

St John's Anglican Church, Raymond Terrace, New South Wales.

These significant historical newspaper transcriptions relate specifically to the creation of the Ferguson & Urie stained glass window and the life and times of the subject of the memorial window, William Keene and of Henry Bayes Cotton who was the instigator of having the window created.

[The Newcastle Chronicle, NSW, Saturday 27th September 1862, page 2.](#)

"RAYMOND TERRACE.

CONSECRATION OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH".

"Thursday last will be a day long to be remembered by the inhabitants of this district, as seeing the completion of a work long necessitated, and which, from what we could glean, must have been for some time a matter of anxiety to very many there resident, namely the consecration of the new church, which is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. At an early hour in the morning visitors from far and near kept arriving in numbers from the surrounding neighbourhood. Newcastle, Maitland, (East and West), Morpeth, and the Patterson, contributed their visitors on the occasion, and judging by the happy faces assembled it must have been a time of much interest and rejoicing, and evinced that though the cares of this world have their claims, yet that our friends are far from insensible to higher, holier, and better objects. The church itself is situated on an elevated site at the rear of the parsonage, on land formerly belonging to Mr. Cafferay, from whom it was purchased for the purpose. It is built from designs of Edmund Blacket, Esq., of Sydney, and is deserving of much admiration, both from the simplicity and beauty of its architecture, which is that of Norman or early English, and from the perfect completeness of its internal arrangements. The extreme length of the edifice is seventy-eight feet from north to south. The pews, pulpit, and altar-rails are cedar, and of gothic design. The covering of the communion table is cloth of purple and gold, embroidered with the sacred monogram, and which we believe was the gift and work of the ladies of the parish. We also noticed and exceedingly handsome silver communion service, which, as is customary, was used on this occasion. A beautiful stone font, exquisitely carved, stands near the western door. At the hour appointed for divine service, the church was thronged with a very large congregation. At eleven o'clock the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, accompanied by the Rev. Alfred Glennie, and the Rev. James Blackwood, acting as chaplains to His Lordship on this occasion, arrived at the western door of the church and was received by the Rev. John Bloomfield, the Incumbent of the parish, a large number of

other clergy, A. Wyndyer, Esq., Acting Chancellor, and W. Keene, Esq., Acting Registrar. Mr. Keene then advanced, and with the usual formalities proceeded to read the petition or prayer for the consecration of the edifice. His Lordship graciously acceding to the request, proceeded along the nave of the church, followed by the Chancellor, Registrar, and Clergy, reciting alternately the verses of the 24th Psalms, commencing, "The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is, the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein." The procession as it advanced to the altar must have struck every observant mind with feelings of reverence and solemnity. The Bishop and his chaplains took their places within the rails, the other clergy and chancellor occupied seats within the chancel, with the exception of the Reverend J. Bloomfield, who took his place in the reading desk. At this moment the scene was one that we shall not easily forget, and was well calculated to impress the most indifferent spectator with admiration for this most beautiful ceremony of the Anglican Church. The Bishop having had the necessary documents presented to him, proceeded with the service as appointed, and which commenced with fervent supplications to the Throne of Grace for all who may hereafter partake of the Sacrament of the Church, or who may participate in its ordinances, and which were earnestly responded to by all present. The Chancellor next read the sentence of consecration, which document his Lordship signed and delivered to the keeping of the Registrar, commanding it with the petition and other instruments to be registered among the muniments of his office, and after another prayer, the Rev. J. Bloomfield, the Incumbent, proceeded with the morning service as appointed. The first lesson was read by the Rev. W. Stack, M.A., of St. Mary's, Balmain, who, although of another diocese, courteously accepted the invitation he had received to take part in the proceedings. The second lesson was read by the Rev. R. Chapman, of St. Mary's, West Maitland. The epistle and gospel was read by the Rev. the Chaplains. At the end of the morning prayer the first, fifth, sixth, and eighth verses of the 84th Psalm, was sung by the choir, and most exquisitely rendered. And here we would take the opportunity of remarking that both the vocal and instrumental portion of the service was very beautiful. Mrs. Street, who presided at the harmonium, did so with skill and effect. After the communion service had been proceeded with as far as the Nicene creed, the Bishop ascended the pulpit, and announcing as his text the fourth and two following verses of St. Paul's fourth chapter to the Ephesians, proceeded to deliver a very eloquent and appropriate sermon, in which he remarked that day must prove an occasion of deep joy and sincere thankful feeling in many hearts, as seeing the completion of a great and good work in which they had for so long and anxiously been interested. He hoped that house would prove a benefit not only to all then assembled, but to their children and children's children. Some no doubt had given largely, others had given what they could, still all could participate equally together in the blessed privileges of the

Christian Dispensation; and the presence there that day of so many ministers and others from a distance shewed that as Christians they rejoiced with those that did rejoice. In some respects, however, members of their own community were at times almost inclined to shew too great an amount of exclusiveness, but this should not be. After alluding to the extending influence of the Christian church, and which should continue to extend in influence, till, according to the word of promise, "The knowledge of our Lord should cover the earth as the waters cover the sea." – and the great beauty of the Christian religion, shewing too the appropriateness of the similitude of Christ's Church to a body, which, though consisting of various members, were nevertheless, dependent on each other for mutual comfort and assistance. The Right Rev. Prelate concluded by affectionately urging upon all the duty and privilege of a right use of the ceremonies of their church, but not to take delight in the means as if they themselves were the end sought to be obtained, but to worship in spirit and in truth, thus they might grow in grace, and thus become under God's mercy meet partakers of the inheritance of the saints in Light, to which inheritance might they all have abundant entrance administered to them for His name and mercy sake."

At the conclusion of the sermon the Bishop read the remainder of the communion service, during which the collection was made, amounting to £12.15s.

The Sacrament was then administered to a large number of communicants, and the Bishop having pronounced the benediction, the congregation separated a little after two o'clock.

A large number of clergy were present, among whom we noticed the Reverends W. Stack, of Balmain; A. Glennie, Brisbane Water; R. Chapman, St. Mary's, West Maitland; James Blackwood, Singleton; J. R. Thackeray, St. Paul's, West Maitland; A. Sim, of Stroud; Mr. Adams, of Patterson; and Mr. Wright, of East Maitland; and numbers of the resident and neighbouring gentry.

At the conclusion of the Church service, the Reverend the Incumbent of the parish, Mr. Bloomfield, provided at his parsonage and exceedingly elegant and sumptuous collation, including every delicacy that the most fastidious could desire, and to which a very numerous assemblage did ample justice, and we think we should not be exaggerating in saying that to it all his parishioners had been invited. Never were hosts more courteously or hospitably attentive to the wants of their guests than were Mr. and Mrs. Bloomfield on this occasion, and seldom had guests more reason to be satisfied. And one of the most pleasing features in this part of the day's proceedings was the cordial and kind feeling that seemed to be so thoroughly reciprocated between the minister and his parishioners. Long may such a feeling continue, and may this day's work, that we have endeavoured so

imperfectly to commemorate, be but the beginning of a bright and happy future to him and them.

We must not forget to mention, that the church, which is of stone procured from adjacent quarries, was built at a cost of some £1500, the whole of which is defrayed, in the first instance, by the Bishop; but the parish is only to be charged with two-thirds of that amount, namely £1000, his Lordship generously defraying the remainder. While alluding to this act of liberality, we cannot forbear mentioning another of great importance to the whole of this community, and which is, perhaps, not generally known, namely, that his Lordship, with the assistance of his family, have themselves endowed the bishopric of this diocese; so that, however Government may care for this, the future Bishops of Newcastle will always be provided for.

This concludes our report of a day's proceedings that will form a source of pleasant recollection to us for a long time to come, as doubtless it will to all others who either witnessed them, or took part therein."

[The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River Advertiser, NSW, Tuesday 3rd December 1872, page 3.](#)

"MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RAYMOND TERRACE, TO THE LATE WILLIAM KEENE, ESQ.- This window was placed in St. John's Church, Raymond Terrace, Raymond Terrace, last week, and as it is the admiration of all who have viewed it, a short description may be interesting to your readers, whilst it is due to those kind friends who contributed towards the window. It may be as well to state in the first place, that the Church of St. John is a Gothic edifice, pleasantly situated on a spot which affords a view of the Hunter River and of the rich alluvial farms spreading for miles on the opposite side; the churchyard is neatly kept, having been tastefully laid out and planted with choice evergreen trees about six years ago. The east window of the church consists of three lancet lights; the central light is eleven feet high, being admirably adapted for the style and subjects which have been chosen. Commencing at the foot of the light, there is the scene of our Saviour's birth. In the centre of the light is represented the Crucifixion, and this is again surmounted by the Resurrection. These subjects are all taken from the old masters, and are beautifully executed. The intermediate spaces are occupied with chaste and varied medallions, and the sacred monograms, I.H.S. In the right side light there is an admirably designed and well finished group, representing a venerable teacher engaged in instructing those around him; the countenances of this group are peculiarly pleasing. In the left side light is likewise a corresponding group, consisting of a benevolent person, and a female figure of benign aspect, engaged in receiving orphan children. It is scarcely

necessary to say that these subjects are intended to perpetuate the memory of the offices which the deceased gentleman so long and faithfully filled in the Church of the Diocese, as a member of the Local School Board, and Founder and Treasurer of the Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The inscription under these subjects respectively is, 'Teach the Ignorant,' 'Help the Helpless.' The window adds much to the beauty of the chancel and the church generally. It cannot fail to give great pleasure to H. B. Cotton, Esq., of Newcastle, who has taken a large amount of trouble and interest in accomplishing the work; and the friends of the deceased must be greatly gratified and comforted when they gaze upon this tribute of respect and affection to their departed relative. It is due to the firm of **Messrs Fergusson [sic], Urie, and Lyon, of Melbourne**, to say that the window is regarded as a beautiful specimen of Australian art, which will favourably compare with works of a similar character executed in England. The cost of the window, with transmission and erection, has been £80. The inscription at the base of the memorial is, "To the Glory of God, and in memory of William Keene, 1872," –Newcastle Pilot, Nov. 30."

[Empire, Sydney, NSW, Friday 2nd February 1872, page 2.](#)

"ILLNESS OF MR. W. KEENE, F.G.S. – It is our painful duty to announce that Mr. W. Keene, F.G.S., and Government examiner of coalfields, now lies dangerously ill at his residence, Raymond Terrace, whither he had removed for the benefit of his health. We have not been informed of the nature of the malady from which Mr. Keene is suffering, but the symptoms apparent during the past few days are most serious, and on Sunday last fears were entertained that fatal results would supervene. Mr. Keene has been identified with almost every public movement calculated to advance the best interests of this port and district, and his removal from among us by the hand of death would be a loss severely felt by every member of the community – Newcastle Pilot, January, 31".

[Evening News, Sydney, NSW, Thursday 8th February 1872, page 2.](#)

"On the 2nd February, at Kingsmead House, Raymond-terrace, William Keene, F.G.S., Government Examiner of Coal fields, aged 74."

[The Newcastle Chronicle, NSW, Saturday 10th February 1872, page 3.](#)

“DEMISE OF MR. WILLIAM KEENE.

Our readers, we feel sure, will unite with us in expression of deep regret at the removal from amongst us, by the hand of death, of the late Mr. William Keene, Government geologist and inspector of coal mines. At a ripe old age, having passed beyond the days of man's years – Mr. Keene was seventy-six on his last birthday – at four o'clock on the afternoon of Friday last, he passed peacefully away. His end had been awaited by his friends for some days previously, not that he was in any way ailing, but it was clearly seen that life was gradually ebbing, and that the spirit must soon leave its mortal frame.

As soon as the decease of Mr Keene became known in Newcastle on Saturday morning, several gentlemen waited upon Mr. Finch, the chairman of the Co-operative Tug Company, for the purpose of soliciting the use of one of their tugs on the following day, to enable them to be present at the funeral. The directors, with great liberality, granted the use of their steamer Southland, and at about half-past one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, she left the wharf, having on board most of our leading citizens, numbering about eighty, together with Revds. Canon Selwyn, Millard, Bode, and Coutts, and proceeded to Raymond Terrace. The trip was anything but a pleasant one, as within half an hour after leaving Newcastle, the heavy storm came on, and the rain poured down nearly the whole of the afternoon. Shortly after arriving at the Terrace, the company proceeded to the late residence of the deceased, and the funeral procession was speedily formed. The coffin was borne by persons in the employ of Mr. Windeyer, of Kinross, and proceeded first to the Church of England, where a portion of the funeral service was gone through, the Rev. H. S. Millard reading the prayers, and the Rev. Canon Selwyn the chapter. On leaving the church the procession was again formed, and the body was taken to the cemetery, where it was interred, the Rev. S. Simms performing the remainder of the service.

A few particulars as to the career of the deceased may not prove uninteresting to our readers. Mr. Keene was born in the city of Bath, in the year 1795; and, whilst a young man, embraced the medical profession. Imbibing, however, a taste for the study of geology, he devoted his whole time and attention to that science, and was rewarded by receiving from the French government an appointment in connection with some salt mines in the Pyrenees. His services, highly esteemed by that government, brought him an order and a pecuniary grant. About twenty years ago the subject of our notice arrived in the colony, and was indirectly in the employ of the colonial government, but was not taken on to the permanent staff until some four years afterwards, since which time he has rendered great and material assistance to the government, especially in connection with the New South

Wales coal mines. It is owing to the refusal of the government to allow his supernumerary service to count, that the deceased declined to apply for a retiring allowance under the Superannuation Fund, and remained in harness to the last. His attainments were of the highest order, and his disposition so amiable and conciliating, that of him it may be safely said, all who knew him in life were his friends – after death, not one but had a kindly word, a sorrowful thought for his memory.

We also extract the following from the Maitland Mercury of the 8th inst:-

“To the above well-merited eulogium we can add but a few lines, as Mr. Keene’s duties naturally kept him in and about Newcastle, that we saw only occasionally in Maitland. Here he was chiefly known as an enthusiastic vine-grower and wine-maker. His long residence in France had given him opportunity for a thorough knowledge of the French system of vine-growing and treatment of the vine, which, perhaps, no other Englishman in Australia could possess. In the Hunter district Mr. Keene was a constant advocate of the southern French treatment of the vine, as distinguished from the German treatment in use in New South Wales, as being more suited to the warm climate of Australia, and to the strong growth of the vine in this country. As advocated by him, there was not only a technical difference in the French system (which could only be properly explained by an experienced vine grower), but there was also this broad general distinction, that the French plan allows more bearing wood, and a larger quantity of grapes, than is permitted under the German system, in the celebrated Rhine vineyards. The climate of the Rhine is much colder than that of southern France, Mr. Keene urged, and each system of treatment was correct only in its suitable climate. Whether, in the experience of future years, Mr. Keene’s ideas will prove correct, remains to be seen; but we believe not a few of the Hunter vineyards are now worked on them, with more or less closeness of following. One large owner told us, some time since, that his yearly produce, and profits, would have been doubled, had his vineyards been throughout planted, formed, and managed, on the plan advocated by Mr. Keene. Mr. Keene was for years one of the most active members of the Hunter River Vineyard Association. He also took much interest in the affairs of the Agricultural Association of this district, and was actively useful in them, principally as a judge, we think. In everything he was, as our contemporary has remarked, the genial, cordial, and polite gentleman, and earnest Christian, and honourable and most intelligent man. A portion of our readers will perhaps know Mr. Keene best by his efforts in a Christian cause. Like most effectual workers, he was to the last a young man in heart – an enthusiastic man. Thus he took up hopefully, in connection with the Newcastle Church Society and the Newcastle Synod, what many of their members had long desired – the establishment of some permanent plan for the lightening the hard lot of the widows and orphans of

deceased clergymen. He was helped by others, and intimately a workable plan was adopted and carried out, with Mr. Keene as treasurer; and although the 'institution' is yet young, it has already proved very useful, in some cases where scarcely anything else could have been usefully efficient without causing pain."

[The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Monday 12th February 1872, page 11.](#)

"OBITUARY. MR. W. KEENE.- Mr. W. Keene, F.G.S., the well known geologist (who has for many years past been a resident of the Hunter River district), died at Raymond Terrace, on the 2nd of February instant, aged 76 years. The deceased gentleman was born at Bath, in Somersetshire, England, in the year 1795 [sic], and is understood to have been educated for the medical profession, but his natural tastes soon caused him greatly to prefer the study of geology, and he thus eventually attained to a very distinguished position as a student of that fascinating science. Many years ago his remarkable knowledge of geology, in its scientific and economic aspects, led to his appointment by the French Government to an official situation in connection with some salt mines near the Spanish frontier, and whilst so engaged he made an eminently valuable and interesting collection of Pyrenean fossils. About the year 1852 Mr. Keene emigrated to this colony, and ultimately (after a lapse of four or five years) received the appointment of Government Geologist, and (subsequently) of Examiner of our Coal-fields on the Hunter, the personal energy and scientific ability of Mr. Keene did much to develop the mining interest, especially that portion of it which came more immediately under his notice. Mr. Keene did not, however, confine his attention to subterranean deposits, for he was honourably distinguished by the practical interest he took in agriculture, in vine growing, and in gardening. His pamphlet on the culture of the vine is still spoken of in the highest terms, embodying, as it does, his own experience as a painstaking and enthusiastic vigneron. He was connected, as may be surmised, with the agricultural associations of his own immediate district, and was long a leading member of the H.R. Vineyard Association. He leaves behind him a large and very valuable collection of fossils, the true value of which can only be fully appreciated by the learned, although deeply interesting to all. It has been hoped that his rare collection may eventually find its way to the Sydney Museum, where it will form an acceptable addition to the mineral stores of that institution. The deceased (who died from the infirmities of an advanced age) was universally esteemed and respected, not less for his learning and his benevolence, than for his many social qualities and pleasing manners. The remains of the deceased were interred in the graveyard at Richmond Terrace, on the 4th instant, many of his old friends and neighbours coming all the way from Newcastle to be present at his funeral. The deceased was a member of

the Church of England, and is stated to have been the person who first originated the Newcastle Church Society – a scheme for the benefit of the widows and daughters of clergymen. His death has occasioned in the Hunter River district a feeling of universal regret, and is, to the whole colony, a decided loss.”

[The Maitland Mercury, NSW, Saturday 11th February 1888, page 3.](#)

“The Retiring manager of the Bank of N. W. Wales, Newcastle.”

At the request of the Rev. F. D. Bode, who thinks the fellow members of Mr. Cotton in Synod will be interested in it, we print a portion of an article relative to Mr. Cotton’s retirement from the management of the bank of New South Wales in Newcastle. Mr. Cotton purposes to reside in Sydney.

Mr. Cotton will be greatly missed in almost every sphere of life – commercial, social, ecclesiastical; and his friends will take leave of him with very mingled feelings. They will regret the separation from one whose place it will be very difficult to fill, whilst at the same time they will derive pleasure from the thought that he will henceforth enjoy perfect relief from the cares and responsibilities of office, which are felt to be more harassing and heavy as we advance in years.

As chief of one of the oldest and most flourishing commercial institutions of Newcastle – the Bank of New South Wales – Mr. Cotton was proved himself to be an able, upright and accomplished financier. To his judicious management the bank is largely indebted for its commanding position; and, after a quarter of a century of faithful oversight, he is fairly entitled his otium cum dignitate – and something more, a handsome pension, which “the powers that be” should bestow upon him with genial heart and generous hand.

Within the circle of social life the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Cotton will be regarded as a calamity. The refined and radiant welcome which always awaited their visitors will not readily be forgotten, and young friends in troops will cherish through life most grateful memories of the graceful hospitalities enjoyed at the Bank of New South Wales.

In the ecclesiastical world Mr. Cotton’s absence will specially be felt. In the diocese of Newcastle there is no layman like him. As a devoted, self sacrificing, and incessant worker, he has no equal – though his “light” will surely bring out of their twilight many worthy successors. Not in purse only, but in personal service also, which is harder, he has ever been at the command of all who need help. And, and an accomplished lay-reader, holding the bishop’s licence, he has for years, in many instances, assisted the clergy of Newcastle and adjacent parishes at the cost of no little physical and mental toil in the truest spirit of brotherly love and Christian self-sacrifice.

Although residing in another parish, where the musical services of the Cathedral Church must be more in harmony with his aesthetic tastes, he has devoted himself with an ardour which never cooled, a zeal which never flagged, to the training of St. John's choir, illustrating by his example that kindness, breadth, and catholicity of feeling which should characterise the interaction of our parochial system – the stronger strengthening the weaker.

Such services ought not go unrecognised. Nor will they. The incumbent, choir, and congregation of St. John's will give expression to their sentiments of respect and gratitude in some pleasing and enduring form, esteeming the act of doing so not merely a duty, but a privilege and pleasure. In this good work the Church will lead – "Who follows in her train?"

In summary and conclusion, then it may be truthfully and tersely said of our retiring and excellent fellow-citizen that, throughout his long residence of nearly five and twenty years in Newcastle, "his example was for good, and not for evil" – a result of life which, in the highest sense, is real success – one which, at the final audit of accounts, will bring no regret, but infinite reward of happiness to the faithful steward."

[The Maitland Mercury, NSW, Saturday 25th February 1888, page 4.](#)

"PRESENTATION TO MR. COTTON AT NEWCASTLE.- At Newcastle, on Thursday afternoon, Mr. H. B. Cotton, for over a quarter of a century the respected manager of the Newcastle branch of the bank of New South Wales, which post he has just vacated, was the recipient of a very beautiful tea and coffee service and salver, all of pure silver, and handsome address in book form. The presentation was made by Mr. R. B. Wallace, J.P., who said that the address and gifts were intended as a mark of respect and esteem from his many friends. Mr. Cotton suitably acknowledged the kindness shown him. In the course of his reply he said that the work of the bank was too heavy for him, and he was about to take farewell of Newcastle. He was the first banker in Newcastle, having come to take charge of the bank of New South Wales there in 1863-64. The health of Mr. Cotton was drunk in bumpers."

[The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Saturday 20th January 1906, page 12.](#)

COTTON.- January 15, 1906, at his late residence, Fig-Tree, Hunter's Hill, Henry Bayes Cotton, eldest son of the late William Henry Cotton, solicitor, London, grandson of the late Bayes Cotton, of Parkfield, Kenilworth, England, aged 86. Homes papers please copy."

[The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Tuesday 16th January 1906, page 4.](#)

“Mr. Henry Bayes Cotton, who died at his residence, Hunter’s Hill, yesterday, at the age of 86, was one of the oldest colonists of New South Wales. He arrived in Sydney in 1839, and joined the bank of New South Wales. He was a manager of the bank at Geelong when the Ballarat gold fields were at their Zenith, and was afterwards manager of the branch at Newcastle for 25 years. In the latter city Mr. Cotton commanded the respect and esteem of all classes. He took an active part in many public matters, especially in the establishment of the School of Arts in that city, and he lent valuable assistance during many years in making it a successful institution. He was a member of the Church of England, and took a keen interest in everything connected with its welfare, being an energetic and zealous worker as lay reader and member of the synod. Retiring from the service of the bank about 15 years ago, Mr. Cotton took up his residence at Hunter’s Hill. He has left three sons.”