

The Queensland Baptist Forum

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Milestone for Archives—and others

December 2012 is a milestone for the Archives—30 years since work began on organising the historical records of the Baptist Union. Read all about it in the article beginning page 2. There is plenty of work to be done yet as we move more completely into the digital age. (Two more important digital resources have been added recently and more are planned.) We can always use the help of good volunteers! (See our Secretary's 28th Annual Report p 8; Archivist's Report is also available—on request.)

There have been many other milestones this year as well. Lindum church closed down, as did Carey; Geebung and Sandgate merged to form a new church and opened a new building at Deagon; Gympie celebrated 125 years. Toowong opened a new extension to their building and were very proud to celebrate their heritage in the process—their main building is the oldest Baptist church in Queensland still in use. Minden has celebrated 130 years, while Rockhampton marked their 150th. Stanley River (Woodford) expanded to include another church in its circuit at Kilcoy. Silkstone has reached its centenary.

So there is plenty happening and Baptist Heritage Qld has had involvement with some of these, and the



BHQ Members celebrate 30 years of the Archives

Archives has received some publications and materials as well. BHQ marked the Rockhampton event with the publication of its largest book yet—on the history of Baptist work in Central Queensland. There are still copies of this book, *Something more than Gold*, available (and the bundled special—with the Queensland 150th history, *Pressing on with the Gospel*). We also ventured into e-book publishing with versions of the CQ history!

Our next publishing venture will be a long awaited update of the popular *Baptists in Queensland*. We have updated also the *National Guide to Australian Baptist Resources and Services* which will be ready soon. Check our website for the on-line version. We also hope to tackle Baptists in the Darling Downs soon, and we will be announcing the winner of 2012 Essay competition as well.

We need more people to join in with us and help us complete our big slate of 2013 projects!

2013 Meeting Dates —23 Feb, 15 June, 9 Nov 2pm @ Archives—Be Sure to Come!

<p>Baptist Heritage Queensland The Baptist Historical Society of Queensland (est. 1984)</p> <p>Membership (2013) Individual \$10 p.a. Family \$15 p.a. Corporate \$20 p.a.</p> <p>Qld Baptist Forum 3 issues p.a. Free to Members Others \$2 each posted</p> <p>President: Mr Eric W. Kopitke 98 Yallambee Rd., Jindalee 4074 Phone 3376 4339 kopitke@tpg.com.au</p> <p>Secretary: Dr Ken G. Smith, 2301/15 Cansdale Street, Yeronga, Qld 4104 Phone 3892 6337 tizzardsmith@hotmail.com http://home.pacific.net.au/~dparker/bhsq.htm</p> <p>BWA Baptist Heritage & Identity Commission www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org</p>	<p>CONTENTS</p> <p>Qld Baptist Forum No 83 Dec 2012</p> <p>Milestone for Archives—and others! p 1</p> <p>Baptist Church Archives Turns 30! p 2</p> <p>By David Parker</p> <p>Tracing our First Minister's family on the Internet by David Parker p 6</p> <p>BHQ Annual Report 2012 p 8</p>
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Baptist Church Archives Turns 30!

By David Parker

The Archives is Born

The end of 2012 marks 30 years since work began on organising the historical records of the Baptist Union of Queensland. Rev Dr David Parker had worked with these records originally in 1979 in the course of his doctoral research and found them to be in a good state, but completely unorganised and only accessible by special arrangement with the Baptist Union office. So in December 1982, he volunteered his services to put them in order. On his initial contact, the records were in a cupboard in the ceiling of the BUQ offices which were then located in rented premises in The Wool Exchange Building, 69 Eagle St, Brisbane (now the site of Riparian Plaza and 111 Eagle St). In 1982, the BUQ had just moved to its own building at 225 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley; the records were in a strong room in the basement (primarily used as the printing workshop).

The most important items in the collection were the BUQ Minute books comprising the Executive, Council and Assemblies from the establishment of the Baptist Union (then Association) in 1877, and the key committees and departments; there were also the denominational Yearbooks from 1907 when they first appeared and sundry bundles of correspondence and other records. These were all more or less complete, and much of it was professionally bound into strong volumes. However the denominational newspaper, *The Queensland Baptist* (from 1881-88 known as *The Queensland Freeman*) had a 25 year gap up to 1951 (and it was not published 1913-22). Another significant gap was in the Minutes of the Home Mission around World War I. One other serious gap was *The Australian Baptist*, the national newspaper published since 1913, of which there were only odd issues. (Efforts in the late 1980s to obtain a full run from its office in NSW were unsuccessful, as did the hope of getting a microfilm version when it was done by the State Library of NSW—on account of the high cost involved.)

There was a good collection of photographs, many loose but some in attractive albums; a lot were unidentified. There were also many 35 mm colour slides of churches, people and events which had mostly come from the collections of the Home Mission Superintendents and the BUQ General Secretary.

There were some records of local churches but the churches themselves held the bulk of their own records, especially the first churches to be formed in Queensland - City Tabernacle (originally known as Wharf St), Ipswich and Jireh (in Fortitude Valley). The oldest items in the BUQ Archives were, however, documents from early days of Wharf Street. There were no records relating to the first two Baptist ministers in Brisbane, Rev Charles Stewart and Rev Charles Smith, although there were some relating to the third minister, Rev BG Wilson. However, extensive research on these three pastors in later years discovered documents and information in other locations sufficient to record their stories in some detail.

Archives space and access was always a problem with the basement location, and there was no office equipment such as photocopiers, phones or working facilities available. However, Dr Parker with the occasional assistance of members of the Baptist Historical Society of Queensland (established in 1984), listed the contents and began developing the operation of the Archives according to standard (albeit simplified) archival procedures.

A set of rules for accessioning, indexing and use of the Archives was developed. However, on-going efforts to get the Baptist Union to set up a proper system of archiving its recent and new records were unsuccessful. Membership in the locally based Church Archivists' Society and access to its expertise and publications greatly assisted in the development of the Archives. There were gradual additions to the collection, and modest use by BUQ personnel, students, church and family history researchers. Dr Parker's position as Honorary Archivist was made official in 1987 when it was became part of the Annual BUQ appointments.

Relocation to 518 Brunswick St

In 1991 the BUQ announced it was going to relocate to larger premises at 518 Brunswick St, New Farm. The Executive Secretary, Lloyd Woodrow, indicated that he was keen to have adequate space and facilities for the Archives in the new building, including a display area. However, the initial proposal for the location of the Archives was again in the basement of the building where the print shop would operate. An inspection of the proposed area immediately revealed that it was subject to damp, noise and poor access, making it unacceptable.

It was anticipated that the move by the BUQ to the new building would take place in November 1991 so the BHSQ members made preparations to help pack the archival material. However, the purchase of the building was delayed, and the move did not take place until March 1992. BUQ staff carried out the boxing of the material, and it was placed in storage on the vacant 2nd floor of the new building. Dr Parker was able to sort the material into rough categories so that it could be used under difficult conditions by those who needed special access, including Dr Ken Manley of Melbourne working on his definitive history of Australian Baptists.

Fitting out of the new building took place over subsequent months and in mid-1992, it was announced that the second floor was to become the main BUQ office. The Archives material needed to be moved, and space was found on the 3rd floor where it was placed in storage once more, with access still only available to the most needy cases. It was expected that further fitting out and letting of the building would be finalised in succeeding months, allowing for the permanent organisation of the Archives. This process was also much delayed and by May 1993, the situation of the Archives had become critical. Access by researchers was limited,



Archive material ready for un-packing
at Gaythorne

the material was in danger of physical damage due to the poor storage conditions; its security was also at risk, with cases of unauthorised use being noted.

Temporary Archives

With the situation so serious, an urgent appeal was made by the Archivist to the BUQ, resulting in extra space being made available on a pro-tem basis in the area where the material had been stored, together with desks, filing cabinets and very limited shelving. During June 1993, the Archivist, again with some help, began sorting, re-boxing and indexing the material which was contained in about 160 large archival boxes. The BHSQ organised an Open Day for 11 September 1993 during the annual BUQ Assembly to mark the reestablishment of the Archives. It was a disappointment that, apart from BHSQ members, there were no other visitors for this event! However, the Archives were again ready for use in adequate, if spartan conditions, and there was the expectation still that better facilities would be available when letting arrangements for the building were fully finalised.

In the ensuing period of time, additional space and shelving was obtained. A spacious reading room was part of the arrangement, at least until it was required by the BUQ for commercial purposes. An electronic catalogue for the Archives using a small privately-owned laptop computer was developed, and the protocols enhanced and more accessions took place. Although the facilities were much better than had ever been available before, there was no copying, phone or computer access but help was offered by the missionary organisation, Interserve, also on the same level, thanks to the interest and support of its director, Rev Keith Applegate.

Collection Developments and Policy

There were also additions to the collection. Some of the new material included records of early churches; some were closing and so mostly their records were obtained, but some continuing churches transferred unwanted records, say, their first 100 years, in the interests of better preservation. Early churches were also covered by one of the activities of the BHSQ when it obtained a Baplink grant to microfilm records (minutes and roll books) up to about 1920. This supplemented the microfilms of *The Queensland Freeman/Baptist* which had been done much earlier by the State Library of

Queensland. The other major group of accessions were more Minutes of the Baptist Union and its various departments. There were still no formalised archiving procedure within the Baptist Union administration, but the most important records were being safely archived. Most of the backlog of departmental records was made up during this time.

Local church histories were also added as they became available, although this was largely on an ad hoc basis as churches did not always pass on copies of their publications. One of the most useful additions to the indexes was a simplified listing of all major articles in *The Queensland Baptist* (totalling almost 7,000), which proved to be of enormous help in locating information. It was only superseded when searchable electronic scans were made years later.

The collection policy focused on the denominational records with an effort made to ensure that all relevant material from the top level of the Baptist Union was transferred to the Archives in a timely fashion. Furthermore, an attempt was made to fill any gaps in the collection, and to ensure that records of the various BUQ departments were also placed in the Archives. There was no intention of duplicating the holdings of the theological college library in general Baptist heritage areas, or to collect inter-state or Australian denominational records. Also the larger departments of the BUQ with staff and offices of their own were expected to look after their own records.

It was agreed that local churches records would not be actively sought out of consideration for the principle of the independence of the local church, but also because of the restricted space available in the Archives and the voluntary nature of its operation. Local church material was received only if the church was going out of operation, or if the church was not able to care for the material properly. Questions of ultimate ownership of such material were not completely resolved at the time.

The weakest section of the Archives was personal information about ministers, church leaders and members, where the only worthwhile sources (apart from their official files) related to those who were particularly prominent and therefore warranted a biographical record when they took up or concluded a position or an obituary at their death. Birth, death, burial and marriage records were virtually non-existent.

Good contact was maintained with other local church archives and with Baptist archives in other states. Through his membership in the Baptist World Alliance Heritage Commission, Dr Parker was also able to maintain contact with people and institutions overseas. One member (and later chair) of BHSQ with his wife, Eric and Rosemary Kopittke, were well known experts in the field of family history with specialisation in the German migration; this was particularly helpful to Queensland Baptist work with its unique heritage of German Baptist life.

The Baptist Archives was able to concentrate on the care of denominational and other church records and in providing information and access to documents as required for administrative, legal, historical and family reasons. It was not caught up in matters which often

plagued other similar bodies related to indigenous mission stations and children in church orphanages due to the absence of these activities from Queensland Baptist history. Increasing concerns of privacy matters within the Australian community did not have much impact on the Baptist Archives. However one issue that began to appear was the handling of digital records, but no special action was taken during this period.

Back to the Basement

The operation of the Archives on the 3rd floor level of 518 Brunswick Street gradually became a stable and efficient service, even if the conditions were not ideal, and space was fast becoming a problem again. However, the area was in a section of the building let to tenants and its future was therefore always dependant on commercial considerations. A sudden end to this phase of operation occurred late in 1997 when the administration decided to put the 3rd floor to other uses. This meant another move for the Archives. The place selected was the originally proposed location, the basement, but it would need extensive modification to overcome the problems it had as a site for the Archives. During the work, the Archives were closed for an extended period - from December 1997 to May 1998 - during which the records were again in storage, where they were inaccessible and under considerable risk to their physical condition and security.

One of the welcome additions in the new location was a large compactus, comprising 15 bays, each containing 7 shelves. This provided considerable extra space for the material, but the old boxes were now so badly damaged that they had to be replaced. This meant re-boxing all of the material into smaller boxes suitable for the compactus shelving, and re-indexing of the entire collection. The whole process was slow which meant that the Archives were once again closed for an extended period to all but the most pressing of cases.

Although there was more shelf space than before, the room was far smaller, and there was minimal space for desks and tables. Worst of all, there was a very large air-conditioning fan in one corner; it could not be controlled, and it drowned the room in a continual stream of noise. Access to the room was uninviting at best, and it was remote from the main office and any copier or other support; there were no facilities anywhere near. The new room was reasonably useful for storage of the records, but was completely unsatisfactory for patrons and visitors, and even for the Archivist's regular work. This meant that as much of the Archivist's activities, especially responding to queries, was carried on off-site, and also increasing reliance was placed on digital files and indexes.

Nevertheless, the process of re-boxing, and re-indexing continued over the next year; usage was sluggish and there were additional accessions to the collection. One reason for the slowdown in accessions was that there had been extensive changes to the organisational structure of the Baptist Union which reduced drastically the number of departments and consequently, the number of records being created and ultimately needing to be archived. The end result of this process of

change, which took place over many years, resulted in most of the business being channelled through the central executive (or Board) and administrative arms of the BUQ, and the creation of semi-independent charter groups (the college, camping and community services) which were able to care for their own records. The microfilming project was resumed as funds and time again became available, resulting in the filming of most of the records up to about 1920 from the denomination and the earliest churches.

The re-boxing of the material had been barely completed when a potentially serious threat arose. In the early morning hours of 16 March 1999 vandals set a fire in the electrical equipment area adjacent to the Archives. There was no direct damage from flames, but soot and smoke permeated the room which caused extensive problems for the archival material. A State Library conservator was called and recommended professional cleaning of the entire collection! This process was took four weeks and was covered by insurance.

Continuing efforts to upgrade the archiving protocols across the BUQ organisation did not meet with any practical success but there was good personal support from the Executive Secretary, Lloyd Woodrow, and Office Manager, Nigel Patterson. Even the attention given to the importance of the denomination's heritage by the highly influential Triennial Review, reporting in 2000, did not result in any increased interest in or support for the Archives. It was hoped that the forthcoming sesqui-centenary of Baptist witness in the state to be celebrated in 2005 might see greater interest.

Another move – Gaythorne

After less than 10 years at the New Farm site, the Baptist Union administration began looking around for a larger building to accommodate its growth. An important part of the plan, first mooted late in 2002, was to bring all the main operations of the Baptist Union (including the theological college) together on the same site. This was a promising development for the Archives, with the hope of much improved facilities and much closer relationships with other elements of the Baptist Union. As far back as 1969, at an early meeting of the original BUQ historical committee, the college offered to store the denominational historical records, but that offer was not taken up at the time; there were to be no developments at the new site either.

The new site was the former campus of the Australian Catholic University at 53 Prospect Road, Gaythorne. There were four buildings on the property, and the initial proposal for the Archives made in mid-2003 was on the top level of Building 2. Despite earlier indications, the floor space was actually slightly less than at the New Farm facility (down from 41 to 39 sq metres); furthermore, it was square and therefore not able to take the compactus as it was, even if the floor was considered strong enough. More seriously, the room was on the north east corner of the building with two sides full of windows, meaning that heat and light—the great enemies of documents—would be a huge problem, even with air-conditioning and blinds. Being on the top floor with complicated access from the building's entrance

was also a disadvantage.

It was expected that the relocation would take place around 2003, but once again there were extensive delays. In the meantime, another much better location was made available. It was on the lowest level of Building 4, with easy access to the outside. It was an L-shaped room, measuring 11.5 x 7.3 metres, giving a floor space of 56 sq m; although one section had a large pillar in the middle, there was plenty of room to fit the compactus intact, and room for other storage units. There was also room for tables providing plenty of working space. The room was set up with the compactus, open shelving and storage cupboards, four filing cabinets, two stationery cupboards, a double sized table, a computer stand, and a reception desk.

Delays meant that the move from the old site did not take place until early June 2005. This had been an extremely busy time leading up to the publication of the new 150th anniversary history of the Baptist work in Queensland, *Pressing on with the Gospel*, which required a great deal of work by the Archivist and others. The relocation involved more than 425 boxes of material, packed by the Archivist, some BHSQ members and with the last minute assistance of some BUQ staff. The initial unpacking was completed quickly, but it took about nine months to set up completely in the new location. During the time of packing and relocation, limited Archival services were maintained.

The collection was augmented at the time and over the period following with quite a lot of additional material as various items were 'discovered' by BUQ departments. One item of particular interest was the first Minute book of the Clifford House Aged Persons' Home committee dating from the late 1940s; that organisation had since grown to become the very large Queensland Baptist Care. However, some items that had found their way to the Archives in the move were extraneous and removed. There were also other additions to the collection which were part of the normal activities of the Archives. One of these was a fully searchable scanned version of *The Queensland Freeman* on CD-ROM, by arrangement with Archive CD Books, South Australia. Later, extensive runs of *The Queensland Baptist* and the BUQ Yearbooks were also added, making this one of the most useful additions to the Archives, and the commencement of its digital archival program.

Enhanced Operation

In its new location, the Archives were better equipped than ever before. There was now a phone, and a computer, (the initial basic unit replaced after a short time), with connections to the BUQ network and the internet. A simple photocopier made its appearance (it too was replaced with a better one in due course). The single air-conditioning unit (also replaced eventually) was supplemented with an extra unit to provide a more effective operation. However, in the summer of 2008-09, a serious problem arose with humidity resulting in the infestation of mould. A de-humidifier was installed to control the problem, and later a consultant was brought in to inspect the facility. The report indicated that the room was basically satisfactory but advised relocating the de-humidifier to improve its impact, re-

sulting in much better control of the problem.

There was a steady flow of accessions from both the denominational offices and also from the churches and other sources. In particular, important Minutes and other records were accessioned, requiring some additional storage in the form of filing and stationery cabinets. In 2011, an anonymous donor presented the Archives with an elegant glass fronted display cabinet for some of the earliest records as well as the most recently bound volumes. Interesting items still occasionally appeared – including a World War I Honour Board from Jireh which had been rescued from a woodworker's shop, and some missionary documents which had survived the fire at that church after it had closed.

The continual problem of a developing a set of archiving protocols for the Baptist Union looked like being resolved in 2007, but the process was suddenly terminated due to staff changes. The matter was raised again by the Archives in 2010, which led to the in-principle approval by the Queensland Baptists Board, and the authorisation of an audit of archiving procedures throughout the denominational organisation. This was carried out late in 2011 and revealed a mixed situation, where some departments and groups were coping satisfactorily but others were struggling. The most important trend however was the rapid move to digital records, including minutes and reports and especially correspondence in the form of emails. There appeared to be no standard approach to archiving this material, some of which seemed to be in danger of being lost or at least, being inaccessible; management of these records was problematic. The recommendation then was to develop a full digital archives plan.

The Archives' own indexes had been digital from the beginning, and it had already been accumulating a considerable body of digital material in the form of images, papers and reports, books, and data. Using advice and information from many sources, the Archives began to organise its material into a mature Digital Archive. An interesting development at the same time was an approach by one of the churches to fully digitise its own records, most of the early ones having been stored in the Archives for many years.

The work of the Archives in its fourth home, at Gaythorne, was also greatly enhanced by the addition of regular volunteer staff. In 2008 Mr R W (Bill) Hughes, formerly of Canberra, retired to Brisbane and immediately offered his services. With a legal background, he soon organised the extensive photographic collection

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Tracking our First Minister's Family Thanks to the Internet!

Rev Charles Stewart was the first Baptist minister to serve in Queensland (or Moreton Bay as it was known at the time). He arrived in 1849 as the chaplain on Dr John Dunmore Lang's first immigrant ship, the *Fortitude*. On landing in Brisbane he soon began church services for all protestant denominations, especially for the Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists who came on that vessel and the other two organised by Dr Lang, the *Chaseley* and the *Lima*, which arrived later in the year. These services developed into the United Evangelical Church (UEC) which Stewart led until the end of 1854 when he had to leave Brisbane in ill health. He returned to England and then visited the continent in search of a cure. Following this, his sister Elizabeth who was married to Archibald Hall, a military officer stationed in Bermuda, took him to her home where he died on 2 March 1858, at the age of 38. He was buried the next day in the Wesleyan Cemetery with Presbyterian rites by the chaplain of his brother-in-law's unit, the 26th Regiment of Foot.

When we researched and published the story of Charles Stewart and the UEC at the time of the 150th anniversary in 1999, much new information was discovered about Stewart's remarkable ministry in Brisbane, and in particular what befell him after his departure. However there was still not much known about his family – his siblings and his parents. Now we have found out quite a lot more—thanks the Internet giving access to documents.

When Stewart arrived in Brisbane, we knew from his letters that he was accompanied by his older sister who acted as his housekeeper. However, the arrangement did not work out – she became very authoritarian, or as Charles put it, a “Dictratrix”; he believed “no man of any spirit at could even brook to be a cipher in his own house” (let alone a minister!). So, Stewart brought the matter to a head, and as he reported to his counterpart in Sydney, Rev John Ham, his sister left in “high dudgeon” on 15 April 1849, and headed south. Later, Charles was anxious to track her down, and sought the help of Ham in doing so. He found that the last that was known of her was that she had been in Sydney but was now thought to be in a town further south hoping to set up a school. Although Charles sent money to her, she was determined not to have contact with him or receive

any pastoral help from Ham or others in the church.

No name was given to this sister, and it was not clear if she was the same sister who later cared for him in Bermuda; in fact, we did not even know how many sisters there were. There was only one source of possible help - a passenger list from the *Fortitude*, but the original document had been destroyed and the only ones available were reconstructed years later. The various lists offered such names as Anne and Caroline, but judging by other claims in these lists which were highly speculative, no reliance could be placed on them.

The first degree of certainty arose when, during the research, information was gained about the death of Charles' brother, Rev Robert Stewart, a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, which was reported in the *Moreton Bay Courier* at the time. He died on 2 June 1851 at Tranent, near Edinburgh where he was the parish minister. The words on the plaque erected in his memory in the church grounds referred to the sorrow of his “brother and sisters” which at least allowed for the possibility that the sister who came to Moreton Bay was not the same as the one, Elizabeth, who cared for him in his last days. Given the friction between Charles and his sister in 1849, it would be surprising if they were one and the same.

Elizabeth was the executor of Charles' will which had to be processed in Brisbane because he had property here (she did also). This took place quite a few years after his death, in 1873. (The legal trail was discovered when the original research was taking place, and indeed, it led to the discovery that Charles' last place of living was Bermuda.) There was no reference to any other family members in Charles' will except Elizabeth.

The next breakthrough came only recently when it was possible to access Rev Robert Stewart's will on-line via the site, www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk. He was only 33 years of age when he died a sad and lingering death, although one full of Christian faith and hope (see excerpt below). The will refers clearly to his sister Elizabeth, “late of Jersey”, and to his sister Anne, who was said to be with his brother Charles in Brisbane (there had evidently been no news reaching Robert that his sister had long since left Charles). There are no other family members mentioned apart from an uncle, Lt. Robert Stewart; like Charles, Robert was unmarried. So there were four siblings, Charles and Robert, Elizabeth

Testament's. I commend my soul to the keeping of my God and Saviour, who has in times paste death very graciously to me, and is now encompassing me with songs of deliverance. I After payment of all my

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and Anne, and presumably both parents were dead.

Armed with this information a search was made on the National Library of Australia website, Trove, which has digitised many Australian newspapers. The first result (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 Nov 1858) was the death of Anne, on 6 Nov 1858, in Sydney, aged 38, from cancer "after a very long and painful illness" extending over 2 years. She was firmly identified as the sister of the Rev Charles Stewart formerly of Moreton Bay, even though her name is given as Anna Jessie. The report indicated she was the widow of Captain William Williamson, late of Shoalhaven. So the original reference to her being south of Sydney was accurate. She was born in Glasgow.

Next, a search was made on the Australian Marriage Index for her marriage. This was soon found, taking place on 21 April 1851 at Terrara, near Nowra. Further searches for Captain Williamson showed that he sailed on the coastal routes and died on 9 Dec 1855 "after a lingering illness" in his 40th year (SMH 13 Dec 1855). The marriage certificate shows Anne listed as Baptist and her husband as Presbyterian, but it has not been possible to locate any references in NSW Baptist church membership rolls to Anne Stewart/Williamson. But at least it does suggest that Charles was not the only member of the family to move away from their Presbyterian origins. There were no children from the marriage, and although she died after her brother Charles, as she did not receive a mention in Charles' will, it seems there was no reconciliation or contact between them.

This information also revealed a sad situation for the Stewart family - 3 of the 4 siblings died early - Robert in 1851 at 33 years, Charles in 1858 at 38, and Anne in 1858 also aged 38; their deaths were all after considerable periods of sometimes painful suffering.

Nothing is known of the deaths of their parents. Indeed, the only information available is a statement in Charles' academic record at Glasgow University (obtained in the course of the original research) that his father's name was possibly John Stewart, he was a "collector of money" and a "sometime" resident of Kirkintilloch, about 12 kms north east of Glasgow. An 1851 Census entry for Robert Stewart shows his place of birth as Wick in Caithnessshire which is in the far north, more than 400 kms from Kirkintilloch. Anne's death certificate says she was born in Glasgow and Elizabeth's gives Alloa, near Stirling (only about 50 kms from Kirkintilloch) as her birthplace. This all suggests that the family may have moved around a lot.

So with three siblings dying relatively young, what about the fourth, Elizabeth, and her husband, Archibald Hall? So the next step was searching again in Scottish

records for any available information, assuming that Archibald's regiment did not remain in Bermuda long, as indicated by some military information.

Census information indicated they were in Jersey on an army posting in 1851, after having been married possibly on 21 Jan 1845 in Glasgow. Archibald, who was 10 years older than Elizabeth, may have retired in 1869 when he was awarded the honorary rank of Captain (promoted from Quartermaster) in the 75th Foot Regiment. Census records placed them in the Edinburgh region up to the 1890s. Then Elizabeth's will was found, indicating she died at her home 149 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh on 20 April 1893. It was pleasing to discover that she did reach a good age - census records suggest she was born in 1828, so she was around 65 years. She left what seemed to be a substantial estate, in excess of £1000, including money lodged in the Federal Bank of Australia (Edinburgh and London branches), perhaps related to the property held in Brisbane. There were no children.

Finally, Archibald's will was also located. He died in Edinburgh on 26 May 1898 but left less than £100, considerably less than he inherited from his late wife!

So now we know that there were four children:

- Robert, born around 1818 in Wick, and died unmarried in 1851 in Tranent.
- Anne or Anna Jessie, born in Glasgow around 1820, died in Sydney 1858; she was married in 1851 to William Williamson, who died in 1855 in Shoalhaven aged 40; there were no children.
- Charles, born in Glasgow (?) also around 1820, and died unmarried in Bermuda 1858
- Elizabeth, born in Alloa near Stirling in 1828, died in Edinburgh 1893; married perhaps in 1845 to Archibald Hall, born about 1818 in Glasgow, who died in Edinburgh 1898; there were no children.

(This puts the dates of birth of Anne and Charles very close so some more information is needed)

This is a big step forward, thanks to the internet. Now, the next stage of the search should focus on the parents, and also on understanding why Charles and Anne became Baptist, while the other two remained as Presbyterians. With a family name like Stewart and the difficulties with tracking down information of this kind in the 18th and early 19th century Scottish records, this is not likely to be an easy task!

In the meantime, we can be thankful for Charles' pioneering contribution to Christian witness and worship in Brisbane, and for Robert's testimony as a pastor, especially with youth, in Scotland.

BHQ Annual Report *(Continued from page 8)*

As we move forward into a new year, we look forward to continuing the work of recording and analysing our history, so that, aware of what has gone on in the past, we may take note of our errors, and preserve and remember the good things, to the glory of our Lord.

Ken Smith, Secretary

Baptist Heritage Queensland

28th Annual General Meeting, 3 November 2012 Secretary's Report

2012 has seen continued interest in our history by people in Baptist churches throughout Queensland. However there are still large areas of our history which have not been investigated in detail. Since the world is rapidly moving to a situation where nearly all information is accessible online, this has implications for the way historical records and data are stored. A subsequent paragraph will mention our initial steps in this area.

Our major publishing effort in 2012 was assisted by the very generous gift from Lance Hogg, mentioned in the 2010 report. This defrayed much of the expense incurred in printing the history of Baptist work in Central Queensland, as part of a project in connection with the 150th anniversary of work in Rockhampton. This has now been published, under the title of *Something more than Gold*, and was launched at the Annual Convention. Copies are still available, as well as the more general sesquicentenary history *Pressing on with the Gospel*.

The current emphasis on publication is a long overdue revision of our popular work *Baptists in Queensland*. So many changes have taken place in the structure of Queensland Baptists since the last edition, including a new name, new motto and new logo, that although major revisions are required, it has been decided to retain the same name. The editorial work here is in the capable hands of David Parker.

One venture which has continued during 2012 has been a short item about historical matters in each issue of the *Queensland Baptist*. Various people after reading it have commented "I didn't know that", and some have been encouraged to delve further into the history of their local church. We have noted with appreciation that our churches are taking greater interest in celebrating milestones, and would encourage other churches to follow. The collection of local church histories in the Archives is far from complete, and wish to encourage churches to make a permanent record of events. The Union Archivist, Rev. Dr David Parker, is always ready to assist with this.

One important area in which little progress has been made is arrangements for the long-term management and care of Baptist cemeteries and other historical sites. There are a number of these in Queensland, and they form an important part of our heritage.

We are living in an age where much information is held, and communicated, in electronic form. We have made a start in this area, and have scanned many printed documents and periodicals. However many minute books and other documents are only available in hand-written form, and we are considering the best way in which these, and photos, could be stored in electronic form.

There has been little change in the membership of the Society, but we look forward to further interest, as more and more people realise the importance of remembering our Baptist heritage. Officers elected at the Annual meeting in November, 2011 were: President: Mr Eric Kopittke; Secretary/Treasurer: Dr Ken Smith; Publications Officer: Mrs Rosemary Kopittke.

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Archives at 30 *(Continued from page 5)*

and then went on to begin collecting a full dossier of historical data about churches on the north side of Brisbane. His research and writing skills, already evidenced by books he had produced, found a good outlet in a series of projects on lesser known churches in Brisbane including the elusive Edward Street Church from the 1860s and the Deagon Mission Church. When Baptist Heritage Qld began its project on the history of Baptists in Central Queensland, he researched several of the churches from that area and produced separate monographs on some of them. Other projects have also included a history of the Senior Girls' Missionary Union in Queensland and a biography of Rev William Moore, one of the earliest pioneers. An important bonus from these projects is the establishment of biographical database aimed at containing basic details of Queensland Baptist people, which soon grew to over 700 entries, and expanding continuously.

Another welcome addition to the team was Miss Anne Cameron, formerly of NSW, who had spent many years working in a senior position in the office of the Baptist Union of NSW. She brought wide experience of

denominational life and the ability to research and assemble data. Her projects have included the updating of the details of Queensland churches, Presidents and appointees of the Baptist Assembly, as well as numerous other tasks.

The Vision after 30 Years

The new site also brought more contact with various arms of the BUQ located at Gaythorne, and more awareness of its activities. Regular publication by the QB magazine of news items from the Archives increased its profile amongst the churches, with some readers saying that the Archives page was the most interesting section of all! There was a steady stream of enquiries, sometimes from surprising sources. A stall at the annual Conventions, and an occasional presentation in the form of a book launch or other announcement also helped to keep the work of the Archives and Baptist Heritage Qld before the denomination. There was often encouraging feedback, but as the Archives turned 30, there was still much work to be done in collecting, caring for and sharing the historical records of Baptist in Queensland and promoting the importance of records and their management and use.