forster died in 1905 of pulmonary tuberculosis at Wahroonga in Sydney. His death certificate states that he had had tuberculosis for five years.

It is unclear whether the main source of the conflict was simply that William Forster was a younger, more energetic, more inspirational person than Thomas Warner, or if Warner and the parishioners had differing views on whether William Forster knew the seriousness of his illness when he accepted the curacy. Certainly Forster's death certificate suggests he had contracted his tuberculosis at about the same time he was appointed to Toowoomba and so may not have appreciated its gravity at the time.

In the short time Forster had been in Toowoomba he had increased the size of the congregations in the northern churches where he preached, while the size of the congregation at St James' had remained static at best over the previous few years, with a constant trickle of parishioners to St Luke's. In reporting his death, the *Darling Downs Gazette* remarked that he had 'endeared himself to very many by his quiet unassuming manner and unfailing kindness to all with whom he came in contact'.

Another issue is whether Warner's illness and breakdown were brought about by the dispute in 1901, or pre-existed and were part of its cause.

In any event, Peter and his family left St James' and joined the newly built St Luke's Church. Two days after Peter had declined to accept the warden's position, Sarah resigned from St James'. The letter appears to have been written by Peter, with Sarah putting her signature to it. Peter spoke at the third Parish meeting in May, so apparently delayed his resignation.

Sarah's resignation, on Peter's letterhead, is shown on the next page.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

PETER FIELD
WHOLESALE
and RETAIL
BOOT AND SHOE
MANUFACTURER.

Ruthven Street,
Toowoomba April 26th 1901

MEMORANDUM

To Mr C. Wardrop Esq
Toowoomba

TANNER,
CURRIER AND
LEATHER
MERCHANT
—
PURCHASER
OF
HIDES,
CALFSKINS
AND
GREEN WATTLE
BARK
FOR CASH
—
DIRECT
IMPORTER OF
ENGLISH
AND
CONTINENTAL
BOOTS,
SHOES AND
SLIPPERS
—
WHOLESALE
AND
RETAIL
—
BESTOKE AND
REPAIRING
DEPARTMENT
A SPECIALTY
—
LADIES' & GENTS'
BOOTS
AND SHOES
MADE TO ORDER
—
EASE, ELEGANCE
AND FIT
GUARANTEED
—
REPAIRS
PROMPTLY AND
NEATLY
EXECUTED
—
AGRICULTURAL
VEGETABLE
AND
FLOWER SEEDS
ALSO
GARDEN
REQUISITES

Dear Sir

Please find enclosed
the sum of five shillings
for quarts pew lent in
my name and kindly
erase my name as a
pew holder of St James
church Toowoomba

Yr Obedt Servt
Peter Field

Sarah's letter asking that her name be removed as a pew holder at St James' Church.

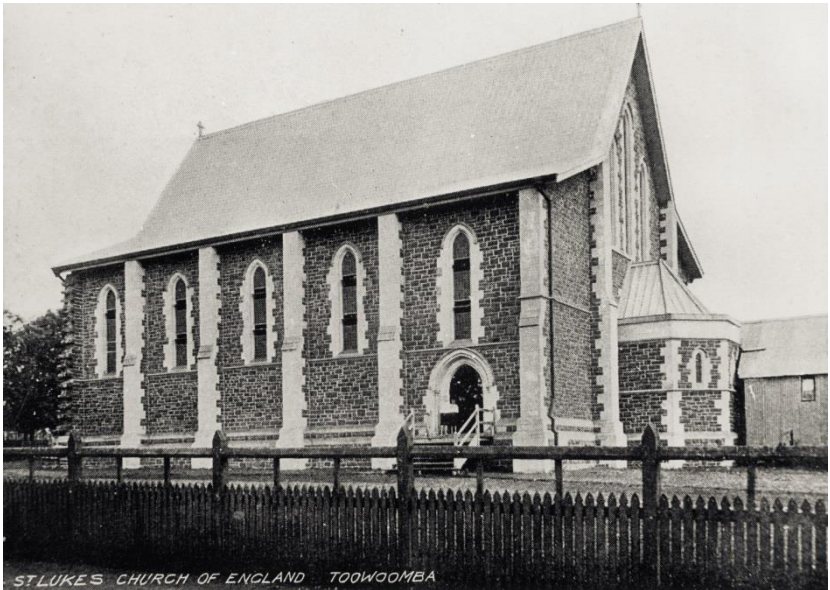
The letter appears to have been written by Peter, with Sarah signing it.

The descriptors down the left show that seeds were still part of Peter's business.

[Anglican Archives, Brisbane]

The Fields and St Luke's

Peter, Sarah and her sisters Ruth and Mary Ann Butterfield, and David Booker all appear on the St Luke's roll in March 1902. The following year Peter was elected by the parishioners to the St Luke's Parochial Council, and was re-elected each year until 1911. During that time he also served as a synodsmen from 1905 until 1908 and a parochial nominator from 1907 until 1910. He was also acting rector's warden during part of 1907.



St Luke's Church, Toowoomba, circa 1902
 [John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, neg. 172540]

The synodsmen attended the annual meeting of representatives of all parishes from the Diocese of Brisbane (which extends from Bundaberg in the north to the NSW border and from the east coast to the SA/NT borders). The parochial nominators served on a panel to appoint a new priest, if the need arose.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

St Luke's finally became an independent parish within the Church of England in 1905. At the Annual Meeting in May that year, a Ladies' Council was elected, to help the Parochial Council. Sarah was one of nine women on the council. Judging from subsequent years' annual meetings, their main function was probably collection of subscriptions to the Expense Fund. That this was not an easy task was recognised by the Rector, Canon Oakeley, in his report for 1907:

'It might be better to adopt the envelope system ... This does away with all collecting and money is given solely through the offertory. However until that time arrives I would make an appeal to people to be a little merciful to those who so kindly undertake the difficult and arduous work of collecting for the Church funds. I cannot see why anyone should send a collector away empty handed. Settle among yourselves what you can reasonably give, if it be only sixpence a quarter, so that you don't have to say, "I must ask my husband," or "I must ask my wife," or "call again next week," after some delicate woman, possibly, has toiled already twice to the house without finding you at home. And I would add that it is not a fair thing to visit on the collectors, the sins, or supposed sins, of the Parson, as is usually done by those who want a handy excuse for not giving anything. Much as I believe in the envelope system, yet I should be most sorry to do away with the system of collectors, for (in spite of the troubles of life) having some sense of humour left, I find a collectors meeting, if sometimes humbling, yet never deadly dull.'

As part of St Luke's settlement with St James', a building in Arthur Street, East Toowoomba, was allocated to St Luke's. This was used as a Sunday School. Mary Ann and David Booker taught here for many years; in 1920 at the Sunday School prize giving, a presentation was made to them on behalf of the 'teachers, senior girls, senior boys and friends of the Arthur Street Sunday School' to show the esteem in which they were held. David Booker was for some years also a member of St Luke's Parochial Council.

Peter appears to have remained a member of St Luke's for the rest of his life. He and Susan Filce were married there in May 1930, and his funeral service was conducted there on 27 June 1936.

Sarah Field and St Thomas' Church

Sarah Field had always been concerned for the spiritual welfare of children, whether they were her own or others. She had taught Sunday School at St Luke's for some years before she moved into Kenilworth in 1911. There was no Sunday School anywhere near Mt Lofty, and so in September 1912, she began a Sunday School class for local children.

From the couple of photographs which survive of the Sunday School at Kenilworth, it was highly successful; there are about 30 children. The teachers included Sarah and some of the Kenilworth staff. Canon Oakeley from St Luke's presented the prizes at the Sunday School's first anniversary. At that event, Nessie accompanied songs sung by the children as entertainment for the assembled parents and guests.



Sunday School class at Kenilworth; Sarah in back row [Wensley family photo]

The Sunday School had official recognition within St Luke's Church; the children undertook the Diocesan examination, and Sarah was recognised as the 'Superintendent, Mt Lofty'.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

The need for a church in the northern part of Toowoomba became apparent, partly as a result of increasing numbers at the Kenilworth Sunday School. The St James' Annual Meeting in 1920 agreed that the old Ruthven Street school should be moved to a better site to service this need.

This hall had been built in about 1885, and while Thomas Jones was Rector of St James' it had been used for mission services and for Sunday School.

A block of land was bought on the corner of Jellicoe and Allan Streets, Toowoomba, and with some difficulty the hall was moved to the new site. Lyn Hodgson gives more information:

'... the hall was loaded onto a trailer, hauled by a steam traction engine. It wasn't made any easier when the removalist encountered very heavy rain, and with no sealed roads, the trailer-with-hall became bogged, and remained there for a week. Nothing that could not be overcome with a little fine weather!'

After refurbishment, the hall was dedicated as St Thomas' Church in December 1920.



St Thomas' Church (rear) and the Sarah Field Memorial Hall, c. 1940
[photo courtesy of Lyn Hodgson]

Sunday School continued at both St Thomas' and at Kenilworth, with increasing numbers, and it became apparent that more accommodation

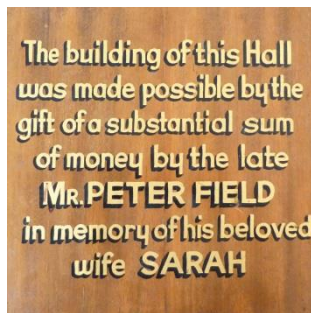
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was needed. Plans were put in train to build a hall on the St Thomas' site, and in recognition of Sarah's lifelong service to the church, it was to be called 'The Sarah Field Hall'.

Unfortunately Sarah died in April 1926, before the hall could be built. Peter and other members of the family contributed generously to the fund-raising for the hall, and it was decided to call it 'The Sarah Field Memorial Hall'. The hall was built off the ground, supported on 'stumps' (columns set into the ground). The stumps were capped with a metal plate to stop termites getting into the building. A stump-capping ceremony was held in August – a church service after which people placed donations under the stump caps.

Sir Littleton Groom, the local member and Speaker of the Commonwealth House of Representatives, opened the hall in November 1926. During his speech he 'paid a feeling tribute to the work of the late Mrs Field'.

Originally the name of the hall was painted on the outside, but later renovations obliterated this. However a plaque acknowledging Peter's donation still exists in the St James' Church archives.



*Plaque from The Sarah Field Memorial Hall
[Courtesy Lyn Hodgson]*

After nearly ninety years of service, St Thomas' Church was deconsecrated in 2008 as, like many churches at the time, the size of the congregation had dwindled. The property was sold, and the hall was renovated and converted into a comfortable home.

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



*The original Sarah Field Memorial Hall in 2014, converted to a comfortable home.
The front extension was added just before the Second World War.*

[PRD Nationwide Real Estate Toowoomba]

CHAPTER 8

PETER AND SARAH'S DESCENDANTS

The children's education

Peter and Sarah's children, Cyril, Nessie and Raymond, all began school at Toowoomba North State School. The school was divided into two: the Girls' and Infants' School, where all three children started at about four years of age, and the Boys' School, where Cyril and Ray were promoted at about seven years of age.

Peter was clearly interested in school affairs and was appointed to the Toowoomba North School Committee in 1899. It is not known how long he remained on the committee.



*From left, Sarah, Raymond, Peter, Nessie, Cyril (c. 1909)
[Barrs and Wensley family photograph]*

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

Both boys completed their schooling at Toowoomba Grammar School: Cyril in 1901-02, graduating when he was 17, while Ray attended in 1904-06. He was 16 when he passed the Junior Public Examination, in those days conducted by Sydney University. He obtained passes in English, German, arithmetic and physiology.

Nessie spent 1902 as a boarder at Eton High School in Nundah, a Brisbane suburb. This school later became St Margaret's Anglican Girls School. Nessie would have turned 15 during the year, but was possibly unhappy as a boarder, as she only stayed there for the one year and then returned to Toowoomba to complete her education.

It is only in 1901 that the children began to attend private schools, with both boys finishing their education there. This timing may not be a coincidence. It was after the end of the 1890s depression and Peter's business had recovered from problems early in that decade. Both Peter and Sarah would have known the value of a good education.

All three children excelled in their religious education, probably encouraged by their parents, Sarah in particular. In most years their names were among the prize winners for the St James' Sunday School – for example, in 1900, both Cyril and Nessie received first prize in their classes, while Ray received a special churchwardens' prize for the 'most reverent behaviour in and when about the church'. They also all did well in the written Brisbane Diocesan Sunday School Examinations.

Cyril Henry Vivian (b. 4 Oct 1885)

Cyril was academically able, winning class prizes at the Toowoomba North State School and prizes for German, essays and commercial arithmetic at Toowoomba Grammar. After finishing school, Cyril went into Peter's business to learn the boot-making trade. Penny Barrs, Cyril's daughter, recalled that Cyril was good at mathematics, and would probably have preferred to become an accountant.

Cyril was also quite an athlete – at the Toowoomba Grammar sports day he was placed in the 220 yards and 440 yards races, and won the

'kicking the football' competition with a kick of 154 ft 3 in [47 m] and came second in the high jump with a jump of 4 ft 3 in [1.3 m], just two inches below the winner. He was also a member of the school's premiership-winning rugby team. At age 18 he won a gold medal for a 7½ mile [12 km] walking match organised by the Gordon Club. This was an organisation to promote and foster a 'true spirit of manliness' developed by Canon Pughe of St Luke's Church in Toowoomba. There were 30 branches around Australia.

In April 1909, aged 23, Cyril married Mabel St George French in Toowoomba's St Luke's Church. Cyril and Mabel then made their home in Dalby, where Cyril ran a boot shop for many years. Their first child, Arthur, died in infancy. Sadly, Mabel herself died in 1922 aged only 35, leaving two small children, Cecil aged ten (called 'Viv' within the family) and Marjorie aged six. The *Brisbane Courier* described Mabel as 'of a lovable character [with] a large circle of friends'.

Cyril married Eileen Milford in 1927, and they had two daughters, Penelope and Muriel. Cyril and Eileen lived in Dalby, continuing his boot-making business until about 1950, when they moved to Brisbane. Cyril died in 1963, aged 78, but Eileen lived for another nine years until 1972, when she died at age 75.



Cyril [Barrs family photograph]

Nessie Evelyn (b. 1 July 1887)



*Nessie as a probationary nurse
Oct 1908 [Barrs family photo]*

After leaving school, Nessie trained as a nurse. From mid-1908 she was a probationary nurse at Rushton Private Hospital in Mylne Street, Toowoomba, where the matron found her ‘good tempered, willing, of a cheerful disposition, very anxious to learn, and liked by all the patients’. In 1909 she obtained complimentary references from several prominent citizens – James Tolmie (editor of the *Gazette*), Vernon Redwood (Council alderman, and later Mayor) and Canon Pughe (formerly of St Luke’s Church) – to apply for a probationary position at the Lady Bowen Hospital in Brisbane, a hospital

caring for unmarried and destitute women and their babies.

It is not known if she was successful in her application, but in November 1909 a letter from a patient at the Lady Musgrave Hospital in Maryborough states that she was a ‘most sympathetic and patient nurse, at all times being cheerful and obliging, nothing at any time being too much trouble’. Mary Wensley, Nessie’s daughter-in-law, agrees with these sentiments, and also remembers Nessie as a very strong-minded woman.

Nessie did not remain a nurse for very long. In 1911 she is recorded as working for John Hunter and Son, boot merchants, when she started a relief fund for the families of victims of the sinking of the *SS Yongala* in a cyclone south of Townsville.

Nessie was 30 when she married John Walter (Jack) Wensley at St Luke's Church in Toowoomba in 1917. They had one son, Colin, who was born in 1919.

Nessie helped Sarah with the day-to-day running of the boarding house, and photos from that time show her active involvement. When Sarah died in 1926, Nessie helped Peter manage Kenilworth until Peter remarried in 1930.

After Peter's death, seven acres [2.8 ha] off Stuart Street, just north of Kenilworth, was transferred to Nessie. Most of it is now part of Horn Park.

This is possibly the land on which Peter had kept cattle, and Wensley family photographs show that Nessie looked after them as well. She loved animals, and kept koalas, a possum, a cockatoo, sheep, a collie, a dingo and a cat at various times.

Penny Barrs, Nessie's niece, wrote

I have many happy memories of Auntie Nessie and Uncle Jack, and our holidays at Harlaxton. I remember the milking of the cows, the big wide pan on the stove gently heating to produce the clotted cream, ... the koala which came with us on drives, the birds in the aviary, the dingo tied to the bottom of the back stairs so that we had to walk out the front door to get around to the toilet at the back ... there were lots of little things that contributed to our enjoyment there.

After Jack died in 1945, aged 59, Nessie worked as a housekeeper for a lady in Brisbane and then for an elderly gentleman in Toowoomba. She died in 1973, aged 86.



Nessie in her garden
[Wensley family photograph]

Raymond Stanley (b. 8 Jan 1890)

After leaving school, Ray joined the Queensland National Bank in about 1908. He spent short periods relieving others at branches at Jondaryan and Mitchell, before being appointed accountant at Nobby (south of Toowoomba). At his farewell dinner in Nobby, his energy, his trustworthiness and his enthusiastic involvement in local organisations were all praised. He had been secretary of the Athletic Association, the School of Arts, the Jockey Club and others in the couple of years he had been there. 'His personality was a big factor in the unvarying success which attended the many institutions with which he was identified.' Clearly he had inherited some of his father's positive and proactive character.

Ray was transferred to Normanton in 1911. There he met, and in 1914 married, Irene Bates. Ray and Irene had their first three children in Normanton, Frank (called 'Tom' within the family, 1914), Dorothy ('Biddy', 1916) and Daphne (1919). During his time in Normanton, Ray spent time as manager of the Burketown branch of the bank, where he and Irene are recorded as winning the



Ray Field [Wensley family photo]

gents' and ladies' singles at a local tennis tournament. Curiously, Ray and the club president defeated Irene and her (male) partner in the final of the gents' doubles!

He was transferred to Melbourne in 1920, where their other three children were born: Peter (1921), David (1923) and Noel (1929). After

PETER AND SARAH'S DESCENDANTS

ten years in Melbourne, Ray was transferred to Sydney, where the family lived in Willoughby. Ray spent the rest of his banking career in Sydney, retiring in about 1955 as manager of the Pitt and Hunter Streets branch of the National Bank. He enjoyed lawn bowls during his retirement, and died in 1972, aged 82. Irene predeceased him in 1964.

Noel Field's booklet about the family contains warm reminiscences about Ray and Irene after 1930, and life in Sydney at that time.

Grandchildren and beyond

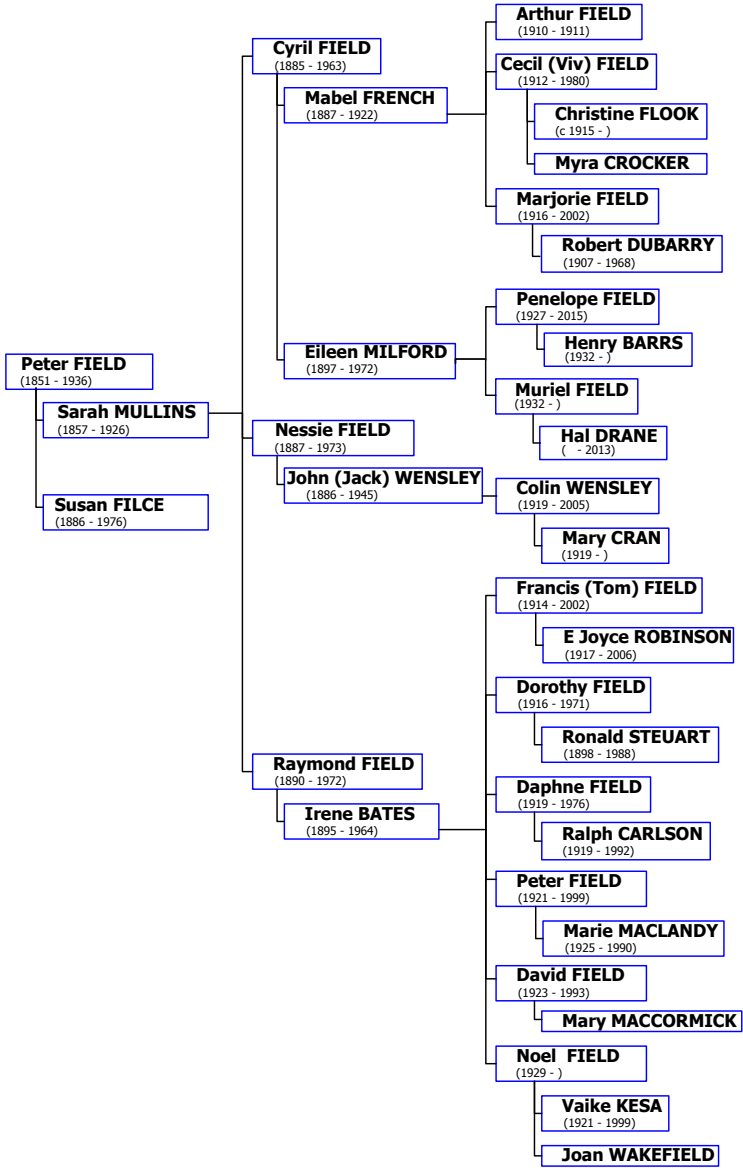
Peter and Sarah had 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 40 great-great-grandchildren, and, as at the time of writing, 20 great-great-great-grandchildren. A chart of the grandchildren is given on the next page.

The picture below was taken at Kenilworth in about 1920, probably when Ray and Irene and their three children stopped at Toowoomba on their way from Normanton to Melbourne. Sarah and Peter posed with their grandchildren: Ray and Irene's Daphne, Dorothy and Frank and Cyril and Mabel's Marjorie and Cecil.



Sarah and Peter at Kenilworth with grandchildren (from left) Daphne, Marjorie, Dorothy ('Biddy'), Cecil ('Viv'), Frank ('Tom'), c. 1920 [Barrs family photograph]

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Children and grandchildren of Peter and Sarah Field

EPILOGUE

In many respects Peter Field's life is a classic tale of a 'poor boy made good'. A lesser character may have failed to overcome his rather bleak start to life – effectively orphaned at 15 months and then confronting life in the workhouse at an early age.

Yet Peter rose above all this. He made the most of his workhouse education, joining the workforce in the Rugby Post Office. The knowledge of plants and seeds absorbed from his apprenticeship to the Victoria Nursery was a contributing factor to his first employment with Holberton and Co. in Toowoomba. And he then used the platform of working in the general store – Holberton's and its successors – to start his first 'boot, shoe and seed warehouse' in Toowoomba.

It required intelligence, hard work and some risk-taking to achieve this, the risks being particularly apparent in his decision to emigrate to Queensland for the chance to better himself. These were traits he showed consistently throughout his life.

The expansion of his first store into a boot and shoe manufacturing and retail business across southern Queensland, however, needed more than this – it required what today we might call vision, and demonstrated an ambition to expand where possible. Peter was an astute businessman, and the expansion and contraction of the number of his stores over time shows that he was good at assessing risks and conditions and acting accordingly. He was a respected member of the Toowoomba community, and no doubt his 'generally obliging disposition' helped his business success.

When presented with the adverse situation of bankruptcy in the 1890s depression, he had the resilience and determination, as well as his workers' belief in his business skills, to start the boot co-operative with them. This provided his staff and his family with some security.

Peter seems to have been a firm but fair employer, with evidence that he never forgot his roots in the workhouse. Anecdotes show he supported

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

the introduction of the five-and-a-half-day week in Charleville and he invited a habitual absconder to reapply for a job after he had served his 12 months in a reformatory. And no lesser person than the Chief Justice later declared Peter to be 'transparently honest'. At the peak of his business success, Peter provided jobs for more than 100 Toowoomba workers, and promoted his staff to run his branch stores.

But Peter could be volatile, and there are reports of a disagreement with one of his co-operative directors ending up in court, and a disagreement with another bootmaker at the creditors' meeting when he was approaching bankruptcy, leading to a heated exchange.

When things were going well with his boot business in the late 1890s and early 1900s, Peter had the foresight to acquire land for the Empire Hotel and his future home, Kenilworth, although it would be a few years before either of these came to fruition.

Throughout his career as a boot manufacturer, Peter was supported by two remarkable women: his wife Sarah and his mother-in-law, Mary Ann. Both had endured great hardships and loss during their early lives in Queensland. From the outset of her marriage to Peter, Sarah was involved in the ladies' side of his boot business, this being at a time when it was unusual for married women to work outside the home. Mary Ann gave financial support to her son-in-law, both initially and when he had financial problems during the depression. It must have been the source of some satisfaction to her towards the end of her life to see the business succeeding so well.

It was noted in his obituary that Peter possessed remarkable energy, coincidentally something that had been noted when he had opened his first store more than 50 years before. At the age of 60 he sold his boot business and moved to Kenilworth where he and Sarah, in her mid-50s, began their guesthouse venture. Sarah, in particular, must have been heavily involved in the day-to-day organisation of the house and staff. It would not have been an easy life, yet together they turned Kenilworth into one of Toowoomba's most popular guesthouses. Again the business provided employment in Toowoomba, and encouraged tourists to visit the area.

Peter and Sarah were both committed to their faiths, although their characters and genders meant that this was displayed in different ways. Sarah was a gentler person from what limited knowledge we have, loved her children and was concerned with the spiritual well-being of all children. Her Sunday School at Kenilworth ran successfully over many years. Peter was elected to the Parish Councils of St James' and St Luke's churches for 25 years, and was a generous benefactor of St James' and St Thomas'. His strong friendships with Thomas Jones and William Forster seem to have influenced his outlook on church matters.

After Sarah's death, two other women were involved in running the guesthouse. Nessie helped her father for four years until Peter remarried Susan Filce. Susan then ran it for another 12 years until Kenilworth was finally sold, the last six of those being without the help of her husband. Nessie is remembered by her daughter-in-law as a strong-minded person, and Susan by her niece as a serious, hardworking person, and a good cook. Judging by Kenilworth's reputation at the time, both excelled in their management of it.

Given the almost complete lack of family letters or other personal documents from Peter's life, this narrative relies heavily on various newspaper accounts of business and social events, advertisements in almanacs and newspapers, formal court and government documents and so on. This makes it harder to assess the true characters of the people involved.

Nonetheless, the descendants of Peter and Sarah can be proud of the start that they gave to this branch of the Field family in Australia. Not only did Australia offer Peter and Sarah opportunities they were unlikely to have had in England, but its more egalitarian society enabled them to make substantial contributions to both Queensland's economy and the Toowoomba community.



Peter Field at 80 in 1931
[Barrs family photo]

TIMELINE and SOURCES

CHAPTER I: PETER FIELD: EARLY YEARS

c. 1784	<p>Peter Field's grandfather, Marshall Fields, born¹ at Emberton², Buckinghamshire. Birthplace stated as 'Emerton' in the census record.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ General Register Office, Death certificate 1853/109, Rugby District ² Ancestry.com. 1851 England Census, Class HO107, Piece 2069, Folio 52, Page 18, GSU roll 87333</p>
1788, Aug 8	<p>Peter Field's grandmother, Sarah Radband, christened at <u>Bourton-on-Dunsmore</u>.</p> <hr/> <p>Ancestry.com. Warwickshire, England, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1535-1812</p>
1809, Dec 24	<p>Marshall Fields and Sarah Radband married at Bourton-on-Dunsmore. Marshall was living in Wolston at the time. Both signed their name with a cross.</p> <hr/> <p>Ancestry.com. Warwickshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1910</p>
1810–1831	<p>Marshall and Sarah had 12 children over this period. The dates below are dates of their Christenings, unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>At Bourton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire:¹ John, 7 Aug 1810. He married Elizabeth Freeman in 1834 at Wolston. They had six children, but three died in Jul-Sep 1842. At least one (Ellen, aged 2) was from scarlet fever⁶.</p> <p>At Stretton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire:² William, 12 Sep 1813. He married Esther Gilbert in 1836 at Coventry. They had three children but one (Richard, aged 3) died, also in 1842.</p> <p>At Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire:³ Richard, 5 Feb 1815 Mary Anne, 8 Sep 1816</p> <p>At Wolston, Warwickshire:⁴ Charles and Charlotte, 12 Mar 1820. Charlotte married Jonathon Downing in 1846 and they had four children.</p>

Thomas, 7 Oct 1821; buried 2 Jul 1822⁵.

Elena (variously **Ellen/Eleanor**), 1 Dec 1822. She had an illegitimate daughter Mary Anne, who married Thomas Watson in 1856.

Maria, 8 May 1824, who married John Hemmings at Wolston in 1846.

John, 22 Apr 1827 (it is probable that this is the 'Thomas' living with Marshall and Sarah at the time of the 1841 census⁷).

Sarah, 11 Apr 1830; buried 9 Jun 1830.

Elizabeth, 22 May 1831. **Peter Field's mother.**

¹ FamilySearch.org, FHL microfilm 548391

² FamilySearch.org, FHL microfilm 548392

³ Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah: microfilm 549946: Parish registers for Ryton-on-Dunsmore

⁴ Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah: microfilm 991478, Parish Registers for Wolston, 1735-1876

⁵ Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah: microfilm 502906, Bishop's Transcripts for Wolston, 1735-1876

⁶ General Register Office, England. Death certificate 279 of 1842, Rugby District

⁷ Ancestry.com. 1841 England Census, Class HO107, Piece 1137, Book 22, Civil Parish Wolston, Enumeration district 2, Folio 23, Page 17, Line 1, GSU 464176

1851, Mar 30 The 1851 census shows Marshall and Sarah Fields living together at the Derry in Wolston, with no other occupants. Marshall was an agricultural labourer, and Sarah a 'field woman'. Neither is listed in the 1861 census. Marshall died in 1853 (see below), and presumably Sarah died between 1851 and 1861.

FindMyPast. 1851 England Census. Class HO107, Piece 2069

1851, Nov 21 Peter Field born at Wolston, Warwickshire, England, the son of Elizabeth Field¹. The record of his baptism three days later² notes that Peter was illegitimate. We know nothing about his father. The surname is given as 'Field' on the birth certificate, but 'Fields' on the baptism record.

In later life when completing various forms, Peter claimed that his parents were Peter Field (soldier) and Elizabeth Downing. The name 'Downing' may well have been inspired by his aunt Charlotte's married name. It was apparently common for

PETER FIELD: EARLY YEARS

	<p>illegitimate immigrants to Australia at the time to make such claims to avoid the stigma of illegitimacy³.</p> <p>¹ General Register Office, London: Birth Certificate 1851/176, Rugby District ² FHL microfilm 991478 (Parish Registers for Wolston, 1735-1876) ³ Librarian, Toowoomba Regional Council Local History Library, April 2014 (pers. comm.)</p>
1851, Nov 24	<p><u>Peter christened at St Margaret's Church, Wolston.</u></p> <p>Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah: Parish Registers for Wolston, 1558-1956, microfilm 991478</p>
1851–1870	<p><u>Rugby Poor Law Union, Board of Guardians minute books.</u></p> <p>Warwickshire County Record Office, Warwick. CR51/552 – CR51/558</p>
1853, Feb 23	<p>Peter's mother, Elizabeth Fields, aged 22 years, died of inflammation of the bowels¹ (appendicitis²) and was buried at Wolston four days later.³ She was working as a servant at the time of her death¹.</p> <p>¹ General Register Office, London: Death certificate 1853/62, Rugby District. ² see Schmidt, R (2014) ³ FHL microfilm 991478 (Parish Registers for Wolston, 1735-1876)</p>
1853, May 6	<p><u>Peter's grandfather, Marshall Fields, aged 69, died after six days of inflammation of a cut finger, at Wolston.</u></p> <p>General Register Office, London: Death certificate 1853/109, Rugby District</p>
1861, Apr 7	<p><u>Peter, aged 9, listed as an inmate in the Rugby Union Workhouse, Lower Hillmorton Rd.</u></p> <p>Ancestry.com. 1861 England Census, Class RG9, Piece 2212, Folio 38, Page 9, GSU 542936</p>

1869

Peter, aged nearly 18, was employed by the Rugby Post Office as a 'Stamper and Porter'¹. On November 1 he completed a Statutory Declaration for evidence of age for admission to the Civil Service (Rugby Post Office). As evidence he quoted a 'Family Bible belonging to my aunt Ann Watson of Long Lawford'².

This relationship helps confirm that Peter's mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Marshall and Sarah Fields:

- In the UK censuses of both 1861 and 1871, the only Watsons living in Long Lawford were Thomas and Mary Ann Watson and their children. Mary Ann's birthplace is Wolston, and her age is stated as 23 in 1861 and 34 in 1871.
- Thomas and Mary Ann married in 1856 in Church Lawford; the marriage certificate showing that the bride was Mary Ann Fields³.
- Mary Ann, baptised in 1838⁴, was the illegitimate daughter of Ellen Fields.
- Ellen was the 8th of Marshall and Sarah's children, and thus, Elizabeth's sister and Peter's aunt.
- However Ellen died in 1842⁵ and Mary Ann was apparently looked after by her grandparents from some time before Ellen's death. Both Elizabeth (aged 9) and Mary Ann (aged 3) are shown living in Wolston with Marshall and Sarah in the 1841 census⁶.
- So Mary Ann Watson was in fact Peter's cousin rather than his aunt, but the fact that Mary Ann was 13 years older than Peter and had grown up in the same household as his mother probably led him to describe her as an aunt.

¹ Ancestry.com: British Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969.

² Society of Genealogists, London: Civil Service Evidence of Age Document 68380 076

³ Ancestry.com: Warwickshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1910

^{4,5} Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah: Parish Registers for Wolston, 1558-1956, microfilm 991478

⁶ Ancestry.com. 1841 England Census, Class HO107, Piece 1137, Book 22, Civil Parish Wolston, Enumeration district 2, Folio 23, Page 17, Line 1, GSU 464176

PETER FIELD: EARLY YEARS

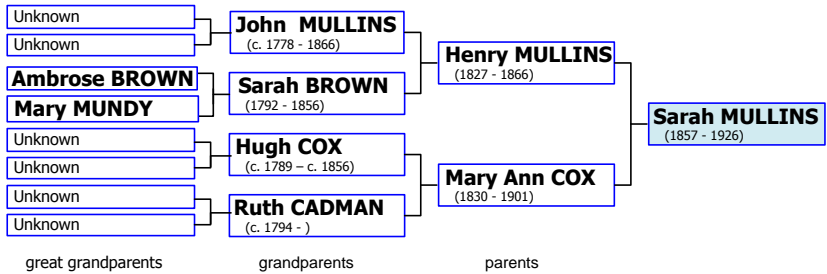
1871, Apr 2	Peter, aged 19, listed as a lodger in Mary Lee’s house at Harrall’s Court, Rugby, with six other lodgers. Retracing the census collector’s path around Rugby suggests that Harrall’s Court was most likely off Drury Lane. Peter’s occupation is given as Post Office Servant.
	Ancestry.com. 1871 England Census, Class RG10, Piece 3184, Folio 70, Page 17, GSU 839249
1874, Sep 13	Left Gravesend, London aboard the <i>Indus</i> .
	Queensland State Archives, Series 13086 p840, microfilms Z1958 and M1698 The Times (London), 18 Sep 1874, p 4 The Hampshire Advertiser, 19 Sep 1874, p 2
1874, Dec 26	Arrived at Moreton Bay, Queensland.
	The Times (London), 31 Dec 1874, p 6 The Brisbane Courier, 30 Dec 1874, p 2
1874, Dec 29	Passengers transferred to steamer <i>Kate</i> and landed in Brisbane about 6 pm.
	The Brisbane Courier, 30 Dec 1874, p 3
1875, Jan 7	<i>Indus</i> towed up Brisbane River to unload cargo.
	The Brisbane Courier, 7 Jan 1875, p 2; 8 Jan 1875, p 2
1878–1884	Peter Field lived in Bridge St, Toowoomba.
	Queensland Electoral Rolls 1860-1884, fiche 78, 84, 97, 110, 122, 135, 148



Mary Ann Butterfield (formerly Mullins, née Cox), Oct 1901 [Barrs family photograph]

CHAPTER 2: SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

Sarah Mullins's extended family tree includes many siblings in each generation, and a grandmother also called Sarah Mullins. It can be difficult to absorb. The following diagram may help. Items which refer directly to Sarah are shaded light blue in the list below.



Sarah Mullins - Great grandparents (only one set known) Paternal grandmother's parents: Ambrose and Mary Brown

1779, Apr 26	Ambrose Brown and Mary née Mundy married at Micheldever ¹ .
1781–1798	They had six children, all baptised (and some buried) at Micheldever ² . Ambrose Brown, bap. 14 Jun 1781, bur. 6 Dec 1839. He was killed by the collapse of a pit from which he had been digging chalk ⁴ . Hannah Brown, bap. 9 Jun 1783, bur. 12 Dec 1783. Hannah Brown, bap. 3 Mar 1785, bur. 9 Aug 1812. George Brown, bap. 29 Oct 1787, bur. 5 Oct 1794. Sarah Brown , bap. 30 Sep 1792, d. 30 Mar 1856 ³ . Ann Brown, bap. 4 Nov 1798, d. 1800.
1821, Dec 16	Ambrose (Snr) was buried at Micheldever. We do not know when Mary died.

¹ FHL film 1041213 (Micheldever Parish records)

² FHL films 1596209, 1596210 (Bishop's Transcripts, Micheldever)

³ Death certificate 1856/395, Winchester district

⁴ Winchester Journal, 9 Dec 1839, p 4

Sarah Mullins – Paternal grandparents: John and Sarah Mullins

c 1778	John Mullins was born in Martyr Worthy ^{1,2} .
1792, Sep 30	Sarah Brown was baptised at Micheldever ³ . She was the fifth child of Ambrose and Mary Brown.
1812, Jul 16	John Mullins and Sarah Brown married at Micheldever ⁵ .
1813–1834	They had nine children, all in Sparsholt ^{4,1} . Elizabeth Mullins, bap. 10 Jan 1813. Sarah Mullins, bap. 13 Nov 1814. John Mullins, bap. 5 Jan 1817, bur. 8 Aug 1834. Eliza Mullins, bap. 17 Oct 1819. Ann Mullins bap. 6 Jan 1822. Jane Mullins, bap. 26 Dec 1824, bur. 21 Apr 1828. Henry Mullins , bap. 30 Sep 1827 (Sarah's father). Caroline Mullins, bap. 22 Apr 1832. James Mullins, bap. 1 Jun 1834, bur. 8 Nov 1838.
	At the time of baptism of his first two children, John Mullins was a 'dog feeder at Lainston', for the rest, a labourer ⁴ .
1821, Jun 18	At the Hampshire Agricultural Society Exhibition of Stock, John Mullins of Sparsholt won a coat and waistcoat with the Society's buttons for being the best shearer ⁹ .
1841, Jun 6	John and Sarah Mullins were living in the Parish of Sparsholt with Henry, aged 13, Caroline, aged 9, and James, 2. John was an agricultural labourer ⁷ .
1851, Mar 30	John and Sarah Mullins lived at Sparsholt. John was a farm labourer. Living with them were their daughter Caroline Mullins, aged 19, and two grandsons James Mullins, 12 (and already an agricultural labourer), and John Mullins 22. James ⁸ and John ¹ were Ann Mullins's sons; on John's

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

	baptism record she is noted as ‘a single woman’.
1856, Mar 30	Sarah Mullins died ⁶ at Dean, aged 63, from ‘paralysis 2½ months, second attack paralysis 30 hours’ (presumably a stroke). She was buried in Sparsholt on April 6.
1866, Dec 17	John Mullins was buried at Sparsholt, having died at age 88 ¹ .
	¹ http://www.downs-benefice.hampshire.org.uk/benefice/ststephen.htm : Burials 1628-1919
	² 1851 England census, HO107/1673/183
	³ FHL film 1596209 (Bishop’s Transcripts, Micheldever)
	⁴ http://www.downs-benefice.hampshire.org.uk/benefice/ststephen.htm : Baptisms 1609-1930
	⁵ FHL film 1041213 (Micheldever Parish records)
	⁶ Death certificate 1856/395, Winchester district
	⁷ 1841 England census HO107/404/5
	⁸ FHL film 1041224 (Weeke Parish records)
	⁹ Hampshire Chronicle 21 June 1821, p 3
Sarah Mullins – Maternal grandparents: Hugh and Ruth Cox	
c. 1789	Hugh Cox was born in Ireland ¹ .
c. 1795	Ruth Cadman was born in England ¹ .
1818, Oct 25	Ruth and Hugh were married at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington ² .
1819–1835	They had at least 5 children, all baptised in the Roman Catholic church at Hammersmith ³ . At least two (Mary Ann and Brian) were also baptised in All Saints Church of England at Fulham ⁴ . Margaret Cox, b. 19 July 1819. Brian Cox, b. 19 July 1819. John Cox ¹ , b. c. 1826. Mary Ann Cox , b. 22 Oct 1830 (Sarah’s mother). Hugh Brian Cox, b. 19 Apr. 1833. Eliza Cox, b. 15 Dec 1835.
1841, Jun 6	The 1841 census lists John, but appears to confuse Mary Ann with Margaret. Eliza is not mentioned there, so may be died in infancy.

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before 1856	<p>Hugh died before 5 August 1856 when Mary Ann was married⁵.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ 1841 England Census HO 107/689/11, Fulham, Middlesex ² Ancestry.com: London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921 ³ FamilySearch.org: England Births and Christenings 1538-1975 ⁴ Ancestry.com: London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906 ⁵ FHL film 991763 (Aldershot Parish registers)</p>
Sarah Mullins – Parents: Henry and Mary Ann Mullins	
1851, Mar 30	<p>Henry Mullins, aged 23, a Private Soldier in 2nd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards, based at Kensington Infantry Barracks.</p> <hr/> <p>1851 England census HO 107/1480/891, Westminster St Margaret</p>
1851, Mar 30	<p>Mary Ann listed as servant in house of Richard and Mary Dixon, 2 Hereford Tce, Chelsea.</p> <hr/> <p>1851 England Census HO 107/1472/386, Chelsea, Middlesex</p>
1856, Aug 5	<p>Henry Mullins and Mary Ann Cox married at St Michael the Archangel Church, Aldershot, Hampshire.</p> <hr/> <p>FHL film 991763 (Aldershot Parish registers)</p>
1857, Mar 23	<p>Sarah Mullins born at Dean, near Sparsholt¹. She was baptised at Sparsholt three weeks later on 12 April 1857².</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Birth Certificate 1857/445 Winchester District ² http://www.downs-benefice.hampshire.org.uk/benefice/ststephen.htm : Baptisms 1609-1930</p>
1857, Oct 24	<p>Henry, Mary Ann and Sarah sailed from Birkenhead Depot, Liverpool on the <i>Irene</i>, bound for Moreton Bay (Brisbane), as assisted migrants.</p> <hr/> <p>The Morning Chronicle, London, p 7 Qld State Archives, Film 2138, Passenger list</p>
1858, Feb 11	<p><i>Irene</i> arrived in Moreton Bay¹. The trip had taken 109 days, and all immigrants arrived in good health. There would be a delay in transferring them to Brisbane because all the steamers were busy transferring produce from Brisbane to Moreton Bay².</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Qld State Archives, Film 2138, Passenger list ² Sydney Morning Herald, 19 Feb 1858, p 2</p>

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

<p>1858, Feb 16</p>	<p><i>Irene</i> passenger list compiled following inspection by the Immigration Board¹. The immigrants reached Brisbane late that night, and would be ready for hire at 10 am the next day at the <u>Immigration Depot</u>².</p> <p>¹ NSW Records Office, Film 2477 ² Moreton Bay Courier, 17 Feb 1858, pp 2, 3</p>
<p>1858, Feb 27</p>	<p>The <i>Irene</i> immigrants took out an advertisement in the Moreton Bay Courier thanking the captain (Lewis Jones) for superintending their ‘safe conduct across the trackless deep’, even though they had not always got on well with him.</p> <p><u>Moreton Bay Courier</u>, 27 Feb 1858, p 1</p>
<p>1858, Mar 1</p>	<p>The immigrants had met with ‘rapid engagements and at good wages’. A Liverpool paper subsequently reported that rates of payment for families averaged from £30 to £50 per annum (with one at £60); for single women £18 to £25 (with one at £30), and six single men employed at £40 per annum as domestic servants.</p> <p><u>Sydney Morning Herald</u>, 1 Mar 1858, p 5 <u>Liverpool Mercury</u>, 15 May 1858, p 4</p>
<p>1858, Mar 23</p>	<p>Jesse Hyland, a ‘new chum’ emigrant from the <i>Irene</i>, charged with absconding himself without permission because he didn’t like the ‘bush hay’ mattress. Charge dismissed with <u>admonishment not to expect feather beds and sheets</u>.</p> <p><u>Moreton Bay Courier</u>, 27 Mar 1858, p 2</p>

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1860, Mar 19	<p>A daughter, Mary Ann Mullins, born to Henry and Mary Ann, in Toowoomba. Henry was a shepherd at Billa Billa station near Goondiwindi at the time¹. He had been employed there, working for Henry Easton, since he first arrived in Queensland³.</p> <p>The birth was registered on 28 April 1860. The birth certificate records Previous Issue, living and deceased as ‘Two girls’, while the Informant is ‘Information in writing certified by Mary Ann Mullins, Mother, Billa Billa’. So we do not know if there was a misunderstanding between Mary Ann and the Registrar because of the written information (three years beforehand Mary Ann had marked her name on Sarah’s birth certificate with a cross, and did so again in 1866 for her son’s death certificate – see below), or whether Henry and Mary Ann had in fact had another child between Sarah and the new baby. I have found no evidence to support the latter case, and the death certificate² for Mary Ann (mother), for which Peter Field was the informant, supports the former. On balance, it seems most likely that the birth certificate is in error on this point.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Qld Birth Certificate 1860/C132 ² Qld Death Certificate 1901/C1490 ³ Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Nov 1901, p 2</p>
1863, Aug 30	<p>Mary Ann, aged 3½, died at Billa Billa ‘from the effects of burns received through her clothes igniting in some burning grass’¹. Henry Mullins was a sheep overseer at Billa Billa station². Mary Ann was buried on the station, although the exact location is unknown³. Witnesses were Henry and Mary Ann Mullins and Henry Edward Easton of Billa Billa².</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Darling Downs Gazette, 24 Sep 1863, p 2 ² Qld Death Certificate 1863/191, District of Goondiwindi ³ Patterson and Carrigan (2005), p 106</p>
1865, Feb 22	<p>Henry, in Toowoomba, advertised for work as a ‘sheep overseer and storekeeper’, stating that he had ‘<u>considerable experience amongst sheep</u>’.</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Feb 1865, p 2</p>

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

1865, Mar 25	<p>A son, Harry, was born. Henry was working as a butcher at <u>Black Gully, near Toowoomba</u>, at the time.</p> <p>Qld birth certificate 1865/305</p>
1866, Jan 9	<p>Henry, aged 38, died from asthma, from which he had suffered for years¹. He was a sheep overseer at Wyaga Station near Goondiwindi and was buried there, although the exact location is unknown².</p> <p>¹ Qld death certificate 1866/471 ² Patterson and Carrigan (2005)</p>
1866, Apr 17	<p>Harry, aged 12 months, died from marasmus, a form of acute malnutrition. The family were living in Toowoomba at this time. Again, Mary Ann, the informant, signed her name with a cross.</p> <p>Qld Death Certificate 1866/281</p>
1867, Oct 28	<p>Mary Ann Mullins married George Butterfield, a 53-year-old widower. Mary Ann was 37, and both lived in Toowoomba¹. (The marriage certificate records George's age as 50). They had two children, Ruth Mullins Butterfield^{2,3} (8 Apr 1870-1956) and Mary Ann Butterfield^{4,5} (6 Dec 1871-1958). Ruth married Niels Charles Clauson (1857-1945) in 1903. <u>Mary Ann married David Arthur Booker (1871-1950) in 1904.</u></p> <p>¹ Qld Marriage Certificate 1867/152 ² Qld Birth Certificate 1870/C526 ³ Qld Death Certificate 1956/C4154 ⁴ Qld Birth Certificate 1871/C836 ⁵ Headstone, Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery</p>
1869, Dec 6	<p>A block of land was bought in Sarah Mullins's name. Sarah was aged 12. The block is half of what is now 205 Bridge St, Toowoomba, and was 24 perches (607 sq. m) in area.</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formal description is Resubdivision B of subdivision 76 of portion 13, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton. Title reference number 10155248</p>
1874, Jun 28	<p>George Butterfield died, aged 60¹. He and Mary Ann were living at <u>Bridge St, off Cummings Estate</u>^{1,2}.</p> <p>¹ Qld Death Certificate 1874/C1756 ² Darling Downs Gazette, 1 July 1874, p 3</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1874, Sep 18	<p>The other half of what is now 205 Bridge St was bought by <u>Mary Ann Butterfield</u>.</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formally, it is Subdivision 76 of portion 13, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton. Title reference number 10230055</p>
1901, Nov 8	<p>Mary Ann died on 8 November, 1901, aged 71, 26 years after George Butterfield. Cause of death was listed as diabetes mellitus, heart failure and syncope. Her death notice refers to a long and painful illness. The <i>Brisbane Courier</i> notes that she was a very old resident of Toowoomba, and that her funeral was 'largely attended'. Both George and Mary Ann are buried in Toowoomba Cemetery. Their headstone is engraved</p> <p><i>Through paths of suffering, strange and dim God sometimes calls his own to Him</i></p> <p><u>Qld Death Certificate 1901/C1490</u> Brisbane Courier 12 Nov 1901, p 6 The Queenslander, 23 Nov 1901, p 976</p>
George Butterfield	
1814, Feb 22	<p>Thomas Butterfield married Sarah Ridgewell at Radwinter, Essex, England.</p> <p><u>FHL microfilm 1702508 (Bishop's Transcript , Parish Church of Radwinter)</u></p>
1814, Jun 19	<p>George was baptised at Radwinter, Essex¹. Other implied estimates of his birth year vary: c. 1816²; c. 1817³; c. 1820⁴. However this date agrees with the age stated at his trial in 1844.</p> <p><u>¹ FHL microfilm 1702508 (Bishop's Transcript , Parish Church of Radwinter)</u> <u>² Ancestry.com. 1841 England Census, HO107/66/6 for Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire</u> <u>³ Qld Marriage Certificate 1867/152</u> <u>⁴ Qld Death Certificate 1874/C1756</u></p>
1841, Jun 6	<p>George lived at Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire with his parents and seven of his siblings. Age given as 25, and birthplace shown as 'not in this county'. Castle Camps was only about 6 km from Radwinter, and both are about 25 km south-east of Cambridge.</p> <p><u>Ancestry.com. 1841 England Census, HO107/66/6 for Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire</u></p>

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY

1843, Dec 23	<p>George and another person stole a purse from a farmer <u>returning home from the George Inn, Castle Camps.</u></p> <p>FamilySearch.org, Ancestral File Number 3ND1-36L, submitted by ecrow2721650 6/11/2000 Cambridge Independent Press, 30 March 1844, p 4</p>
1844, Mar 23	<p>George convicted of highway robbery at Cambridge Assizes, and sentenced to transportation for ten years. Age given as 29¹. James Butterfield was also tried but found not guilty. James is most likely George's brother aged about 23 (baptised 2 Apr. 1820)², but the newspaper account says this James is aged 53³, probably a misprint.</p> <p>¹ England and Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892. Cass HO27; Piece 72; Page 59 ² FHL microfilm 1818416 (Bishop's Transcript, Parish of Castle Camps) ³ Cambridge Independent Press, 30 March 1844, p 4</p>
1844, Apr 9	<p>George removed to Millbank Prison.</p> <p>Cambridge Independent Press, 13 Apr 1844, p 2</p>
1844, Jul 13	<p>George transferred to prison hulk <i>Justitia</i> at Woolwich.</p> <p>UK Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, Class HO9; Piece 13</p>
1849, Jun 1	<p>Left England as one of 230 male convicts on the <i>Mount Stuart Elphinstone</i>, bound for Moreton Bay, NSW. He arrived on 1 November 1849.</p> <p>Australian Convict Transportation Register, Class HO; Piece 16</p>
1849, Nov 30	<p>Granted a Ticket of Leave on arrival in Moreton Bay. Transportation to NSW effectively ceased in 1842, but in 1849-50 'exiles' were transported. They had served part of their sentence in England and were granted a conditional pardon or a ticket of leave on arrival in the Colony.</p> <p>NSW State Records Ticket of Leave 49/682 [4/4219, reel 963]</p>
1850, Jun 16	<p>Granted a Ticket of Leave Passport on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Crown Lands Darling Downs. He was allowed to remain in the employ of LJ McKenzie on the Darling Downs for 12 months.</p> <p>NSW State Records Ticket of Leave Passport 50/0339 [4/4275, reel 979] Moreton Bay Courier, 30 March 1850, p 3, quoting NSW Government Gazette, 11 March 1850</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1860, 1861	George bought land in Toowoomba. It was near what is now <u>Emmerson Park, Centenary Heights.</u> Crown Land Sales 1842-1861 Transcription, County of Aubigny, Town of Drayton, Portion 106, allotment 25, 19 Nov 1860 Crown Land Sales 1860-1911 Transcription, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton, Country Land Purchase 'A' register, Vol 2, p 339, 1861
1861, Apr 27	George, aged 46, married Mary Perry in Toowoomba. <u>Qld Marriage Certificate 1861/C31</u>
1861, 1862	George unsuccessfully tendered to the Toowoomba Council for various works projects, including pulling down and re-erecting his own house, which was to be moved to allow <u>construction of a new street.</u> Courier (Brisbane), 19 Nov 1861, p 3 Courier (Brisbane), 8 Feb 1862, p 3 Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Dec 1862, p 3 Courier (Brisbane), 13 Dec 1862, p 3
1867, Apr 21	Mary Butterfield (née Perry) died. <u>Qld Death Certificate 1867/C227</u>
1867, Oct 28	George, aged 53 (but 50 according to the marriage certificate), married Mary Ann Mullins ¹ . They had two children, Ruth Mullins Butterfield ^{2,3} (1870-1956) and Mary Ann Butterfield ^{4,5} (1871-1958). <u></u> ¹ Qld Marriage Certificate 1867/152 ² Qld Birth Certificate 1870/C526 ³ Qld Death Certificate 1956/C4154 ⁴ Qld Birth Certificate 1871/C836 ⁵ Headstone, Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery
1874, Jun 28	George Butterfield, aged 60, died in Toowoomba of 'bronchial haemorrhage'. The most common cause of this was tuberculosis. His death certificate and headstone say he was 54, but this appears to be incorrect. He was living at Bridge St, off Cummings Estate, Toowoomba. <u>Qld Death Certificate 1874/C1756</u>

SARAH MULLINS AND HER FAMILY



Mary Anne Butterfield with her grandson, Cyril, c. 1885 [Barrs family photo]



*(from left) Sarah, Mary Ann (Jr), Nessie, Mary Ann (Snr), Ruth, Oct 1901
[Barrs family photo]*

CHAPTER 3: FAMILY LIFE

1869, Dec 6	<p>A block of land was bought in Sarah Mullins's name. Sarah was aged 12. The block is half of what is now 205 Bridge St, Toowoomba, and was 24 perches [607 m²] in area.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formal description is Resubdivision B of subdivision 76 of portion 13, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton, title reference number 10155248</u></p>
1874, Sep 18	<p>The other half of what is now 205 Bridge St was bought by <u>Mary Ann Butterfield</u>.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formally, it is Subdivision 76 of portion 13, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton, title reference number 10230055</u></p>
1884, Jan 1	<p>Peter Field and Sarah Mullins were married in St James' Church of England, Toowoomba. On the marriage certificate Peter states his parents as Peter Field, soldier, and Elizabeth Downing. <u>Rev. Thomas Jones officiated.</u></p> <p><u>Qld Marriage Certificate 1884/C457</u></p>
1884, Feb 12	<p>Peter bought <u>Mary Ann Butterfield's half of the land at [205] Bridge St.</u></p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Title reference number 10230055</u></p>
1884	<p><u>Peter living in Bridge St.</u></p> <p><u>Qld Electoral Roll, 1884</u></p>
1884, Mar 3	<p>Peter and Sarah mortgaged both halves of their land at 205 Bridge St for <u>£340 in total.</u></p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Title reference numbers 10155248 and 10230055</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1885, Oct 4	<p>Peter and Sarah's first child, Cyril Henry Vivian Field, born at their residence, Bridge St, Mort Estate (on the certificate)¹ and Alpha Cottage, Mort Estate (in the Gazette)², Toowoomba. The home addresses given on the children's birth certificates, and in Cyril's birth announcement in the <i>Darling Downs Gazette</i>, are all different but most likely all refer to the house at 205 Bridge St, Toowoomba. Nessie's birth certificate lists the address as Mort Estate³, and Raymond's as Bridge St⁴. Although the northern limit of the Mort Estate was actually on the southern side of Bridge Street and 205 Bridge St is on the northern side, it is likely that Peter used Bridge St, Mort Estate as an address rather than 'Bridge St off Cummings Estate' (as was used for George Butterfield's death certificate in 1874) since it was more well-known⁵.</p> <p>¹ Qld Birth Certificate 1885/C3038 ² Darling Downs Gazette, 7 Oct 1885 ³ Qld Birth Certificate 1887/C3072 ⁴ Qld Birth Certificate 1890/C3714 ⁵ Maurice French, pers. comm.</p>
1887, Jul 1	<p><u>Nessie Evelyn Field</u> born at Mort Estate, Toowoomba. Qld Birth Certificate 1887/C3072</p>
1890, Jan 8	<p><u>Raymond Stanley Field</u> born at Bridge St, Toowoomba. Qld Birth Certificate 1890/C3714</p>
1893, Jun 19	<p><u>Mary Ann Butterfield</u> bought the blocks at 205 Bridge St from Peter and Sarah. Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Title reference numbers 10155248 and 10230055</p>
1897, Dec 22	<p><u>Sarah</u> organised the fancy goods stall at a fund-raising function for the Melanesian Mission. Darling Downs Gazette, 23 Dec 1897, p 2</p>
1900–1905	<p>The Qld electoral roll for Cambooya shows Peter was living at Bridge St, Mort Estate, Toowoomba. His qualification to be on the roll was the lease of Mrs. Evans's shop in Yandilla St [Pittsworth] (claim made 30 Mar 1899). Qld State Electoral roll, Cambooya, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1905</p>

1901, Nov 8	<p>Mary Ann died on 8 November, 1901, aged 71. <u>Qld Death Certificate 1901/C1490</u></p>
1901, Dec 24	<p>Probate of will of Mary Ann Butterfield granted to Sarah Field. The land at 205 Bridge St was left to Mary Ann's three daughters, Sarah, Ruth and Mary Ann. Mary Ann's estate was valued at £468. The Will shows that Mary Ann (Snr), Ruth and Mary Ann (Jnr) lived at Bridge St with Peter and Sarah. <u>Queensland State Archives Item ID742263 Will file no. 1901/406 for Mary Ann Butterfield</u> Qld Government Gazette, 16 Nov 1901, p 625 Qld Government Gazette, 8 Nov 1902, p 1082 Brisbane Courier 10 Nov 1902, p 10 Brisbane Courier 27 Jan 1902</p>
1902, Nov 3	<p>Property at 205 Bridge St sold to Thomas and Sarah Burton¹. The 1903 Commonwealth electoral roll for Toowoomba show them living at Fulham Cottage, Bridge St, Toowoomba². ¹ Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, title reference numbers 10155248 and 10230055 ² Australian Electoral Commission, Electoral roll for Toowoomba, Darling Downs, 1903</p>
1903, Feb 18	<p>Ruth Butterfield married Niels Clauson at St Luke's Church, with Rev. Thomas Jones and Rev. Canon Pughe officiating. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Feb 1903, p 5</u></p>
1904, Mar 24	<p>Peter Field's purchase of five acres of land on the corner of Stuart St and Rifle Range Rd was registered¹. This was to become Kenilworth. The Queensland electoral rolls for Toowoomba for 1903 and 1905 show Peter living in Bridge St, Toowoomba, with his qualification to be on the roll being freehold owner of North St, portion 529². Yet none of the titles for portion 529 show him owning any land there before the 1904 title³. ¹Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Resubdivision 2 of subdivision 2 of Portion 529 in the Parish of Drayton, County of Aubigny; title reference no. 10943215) ² Queensland electoral roll (District of Aubigny, Division of Toowoomba) 1903, 1905 ³ Kaye Nardella, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (pers. comm.)</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

<p>1903–1911</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for the Toowoomba electorate show Peter and Sarah living at Daphne (mis-spelled Daphine), Stuart Street¹. Peter’s occupation is ‘boot manufacturer, and Sarah’s ‘domestic duties’.</p> <p>The Rate and Valuation Books for the Toowoomba City Council show Peter paid rates in respect of Allotment 45, Subdivision 6, resubs 4 to 7². These were owned by Thomas May and are currently 139, 137, 135 and 133 Stuart Street³. In the 1911 Rate Book, Peter’s name has been crossed out and replaced with ‘George Willett, laborer’, indicating that Peter vacated the house sometime in 1911.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Australian Electoral Commission, Electoral rolls for Toowoomba, Darling Downs, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1909</p> <p>² Queensland State Archives, items 971431 and 971435, Rate and Valuation Books – Toowoomba City Council – East Ward 1910 and 1911</p> <p>³ Kaye Nardella, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld (pers. comm.)</p>
<p>1904, Apr 2</p>	<p>Mary Ann Butterfield and David Booker were married in St Luke’s Church, with Rev. Thomas Jones officiating.</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 9 Apr 1904, pp 5, 6</p>
<p>1907, Apr 30</p>	<p>Sarah Field organised a progressive euchre party at the Alexandra Hall in aid of a widow and child. There was a large attendance, and after the tournament there was dancing until midnight.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 1 May 1907, p 2</p>
<p>1909, Apr 12</p>	<p>Cyril Field married Mabel St George French in St Luke’s Church, Toowoomba. Cyril’s best man was Mr C Gallagher of Dalby. Peter and Sarah’s address still at Daphne, Stuart St. The wedding tea was held in the Winter Garden of the Alexandra Hall. They honeymooned at Tweed Heads and stayed with Mabel’s mother, Mrs Susan French, on their way back to their future home in Dalby.</p> <hr/> <p>The Queenslander, 17 Apr 1909, p 12</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1909, p 8; 24 Apr 1909, p 5</p>
<p>1909, Apr</p>	<p>Sarah won first prize in the ‘Spaniel – any other breed [except Cocker Spaniel]’ with her dog Bobs at the Toowoomba Show.</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Apr 1909, p 3</p>

1909, Aug 3	Ray won second prize at the Toowoomba Show poultry section for a Pit Game cock. This was a chicken bred by British soldiers in Australia for cock fighting. <u>Brisbane Courier, 4 Aug 1909, p 5</u>
1909, Aug 14	Sarah entertained a number of guests at Daphne in honour of her daughter-in-law, Mabel, who was visiting from Dalby. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 17 Aug 1909, p 5</u>
1910, Apr 1	Miss Stella Gribble left Daphne after a stay of some months as Sarah's guest. Ruth and Niels Clauson and Ray Field spent Easter with Sarah and Peter at Daphne. A few days later, Sarah and Peter, Mabel Field and her mother, Mrs French were among a large crowd attending a film evening at Austral Hall. Films showing were <i>Tour through Ireland</i> , <i>Les Miserables</i> , <i>The Hostage</i> and <i>An Indian Romance</i> . <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 1 Apr 1910, p 8; 4 Apr 1910, p 8</u>
1910, Apr 9	Sarah, wearing 'black silk', attended a euchre party and dance in honour of the approaching marriage of Mr George Lane at St Luke's Church. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Apr 1910, p 5</u>
1910, Apr 22	Sarah won first and second places in the 'Spaniel – any other breed [except Cocker Spaniel]?' at the Toowoomba Show with her dogs Bobs and Rollo. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Apr 1910, p 3</u>
1911, Jun 22	A Grand Patriotic Evening was held in the Austral Hall in honour of the coronation of King George V. A 'magnificent programme of patriotic choruses, solos and recitations' followed a torchlight procession of Boy Scouts, various societies and bands. Sarah was one of many attendees. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 23 Jun 1911, p 5</u>
1911, Oct 13	Mr and Mrs George Clauson guests at Kenilworthy [<i>sic</i>], Mt Lofty. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Oct 1911, p 8</u>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1911, Nov 9 Peter, Sarah and Nessie registered for the Qld electoral roll at Kenilworth, Rifle Range Rd. The Electoral Roll calls it Rifle Butts Rd, but this appears incorrect as the Queensland Post Office Directory had called it Rifle Range Road for some years.

Qld Electoral Roll, District of Drayton, Toowoomba Division, 1912

1912, Apr 24 Peter won several prizes at the Toowoomba Show for game poultry and Indian Runner duck and drake.

Darling Downs Gazette, 15 Apr 1912, pp 3, 5, 6

Brisbane Courier, 24 Apr 1912, p 3

Queenslander, 27 Apr 1912, p 39



Irene (left, Ray's wife), Nessie and Mabel (Cyril's wife) [Barrs family photograph]

CHAPTER 4: BOOTS, SHOES AND SEEDS

1875–1884	<p>Peter Field worked at three general merchants in Ruthven St, Toowoomba: FH Holberton and Co., Fullarton, Rooke and Co. and Paul, Boys, and Co.². At Paul, Boys, and Co. the boot and shoe department was ‘under the able supervision of Mr. Field, and has received most particular attention’¹.</p> <p>¹ Darling Downs Gazette, 9 Jan 1884, ² Darling Downs Gazette, 6 Feb 1884</p>
1876, Jan 4	<p>Peter was proposed as a member of the Darling Downs District Lodge of the Manchester Unity International Order of Oddfellows. His membership was confirmed at the following meeting. He remained a member all his life.</p> <p>PH Turnbull (pers. comm.) A brief history of the Loyal Darling Downs Lodge compiled for the 150th anniversary 2104 (unpublished) Toowoomba Chronicle, 27 Jun 1936</p>
1878, Jun 1	<p>Article about irrigation at SH Whichello’s tannery at Gowrie Creek.</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 1 Jun 1878, p 1S</p>
1883, Jul 10	<p>A fire occurred in the early hours of the morning at the premises of Mr Campbell (bootmaker) and Mr Glover (hairdresser) in Ruthven St. Both shops belonged to Mr SG Stephens. The shops destroyed were wooden buildings, one storey high, situated between the two storey brick buildings occupied by J Tucker and Co. and Mrs Williams¹. This places both shops destroyed on subdivision 3, suburban allotment 1, section V, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton, since (a) Tucker leased subdivision 4 from Stephens², and (b) subdivision 2A next to subdivision 3 was owned by James Taylor at the time³.</p> <p>¹ Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Jul 1883, p 3; 25 Jul 1883, p 3; 8 Aug 1883, p 3 ² Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, title 10154116 ³ Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, title 10129265</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1883, Aug 8	<p>Mr Stephens advertised his intention of 'letting on building lease' the site of the fire¹. 'As that is now the only vacant spot in this, the best business part of Ruthven street, there should be plenty of eager claimants for the privilege'².</p>
	<p>¹ Darling Downs Gazette, 8 Aug 1883, p 2 ² Darling Downs Gazette, 8 Aug 1883, p 3</p>
1884, Feb 23	<p>Peter opened his first store in Ruthven St, Toowoomba: a 'boot and shoe and seed warehouse'¹. The store was in 'one of the new shops built by Mr Stephens on the site of the late fire in Ruthven-street'². It was next door to J Tucker and Co, opposite Wilcox Bros, and nearly opposite the Gazette Office at the time.</p> <p>The shop was on the northern half of subdivision 3 (and maybe 12, directly behind it) of suburban allotment 1 of section V, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton. From late 1899 Peter leased the adjacent subdivisions 3, 12, 4 and 11 from Mr SG Stephens, but until that time, subdivisions 4 and 11 were leased to Mr J Tucker³. The 1884 lease to Peter Field is not marked on the title, but this was not a requirement at the time⁴.</p>
	<p>¹ Toowoomba Chronicle, 5 Feb 1884 Darling Downs Gazette, 6 Feb 1884, p 2 ² Darling Downs Gazette, 1 Mar 1884, p 3 ³ Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 10179084 (sub 3), 10179163 (sub 12), and also titles 10154116 (sub 4) and 10154115 (sub 11). ⁴ Kaye Nardella, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld (pers. comm.)</p>
1884, Mar 3	<p>Peter and Sarah mortgaged both halves of their land at 205 Bridge St for £340 in total.</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Title reference numbers 10155248 and 10230055</p>

<p>1884, Dec 31</p>	<p>The ‘heaviest hailstorm ever to hit Toowoomba’; Peter’s shop, among others, had the premises and a lot of stock saturated. Peter’s shop was in Ruthven St, between Margaret and Russell Sts, and other businesses in the same block were Paul, Boys, and Co., JH Robertson, Mr Tucker, Mr Schulz and several others. This storm followed another on 31 Oct 1884 which also severely damaged Peter’s shop.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle</u>, 1 Jan 1885, reported in the Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton) 7 Jan 1885, p 3 <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 1 Nov 1884, p 3</p>
<p>1885</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe and seed warehouse (Ruthven St, opposite Wilcox Bros.).</p> <p><u>Pugh’s Almanac</u> (1885) p 478 <u>Groom’s Darling Downs Almanac</u> (1885) advertisement on p 30</p>
<p>1885, Feb 1</p>	<p>Peter opened a shop in McDowell St, Roma, opposite the Royal Hotel.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 28 Jan 1885, p 3; 11 Feb 1885, p 4; 4 Apr 1885, p 1</p>
<p>1885, Mar 7</p>	<p>Advertisement for new boot and shoe makers, Powell and Callaghan (Late of Peter Field), in Ruthven Street. ‘Powell and Callaghan’s work being so well known in connection with Peter Field, comment is unnecessary.’</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 7 Mar 1885, p 3</p>
<p>1885, Mar 14</p>	<p>Peter advertised that he had employed a ‘first-class bootmaker from Brisbane’ so that he could do boot-making and repairing on the (Roma) premises.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 14 Mar 1885, p 4</p>
<p>1885, May 25</p>	<p>Peter gave a ‘special prize’ of two guineas for the winner of the Oddfellows’ Grand Handicap 100 yard race at the Oddfellow’s Sports Day at Roma.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 27 May 1885, p 2</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1885, Jun 3	<p>Advertisement for new arrival in Roma of boots, shoes and slippers for winter. Peter is now an 'Importer and Manufacturer of every description of Ladies', Gents', and Children's Boots and Shoes of Latest Styles and Finish'.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 3 Jun 1885, p 4</p>
1885, Oct	<p>One half-sovereign stolen from a letter posted at Surat on 11 October, addressed to Peter Field, Roma.</p> <p><u>Queensland Police Gazette</u>, Nov 1885, p 279</p>
1886	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe maker (Ruthven St). Roma – shoemaker.</p> <p><u>Pugh's Almanac (1886)</u> pp 506 ,514</p>
1886, Feb 9	<p>Advertisement for 'first-class clicker for bespoke trade; one competent to cut his own patterns'. ('Clicking' was the first stage in making a pair of shoes. The clicker selected the hide and cut the upper from it, by hand, avoiding any flaws but with minimum wastage of expensive leather.)</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 9 Feb 1886, p 8</p>
1886, Jul 23	<p>SH Whichello's boot and shoe manufacturing business offered for private sale, including machinery and stock.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 23 Jul 1886, p 6; 7 Sep 1886, p 7</p>
1887	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – seedsman, boot factory (Ruthven St). Roma – bootmaker.</p> <p><u>Brisbane PO Directory and Country Guide (1887)</u>, pp 513, 523 <u>Pugh's Almanac (1887)</u> pp 109, 121</p>
1887, Feb	<p>Peter bought the 'new and recently imported machinery and working plant of the Darling Downs Boot and Shoe Factory' from SH Whichello. He had previously built a large building at the rear of his retail shop in Ruthven St to house his manufacturing business.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 19 Feb 1887 p 3 <u>Toowoomba Chronicle</u>, 2 Jul 1887 <u>Waterson (1968)</u> p 79 <u>Toowoomba Chronicle</u>, 6 Jun 1896</p>

1887, Jan	<p>Advertisements for clearing/pre-stocktaking sales in <u>Toowoomba and Roma.</u></p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Jan 1887, p 2 Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 22 Jan 1887, p 4</p>
1887, Jun 18	<p>Peter opened a branch store in Roggenkamp's old shop in Ruthven St, Toowoomba, 'next door to Mr R. Renwick's'. The <i>Chronicle</i> article contains reference to the branch structure of Stead, Simpson and Nephew of Leicester, UK.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 18 Jun 1887, p 2</u> Toowoomba Chronicle, 2 Jul 1887 www.gracesguide.co.uk/Stead_and_Simpson (accessed 6 Jan 2015)</p>
1887, Jun 23	<p>The stock from the shop of Thomas Holliss, tailor and habit maker, was auctioned 'under distraint for rent'. <u>Holliss's shop was next door to Peter Field's.</u></p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 18 Jun 1887, p 2</p>
1887, Sep 21	<p>Notice that Peter Field had disposed of his Roma boot and shoe business to William Stuart, Practical Bootmaker.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 21 Sep 1887</u></p>
1888	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot factory (Ruthven St), boot warehouse, seedsman . <u>Roma – bootmaker.</u></p> <p>Brisbane PO directory and country guide (1888) pp 89A, 101A Pugh's Almanac (1888) p 184</p>
1888, Jun 1	<p>Patrick McQuade accused of stealing two pairs of boots from <u>Field's boot shop at Toowoomba.</u> He was later discharged.</p> <p>Brisbane Courier, 2 Jun 1888, p 5 Darling Downs Gazette, 6 Jun 1888, p 3</p>
1888, Jun 15	<p>Peter bought land in Isaac St, bordering Gowrie Creek, on which he later built his tannery. It was mortgaged to Frances Jones, wife of Thomas Jones, for the first year. He eventually sold the block to Patrick Coonan in May 1910.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formal title is subdivision 1 of suburban allotment 18, Parish of Drayton, title reference no. 10237101</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1888, Aug 29	<p>Branch shop in Roggenkamp's building closed.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 29 Aug 1888, p 2</u></p>
1889	<p>Almanac and directory listings: <u>Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman.</u></p> <p>Brisbane PO directory and country guide p 139A Pugh's Almanac (1889) p 138 Slater's Qld Almanac (1889) p 164</p>
1889, Jan 1	<p>Peter Field listed as a passenger on the train from Wallangarra (Qld, at the border with NSW) to Tenterfield (NSW).</p> <p><u>The Queenslander, 5 Jan 1889, p 38</u></p>
1890	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner (Isaac St).</p> <p>This is the first mention of the tannery in almanacs^{1,2,4}. It was at the western end of Isaac St, on the southern side of the street, with a frontage to Gowrie Creek³.</p> <p><u>¹ Queensland PO Directory (Hollander) (1890) pp 145A, 146A</u> ² Pugh's Almanac (1890) pp 155, 157, 180 ³ Queensland Post Office Directory (Wise) (1904) p 506 ⁴ Slater's Qld Almanac (1890) p 173</p>
1890, Jun 4	<p>Progress report on Brisbane bootmakers' strike comments that 'Up in Toowoomba the trade is peacefully working under the new statement [of piecework prices]'.</p> <p><u>Worker, 4 Jun 1890, pp 6, 7</u></p>
1891	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanners (Isaac St).</p> <p><u>Queensland PO directory (Hollander) p 131A</u> Pugh's Almanac (1891) pp 174, 176, 16B, 58B Slater's Qld Almanac (1891) p 176</p>

<p>1891, Mar 25</p>	<p>At a meeting in aid of striking shearers, a Mr Bowman stated that the agreements signed by apprentices working for Peter Field were 'unfair and shameful'. Peter called all apprentices together the next day and said that anyone not satisfied with the agreement could 'have it cancelled at once, receive his wages, and leave his employment. Not one, however, <u>accepted the offer</u>'.</p> <p>The Brisbane Courier, 27 Mar 1891, p 5</p>
<p>1891, Jul 6</p>	<p>Two apprentices absconded from their employment with Peter Field, and were supposed to have gone to Dalby or Charleville. Warrants were issued for their arrest on 19 August.</p> <p><u>Qld Police Gazette, Aug 1891, p 332</u></p>
<p>1891, Aug 1</p>	<p>An apprentice, 'an apparently incorrigible youth aged about 16', who absconded four times was at first jailed for three days, but finally sent to a reformatory for 12 months after his parents had 'asserted their disability of reforming him'. Peter expressed his willingness to re-employ him when he had served his term.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 25 Mar 1891, p 2; 27 May 1891, p 3; 1 Aug 1891, p 3</u></p>
<p>1891, Sep 16?</p>	<p>'Lively' meeting of creditors of Peter Field held in Brisbane rejected an offer of 7s 6d in the pound over two years. Conflicting reports about the existence of bills of sale to the Rev. Thomas Jones and the Union Bank covering the whole of Peter's property led to 'an interchange of language not very complimentary between Mr Schoenheimer [Mr LF Schoenheimer, another boot manufacturer] and Mr Field'. The paper reported that Mr Schoenheimer lost his temper and attempted to strike Peter, and was only prevented from doing so by others present.</p> <p><u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 23 Sep 1891, p 3</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Sep 1891, p 3; 21 Sep 1891, p 3</u></p>

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<p>1891, Sep</p>	<p>Petition filed in Supreme Court for the liquidation of the estate of Peter Field, boot and shoe manufacturer, of Toowoomba; liabilities £12,983 17s 9d. <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 19 Sep 1891</u> <u>The Queenslander, 26 Sep 1891, p 618</u></p>
<p>1891, Sep 17</p>	<p><u>First meeting of creditors set for 2 Oct 1891.</u> <u>Qld Government Gazette, 19 Sep 1891, p 232</u></p>
<p>1891, Sep 19</p>	<p><u>Rev. Thomas Jones's letter regarding Peter Field's bill of sale.</u> <u>Telegraph (Brisbane), 19 Sep 1891, p 4</u></p>
<p>1891, Oct 2</p>	<p>Meeting of creditors held in Toowoomba. The reasons given for the insolvency were depression in trade, pressure of creditors and inability to obtain further accommodation. Rev. Thomas Jones a major benefactor of Peter Field. The meeting accepted an offer from Peter Field of 10s. in the pound, with six per cent interest, payable over two years. Thomas Jones's wife was a guarantor for this arrangement after a Mr Kebble said he thought 'Rev. Thomas Jones might in the natural order of events become by death unable to meet such an obligation'. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 3 Oct 1891, p 3</u> <u>Brisbane Courier, 3 Oct 1891, p 5</u> <u>Qld Times, 6 Oct 1891</u> <u>Brisbane Courier, 8 Oct 1891, pp 4, 5</u> <u>The Queenslander, 10 Oct 1891, p 679</u> <u>Qld State Archives, item ID94508, file no. 919 of 1891</u></p>
<p>1891, Oct 12</p>	<p><u>A second meeting of creditors in Toowoomba. At this meeting creditors who had not attended the first meeting agreed with the proposal from the first meeting.</u> <u>Qld Government Gazette, 10 Oct 1891, p 493</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Oct 1891, p 3</u> <u>Qld State Archives, item ID94508, file no. 919 of 1891</u></p>
<p>1891, Nov 14</p>	<p><u>Peter held a 'great clearing sale' of stock, for cash only.</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Nov 1891, p 2</u></p>
<p>1891, Dec 19</p>	<p><u>Darling Downs Gazette welcomed the Co-operative to be managed by Peter Field.</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Dec 1891, p 5</u></p>

<p>1891, Dec 24</p>	<p>The Toowoomba Cooperative Tanning and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company Ltd was incorporated, with Peter Field as manager and his employees as shareholders. A 'grand opening celebration' and sale was held on 21 December.</p> <hr/> <p>Qld State Archives, item ID283391, file no. 281, book 6 Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Dec 1891, p 4</p>
<p>1892</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe maker (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner (Isaac St).</p> <hr/> <p>Pugh's Almanac (1892) pp 175, 213 Qld PO directory (Weatherill), pp 170A, 241A Slater's Qld Almanac (1892) p 182</p>
<p>1892, Feb 25</p>	<p>Peter Field, as a creditor, wished to take legal action against Stanthorpe storekeeper, John Patrick Ryan, but was legally restrained until the first meeting of Ryan's creditors had been held.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 26 Feb 1892</p>
<p>1892, Sep 3</p>	<p>New boot and shoe cash shop opened at Laidley by the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative, in premises formerly occupied by the Post and Telegraph Department, adjoining Mr Geiseman's Store.</p> <hr/> <p>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 1 Sep 1892, p 2</p>
<p>1892, Sep 3</p>	<p>New boot and shoe cash shop opened at Gatton by Toowoomba Co-operative, in premises formerly occupied by Mr Cunningham, saddler.</p> <hr/> <p>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 27 Sep 1892, p 6</p>
<p>1892, Dec 3</p>	<p>New shop opened in Roma by Toowoomba Boot Co-operative in a 'new large and imposing building next to the Star Office'.</p> <hr/> <p>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 30 Nov 1892, p 3; 3 Dec 1892, p 2; 11 Jan 1893, p 4</p>

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<p>1893</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers, tanner (both as Toowoomba Co-operative Co., P. Field, mgr); seedsman (Ruthven St). <u>Roma – bootmaker.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1893) pp 157, 169, 171, 206, 257 Slater's Qld Almanac (1893) p 181</p>
<p>1893, Jan 20</p>	<p>Peter took Thomas Hicks, a director of the co-operative, to court because he had called Peter 'a liar and other opprobrious names' at a meeting of directors on 31 December 1892. Peter was awarded £5 damages. <u>Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 24 Jan 1893, p 4</u></p>
<p>1893, Feb 2</p>	<p>Advertisement for clicker to take charge of clicker-room. Prefer one who can use Blake sole sewer. <u>Evening News (Sydney) 2 Feb 1893, p 1</u></p>
<p>1893, Jun 19</p>	<p>Mary Ann Butterfield bought the blocks at 205 Bridge St from Peter and Sarah. <u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld</u></p>
<p>1893, Oct 8</p>	<p>The Union Bank in Toowoomba called on the Toowoomba Boot Co-operative to repay an overdraft of £3500. The co-operative could not pay the amount, and the bank foreclosed on the business, 'taking over twelve shops, a factory, and a tannery'. All the company's staff left. About four days after taking possession of the company the bank tried to sell it to other firms but could not find a buyer. The bank then offered the company to Peter Field on condition he take over the liability of £3500 plus some legal expenses and outstanding wages. Peter agreed. The <i>Courier</i> report mentions twelve shops. This is something of a mystery. Such records as are available mention the main shop and the branch at Mr Roggenkamp's shop in Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, and the branch in Roma, but the location of the rest are unknown. Perhaps he had other local Toowoomba branches (or perhaps the newspaper figure is incorrect). <u>Brisbane Courier, 30 Jul 1907, p 2</u></p>

<p>1893, Nov 6</p>	<p>The business of the late Co-operative Boot Company had been ‘reconstructed and purchased by Peter Field from the mortgagee’.</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 2 Dec 1893, p 2 Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 11 Nov 1893, p 3</p>
<p>1893, Nov 11</p>	<p>The Roma business was purchased from Peter by Charles E Wise. Wise had been one of the directors of the co-operative. <u>William Stuart</u> continued as manager.</p> <hr/> <p>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 11, 18 and 25 Nov 1893, p 3</p>
<p>1894</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba¹ – boot and shoe maker, tanner (both as Toowoomba Co-operative Co, P. Field, mgr), seedsman (Ruthven St). Roma¹ – bootmaker. Charleville² – Co-operative Boot Co.</p> <p>The Charleville details are among the hardest to put together. Slater’s Almanac shows that a Co-operative Boot Company existed there in 1894 and 1895, and lists Peter Field from 1896 to 1900 with a Co-operative Boot Factory in 1901. Pugh’s Almanac lists a Co-operative Boot Factory from 1896 to 1901. The Queensland Post Office Directories for 1896 and 1898 both list a Co-operative Boot Factory in Charleville. There were many ‘Co-operative Boot Factories’ in Australia at that time, so it is not certain that the Charleville one is Peter’s Toowoomba Co-operative. However, he was certainly there during much of this period: there are several references to him there in 1895 and 1896 (see later in Timeline) and an advertisement in February 1900³ says that a shop to rent in Charleville was ‘occupied for the last eight years by Mr. Field, Bootmaker’. On balance, he may have opened a shop there in the final days of his Co-operative in 1893, and closed it in early 1900.</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Pugh’s Almanac (1894), pp 153, 171, 174, 205, 271 ² Slater’s Qld Almanac (1894) pp 161, 186 ³ Brisbane Courier, 20 Feb 1900, p 2</p>

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1894, Apr 8	<p>Mr James Bennett, manager of the Union Bank in Toowoomba, arranged a meeting in the evening with Peter Field and asked Peter for a 10% commission on his £3500 overdraft (<i>see</i> entry for 8 Oct 1893). Peter reluctantly agreed, and gave Bennett a cheque for £350, not to be presented until the overdraft was paid off. But Bennett died in 1901 and his executors asked for the money. Peter agreed to monthly repayments to Bennett's widow, but in 1907 took the matter to the Supreme Court to get the agreement rescinded. The Chief Justice dismissed the case, but on appeal the judges refused to find for either party, declaring the initial transaction illegal.</p>
	<p>State Records Queensland (1907) <i>Field v Bennett</i>. pp 187-193 Toowoomba Chronicle, 31 Jul 1907, p 4; 4 Sep 1907, p 8 Darling Downs Gazette, 30 Jul 1907, p 5; 31 Jul 1907, p 3; 2 Aug 1907, p 5; Brisbane Courier, 30 Jul 1907, pp 2, 4; 2 Aug 1907, p 4; 4 Sep 1907, p 2 Telegraph (Brisbane), 30 Jul 1907, p 2; 1 Aug 1907, p 2; 3 Sep 1907, p 3 Morning Post (Cairns), 8 Aug 1907, p 4</p>
1895	<p>Almanac and Directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe maker (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. <u>Charleville – Co-operative Boot Co.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1895) pp 183, 185, 186, 290 Slater's Qld Almanac (1895) pp 162, 188</p>
1895–1905	<p>Queensland electoral roll shows Peter leased land in Ruthven St (his shop and factory). His residential address is not given. <u>Qld electoral roll, District of Drayton and Toowoomba, 1895, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1905</u></p>
1895, Apr 15	<p>Peter donated a prize for a Military Tournament. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 17 Apr 1895, p 5; 20 Apr 1895, p 1</u></p>
1895, May 21	<p>Peter won prizes at the Charleville Show for a 'collection of boots and shoes, locally made' and a 'pair racing boots and tops, locally made'. <u>Brisbane Courier, 23 May 1895, p 6</u></p>
1895, Dec 21	<p>A description of the large range of stock carried by Peter Field. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Dec 1895, p 5</u></p>

<p>1896</p>	<p>Almanac and Directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe maker (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner (Isaac St). <u>Branches at Charleville and Laidley.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1896) pp 29B, 87B, 157B, 159B Qld PO directory (Wise) (1896) p 673 Slater's Qld Almanac (1896) pp 164, 190</p>
<p>1896, Feb 6</p>	<p>Peter opened a Roma branch of his business again, to be managed by Charles Wise. It was to be located 'in central premises adjoining Mr Wieneke's saddler's shop, late Anderson's oyster saloon'. Throughout 1896, he often advertised in the <i>Western Star</i>, at the end of news articles: 'Have you tried FIELD for Boots and Shoes (cheap and good)' or 'Yates' Reliable Seeds are the best, and can be obtained at FIELD'S' or 'Try FIELD for repairs, and Boots made to order'. <u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 29 Jan 1896, p 2; 1 Feb 1896, p 3; 26 Feb 1896, p 3; 14 Nov 1896, p 2</u></p>
<p>1896, Apr 15</p>	<p>One of Peter's employees slipped in the factory and had his hand horribly mutilated. He had two fingers amputated. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 18 Apr 1896, p 4</u> <u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 22 April 1896, p 2</u></p>
<p>1896, May 16</p>	<p><u>Advertisement for Field's boots in Charleville paper.</u> <u>Charleville Times, 16 May 1896, p 2</u></p>
<p>1896, Jun 6</p>	<p>Peter opened a branch in Ipswich, next door to McGrath's North Star Hotel in Brisbane St. <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 30 May 1896, pp 1, 4; 4 Jun 1896, p 2; 27 Jun 1896, p 2; 19 Dec 1896, p 6</u></p>
<p>1896, Jun 6</p>	<p>Article about Peter Field in the <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> lists branches at Charleville, Roma, Dalby, Laidley and Ipswich, as well as Toowoomba. He was employing 100 people, making 40,000 pairs of boots and shoes annually, and paying wages of £5000 yearly. <u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 6 Jun 1896, p 3</u> <u>Warwick Argus, 20 Jun 1896, p 2</u> <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser 27 Jun 1896, p 6</u> <u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser 23 Dec 1896, p 3</u></p>

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1896, Jul 30	<p>Peter supported the 'half-holiday movement' in Charleville. <u>Charleville Times</u>, 1 Aug 1896, p 1; 8 Aug 1896, pp 2, 3</p>
1896, Aug 10	<p>Shoes which had been imported on the <i>s.s Jumna</i> were stolen from seven trunks and one case consigned by train from Brisbane to Peter Field, Toowoomba. <u>Qld Police Gazette</u>, 10 Aug 1896, p 246</p>
1896, Dec 22	<p>Peter donated a trophy for the Western Star Lodge Sports, Ipswich. <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser</u>, 22 Dec 1896, p 4</p>
1897	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. Branches in Roma, Laidley, Ipswich, Dalby, Charleville. <u>Pugh's Almanac (1897)</u> pp 55A, 91A, 98A, 173A, 175A, 297A <u>Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1897)</u> pp 60, 61, 76, 80</p>
1897, Jul 21	<p>Two pairs of boots stolen from the door of Peter's Ipswich shop. <u>Qld Police Gazette</u>, 26 Jul 1897, p 267</p>
1897, Aug	<p>Advertisement includes 'Field has secured at the Toowoomba Show 1 silver and 2 bronze medals and also 9 first-class prizes for excellence of quality and workmanship'. <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 25 Aug 1897 p 1</p>
1897, Nov 3	<p>Peter donated a trophy for the Western Star Lodge Sports, Sandy Gallop, Ipswich, on New Year's Day. <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser</u>, 4 Nov 1897, p 4</p>
1897, Dec 23	<p>Peter's firm had eight branches, employed 90 people producing 900 pairs of boots per week and expended a total of £13,000 per annum. The Toowoomba shop had a very large stock, and there was a month's backlog of orders. <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 23 Dec 1897, p 13</p>

<p>1898</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. Branches in Roma, Laidley, Pittsworth, Dalby (Cunningham St), Charleville and Ipswich. <hr/> Pugh's Almanac (1898) pp 107A, 123A, 164A, 170A, 206A, 234A, 248A, 251A Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1898) pp 61, 62, 65, 78, 81 Slater's Qld Almanac (1898) pp 150, 169, 177</p>
<p>1898, Apr 9</p>	<p>Peter opened a branch in Boonah, opposite the School of Arts. <hr/> Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 16 Apr 1898, p 4; 26 Apr 1899, p 3; 5 May 1899, p 6</p>
<p>1898, Nov</p>	<p>Peter opened a branch shop at Mitchell, 'next door to Mrs Holland'. <hr/> Western Star and Roma Advertiser, 2 Nov 1898, p 3; 14 Jan 1899, p 4</p>
<p>1898, Nov</p>	<p>Peter opened a branch boot shop in Gatton, next door to the establishment of Mr J Skinner. <hr/> Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 1 Dec 1898, pp 1, 5; 13 Dec 1898, p 3</p>
<p>1899</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. Branches in Roma, Pittsworth, Dalby, Charleville, Ipswich, Boonah and Cunnamulla. <hr/> Pugh's Almanac (1899) pp 707, 774, 840, 848, 912, 997, 1044, 1094, 1102 Slater's Qld Almanac (1899) pp 154, 159, 160, 174, 182, 183</p>
<p>1899, Mar 16</p>	<p>Ipswich branch shop under new management. <hr/> Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 25 Mar 1899, p 3; 6 Apr 1899, p 7</p>
<p>1899, Jun 10</p>	<p>An interview with Peter found him generally in favour of Federation, but cautious about the effects of removing Queensland tariffs too quickly. <hr/> Darling Downs Gazette, 10 Jun 1899, p 7</p>

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1899, Sep	<p>Peter moved into larger premises (double fronted rather than single fronted) next door to his old shop because of ‘increasing business’¹. On 6 Dec 1899 he signed the lease for the subdivisions next to his existing ones in Ruthven St. The initial leases were for 15 years, but Peter later extended them².</p> <p>¹ Darling Downs Gazette, 9 Sep 1899, p 2; 13 Sep 1899, p 2 ² Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 10179084 (sub 3), 10179163 (sub 12), 10154116 (sub 4) and 10154115 (sub 11)</p>
1900	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. Branches in Roma, Pittsworth, Dalby, Charleville, Ipswich, Boonah, Cunnamulla, Laidley and Mitchell.</p> <p>Pugh’s Almanac (1900) pp 667, 690, 718, 720, 762, 769, 800, 816, 849, 867, 870 Groom’s Darling Downs Almanac (1900) pp 59, 60, 63, 78, 82 Slater’s Qld Almanac (1900) pp 149, 154, 155, 164, 171, 180</p>
1900, Jan 29	<p>Break-in at Cunnamulla shoe shop, and an attempt made to <u>open a cash drawer forcibly</u>. Qld Police Gazette, Feb 1900, p 113</p>
1900, Feb 20	<p>Peter’s shop in Charleville, ‘occupied for the last eight years by Mr Field, Bootmaker, opposite the Council Chambers and Divisional Board Hall, and almost adjoining the Commercial Bank, Alfred Street’ was available to let. <u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 20 Feb 1900, p 2</p>
1900, Feb 24	<p>Auction of Roma shop furniture and fittings, and 278 packets of <u>assorted seeds</u>, without reserve. <u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 24 Feb 1900, p 3</p>
1900, Mar 3	<p>Auction of furniture and fittings of Field’s boot shop, <u>Mitchell</u>, without reserve. <u>Western Star and Roma Advertiser</u>, 28 Feb 1900, p 3</p>
1900, May 8	<p>Shop to let in the North Star Building, Ipswich, lately <u>occupied by P. Field</u>. <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser</u>, 8 May 1900, p 1</p>

<p>1900, Oct 6</p>	<p>A supplement in The Queenslander on 'Toowoomba, the metropolis of the Darling Downs' includes an article about Peter Field's boot business, and his motto 'Onward, upward, with steady forward tread, "Reliable" his business cry; And upon the pages of the years among the dead Is written large his motto, "Do or Die"'. It also includes a photo of the building. The article mentions branches in Dalby, Pittsworth and Boonah, and a wholesale trade over 'a very large portion of Queensland'.</p> <hr/> <p>The Queenslander, 6 Oct 1900, pp 11S, 19S, 20S</p>
<p>1900, Nov 10</p>	<p>Report of the Toowoomba Poster Ball in aid of the hospital. Women went dressed as posters for local businesses, including Miss Marlay for Peter Field. She wore an elaborate costume.</p> <hr/> <p>The Queenslander, 10 Nov 1900, pp 990, 991 Darling Downs Gazette, 31 Oct 1900, p 5</p>
<p>1901</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Russell St), boot factory (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner.</p> <p>Pugh's Almanac from 1901 to 1904 lists Peter's tannery in Klein St (now Jellicoe St), rather than Isaac St. However this appears to be incorrect, since Wise's Post Office Directory for 1904, which appears to be the first directory to give street locations of businesses, lists it in Isaac St, next to Gowrie Creek. The following year, 1905, the tannery was run by Cloake and Co. Peter owned it until 1910.</p> <p>Branches in Roma, Pittsworth (Henry Poulton, mgr), Dalby, Charleville, Boonah.</p> <hr/> <p>Pugh's Almanac (1901) pp 722, 755, 792, 888, 927, 956, 960, 961 Qld Postal Directory (Wise) (1901) pp 272, 368, 816, 1017 Slater's Qld Almanac (1901) pp 156, 162, 180, 190</p>

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1901, Mar 23	<p>A large meeting of residents of Black Gully and neighbourhood was held at the Darling Downs Brewery to protest against proposed sanitary works being erected on council land in that locality. Peter Field moved a motion for a deputation of ratepayers to Council to ask them to reconsider the matter, and was part of the deputation. He spoke about the inappropriateness of the proposed site when the delegation met the Council.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 26 Mar 1901</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette 3 Apr 1901, p 3</u></p>
1901, Nov 9	<p>Seven state school cadet corps competed in a rifle shooting competition for a cup donated by Peter Field, at the <u>Toowoomba Rifle Range</u>.</p> <p><u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser, 12 Nov 1901, p 2</u> <u>Brisbane Courier, 14 Nov 1901, p 6</u></p>
1901–1906	<p>Peter donated prizes for the <u>Toowoomba Grammar School Annual Speech Day</u>.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 20 Dec 1901, p 3; 18 Dec 1902, p 3; 18 Dec 1903, pp 3, 4; 15 Dec 1905, p 3; 14 Dec 1906, p 8</u></p>
1902	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Russell St, William Lewis mgr), boot factory (Ruthven St), seedsman (Ruthven St), tanner. Branches in Pittsworth, Dalby (Frederick Kahler, mgr), Boonah and Mitchell.</p> <p><u>Pugh's Almanac (1902) pp 590, 659, 742, 760, 817, 821, 822</u> <u>Qld PO Directory (Wise) (1902) pp 860, 891</u> <u>Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1902) pp 184, 186, 188, 205</u> <u>Slater's Qld Almanac (1902) pp 150, 163, 179, 182, 195</u></p>
1902–1919	<p>Peter was a member of the Commission of the Peace (ie a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace). He was sworn in as a JP in January 1902.</p> <p><u>Pugh's Almanac listings of Commission of the Peace</u> <u>The Week, 31 Jan 1902, p 31</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 4 Feb 1902, p 2</u></p>
1902, May 23	<p>Peter sitting as JP in a case of aggravated assault on a female.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 30 May 1902, p 6</u></p>

<p>1903</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Russell St), boot factory (Ruthven St), tanner. <u>Branches in Pittsworth, Dalby and Boonah.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1903) pp 586, 828, 703, 754, 761 Slater's Qld Almanac (1903) pp 172, 185, 204, 215, 216</p>
<p>1904</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St, William Lewis, mgr), boot factory (Ruthven St), tanner. Toowoomba retail shop was on the western side of Ruthven St, between Russell and Margaret Sts. <u>Branches in Pittsworth, Dalby and Boonah.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1904) pp 571, 632, 720, 776, 785 Qld Post Office Directory (Wise) (1904) p 516 Slater's Qld Almanac (1904) pp 162, 175, 195, 209, 210</p>
<p>1905</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), boot factory (Ruthven St). <u>Branches in Pittsworth and Boonah.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1905) pp 557, 699, 752 Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1905) pp 187, 189, 195 Slater's Qld Almanac (1905) pp 167, 200, 212, 213</p>
<p>1905, Jan 6</p>	<p>Peter sat as a JP at the Toowoomba Police Court. Among other cases, a person who was charged with stealing a pair of shoes from Peter's shop was committed for trial at the District Court, where he was sentenced to 12 months' jail. <u>Brisbane Courier, 7 Jan 1905, p 2</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Jan 1905, p 3</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1905, Apr 24	<p>The shop which Peter leased from Mr Evans in Yandilla St, Pittsworth, burned down when the publican's wife and another woman set fire to the Railway Hotel. The value of Peter's stock (£400) was reimbursed by insurance, less £14 for the cost of a sewing machine. Shops destroyed listed as Railway Hotel, Adme's fruit shop, Miss Whittaker's dress-making establishment, Field's boot shop, Longlands office and Pitt's butcher. A strong easterly wind saved the lower half of the street from destruction; there is no water here and the only method of dealing with fire is by buckets. Peter had rented his shop for 7 years and 4 months.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 25 April 1905, p 5 <u>Qld Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser</u>, 25 Apr 1905, p 12 <u>The Queenslander</u>, 29 Apr 1905, p 39 <u>The Capricornian (Rockhampton)</u> 29 Apr 1905, p 25 <u>North Qld Register (Townsville)</u> 1 May 1905, p 11S <u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 11 May 1905, p 4 <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 11 May 1905, p 3</p>
1906	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), boot factory (Ruthven St). <u>Branch in Boonah.</u> <u>Pugh's Almanac (1906)</u> pp 633, 855 <u>Slater's Qld Almanac (1906)</u> pp 183, 227</p>
1906	<p>Henry Poulton, the previous manager of Peter's shop, listed as a bootmaker in Pittsworth. He retired in April 1922.</p> <p><u>Pugh's Almanac (1906)</u> p 797 <u>Pittsworth Sentinel</u>, 15 Apr 1922, p 2</p>
1906, May 31	<p>Charles Leu charged with having stolen two pairs of boots, valued at £1 14s., the property of Peter Field.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 1 Jun 1906, p 2</p>
1907	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), boot factory (Ruthven St). <u>Branch in Boonah.</u> <u>Pugh's Almanac (1907)</u> pp 568, 766 <u>Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1907)</u> pp 157, 159</p>

<p>1907, Jan 3</p>	<p>Peter's team was defeated in the tug-of-war final by a team of asylum warders. The tug-of-war was in aid of the Austral Brass Band.</p> <hr/> <p>The Queenslander, 12 Jan 1907, p 10</p>
<p>1907, Jan 25</p>	<p>Peter was nominated as a councillor for the East Ward of the Toowoomba City Council. He was not successful in the election, being defeated by JE Stone, 396 votes to 296. Job Eagles Stone and his family had been fellow-passengers on the <i>Indus</i> with Peter.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 26 Jan 1907, p 6 Darling Downs Gazette, 7 Feb 1907, p 8 Brisbane Courier 7 Feb 1907, p 5 <i>Indus</i> passenger list, Qld State Archives, Series 13086, microfilms Z1958 and M1698 Toowoomba Regional Council (2012)</p>
<p>1907, Mar 28</p>	<p>Peter spoke in support of the Austral Brass Band at a public send-off as the band left to compete in a band contest at Inverell, NSW.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 29 Mar 1907</p>
<p>1907, Aug 1</p>	<p>In a Supreme Court case in Brisbane, Peter Field sought to <u>reverse an agreement</u> to pay a cheque.</p> <hr/> <p>See details in Timeline above under 8 Apr 1894</p>
<p>1908</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: <u>Toowoomba.</u></p> <hr/> <p>Slater's Qld Almanac (1908) p 260</p>
<p>1909</p>	<p>Almanac and directory listings: <u>Toowoomba.</u> Branch in Dalby. Cyril Field, Peter's eldest son, was the owner or manager of this shop, and continued to run it until about 1950.</p> <hr/> <p>Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1909) pp 147, 150, 187</p>
<p>1909, Mar 18</p>	<p>Advertisement for Peter Field, direct importer and boot manufacturer.</p> <hr/> <p>Freeman's Journal (Sydney) 18 Mar 1909, p 40 (also Jun, Jul 1908)</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1909, Apr 29	<p>The Toowoomba Branch of the Royal Society of St George was established, and Peter Field was one of the original committee. The society's members were (and are) <u>Australians who celebrate their English origins.</u> www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com.au (accessed 22 Feb 2014)</p>
1908, Nov 23 1909, Jul 17	<p>Peter's shop in Ruthven St subleased to John Clark, but Peter held the lease until 1920. <u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 10154116 (sub 4) and 10154115 (sub 11)</u></p>
1909, Sep	<p>Peter Field's last advertisement in the St Luke's Church Newsletter as a 'direct boot importer'. <u>Gloria Glass, TDDFHS, Index to parishioners of St Luke's Church of England, Toowoomba, 1905-1913</u></p>
1910	<p>Almanac and directory listings: Toowoomba – boot and shoe makers (Ruthven St), boot factory (Ruthven St). <u>Cyril Field's shop in Dalby.</u> Pugh's Almanac (1910) pp 698, 852 Groom's Darling Downs Almanac (1910) pp 147, 150, 185</p>
1910, Mar 14	<p>Peter announced that he would be retiring from business after 26 years. He had sold the business to John Hunter and Son Ltd of Sydney. <u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 15 Mar 1910, p 1</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 15 Mar 1910, p 8</u></p>
1910, Mar 24	<p>John Hunter and Son had a 'gigantic sale' of Peter Field's stock of boots and shoes. <u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 19 Mar 1910, p 1</u></p>
1910, Apr 23	<p>Peter attended the first annual dinner of the Royal Society of St George. About 300 were present. The entertainment consisted of a series of recitations and songs, followed by a series of (lengthy!) toasts. Peter proposed the toast to the President. <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 25 Apr 1910, p 5</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1910, May 11	<p>Title for tannery at Isaac St transferred to Patrick Coonan.</p> <hr/> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, title 10237101</p>
1910, Jul 11	<p>Peter subleased subdivisions 3 and 12 of the Ruthven St shop (the site of his first shop) to John Hunter and Son Ltd, but held the lease until 1920.</p> <hr/> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 10179084 (sub 3) and 10179163 (sub 12)</p>
1912, Dec 17	<p>Peter spoke at the farewell for the manager of the Australian Bank of Commerce</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 18 Dec 1912, p 3</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Ruthven Street, Toowoomba in 1908
[Toowoomba Historical Society]

CHAPTER 5: THE EMPIRE HOTEL

1898, May 7	<p>Peter bought land in on the eastern side of Ruthven St between Campbell and Bowen Streets (334 Ruthven St).</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title reference numbers 10584119 and 11569221)</u></p>
1901, Oct 3	<p>Licencing Court refused a licence for Peter Field's proposed new hotel in Ruthven St North, estimated to cost over £2000. The Court did not believe the public interest required the new licence proposed.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 4 Oct 1901, p 7</u></p>
1902, Jan 8	<p>Peter's application for a licence for a new hotel in Ruthven St, to be called the Baden-Powell and costing about £2500, was approved. The building to be completed in nine months.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 9 Jan 1902, p 3</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 9 Jan 1902, p 3</u></p>
1902, Jul 2	<p>Licence application for Empire Hotel, Ruthven St, adjourned for a month, as building not complete.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 3 Jul 1902, p 6</u></p>
1902, Jul 21	<p><u>Suggestion for Empire Day observance in Australia.</u></p> <p><u>Sydney Morning Herald, 21 July 1902, p 7</u></p>
1902, Sep 6	<p>The Empire Hotel was recently built. Designed by W Hodgen. 'We must congratulate Mr. P. Field on his enterprise in erecting such a beautiful building that is an ornament to the town.'</p> <p><u>Initial licensee was P McHugh.</u></p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 6 Sep 1902, p 3</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 12 Sep 1902, p 3</u></p>
1902, Oct 17	<p>Fifteen years' lease on the Empire Hotel for sale, at £250 per year with the tenant to furnish the hotel.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 17 Oct 1902, p 2</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1902, Nov 3	<p>The property at 205 Bridge St was sold to Thomas and Sarah Burton. At that stage it belonged to Sarah Field, Ruth Butterfield and Mary Ann Butterfield, having been left to them by their mother.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 10584119 and 11569221</u></p>
1902, Dec 6	<p>JT Brigg new manager. Transfer of lease to John Thomas Brigg not registered on title until 3 Feb 1903.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 6 Dec 1902, p 16</u> Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 19584119)</p>
1906, Oct 13	<p>A very complimentary article about the Empire Hotel in Toowoomba.</p> <p><u>The Queenslander, 13 Oct 1906, p 38</u></p>
1910, Aug 9	<p>Lease transferred to Colin Affleck. The lease transfers mentioned below are taken from the title. A longer list is given by Clements (2004).</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 19584119)</u></p>
1920, Nov 23	<p>Lease transferred to Sarah Wilkinson, widow.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, titles 19584119 and 11569221)</u></p>
1922, Mar 20	<p>Letter from architect to Peter about the Empire Hotel, informing him that the water heater and floor have been repaired 'according to what Johnson said he believed was required'. The coil was covered with 'an enamel like substance' from the water and a new coil was required. 'The tenant is quite pleased with the job.'</p> <p><u>Fryer Library, University of Queensland, W Hodgen and Hodgen Collection, series UQFL116/B, box 16</u></p>
1922, Nov 8	<p>Lease transferred to Ernest Hartley Mair.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, titles 19584119 and 11569221)</u></p>

THE EMPIRE HOTEL

1923, Jul 2	<p><u>Lease transferred to Albert George Wright.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, titles 19584119 and 11569221)</p>
1924, Mar 25	<p><u>Lease transferred to Nellie Clayton, widow.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 11569221)</p>
1924, Sep 27	<p><u>Lease transferred to Wallace Heighton Stewart.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 11569221)</p>
1925, Sep 5	<p><u>Lease transferred to Edward Henry Bryant.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 11569221)</p>
1927, Feb 7	<p><u>Peter sold the Hotel to Henry McGoldrick.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 5 and 6 of Suburban Allotment 14 of Section 6 Parish of Drayton, title 11569221)</p>
1994, Jul	<p>The Empire Hotel closed by its owner Jimmy Aspromourgos. He blamed the introduction of random breath testing and the establishment of sports clubs for its demise. It was demolished in 2004.</p> <p><u>Clements (2004)</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS



Peter with Dan Mahon, a handyman and labourer, at Kenilworth
[Wensley family photo]

CHAPTER 6: KENILWORTH

1879–1920	<p>Tick Hill or Mt Lofty? John Kilham, an Inspector of Schools, built a house on the corner of Hume St and Klein St (now Jellicoe St) and called it Tick Hill after his home village, Tickhill, in south Yorkshire¹. Its use first appears in the <i>Gazette</i> in 1891². The name Mt Lofty first appears in the Electoral Roll in 1906 when William Edward Holmes, nurseryman, resided at ‘Mt Lofty, Tick Hill’³. The two names were in use all Peter’s life⁴.</p> <p>¹ Maurice French (pers. comm.) ² Darling Downs Gazette, 26 Sep 1891, p 5 ³ Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Jun 1906, p 8 ⁴ Toowoomba Tourist Bureau (1938)</p>
1904, Mar 24	<p>Registration of Peter Field’s purchase of five acres (2 ha) of land on the corner of Stuart Rd and Rifle Range Rd. This was to become Kenilworth. <i>See also</i> entry for this date under Chapter 3: Family life</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Resubdivision 2 of subdivision 2 of Portion 529 in the County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton; title reference no. 10943215)</p>
1904, May	<p>Transmission of a horse and cattle brand from Charles Leu to Peter Field, certificate no. B23084.</p> <p>Qld Government Gazette, 20 Jun 1904, p 1787</p>
1910, Aug 22	<p>Peter Field acquired a block of land (3.75 acres = 1.5 ha) across Gowrie Creek from the site of his old tannery. He retained it until November 1934. It is not known what use was made of this.</p> <p>Brisbane Courier, 2 May 1910, p 1 Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivision D of portion 17 of the Parish of Drayton; title no 11147052)</p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1911, Mar 15	<p>Peter bought 20 acres (8.1 ha) of land on Stuart St, north of Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Portion 524 in the County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton; title reference no. 11076214)</u></p>
c. 1910–1911	<p>Kenilworth built. I assume that if it existed before this, Peter and Sarah would have lived here instead of in Daphne.</p>
1911, Oct 13	<p>Mr and Mrs George Clauson guests at Kenilworthy [<i>sic</i>], Mt Lofty.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Oct 1911, p 8</u></p>
1911, Nov 9	<p>Peter, Sarah and Nessie registered for the Qld electoral roll at Kenilworth, Rifle Range Rd.</p> <p><u>Qld Electoral Roll, District of Drayton, Toowoomba Division, 1912</u></p>
1911, Nov 30	<p>A ‘bright little gathering of young people’ at Kenilworth to farewell Arthur Burrows and Frank Varcoe.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 4 Dec 1911, p 5</u></p>
1912–1919	<p>Peter was listed as a registered dairyman at Kenilworth in Pugh’s Almanac until it stopped this listing in 1919.</p>
1913, Dec 12	<p>Early advertisement for Kenilworth under ‘Board and residence, health resorts, invalid homes’.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 12 Dec 1913, p 12</u></p>
1914, Mar 3	<p>Peter bought another 5 acres (2 ha) of land in Stuart St.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivision 1 of Portion 523 in the County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton; title reference no. 11064247)</u></p>
1915, Feb 12	<p>Early appearance of Kenilworth guests in social column of the Brisbane Courier.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 12 Feb 1915, p 9</u> <u>Queensland Figaro, 13 Feb 1915, p 17</u></p>
1915, Apr 7	<p>Peter bought another 2 acres (0.8 ha) of land in Stuart St.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivision 1 of Portion 522 in the County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton; title reference no. 10856069)</u></p>

1915, Apr 19	<p>Peter bought a 20-month-old Illawarra bull for 25 guineas. The bull, 'Pearl King', had won first prizes at the Crow's Nest and Toowoomba Shows.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Apr 1915, p 7; 20 Apr 1915, pp 4, 7</u></p>
1917, Nov 15	<p>Nessie married Jack Wensley at St Luke's Church, followed by a reception for family at Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 16 Nov 1917, p 3</u></p>
1918, Apr 18	<p>Peter sold a 'very nice 5-year-old bull' and a few aged cows at a cattle sale at the Show Grounds.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Apr 1918, p 3</u></p>
1919 Jul 19	<p>Peter was responsible for the 'Peace Fire' at Mt Lofty, one of several around Toowoomba to celebrate peace following the end of World War I.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 23 Jul 1919, p 4</u></p>
1919–1925	<p>Various listings of people staying at Kenilworth appeared in the 'Toowoomba Social' column of the Brisbane Courier, The Queenslander and Figaro.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 9 Oct 1919, p 11; 7 Nov 1921, p 11; 23 Nov 1921, p 11; 29 Nov 1921, p 9; 19 Dec 1921, p 18; 24 Dec 1921, p 15; 9 Jan 1922, p 14; 31 Jan 1922, p 11; 6 Nov 1922, p 11 (fete); 3 Nov 1924, p 15; 17 Feb 1925, p 15;</u> <u>The Queenslander, 4 Feb 1922, p 10</u> <u>Queensland Figaro 27 Jun 1925, p 4</u></p>
1922, Feb 31 [sic]	<p>W. Hodgson provided drawings to enclose an area under Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Fryer Library, University of Queensland, W Hodgson and Hodgson Collection, series 116/A item A293</u></p>
1924, Feb 12	<p>Peter bought 19.4 acres (7.9 ha) of land on Rifle Range Rd, opposite Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (Subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 of Portion 530 in in the County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton; title reference nos. 11023004 and 10997240)</u></p>
1925, Sep 14	<p>Sarah spent a week with her sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Niels Clauson, in Brisbane.</p> <p><u>The Queenslander, 19 Sep 1925, p 10</u></p>

BOOTS, SHOES and SEEDS

1926, Apr 20	<p>Sarah died at the home of Nessie and Jack Wensley, after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage and cardiac failure, apparently in early February 1926. She was aged 69.</p> <p><u>Qld death certificate 1926/2324</u> Toowoomba Chronicle, 21 Apr 1926, pp 6, 9; 27 Apr 1926, p 4; 20 Apr 1927, p 6 Brisbane Courier, 27 Apr 1926, p 4 Queensland Figaro, 1 May 1926, p 6</p>
1926, Aug 2	<p>Advertisement saying that Kenilworth would 'in the future be run as in the past', with Manageress Nessie Wensley.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier 2 August 1926</u></p>
1926–1936	<p>Various listings of people staying at Kenilworth appeared in the 'Toowoomba Social' column of the Brisbane Courier and Courier-Mail.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier 2 Oct 1926, p 23; 13 Nov 1931, p 23; 12 May 1933, p 18; 8 Jun 1933, p 17</u> Courier-Mail, 6 Jan 1934, p 18</p>
1926, Nov 4	<p>Kenilworth mentioned as 'one of the most popular guesthouses in the district' in a tourism article about Toowoomba. It was 'admirably managed by Miss Field'. The bus ran to Mt Lofty.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 4 Nov 1926, p 10</u> The Queenslander, 13 Nov 1926, p 11</p>
1927, Jan 24	<p>Guests organised the first of a series of fancy dress evening at Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 26 Jan 1927, p 18; 27 Apr 1928, p 22; 22 May 1928, p 21; 5 Jan 1929, p 25; 3 Jan 1930, p 15</u></p>
<p>Details of Susan Emma Filce from 1886 to 1929</p>	
1886, Sep 12	<p>Susan Emma Filce born¹ at 20 Albion St, Croydon, Surrey, England, to Catherine Elizabeth Filce née Ash, aged 26, and John Robert Filce, aged 30, a carpenter.</p> <p>Susan had 9 siblings²: John Frederick Ash Filce (1882), Catherine Elizabeth Filce (1884) m. Charles Henry Twaites, Lucy Sophia Filce (1889) m. Henry J Stride, Florence May Filce (1890) m. Albert Triggs, Ernest Edgar Filce (1891), Alice Maud Filce (1893-1980) m. Clifford Huddleston, Phylis Mabel Filce (1896-1951), Albert Sidney Filce (1897-</p>

	1951) m. Florence Annie Wood, Ellen Laura Filce (1899-1983) m. Harold John Dillin (b. 1897).
1889, Jan 5	Susan baptised at Church of England, Croydon ³ .
1891	Aged 4, living at 14 Handcroft Rd, Surrey, with parents and five siblings.
1901	Aged 14, living at 3 St Peters Rd, Croydon, as one of three domestic servants to Herbert and Anna Brown and their three sons ⁴ .
1911, Apr 2	Aged 24, living at 27 Handcroft Rd, Croydon, with her parents and seven siblings. Occupation listed as 'domestic' ⁵ .
1924, Dec 2	Left London for Brisbane on <i>Hobson's Bay</i> . She was aged 38, a dressmaker and travelled 3rd class ⁶ .
1925, Jan 11	<i>Hobson's Bay</i> takes 655 stranded tourists from the Tamar River near Launceston to Melbourne. They had been stranded in Tasmania because of a maritime strike ⁷ .
1925, Jan 21	<i>Hobson's Bay</i> arrived in Brisbane ⁸ .
1927, Jul 8	S. Filce guest at 21st birthday party for Marie Grenier, with other guests who were also at party on 27 Aug, below ⁹ .
1927, Aug 27	Mr and Mrs Young entertained the dressmaking staff of Messrs. Finney, Isles and Co. Ltd. Misses Filce and Grenier [<i>sic</i>] were among guests ^{10, 11} .
1927, Nov 5	Miss S Filce was a helper on the ice-cream and soft drinks stall at the Clayfield Baptist Church fete. This is probably Susan, as there appears to have been only one other 'Filce' family in Brisbane at the time ^{12, 13} .
1928	Susan lived at Evansleigh, Booth St, Toowong, Brisbane, near the Toowong station. This was later advertised for sale as 'a cosy villa containing three bedrooms, dining and breakfast rooms, front and side verandas, kitchen with sink and gas stove, bathroom with enamel bath and pantry' ^{14, 15} .
1929	Susan is not on the Toowong electoral roll in 1929; the Darling Downs list is unavailable ¹⁶ .
1929, Dec 31	Susan Filce and Peter Field were judges for a fancy dress dance at Kenilworth on New Year's Eve ¹⁷ .

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	<p>¹ Birth certificate, 1886, General Register Office</p> <p>² English censuses, 1889, 1901, 1911; Susan Swan (pers. comm.)</p> <p>³ FHL Film 1835913, Bishop's transcripts for C of E, Croydon</p> <p>⁴ 1901 England census</p> <p>⁵ 1911 England census</p> <p>⁶ Passenger list for <i>Hobson's Bay</i></p> <p>⁷ Register (Adelaide) 10 Jan 1925, p 13</p> <p>⁸ Brisbane Courier, 22 Jan 1925</p> <p>⁹ Brisbane Courier, 12 Jul 1927, p 1</p> <p>¹⁰ Brisbane Courier, 31 Aug 1927, p 23</p> <p>¹¹ Brisbane Courier, 1 Apr 1882, p 6 (Staff conditions at Finney, Isles)</p> <p>¹² Brisbane Courier, 8 Nov 1927, p 16</p> <p>¹³ Commonwealth electoral rolls 1925-1930</p> <p>¹⁴ Commonwealth electoral roll, Toowong subdivision, Brisbane Division, 1928 (made up to 29 August)</p> <p>¹⁵ Brisbane Courier, 23 Mar 1929, p 32</p> <p>¹⁶ Commonwealth Electoral Roll, Toowong, 1929</p> <p>¹⁷ Brisbane Courier, 3 Jan 1930, p 15</p>
1930	<p>Apart from Peter Field and Susan Filce (dressmaker), those living at Kenilworth (and 21 years or older) were Daisy and Violet Chapman (both 'home duties') and Daniel Mahon (labourer)¹. Daniel died 4 Mar 1931, aged 65².</p> <p>¹ Commonwealth electoral roll, East Toowoomba subdivision, 1930</p> <p>² TDDFHs Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery monument transcription</p>
1930, May 13	<p>Peter won first prize of £5,000 in Golden Casket Art Union No 267, syndicate 'Stiff luck'.</p> <p>Brisbane Courier, 14 May 1930, p 26 and many other papers</p>
1930, May 24	<p>Peter Field, 78, and Susan Filce, 43, married in St Luke's Church. Witnesses were Mary Ann and Daniel Booker, Peter's sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Canon R Shand officiated.</p> <p>Qld marriage certificate 1930/1844</p>
1930, Aug 22	<p>Peter and Susan entertained guests at a dance and card evening to mark the opening of their new billiard room at Kenilworth. Some of the guests were Susan's friends from Brisbane.</p> <p>Brisbane Courier, 25 Aug 1931, p 17</p>

1932, Jan 18	<p>Daisy Chapman, cook at Kenilworth, claimed compensation under Workers' Compensation for catching a chill at Kenilworth on 6 May 1929 between 6 am and 10 am by leaving a hot kitchen and going out onto a cool verandah. The chill developed into pleurisy by 10 am and then after some weeks in hospital into thrombosis of the leg. Peter declared the chill was a 'stunt'. After several sittings and contradictory medical evidence the Magistrate awarded £2/2/8 per week until she could work again, or until her full entitlement of £750 was exhausted.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 28 Nov 1931, p 19; 19 Jan 1932 <u>Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton)</u> 16 Dec 1931, p 6</p>
1933, Jan 16	<p>An impromptu concert by children staying at Kenilworth raised ten shillings in aid of an appeal to establish a home for crippled children.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 17 Jan 1933, p 10</p>
1933, Jun 8	<p>Mr EG Ashworth from Yorkshire, England, was among the guests at Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 8 Jun 1933, p 17</p>
1936, Jun 26	<p>Peter died at Kenilworth, aged 84. Cause of death was given as diabetes mellitus, chronic nephritis and cardiac failure. His funeral was the following day at St Luke's, and he was buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, next to Sarah's grave.</p> <p><u>Qld death certificate 1936/3427</u> <u>Courier-Mail</u>, 27 Jun 1936, p 1 <u>Toowoomba Chronicle</u>, 27 Jun 1936</p>
1936–1945	<p><u>Susan continued on running Kenilworth, and advertising it.</u></p> <p><u>Courier Mail</u>, 27 Jul 1936, p 2 <u>Toowoomba Tourist Bureau (1938)</u></p>
1936, Nov 4	<p>Peter's Will submitted to the Supreme Court for Probate. Executors were Susan Field and George Nutt. The value of his personal property ('personalty') was given as £2910 and real estate ('realty') as £3946.</p> <p><u>Queensland State Archives item ID743894 Will file no. 1936/1073</u> <u>Reserve Bank of Australia pre-decimal inflation calculator</u> www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html (accessed Jan 2015)</p>

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1936, Dec 23	<p>Affidavits of Jack Richards Mayne, Teller, Bank of NSW, Toowoomba, and Alfred Proudfoot, Manager, Downs Co-operatives Association Ltd, attesting that Peter Field was in a fit and proper condition to transact all kinds of business a few weeks before his death.</p> <p><u>Queensland State Archives item ID743894 Will file no. 1936/1073</u></p>
1937, Feb 27	<p><u>Probate granted on Peter's Will.</u></p> <p>Qld State Archives, item ID743894, Will file no. 1936/1073 for Peter Field</p>
1937, Jun 20	<p>Susan arrived in Southampton from Sydney on the <i>Largs Bay</i>, a sister ship to the <i>Hobson's Bay</i>. She stayed with her sister Catherine Twaites, 35 Allen Rd, Beckenham, Kent. The trip was probably to see her father, John Robert Filce, who died <u>Jul-Sep 1937, aged 80.</u></p> <p><u>Largs Bay</u> passenger list England and Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007, (via Ancestry)</p>
1937, Dec 4	<p>Susan left London for Brisbane on the <i>Ormonde</i>, travelling tourist class. The next passenger on the list is Mrs EF Nutt, also travelling to Brisbane. Elizabeth Fleming Nutt was the wife of George Nutt who was the other Executor of Peter's will.</p> <p><u>Ormonde</u> passenger list Commonwealth Electoral Roll, Darling Downs, 1937</p>
1938, Jul 16	<p>Writ lodged in Supreme Court by Susan Field and George Nutt against Cyril Field, Raymond Field and Nessie Wensley to determine questions of meaning in the Will. The case was agreed to by Peter's wife and children to obtain an opinion <u>from the Court as to the legal meaning of Peter's Will.</u></p> <p>Queensland State Archives item ID743894 Will file no. 1936/1073 State Reports Queensland (1939) pp 46-63</p>
1938, Oct 3	<p><u>Supreme Court case began.</u> It took three days.</p> <p>State Reports Queensland (1939) pp 46-63 Courier-Mail (Brisbane) 5 Oct 1938, p 4</p>
1938, Dec 2	<p><u>Results handed down.</u></p> <p>State Reports Queensland (1939) pp 46-63</p>

1939, Jan 25	Kenilworth put up to auction as a live business on a walk-in, walk-out basis. It was passed in. <u>Courier-Mail, 31 Dec 1838, p 8</u>
1939, Sep 27	Executors applied for extra time to settle the estate; all Peter's real estate together with the contents of the boarding house had been offered at public auction, but no sale was effected. <u>Queensland State Archives item ID743894 Will file no. 1936/1073</u>
1940, Feb 24	Kenilworth, 'Toowoomba's leading guest house', offered for private sale, as a going concern, including a total area of 51 acres which was available in blocks. Advertised price £3,500 (or near offer). <u>Courier-Mail, 24 Feb 1940, p 22</u>
1941, Mar 29	Miss Myra Taylor and Mr Maurice Kelly would honeymoon at Kenilworth following their wedding that day. <u>Courier-Mail, Mar 29, 1941, p 9</u>
1941, May 11	Mrs Charles Hodnett was spending a holiday at Kenilworth. The last listing discovered in the social pages. <u>Sunday Mail, May 11, 1941, p 20</u>
1942, Feb 6	Note in Supreme Court file that Kenilworth had been sold but the money was not payable until the end of the month. <u>Qld State Archives, item ID743894, Will file no. 1936/1073 for Peter Field</u>
1942, Mar 27	Kenilworth to be renamed WT Robertson Red Cross Convalescent Home, for soldiers in need. <u>Daily Mercury (Mackay) 27 Mar 1942, p 4</u>
1942, Jun	Susan living at 23 Kenric St, Toowoomba. <u>Queensland State Archives item ID743894 Will file no. 1936/1073 Commonwealth electoral roll, Darling Downs, 1943</u>
1942, Jun 16	Susan, Cyril, Nessie and Raymond signed an affidavit exonerating the administrators of Peter's estate (Susan Field and George Nutt) from filing accounts of the administration of the estate. This was accepted by the Supreme Court the following day and ended the legalities over the Will. <u>Qld State Archives, item ID743894, Will file no. 1936/1073 for Peter Field</u>

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1942–1943	<p>Peter’s land near the Kenilworth site was sold off in separate parcels. Seven acres went to Nessie Wensley (presumably as part of her settlement from Peter’s Will), and in 1944 five acres of that was requisitioned by the Toowoomba Council for park purposes. It is now part of Horn Park on Stuart St.</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. (title reference nos 10997240, 11023004, 11076214, 11064247, 10856069)</p>
1942, Aug 25	<p><u>Kenilworth title transferred to Australian Red Cross.</u></p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld.: title reference no. 10943215</p>
1943, Feb 7	<p>The Walter T Robertson Convalescent Home, formerly Kenilworth, was opened by the Queensland Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson. Robertson had been Chairman of the Queensland Division of the Red Cross for 25 years, and had set up the Red Cross to make a ‘good start’ to work in war time. The home housed up to 24 patients, and the initial 24 had come from New Guinea.</p> <p>Cairns Post, 8 Feb 1943, p 2 Courier-Mail, 6 Feb 1943, p 4 Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, 13 Feb 1943, p 4</p>
1945, May 22	<p>Susan arrived back in Liverpool from Sydney on the <i>Stirling Castle</i>, travelling first class.</p> <p><i>Stirling Castle</i> passenger list see also Shebs (2004), Banham (2006), Griffiths (2012)</p>
1945, Aug 9	<p>The Duke of Gloucester, Governor-General of Australia, and the Duchess of Gloucester visited the Convalescent Home during a visit to Toowoomba.</p> <p>Queensland Country Life, 19 Jul 1945 p 7; 9 Aug 1945</p>
1945, Sep 30	<p>Patients at the Convalescent Home arranged a novelty carnival and concert in the grounds to assist the Army candidate for Miss Australia, June Snowball, who was a Red Cross aide at the home.</p> <p>Queensland Country Life, 4 Oct 1945, p 10</p>

1945, Oct 30	<p>Red Cross to take care of children of former prisoners of war who wished to have holidays. Some of these children would be accommodated at the WT Robertson Convalescent Home.</p> <p><u>Courier-Mail, 30 Oct 1945, p 6</u> www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE1051b.htm (accessed 22 Mar 2015)</p>
1946, Oct 29	<p>Kenilworth bought by the Australian Government¹. The Army advised the Red Cross that because of a drop in the number of convalescent patients it no longer required the Red Cross to admit patients to the home². It was initially used as a Rehabilitation Hostel for ex-servicemen and women, run by the Dept of Social Services³.</p> <p>¹ Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, title reference no. 10943215 ² Courier-Mail, 26 Sep 1946, p 5 ³ Townsville Daily Bulletin, 6 Jun 1947, p 1</p>
1947, July	<p>Commonwealth Social Services Dept would run a rehabilitation centre for civilian and ex-service invalids who suffered from 'certain physical and mental ailments to regain confidence in themselves and rehabilitate them to take their place again at work'.</p> <p><u>Townsville Daily Bulletin, 6 Jun 1947, p 1</u></p>
1951, May 26	<p>The Commonwealth Government handed over the Kenilworth site to the Toowoomba Hospitals Board, to house the overflow of polio patients from the Toowoomba Hospital. It was then called the Mt Lofty Centre.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 25 May 1951</u></p>
1954, Aug 6	<p>Council records changed: Kenilworth ownership passes from the Commonwealth to the Queensland Government for Toowoomba Hospital Board. The building was renovated to accommodate 100 aged men suffering from senile dementia.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Council Rate and Valuation Registers, Local History Library Toowoomba Chronicle, 16 Nov 1954</u></p>
1954	<p>Susan E Field living at 16 Crossmead, New Eltham, south-east of London.</p> <p><u>Electoral register, Borough of Woolwich, West division</u></p>

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1964–65	Susan E Field living at 4 Brook House, Dorset Rd, Beckenham.
	<u>Electoral register, Borough of Beckenham, Clock House Ward (East)</u>
1976, Feb 22	Susan died of bronchopneumonia and influenza. Aged 79, she was living at, Farleigh View, 45 Selsdon Park Rd, Addington, Surrey.
	<u>UK death certificate, Croydon, 1976/95</u>
1976, Mar 1	Susan was cremated at Beckenham Crematorium Chapel, and her ashes were laid to rest in rose bed 38 of the Gardens of Remembrance. There is no record of a memorial of any kind.
	<u>Email correspondence from Sheila Rolland, 14 Apr 2015</u> <u>Email correspondence from Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery, Dignity Funerals Ltd, 14 Apr 2015.</u>
1994	Kenilworth demolished as part of upgrade to Mt Lofty Nursing Home. The buildings demolished were described as ‘in a very poor condition’ which did not ‘meet Commonwealth or State standards, and are considered to be a potential fire risk to residents and staff’.
	<u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 8 Dec 1993</u>
1997, Nov	A reunion was planned for old nursing home employees. The article gives a few details of Kenilworth.
	<u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 27 Aug 1997, p 24,</u>

CHAPTER 7: THE CHURCH

1869, May 1	<p>Sarah Mullins, aged 12, sang in the choir at the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone for St James' Church, Toowoomba.</p> <p><u>Hills (1994) p 32</u></p>
1881, Nov 22	<p>Rev. Thomas Jones conducted his first service in <u>Toowoomba at St James'.</u></p> <p>Brightman (2009) p 31</p>
1883, Apr 10	<p>At St James' Annual Meeting, Peter seconded a motion to <u>circulate the Churchwardens' Report.</u></p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Apr 1883, p 3</p>
1884, Jan 1	<p>Peter Field and Sarah Mullins were married in St James' Church of England, Toowoomba. Rev. Thomas Jones officiated.</p> <p><u>Qld Marriage Certificate 1884/C457</u></p>
1884, Apr 22	<p>At the St James' Annual Meeting, Peter seconded a motion to adopt the Churchwardens' Report. Thomas Jones raised the matter of pew rents, saying he preferred free seats. James Taylor and William Groom disagreed with him. A motion postponing the matter for twelve months, proposed by <u>William Groom</u> and seconded by Peter Field, was carried.</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 26 Apr 1884, p 3</p>
1885, Apr 7	<p>At the St James' Annual Meeting, Peter Field proposed the adoption of the Churchwardens' Report. In a discussion of funding necessary repairs to the church, Peter moved 'That the ladies of the congregation should go round and canvas for subscriptions from the members of the congregation'. He was sure no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining the necessary money; he himself would give £10. The motion was seconded by James Taylor, and carried.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Apr 1885, p 7</u></p>

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<p>1886–1901</p>	<p>Peter elected as Parochial Councillor at St James’ Annual Meeting.</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 28 Apr 1886, p 3; 23 Apr 1887, p 3; 31 Aug 1889, p 5; 18 Sep 1889, p 3; 15 Apr 1891, p 3; 23 Apr 1892, p 5; 4 May 1895, pp 5, 6; 22 Apr 1896, pp 2, 5; 28 Apr 1897, p 3; 30 Apr 1898, p 7; 13 Apr 1901, p 3 Toowoomba Chronicle 17 Apr 1890, p 3; 15 Apr 1893, p 4; 17 Apr 1894, p 4; 15 Apr 1899, p 3</p>
<p>1888, Jun15</p>	<p>Peter bought the land in Isaac St, on which he built his tannery. It was mortgaged to Frances Jones, wife of Thomas Jones, for the first year.</p> <hr/> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld. Formal title is subdivision 1 of suburban allotment 18, Parish of Drayton, title reference no. 10237101</p>
<p>1888, Aug 3</p>	<p>Thomas Jones bought the two subdivisions which subsequently became Coonan’s Tannery. He held these until 18 Jun 1889 when they were transferred to George Walker, James Edwards and William Harris, joint tenants.</p> <hr/> <p>Holland (1998) Appendix 4. Formal description was subdivisions 27 and 28 of Resubdivision 2 of Subdivision 1 of Portion 85, County of Aubigny, Parish of Drayton</p>
<p>1889</p>	<p>Thomas Jones resigned from St James’ and returned to England. He returned to Brisbane in 1891.</p> <hr/> <p>Hodgson (2009) p 23</p>
<p>c. 1890</p>	<p>Peter Field presented the baptismal font and brass ewer to St James’. The font is carved from alabaster with carved panels, columns and pilasters of malachite, and of Italian workmanship. A small plaque on the wall near the font notes the gift.</p> <hr/> <p>The Church Chronicle, 1 Nov 1898, p 42 Hills (1994), p 34 Hodgson (2009) p 32</p>

1890, Oct	<p>Canon Thomas Warner arrived at Toowoomba to replace Rev RE Goldingham who had died suddenly in June 1890. In Warner's first report to the parish (13 Apr 1891) he said he would 'like to see the spirit of rivalry which at present existed between St James' and St Luke's eradicated', since 'all alike were working for one master'.</p> <p><u>Hodgson (2009), p 27, p 29</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 15 Apr 1891, p 3</p>
1891, Sep	<p>St Luke's became a 'conventional district' under Rev. Thomas Pughe. This meant local government and independence for St Luke's, and was granted by mutual consent of Bishop Webber and the Rector of St James', Canon Warner. The St James' churchwardens and parishioners were unhappy that Canon Warner had not consulted them about this, particularly as it had financial implications for the parish.</p> <p><u>Brightman (2009) p 39</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 23 Apr 1892, p 3</p>
1891, Sep 16	<p>Meeting of creditors of Peter Field highly critical of <u>agreement between Peter and Thomas Jones.</u></p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Sep 1891, p 3</p>
1891, Sep 19	<p>Thomas Jones wrote to the Telegraph (Brisbane) explaining about <u>mortgages over Peter's business.</u></p> <p>Telegraph (Brisbane), 19 Sep 1891, p 4 Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Sep 1891, p 3 Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette, 22 Sep 1891, p 3</p>
1897, Apr 12	<p>A committee of St James' and St Luke's churches, including Peter Field, agreed that land should be bought for a school. A subcommittee then decided on 12.5 acres (5.1 ha) in Herries St, Toowoomba for the site of the future Glennie School.</p> <p><u>Hodgson (2009) p 92 and pers. comm.</u></p>
1897, Apr 28	<p>At the Easter meeting of St James' Church, Canon Warner addressed the issue of class distinction between St James' and St Luke's. 'I must protest against any misrepresentation that [St James'] is not the church of the poor, or that the poor are <u>not welcomed at it.</u>'</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 28 April 1897, p 3</u></p>

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<p>1898–1901</p>	<p>Cyril, Nessie and Ray won Sunday School prizes.</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 17 Jan 1898, p 3; 21 Feb 1900, p 4; 28 Jan 1901, p 3 Brisbane Courier, 16 Feb 1899, p 6</p>
<p>1900, Aug 15</p>	<p>‘A very pleasant conversazione was held to welcome Rev. [W]H Forster ... and Mrs Forster.’ Forster had been appointed Curate to St James’ parish.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 18 Aug 1900, p 6 Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1901, p 3</p>
<p>1900, Nov 13</p>	<p>A horse and buggy was presented to Rev. Forster to enable him to visit townships north of Toowoomba. The cost of £40 had been quickly raised by the parishioners. The buggy was necessary because he was ‘physically too weak to ride’. Mr Forster ‘replied in very feeling yet humorous terms’.</p> <hr/> <p>Letter from Thomas Warner to Mr Wardrop, Churchwarden; Anglican Archives, Brisbane, series TWBJS142, Receipts 1900-1905 Brisbane Courier, 17 Nov 1900, p 14</p>
<p>1901, Feb 5</p>	<p>Cyril, Nessie and Ray all won prizes at the Diocese of Brisbane Sunday School Festival, as members of St James’ Sunday School. Ray won a special Diocesan Prize for his performance, second in the Junior class.</p> <hr/> <p>Brisbane Courier, 6 Feb 1901, p 6 Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1901, p 3</p>
<p>1901, Apr 10</p>	<p>Rev. Forster had conducted Easter services at Geham, Highfields and Crow’s Nest. Attendances were good, and there was sincere regret at his early departure from the parish. He had made many friends and improved the churches at Geham and Highfields. ‘Many ... were visibly affected with the thought of parting with one who had so won their esteem and affection.’</p> <hr/> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 10 April 1901, p 3</p>

1901, Apr 11	<p>St James' Easter meeting. Canon Warner thanked Peter and others for their kindness to Rev WH Forster, Assistant Curate, who was retiring for health reasons. However he was concerned at 'parties' and divisions formed in the Parish since Mr Forster's arrival. Peter and David Booker elected to Parochial Council. Election of peoples' churchwarden postponed to future meeting. David Booker and Miss Butterfield teaching Sunday School.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1901, p 3</u></p>
1901, Apr 14	<p>The Sunday School teachers, including Ruth and Mary Ann Butterfield and David Booker, made a presentation to Mr Forster, with a letter expressing their affection and esteem.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 17 Apr 1901, p 2</u></p>
1901, Apr 14	<p>Forster's final sermon at St James'. He was described as one of the most eloquent [preachers] that has ever occupied the pulpit at St James'. 'In closing he dwelt upon the circumstances which had rendered his resignation necessary. He passionately declared that he had fully, frankly and honestly given a true statement of his physical condition ... He had put his case honestly before Mr. Warner before he engaged him at Gunnedah to be curate of St. James'; and when he was subsequently attacked with pleurisy he wrote to Mr. Warner and asked to be released from the engagement. Mr. Warner replied, 'No, come, and you may find the climate of <u>Toowoomba congenial to you</u>.'</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 18 Apr 1901, p 3</u></p>
1901, Apr 18	<p>It was reported that the Bishop's confidence and trust in Rev. WH Forster 'was no way shaken by recent events', and that he had been offered the Rectorship of the Mitchell district, where the climate may better suit him.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle, 18 Apr 1901, p 2</u></p>
1901, Apr 24	<p>St James' meeting continued. Peter and others declined to serve as peoples' warden while Canon Warner was Rector of St James. Peter also withdrew from the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 27 Apr 1901, p 3</u></p>

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1901, Apr 26	<p>Sarah wrote to Mr Wardrop, the Churchwarden at St James', paying her pew rent and asking that her name be erased as a <u>pew holder of St James' Church.</u></p>
<p>Anglican Archives, Brisbane, series TWBJS142, Receipts 1900-1905</p>	
1901, Apr 27	<p>The parishioners sold the horse and cart and sent the proceeds (£51) to William Forster, with an appreciative letter. <u>Forster replied from Boggabri, thanking them.</u></p>
<p>Darling Downs Gazette, 1 May 1901, p 2; 11 May 1901, p 2</p>	
1901, May 14	<p>A letter from Mr Forster was published which asserted 'I am quite alive to my limitations, not only spiritual and mental, but physical as well. I was aware of them before I came to the parish, and I made known my knowledge concerning them fully and freely and frankly before I came'. This was apparently in response to a pamphlet which Canon Warner circulated among his parishioners which Forster considered <u>contained deliberately incorrect information.</u></p>
<p>Toowoomba Chronicle, 14 May 1901, p 3</p>	
1901, May 15	<p>St James' meeting continued. There was still no nomination for peoples' warden. After Canon Warner left the meeting a unanimous vote of confidence and sympathy was passed to the Rev. Forster, which also exonerated him from concealing the state of his health before coming to Toowoomba. It was also decided to write to the Bishop to tell him about 'the disorganised state of affairs at St James' Church generally'. The Bishop subsequently appointed Mr George Crisp as people's warden, but he resigned and Mr TW Davidson was appointed by the Administrator in August.</p>
<p>Darling Downs Gazette, 18 May 1901, p 3 Toowoomba Chronicle, 18 May 1901, pp 6, 7 Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Apr 1902, p 2 St James' Churchwardens' Report, Easter 1902, Anglican Archives, Brisbane, series TWBJS142</p>	

<p>1901, Oct 31</p>	<p>Canon Warner left for a month's holiday in Tasmania, after being ill and given a month's leave of absence. At a farewell function he said he had done his best 'bad though some thought it'. The Bishop had promised him leave 'if certain charges that had been made were proved incorrect'.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 8 Oct 1901, p 3; 26 Oct 1901, p 3</u></p>
<p>1901, Nov 8</p>	<p>Mary Ann Butterfield died. Her funeral took place the next day at St James', with Archdeacon Thomas Jones officiating.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 11 Nov 1901, p 2</u></p>
<p>1902, Mar 22</p>	<p>Warner left for England on 12 months' leave of absence, having suffered a more serious breakdown after he returned from Tasmania. After he returned he went to St John's, Dalby, but his 'nervous prostration' returned. He was granted another year's leave, and he resigned as from 30 Apr 1905.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Apr 1902, p 2</u> Hodgson (2009) p 29 <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 7 Mar 1904, p 2</u></p>
<p>1902, Mar 31</p>	<p>The Roll of members for St Luke's Church includes Sarah Field, Peter Field, Ruth Butterfield, Mary Ann Butterfield and David A Booker.</p> <p><u>Anglican Archives, Brisbane. St Luke's Parish Roll c1895-1910. Series TWBLS143</u></p>
<p>1902, Apr 14</p>	<p>St Luke's Annual Meeting held. Peter Field seconded several items.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 18 Apr 1902, p 2</u></p>
<p>1902, Apr 18</p>	<p>St James' Annual Meeting held. It was noted that a number of parishioners had left the church. Also 'The collection of the General Parish Fund had to be abandoned last year owing to the limited number of ladies willing to undertake the duty'.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Apr 1902, p 2</u> St James' Churchwardens' Report, Easter 1902, Anglican Archives, Brisbane, series TWBJS142</p>

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1903, Feb 18	<p>The marriage of Ruth Butterfield and Niels Clauson took place at St Luke's. Rev. Thomas Jones officiated. The reception was at Daphne.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 21 Feb 1903, p 5</u></p>
1903, Apr 27	<p>St Luke's Annual Meeting held. Peter Field elected to Parochial Council, as also as a sidesman to assist the wardens at church services.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 29 Apr 1902, p 3</u></p>
1903, Apr 28	<p>St James' Annual Meeting held. 'The collection of the Parish Fund, owing to the present disinclination of the ladies of the congregation to undertake this duty, also remains in abeyance, and a substantial item of revenue thus continues to be lost to the parish.'</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 29 Apr 1903, p 3</u></p>
1903–1911	<p>Peter was elected a parish councillor at St Luke's Church. He also filled other roles there: synodsmen (1905-1908), parochial nominator (1907-1910) and acting rector's warden (1907).</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 16 Apr 1902, pp 2, 6; 29 Apr 1903, p 3; 20 Apr 1904, p 3; 16 May 1905, p 6; 9 May 1906, p 8; 24 Apr 1907, pp 2, 8; 1 May 1908, p 5</u> <u>Brisbane Courier, 16 Apr 1904, p 21; 16 May 1905, p 6; 25 Apr 1907, p 2; 2 May 1908, p 16; 5 May 1909, p 2; 23 Apr 1913, p 6</u> <u>Gloria Glass, TDDFHS, Index to parishioners of St Luke's Church of England, Toowoomba, 1905-1913</u></p>
1904, Apr 11	<p>Mary Ann Butterfield married David Booker at St Luke's Church, with Rev. Thomas Jones officiating. Reception was held at Daphne, Peter and Sarah's home.</p> <p><u>Qld Figaro, 14 Apr 1904, pp 11, 12</u> <u>The Queenslander, 16 Apr 1904, p 21</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 19 Apr 1904, p 5</u></p>
1905	<p>The Parish of St Luke, as distinct from the Parochial District within the Parish of St James, came into being.</p> <p><u>Brightman (2009) p 52</u></p>

1905, May 16	<p>The Annual Meeting of St Luke's included the election of a Ladies' Council to assist the Parochial Council. Sarah Field was among the nine women elected. Peter was elected a member of the Parochial Council.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 16 May 1905, p 6</u></p>
1905, Aug 15	<p>Canon William Oakeley succeeded Canon Pughe at St Luke's.</p> <p><u>Brightman (2009) p 52</u></p>
1905, Oct 7	<p>William Forster died of 'syncope, pulmonary tuberculosis' at Wahroonga, a suburb of Sydney. He was only 37 years old.</p> <p><u>NSW death certificate 1905/12310</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 25 Nov 1905, p 5</u></p>
1906, May 22	<p>Sarah Field teaching Sunday School at St Luke's. The Sunday School prize-giving was preceded by a programme of songs, tableaux, recitations and gramophone recordings, including Nessie Field and two other girls in 'white flowering robes' [<i>sic</i>] each holding the symbol they represented. Nessie also gave an 'amusing recitation' called 'Aunt Tabitha'. Peter and Sarah both attended.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 23 May 1906, p 5; 26 May 1906, p 5</u></p>
1907, Apr 23	<p>St Luke's Churchwardens' Report includes reference to a committee of 18 'lady collectors' to 'work the Parish for subscriptions towards the Church Expense Fund'. Peter was Acting Churchwarden. The Rector's Report humourously exhorts the congregation to help make the collectors' jobs easier.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 24 Apr 1907, p 2, p 8</u></p>
1909, Apr 12	<p>Cyril Field married Mabel St George French in St Luke's Church, Toowoomba. Canon Oakeley performed the ceremony.</p> <p><u>The Queenslander, 17 Apr 1909, p 12</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1909</u></p>

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1910, May 28	<p>Foundation stone laid for St Luke's new Sunday school, primary school and church hall. Sarah was one of the teachers in the 'big Sunday school', which had 200 pupils. There were another 90 pupils in the infants' school. The hall was dedicated on 15 May 1911.</p>
	<p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 30 May 1910, p 5; 16 May 1911, p 8</p>
1910, Jun 26	<p>Sarah rostered to provide flowers for St Luke's altar. This was a regular occurrence.</p>
	<p><u>St Luke's Parish Paper</u>, eg Jun, Sep 1910, Apr 1913</p>
1911, Feb 26	<p>St Luke's Sunday School prize giving. Sarah was the teacher of the Senior Girls' class.</p>
	<p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 1 Mar 1911, p 7</p>
1911, Dec 8	<p>Sarah provided afternoon tea for monthly meeting of St Luke's Ladies' Working Guild.</p>
	<p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 14 Dec 1911, p 5</p>
1912, Sep	<p>Sarah Field began Sunday School classes at Kenilworth.</p>
	<p><u>Hills (1994)</u> p 32 <u>St Luke's Church Parish Paper</u>, Sep 1912</p>
1913, Dec 10	<p>The first anniversary of the Kenilworth Sunday School was celebrated at Kenilworth, with recitations and songs. Prizes were presented by Canon Oakeley from St Luke's. 'A gratifying number of parents and friends interested in the school were present.' Teachers included Sarah Field, and the Misses Chapman who were members of staff at Kenilworth. <u>Nessie provided the accompaniment.</u></p>
	<p><u>Toowoomba Chronicle</u>, 13 Dec 1913, p 6 <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 15 Dec 1913, p 6</p>
1914, Sep 29	<p>St Luke's Sunday School teachers, together with Sarah Field (Superintendent, Mt Lofty), entertained the Sunday School teachers from St James'.</p>
	<p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 30 Sep 1914, p 3</p>

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1917, Sep 29	<p>‘Annual Sunday School picnic in conjunction with St Luke’s, Arthur St and Mt Lofty will be held tomorrow in Mr Golden’s paddock, Range.’</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 28 Sep 1917, p 4</u></p>
1917, Nov 15	<p>Nessie Field married Jack Wensley in St Luke’s Church, with Canon Oakeley officiating. A few relatives were entertained at <u>Kenilworth</u> after the ceremony.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 16 Nov 1917, p 3</u></p>
1918, Aug 14	<p><u>Canon Thomas Jones</u> died in Brisbane, aged 80.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier, 15 Aug 1918, p 4</u></p>
1920, Dec 5	<p>Sunday School prize giving at Arthur Street Church. David and Mary Ann Booker given a surprise presentation. Sarah Field gave one of the examination prizes.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette, 8 Dec 1920, p 3</u></p>
1920, Dec 18	<p>St Thomas’ Church dedicated on a newly purchased block of land on the corner of Jellicoe and Allan Streets, North Toowoomba. This was the old St James’ ‘mission hall’ which was moved from Ruthven St. Sunday School classes were conducted here as well as at Kenilworth.</p> <p><u>Hodgson (2009) p 97</u> <u>Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Apr 1920, p 4; 11 Dec 1920, p 4; 18 Dec 1920, p 4; 20 Dec 1920, p 2</u></p>
1925, Jul	<p>St Thomas’ congregation decided to build a new hall to house the Sunday School, and to call it the ‘Sarah Field Hall’.</p> <p><u>Hills (1994) p 33</u></p>
1926, Apr 20	<p>Sarah Field died after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage and cardiac failure, apparently in early February 1926. She was aged 69.</p> <p><u>Queensland Death Certificate 1926/C2324</u></p>
1926, Aug 22	<p>Stump-capping ceremony for new hall, now to be the ‘Sarah Field Memorial Hall’.</p> <p><u>Hills (1994) p 34</u> <u>Brisbane Courier, 23 Aug 1926, p 6</u> <u>Queenslander, 28 Aug 1926, p 39</u></p>

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1926, Nov 18 The new hall for St Thomas' Church was opened. Sir Littleton Groom, Speaker of the House of Representatives and local MHR, gave an address. The speech is not among his papers at either the National Library or the State Library of Queensland.

Hills (1994) p 34
Brisbane Courier, 19 Nov 1926, p 20



Eileen and Cyril Field in Dalby, c. 1950 [Barrs family photo]

CHAPTER 8: PETER AND SARAH'S DESCENDANTS

Cyril (4 Oct 1885 – 9 Nov 1963)	
1889	<p>Cyril started school at Toowoomba North Girls' and Infants' School; promoted to Toowoomba North Boys' School in 1892.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society school records</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 17 Dec 1892, p 5; 5 Dec 1894, p 10</p>
1899, Apr 7	<p>Peter Field appointed to Toowoomba North Public School Committee. The school was divided into two: North School (boys) had an average attendance of 300, and North School (girls and infants) an average attendance of 295.</p> <p><u>Qld state schools committee members 1876-1899 transcription – Findmypast.com.au</u> Pugh's Almanac (1900) p 864</p>
1901–1902	<p>Cyril attended Toowoomba Grammar School.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society school records</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 22 Jun 1901, p 3; 20 Dec 1901, p 3; 27 Sep 1902, p 3; 18 Dec 1902, p 3</p>
1903, Aug 26	<p>Cyril won a gold medal for his first place in a walking match of seven and a half miles [12 km], organised by the Gordon Club.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 27 Aug 1903, p 3</p>
1909	<p>Branch of Peter Field's boot shop in Dalby. Cyril Field was the manager or owner of this shop until about 1950.</p> <p><u>Groom's Darling Downs Almanac</u> (1909) p 187; (1910) p 185; (1911) p 757 Pugh's Almanac (1910) p 698</p>
1909, Apr 12	<p>Cyril Field married Mabel St George French in St Luke's Church, Toowoomba. Cyril's best man was Mr C Gallagher of Dalby with Ray Field as Groomsman. Eva Bailey and Nessie Field were bridesmaids. Peter and Sarah's address still at 'Daphne', Stuart St. The wedding tea was held in the Winter Garden of the Alexandra Hall. They spent their honeymoon at Tweed Heads.</p> <p><u>The Queenslander</u>, 17 Apr 1909, p 12 Darling Downs Gazette, 13 Apr 1909; 24 Apr 1909, p 7 Brisbane Courier, 13 Apr 1909, p 7</p>

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1910, May 10	<u>Cyril and Mabel were visiting Tweed Heads.</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 14 May 1910, p 5
1911, Jun 3	<u>Mabel, Cyril and Raymond in Toowoomba for the weekend. They attended a performance of <i>Sweet Nell of Old Drury</i> at the Town Hall, together with Sarah.</u> Darling Downs Gazette, 5 Jun 1911, p 5
1922, Aug	<u>Mabel Field, Cyril's wife, died at Dalby. Her body was returned to her mother's house in Toowoomba where a service was held, before moving to the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. She was 'of lovable character and possessed a large circle of friends'.</u> Brisbane Courier, 29 Aug 1922, p 11; 31 Aug 1922, p 15 Toowoomba Chronicle 23 Aug 1922, pp 4, 6; 24 Aug 1922, pp 4, 5; 28 Aug 1922, p 2
1927, Jan 5	<u>Cyril married Eileen Beatrice Milford. Eileen, a shop assistant, was the daughter of Martha and Donald Milford, and was just under 30 when she married Cyril. They had two children, Penelope Eileen (1927) and Muriel Ruth (1932).</u> Qld marriage certificate 1927/C274 Qld death certificate 1963/B61973
1963, Nov 9	<u>Cyril died at Princess Alexandra Hospital, South Brisbane, aged 78. He was cremated at the Mt Thompson Crematorium, Holland Park, Qld.</u> Qld death certificate 1963/B61973
Nessie (1 Jul 1887 – 1 Oct 1973)	
1892	<u>Nessie started school at Toowoomba North Girls' and Infants' School.</u> Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society school records
1902, Feb 1	<u>Nessie attended Eton High School (later St Margaret's Anglican Girls School) as a boarder. She left at the end of the year.</u> Diary entries for Sister Emma, 1902, 1906. Email from Bronwyn Perry, School Archivist, 30 Apr 2015
1908	<u>Nessie in sixth class at Toowoomba North Girls' and Infants' State School.</u> Statement from Florence Yardley, Head Teacher, held by Mary Wensley

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1909	<p>Nessie living at Rushton Private Hospital, Mylne St, Toowoomba. Registration: 10 Jul 1908.</p> <p>Qld state electoral roll, Drayton and Toowoomba, 1909</p>
1909, Jan	<p>Character references for Nessie from Canon Pughe (St John's Cathedral, Brisbane), James Tolmie (Editor of the <i>Darling Downs Gazette</i>) and VC Redwood (Toowoomba Council Alderman), apparently for a position as Probationer at the Lady Bowen Hospital, Brisbane.</p> <p>Originals held by Mary Wensley</p>
1909, Jun 26	<p>'A very enjoyable picnic and dance was held at Moola as a send-off to Miss Field, who has been paying a round of visits in the Dalby district.'</p> <p><i>Darling Downs Gazette</i>, 1 Jul 1909, p 8</p>
1909, Aug 7	<p>Note from Dr E Falconer of Colstoun, Toowoomba, that Nessie was 'in good health and fit to be a nurse at Lady Bowen Hospital'.</p> <p>Original held by Mary Wensley</p>
1909, Sep 8	<p>Reference for Nessie from Emma Packer, Matron of Rushton Private Hospital. Nessie had been her probationer for nine months, and had been found 'good tempered, willing, of a cheerful disposition, very anxious to learn, and liked by all the patients'.</p> <p>Original held by Mary Wensley</p>
1909, Nov 9	<p>Reference from M Gehrman, patient at Lady Musgrave Hospital (Maryborough). Nessie had looked after her in hospital and was found to be 'a most sympathetic and patient nurse. She at all times being cheerful and obliging, nothing at any time ever being too much trouble'.</p> <p>Original held by Mary Wensley</p>
1911, Apr 8	<p>Nessie started a relief fund in aid of relatives of the 122 people drowned when <i>SS Yongala</i> sank south of Townsville after encountering a cyclone. Nessie was working at John Hunter and Son (the firm which had bought Peter's business when he retired) and living in Stuart St.</p> <p><i>Darling Downs Gazette</i>, 8 Apr 1911, p 4</p>

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1911, Jun 1	<p>Nessie working for John Hunter and Son, Toowoomba, boot merchants. Nessie had collected money for the Courier Relief Fund.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Brisbane Courier, 1 Jun 1911, p 4</p>
1915, May 15	<p>Nessie sent a bridle to be auctioned in aid of the 11th Light Horse Regiment, which had recently been formed in Queensland.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 15 May 1915, p 8 Australian War Memorial https://www.awm.gov.au/unit/U51045</p>
1917, Nov 16	<p>Nessie married John Walter Wensley (1886-1945) in St Luke's Church, with Canon Oakeley officiating. The ceremony was followed by a reception for family at Kenilworth.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Darling Downs Gazette, 16 Nov 1917</p>
1919, Jan 15	<p>Nessie and Jack's son, Colin, was born at Toowoomba.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Australian Army service record, National Archives of Australia, series B883</p>
1926, Apr 20	<p>Sarah died at the home of Nessie and Jack Wensley after suffering a stroke in early February 1926.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Qld death certificate 1926/2324</p>
1926, Aug 2	<p>Advertisement stating that Nessie was now the Manageress of Kenilworth.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Brisbane Courier 2 Aug 1926</p>
1942, Aug 26	<p>Sub. 1 of portion 523 (5 ac.) and sub. 1 of portion 522 (2 ac.) transferred to Nessie Wensley by Peter's executors. In 1944 the former was reserved by the Toowoomba Council for a park.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woolloongabba, Qld, titles 11064247 and 10856069</p>
1945, May 25	<p>Nessie's husband, Jack, died.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Qld death certificate 1945/C2396</p>
	<p>After Jack died, Nessie looked after a lady in Brisbane, doing housekeeping for her. She then returned to Toowoomba and did similar work for an elderly gentleman. She used to go home at night at first, but then he became ill, and Nessie used to stay overnight.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mary Wensley (pers. comm.) May 2015</p>

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1973, Oct 1	<p>Nessie died at her home in Mabel St, Toowoomba, of a coronary occlusion, aged 86. Her funeral was held at the chapel of the Toowoomba Crematorium.</p> <p><u>Qld death certificate 1973/C7267</u> Toowoomba Chronicle, 2 Oct 1973, p 2</p>
<p>Raymond (8 Jan 1890 – 16 Jan 1972)</p>	
1895	<p>Ray started school at Toowoomba North Girls' and Infants' School and was promoted to Toowoomba North Boys' School in 1897. He attended Toowoomba Grammar School in 1904-1906. He was captain of one of the school's football teams.</p> <p><u>Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society school records</u> Field, Noel (1993) Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Dec 1904, p 3; 15 Dec 1905, p 3; 14 Dec 1906, p 8</p>
1906, Jul 20	<p>Raymond S Field passed the Junior Public Examination, run by Sydney University.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 20 Jul 1906, p 5 Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Dec 1906, p 8</p>
1909, Aug	<p>Ray relieving Mr Jack Meston at the QN Bank at Jondaryan.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 10 Aug 1909, p 5; 10 Sep 1909, p 8</p>
1909, Oct 15	<p>Ray took up duty as accountant at the Queensland National Bank at Nobby. He was transferred from Mitchell.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 15 Oct 1909, p 2</p>
1911, May 27	<p>The Nobby Athletic Association held its annual sports. Ray, as Secretary, was a judge.</p> <p><u>Brisbane Courier</u>, 31 May 1911, p 12</p>
1911, Jun 3	<p>Mabel, Cyril and Raymond in Toowoomba for the weekend. They attended a performance of <i>Sweet Nell of Old Drury</i> at the Town Hall, together with Sarah.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 5 Jun 1911, p 5</p>
1911, Aug 23	<p>Ray was secretary of the annual ball given by the bachelors of Nobby and the district.</p> <p><u>Darling Downs Gazette</u>, 24 Aug 1911, p 7</p>

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1911, Dec 2-3	Ray spent the weekend with his parents at Tick Hill before leaving for <u>Normanton</u> on 5 Dec. Darling Downs Gazette, 4 Dec 1911, p 5
1911, Dec	Ray was farewelled from Nobby with a dinner, with many complimentary things said about him. He was presented with a <u>purse of sovereigns</u> . Cutting from unknown paper, probably Toowoomba Chronicle, from Mary Wensley Darling Downs Gazette, 14 Dec 1911, p 5
1911, Dec 18	Ray arrived in Normanton to take up the position of teller at the <u>QN Bank</u> . Northern Miner (Charters Towers), 23 Dec 1911, p 2
1914, May 23	Ray married Irene Bates at Normanton. Irene was the daughter of <u>Edward and Maggie Bates</u> . Qld marriage certificate C1914/754
1916, May 27	Ray, accountant at QN Bank, Normanton, transferred to Brisbane. He was presented with a purse of sovereigns before leaving. Townsville Daily Bulletin, 27 May 1916, p 6 Cairns Post, 29 May 1916, p 8
1918, Jan 15	Ray, who had been relieving manager of the <u>QN Bank at Normanton</u> , was appointed manager at <u>Burketown</u> . Townsville Daily Bulletin, 15 Jan 1918, p 4
1918, Jun	Both Ray and Irene Field did well in a <u>Burketown tennis tournament</u> , both in singles and doubles. Townsville Daily Bulletin, 20 Jun 1918, p 4
1919, Aug	RS Field applied for a pastoral holding in the <u>Burke pastoral district</u> , area 148 sq. miles, rent £111. He does not appear to have been successful. Queensland Times, 27 Sep 1919, p 7 Kaye Nardella, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Woollongabba, Qld (pers. comm.)

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1920, Aug	Ray spent a few days with his parents at Kenilworth, possibly en route to Melbourne where he had been transferred. <u>Darling Downs Gazette</u> , 21 Aug 1920, p 3 Field, Noel (1993)
c. 1930	Ray was transferred to Sydney by the QN Bank. <u>Field, Noel (1993)</u>
1964, Nov 19	Ray's wife, Irene, died of heart failure. <u>NSW death certificate 41712/1964</u> Field, Noel (1993)
1972, Jan 16	Raymond died at Chatswood, NSW aged 82. His remains are at the Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens, North Ryde, NSW. <u>NSW death certificate 41851/1972</u>



Ray and Irene Field, c. 1950s [Field family photo]



Sarah outside the new Princess Theatre, Melbourne, c. 1923
[Wensley family photo]

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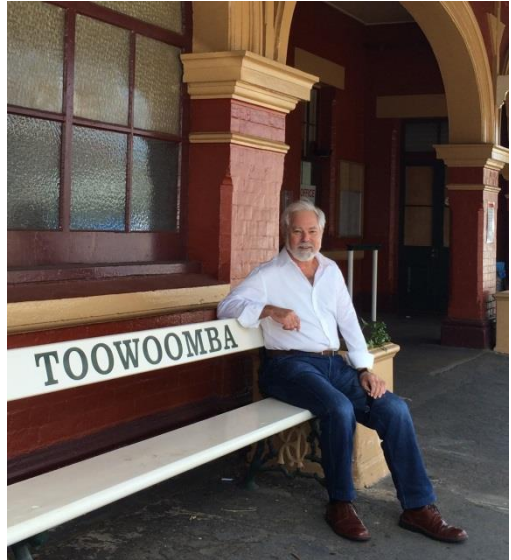
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