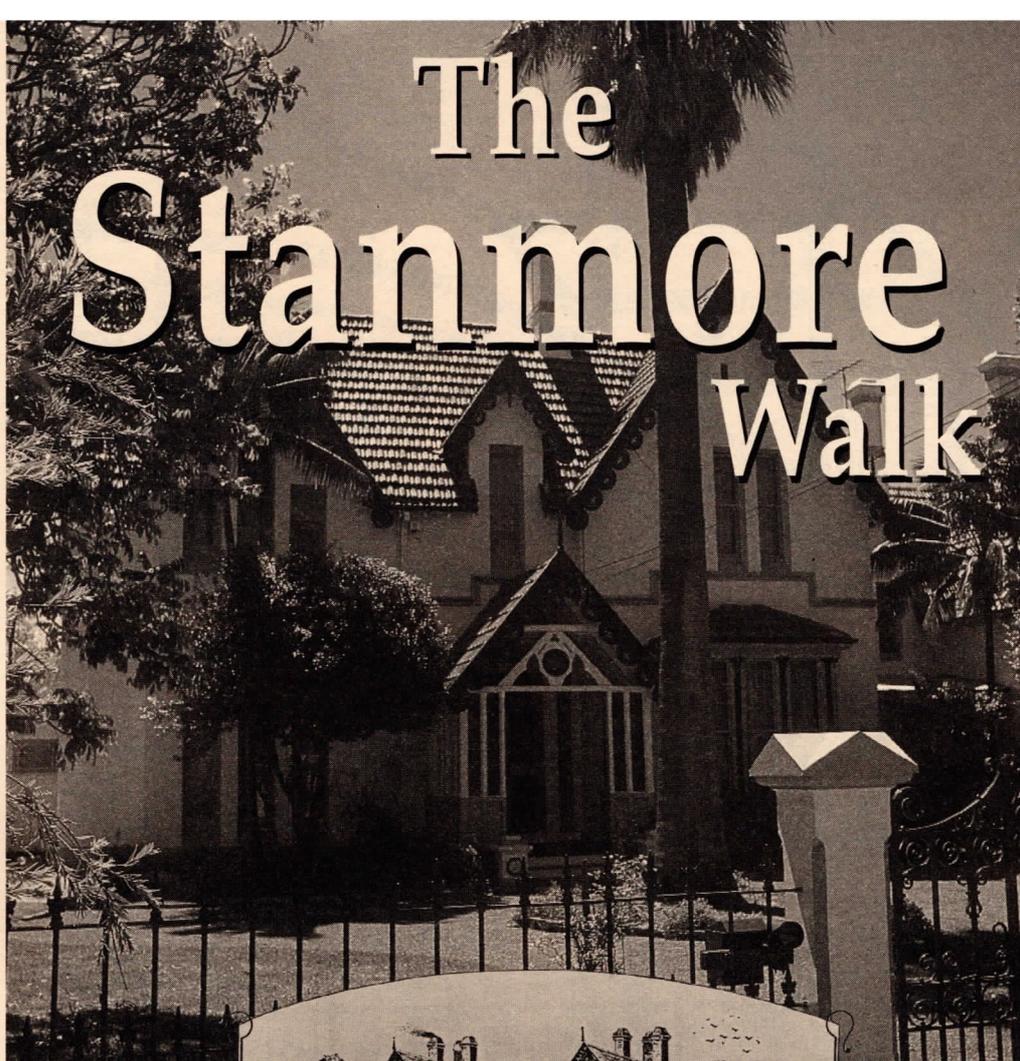


The Stanmore Walk



The Lodge in Cambridge Street

The original northern railway platform (now demolished)

A walking tour looking at people and houses in what was once a gentlemen's retreat and is now a culturally and architecturally diverse urban community

Mark Maloney & Marrickville Heritage Society members

START AT STANMORE STATION

1

NAMED by a wealthy saddler, John Jones, after his birthplace in Middlesex in England, Stanmore today comprises the former Kingston estates granted to Lieutenant Thomas Rowley, surgeon Edmund Laing and Captain George Johnston. Much of Laing's property was later incorporated into the suburb of Marrickville. A consortium of private financiers built Australia's first railway line through here in 1855 and saw the land to the south as a desirable 'railway suburb' suitable for professional gentlemen with businesses in the city. Rowley's South Kingston holdings in 1863 constituted part of the first Torrens Title subdivision in New South Wales.

The area had large estates whose gardens were subdivided with cheaper infill housing

built in the economic slumps of the 1890s and 1930s. The fluctuating desirability of Stanmore may be gauged by the fact that a State Premier lived here a century ago, while a Deputy State Premier now resides here.

LAND FOR SALE

This afternoon at 3 o'clock on the ground
Saturday, 20 September 1884

ON THE CROWN OF THE HILL

Mrs Johnston has favoured Hardie & Gorman for this sale... The first portion of that Grand Old Historical Estate distinguished as South Annandale so widely known throughout the Australias and which now comes onto the market solely on account of the decease of Captain Robert Johnston RN & is for absolute sale. Laid out by Mr Surveyor Hibsted with due regard to the physical features of the land so as to ensure South Annandale being the Model Suburb... The splendid elevation gives the opportunity for views which are absolutely unrivalled.

Opposite *The Lodge* are some ugly blocks of 'walk-up' blocks of units from the 1960-70s. No. 70, built in front of a typically Victorian parapet with stucco shells, is particularly rude. No. 68 once belonged to the China Inland Mission while *Gleniffer* at 64 retains the original house as a private hospital with a new texture-brick block at the rear.

23 99-109 CAVENDISH STREET
These cottages were known as 'model homes' and were probably built by the Soldiers Settlement Scheme after World War I.

24 STANBROOK

at 66 Cavendish Street was built in 1874 as a symmetrical house but a gable similar to *The Lodge's* was added in 1895. It has a bore water well in its backyard as water mains were not connected here until the 1880s.

25 HUGHENDEN

This terrace at 59 to 67 Cavendish Street—claimed as one of Australia's largest outside Melbourne—was built in 1884 by the woolbroker John Hinchcliffe who lived at *Elmside* in Harrow Road. *Hughenden's* residents have included the Chief Surgeon at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Sir Mungo McCallum, first full-time Vice Chancellor at the University of Sydney.

26 55 CAVENDISH STREET

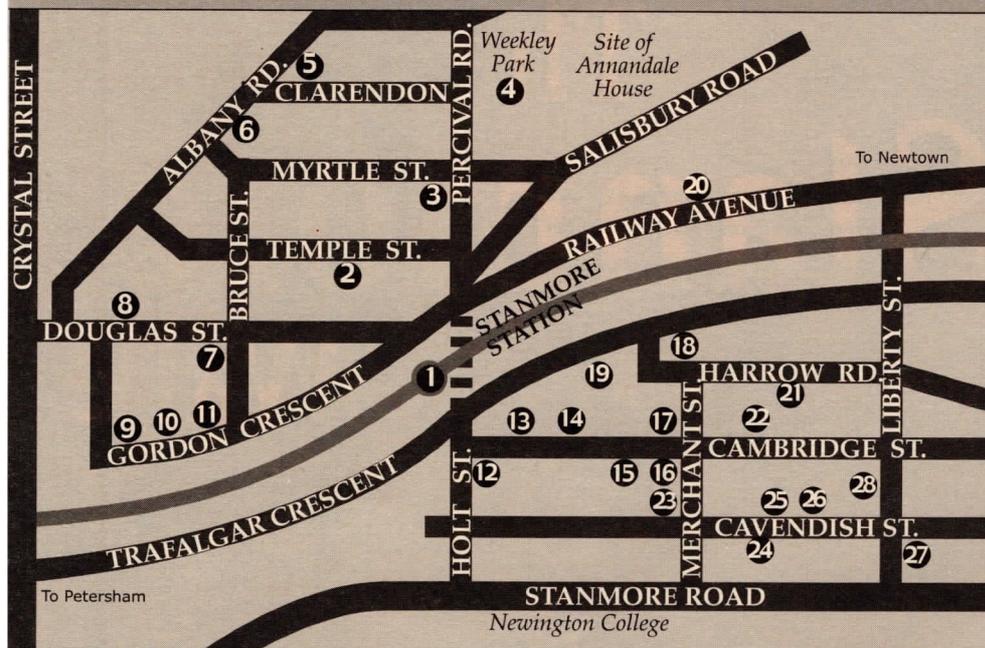
This is the final home of Mum Shirl (Shirley Colleen Perry AO MBE 1922-1998) of the Arradjarri tribe. She worked as a prison visitor and helped in the establishment of the NSW Aboriginal Legal and Medical Services. The respect shown to her as a community elder made her a symbol for Reconciliation and her being voted in 1997 one of Australia's 'National Living Treasures'.

27 EUGENIE

This colonial brick cottage at 24 Cavendish Street, on the corner of Liberty Street, was built by Newtown alderman Richard Cozens in 1856, and is therefore the oldest at this end of Stanmore. Cozens owned the land between here and the railway and named it for his daughter who afterwards married another Newtown alderman.

28 EVE SHARPE RESERVE

This parkland commemorates Eve Sharpe who lived nearby at 45 Cavendish Street (1909-1999). She was a feisty, long-serving member of the Australian Labor Party, a Deputy Mayor on Marrickville Council and first Patron of the Marrickville Heritage Society in the 1980s.



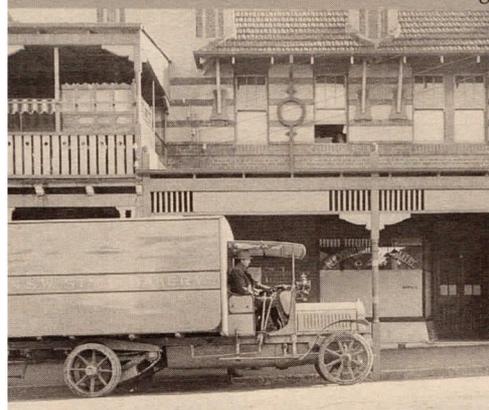
Over 8000 people are said to have attended the 1884 auction of these barleyfields, oat, sorghum and wheatfields, which were part of the original 100 acres granted in 1793 to the controversial Lieutenant-Governor George Johnston of the 'Rum Rebellion'. The widowed Frances Johnston offered an estate with medium-sized lots (20 by 120 feet) and very wide streets (65 feet wide) named after her children Percival, Bruce and Gordon. She refused to donate land for parkland but gave £3000 to help furnish the railway station platform and waiting rooms. All the land sold that afternoon in 1884 and the upper middle-class buyers built consistent and solid good quality brick homes in the Late Victorian and Queen Anne (Federation) styles.

2 KALYVA

This 'Mediterranean-ised' house at 19 Temple Street was where popular actor Noeline Brown was brought up. Noeline performed at Sydenham's Pocket Playhouse and worked at Marrickville Library in the 1960s.

3 THE STATE BAKERY

This shop at 122 Percival Road was the centre of great controversy during the Great War. Premier William Holman and the new State Attorney-General David Hall (who represented Enmore) had formed the State Brickworks and now aimed to 'nationalise' the breadmaking



industry which was then ridden with a 25% price increase, strikes by delivery van drivers and a plan to end baking at night-time.

Holman's government aimed to bake 3000 bread loaves a day for all government city institutions for a penny per pound. It purchased the family bakery which had been operating in Percival Road for ten years and installed its owner, George Boss as manager. Controversy erupted when it was revealed that Boss happened to David Hall's electoral campaigner. Though this attempt at monopoly faltered in 1916, the ovens were intact until recently.

4 WEEKLEY PARK

The Johnston family donated this land as a sweetener for their second land sale—in 1905 when historic *Annandale House* was demolished. The park with its Brush Boxes and rockery was named after Mayor JAH Weekley, alderman on Petersham Council for almost 3 decades.

5 NITHSDALE

This prestigious corner site at 60 Clarendon and Albany Roads was chosen by Scottish-born builder Alexander Hutchison (1838-1908) who represented Glen Innes in Parliament for five years from 1889. The house's elaborate decoration with stucco swags and quoins has been extensively refurbished; its third-storey belvedere has good views to three prominent Church of England steeples at Newtown, Annandale and Leichhardt.

6 ROTHSAY & LLANDUDNO

Builders and timber merchants Grocock & Chambers built the terrace in 1894 at 135 & 137 Albany Road after paying £1300 for the land; their timberyard was next door.

Llandudno has had at least nine owners—including two Methodist ministers. The houses follow a then-current trend of having a large balcony placed 'in antis' as an integral part of



the external walls instead of the usual narrow verandahs 'attached' to the house. They make Italian-style 'loggias' in order to enjoy the cooling breezes.

7 BELMONT

Albury flourmiller James Hayes (1831-1908) built this house with its distinctive Chippendale windows at 55 Douglas Street in 1892 to retire to and represent his Riverina constituents in Parliament.

8 80 DOUGLAS STREET

23 year-old Sarah 'Fanny' Durack won gold in the first Olympics swimming race open to women—the 100 metres freestyle at Stockholm in 1912. She retired to this bungalow in 1927 as Mrs Bernard Gately until her death in 1956.

9 56 GORDON CRESCENT

This single-storey 1889 bungalow was divided into a boarding-house for nine people in the 1970s. According to its present owner, those days included a suicide, rising damp, white ants, and being condemned by Council on public health grounds. The landlord chose to sell up rather than clean up.

10 OBLEY

Patrick Fahy built these three houses at 48-52 Gordon Crescent in 1886; he lived in the middle one with his daughters on either side.

Courdgere on the corner of Bruce Street and Gordon Crescent (Elizabeth Walker)



11 ELLORA & ESSINGTON

Mattias Bothsman combined two plots of land in the first year of the subdivision to build *Ellora* at 38 Gordon Crescent, while next door two barristers built *Essington* at 34 & 36 Gordon Crescent in 1899. The local story is that the Johnstons helped five purchasers to build 'double-sized' mansions on the rail line to encourage buyers for the regular-sized lots behind. However they were uneconomic for single families: *Ellora* was turned into *Altona*, a St Vincent de Paul hostel and boarding-house while *Essington* next door became *Malcolm Downie House*.

12 STANMORE SCHOOL

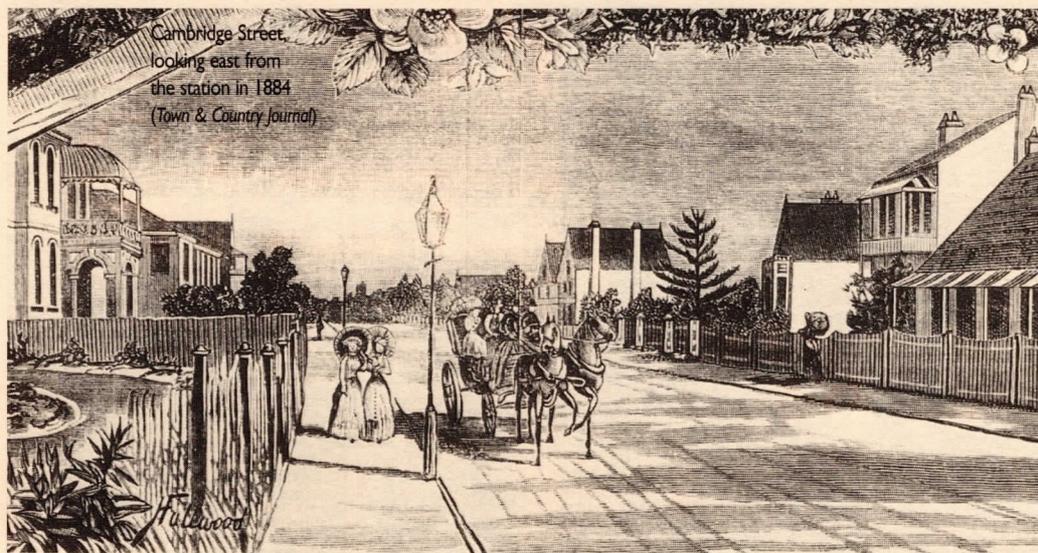
Sir Henry Parkes' 1880 *Public Instruction Act* required all children to be educated and caused a flurry of building. This school was **not** designed by the Schools Architect William Kemp, who lived nearby in Cavendish Street, but by Sir Henry's 25 year-old son Varney (1859–1935) and Polish-American Harry Blackmann (an antecedent to Charles Blackman). Varney also designed Newtown's Bank of NSW and, over a three year period entered Parliament, married two wives (who were sisters) and split from Blackmann. Sir Henry is said to have opened the school in April 1884 and planted the Norfolk Island Pine tree marked with a plaque in 1933. Stanmore's teachers include poet Dame Mary Gilmore and students include the 'Invincible' Test cricketer Sid Barnes and flautist Neville Amadio MBE.

13 MARY ANDREWS COLLEGE

Built at 129 Cambridge Street in 1907 as a residence for Thomas Nesbitt, Sydney Council Town Clerk, it underwent a number of conversions (including one by Leslie Wilkinson) into *Braeside Hospital*. (There used to be over 200 private hospitals or nursing homes in Marrickville municipality.) The Deaconess Institution—an Anglican 'order of nuns'—operated *Braeside* for over 40 years accommodating all forms of patients from mothers in childbirth to the terminally ill. Next door at 127 Cambridge Street is *The Tower* (its belvedere had water views to the north and south) and used to be the *Braeside's* Chief Surgeon's residence.

14 WYVERN HOUSE

Newington College paid \$4 million in 1996 for 125 Cambridge Street and adjacent buildings for their junior boys' Preparatory School. Prior to this the building was the administrative headquarters of the Deaf Society of NSW. It was opened in 1972 by Governor Roden Cutler and used to be a good example of 'Brutalist' architecture with bare, rough-faced off-form concrete.



Cambridge Street, looking east from the station in 1884 (Town & Country Journal)

THE DEAF SOCIETY

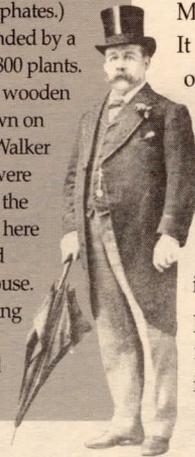
The Adult Deaf & Dumb Society Inc. was founded in 1913 to provide a place where 'the religious & social instincts of deaf people' could be fostered without government funding. It operated residential hostels here, prompted by a bequest from May Hollinworth, from the late 1940s. The rubella epidemics of the time caused much overcrowding—with up to 80 young people—in the early 1960s. In the late 1960s the society's administrative headquarters were moved from Elizabeth Street City to here, making a total of five buildings in the street. It is a great irony that the society moved away when the Sydney Airport's third runway was announced in order to provide support on an 'outreach' basis from a small office in Argyle Street, Parramatta.

Edmund Webb House next door at 115 Cambridge Street accommodates up to 30 of Newington's country boarders. It was *Gordon-Davis House* from 1949 housing up to 80 young deaf people and prior to this, the Clements' Tonic factory.

FREDERICK CLEMENTS

1859–1920

This whimsical chemist arrived from Birmingham at age 22 and operated a shop for 8 years on King Street Newtown, where he sold his medicinal tonic which claimed to cure most physical ailments and nervous breakdowns. (The tonic's secret formula was similar to common hypo-phosphates.) His house, called *Brahea*, was surrounded by a garden called 'the jungle' with over 800 plants. The tonic was made in a two-storey wooden 'laboratory' in the rose garden down on Harrow Road. His neighbours, the Walker sisters, gossiped that boot tacks were wheeled into his factory to supply the required iron. Clements' sister lived here after his death, with the cats and *Bougainvillea* spreading over the house. Her death in 1932 was caused by falling plaster and she was found on the hallway floor with her arm stretched towards the telephone.



15 HOLLINWORTH

This controversial but successful Modernist block at 82 Cambridge Street was built by McConnell Smith & Johnson in the early 1960s.

MAY HOLLINWORTH

1895–1968

May Hollinworth, like Doris Fitton, was active in Sydney's amateur theatre scene from the 1920s; first with the Sydney University Dramatic Society and then her own Metropolitan repertory company.

The company, which included Robin Lovejoy and Leo McKern, performed in small theatres and church halls and went semi-professional in 1948. At that time London's *Daily Mirror* described May as a 'large friendly shrewd woman with big



ideas who believes that actors and scene-changers should all receive the same salary'. She crusaded on behalf of Australian playwrights and directed the premiere of Richard Beynon's *The Shifting Heart* at Newtown's *Elizabethan Theatre* in 1957.

Her career was blighted by illness; she was instrumental in bringing sign language to schools and the Deaf Society to Stanmore. She lived the last years of her life in the ground floor flat of the building named after her on land she donated to the Deaf Society as staff quarters.

16 MONTAGUE GARDENS

This park at 80 Cambridge Street is on the site of Mayor Willem Paling's grand house *Woerden*. It was later purchased by Francis Crago (who owned the Federal Flour Mill at Newtown) and Harry Levy (who owned the 'Darrell Lea' confectionery shops) who renamed it *Montague Gardens* in the 1950s after his son.

An absent landlord turned it into flats and 20 years of neglect turned it into a 'rat-infested eyesore'. Local MP Norman Ryan persuaded the Wran government to purchase it for parkland for \$150,000 in 1978. However it decided to demolish as the Marrickville municipality has one of Sydney's lowest ratios of parklands. *Woerden's* garden gates were later stolen and are said to have appeared both at socialite hairdresser's Toorak mansion and at a bank manager's property in Bowral, but Council could not retrieve them.

17

Opposite *Woerden* at 109 Cambridge Street is *Winona*. The house had a large block of land, with barn and stables, and was home to the Marks family in the 1930s. You can just see *Winona's* tower above the Baptist hostel block which now accommodates 30 people.

18 MAUNDRELL'S

Ted Green lived in Harrow Road in the 1930s and remembers the street hawkers here such as the iceman and clothes-prop man, the milko, bottle-o and the rabbitoh.

No. 60 Harrow Road used to be Walter Maundrell's Milk Depot; *Maundrell Park* on Stanmore Road was named after him for his 21 years as alderman. Milk carts would set out from here before dawn to fill the pint or quart jugs left out each night on the doorsteps of the neighbourhood. The horses were fed and shod in the yard with their hay and chaff stored in the stable's loft upstairs.

19 HORACEVILLE

at 143 Trafalgar Street has a great parapet marked AD 1884 and was bought by the Anglican Church for the nurses of *Braeside Hospital*. It and *The Lodge* are unique in that they retain their original large plot of land conveying some of Stanmore's earlier desirability.

20 DUNDOOS

with its tower at 50 Railway Avenue was built in 1889 and be occupied by a local alderman, then Edward Hordern then Robert J Stuart-Robertson (1874-1933 and Minister for Health in the Lang Government) who mortgaged it twice in time of difficulty in the 1930s. There was a scandal in 1994 when a widow handed over the *Dundoos* title deeds and \$180,000 to her fiance who was engaged to someone else in Uruguay. He soon fled but was captured in Florida in June that year.

21 MUIRYSHADE

The ownership of this property at 17 Harrow Road is recorded in the 1866 *Sands Directory*, while the house is listed in 1872, making it the

oldest surviving building in Stanmore. It was occupied for almost 70 years by the Gardiner family and in 1904 was the first to be connected to the local telephone. Count Edward de Kantzow (who was made an honorary count for breaking a shipboard fall by the King of Portugal) owned it briefly before it was turned into flats in 1934.

JOHN GARDINER

c. 1815-1891

Gardiner was the third Headmaster at the Fort Street Model School on Observatory Hill.

It was expanded in his time from 1855-59 with the colony's first kindergarten and new classrooms with Georgian bay windows. He was appointed Senior Inspector to the NSW Council for Education in August 1867 and was responsible to Henry Parkes for all state (and some religious) schools. By 1881 he had risen to be Chief Examiner (on a wage of £700pa) for the evolving Department of Public Instruction.

He wrote a 175-page school grammar text-book called *An Analysis of Sentences* which notes that his unstable health and the pressure of duty had left little 'comparative time for the cares of Authorship and Literary Research'.

He expected to be treated with deference and had a reputation for being a hard and unequivocating taskmaster. His family (some of whom use an alternative surname *Gardiner-Garden*) remember him as a strict and parsimonious Scot in that a respectably large house like *Muiryshade* has such poor brickwork.

22 THE LODGE

This excellent example of the Gothic style at 97 Cambridge Street was built by Willem Paling in 1872 and purchased by Alexander Stuart the following year. A slate bath (believed to be unique in Australia) was installed in 1895. The Salvation Army has used *The Lodge* since 1900 to care for children and for single mothers and for training staff.

SIR ALEXANDER STUART

1824-1886

Alexander Stuart arrived from Scotland in 1851 and within four years was Director to the Bank of NSW and then afterwards to National Mutual Life Assurance. He also managed the Sydney Steel Co. He entered Parliament representing the Illawarra coalmining areas in 1874, was made Treasurer two years later and Premier in 1883.

His fervour and bewhiskered appearance made him a boon for caricaturists. He was an active participant in the Church of England synods and brought charges of libel against Presbyterian Senior Minister John Dunmore Lang which gaoled him for six months. His commercial and Parliamentary dealings were very involved and he was actually insolvent at the time Henry Parkes appointed him as the colony's Agent-General in London; Parkes negotiated a loan (which probably led to the anecdote about Parkes living at *The Lodge*).

He and his wife Christiana decorated the house with his initials in the staircase detailing and extended the house with an east wing—presumably in October 1884 when he suffered the stroke which paralysed half his body.



WILLEM PALING
1825-1895

He arrived in 1853 from *Woerden* near Rotterdam and almost immediately opened a shop at Wynyard to import and sell his father's pianofortes as well as other musical instruments and sheet music.

Music-making was the major entertainment at the time and the enthusiastic violinist encouraged it further by teaching at Newington, concerts at Newtown Town Hall and the writing of 'occasional tunes'—the *Railway Waltz*, *Masonic Waltz* and the *Champion Oarsman Polka*.

He purchased most of the land here at the top of Laing's Hill in the early 1860s and lived at *Merton Lodge* on Stanmore Road. He commissioned architect Ferdinand Reuss Jnr (son of the Prussian-born man who had already surveyed much of the area) in 1879 to design a grand 3-storey Italianate-style home called *Woerden*.

He also commissioned William Kemp of Cavendish Street to design his second city emporium in 1888 which lasted until the mid-1970s, though its façade still stands near the new Recital Hall in Angel Place near Martin Place.

Paling was an alderman on Petersham Council for 13 years and Mayor in 1881. He donated £10,000 for the *Carrington Convalescent Hospital* at Grasmere near Camden and the Petersham Town Hall's tower clock which has shown the time since 1886.

Stanmore Road in the 1870s
photographed by Bernard Holtermann
(State Library of NSW)

