

Find out more:

Contact: office@stmarysbalmainschurch.com or www.stmarysbalmainschurch.com

World War One Honour Roll and memorial windows

Information on those who served from St Mary's parish during World War One is available on the memorial table below the Honour Roll and via the NSW War Memorials Register.

[St Mary's Anglican Church First World War Honour Board, Balmain East | NSW War Memorials Register](#)

[St Mary's Anglican Church First World War Memorial Windows, Balmain East | NSW War Memorials Register](#)

Cover image combines copies of:

- three black and white images from the Holtermann Collection. Originals held by the State Library of NSW; and
- one colour image detail from the *'Illustrated log of the whaling barque Terror'* by William Henry Downes. Original held by the Australian National Maritime Museum.

ST MARY'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH BALMAIN

*Memorials: who's remembered here
and what did they do?*



ST MARY'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH BALMAIN

“Unless we remember we cannot understand”

E M Forster

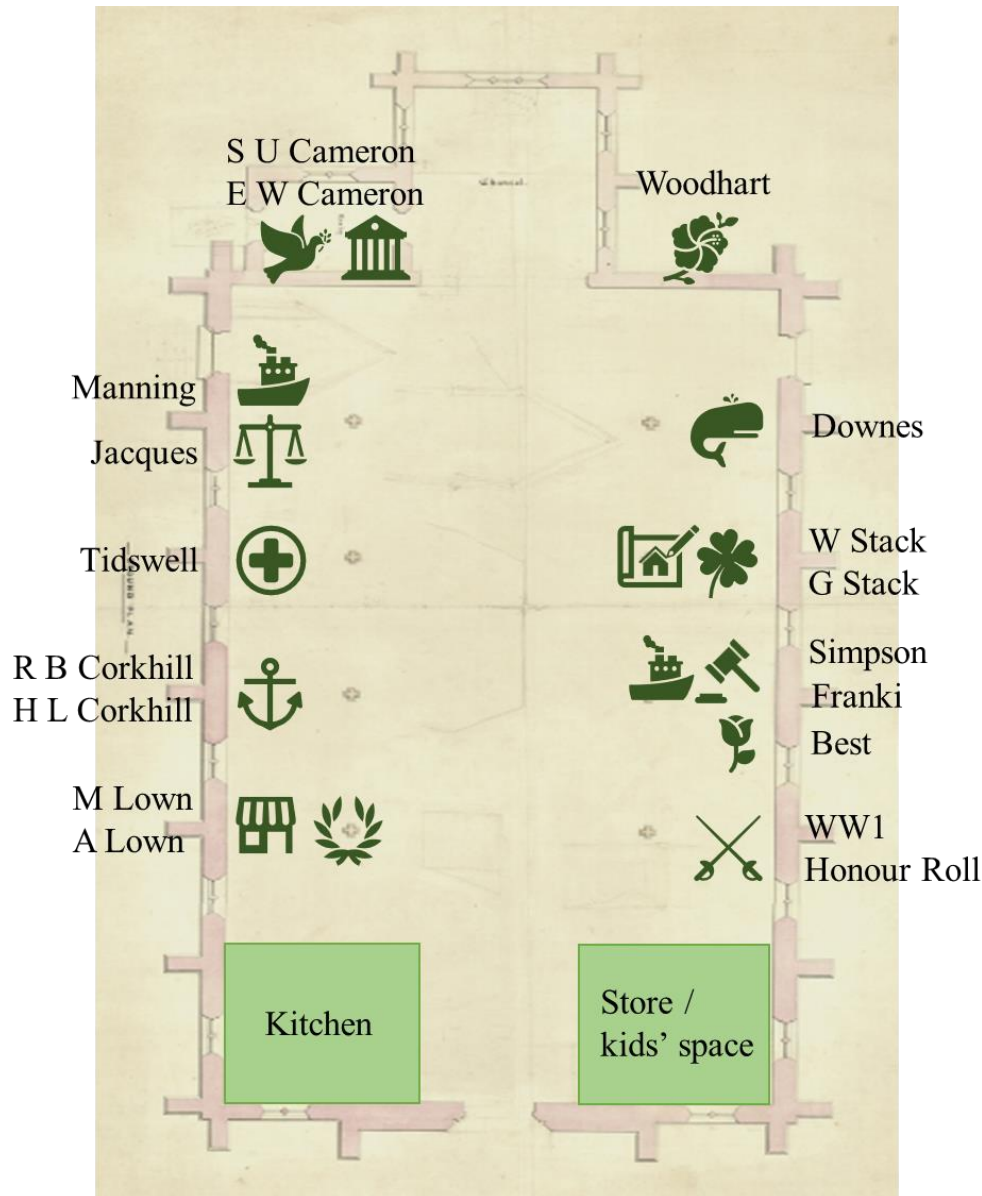


THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE SINCE 1846



St Mary's Balmain

Location of memorial tablets



Names and dates used in this document are as inscribed on each memorial tablet.



George Bagot Stack - d. 7/10/30 and Laura Stack - d. 23/10/33

Fifth son of the Rev. Stack, George Stack married Laura, only daughter of Theodore Jacques (see memorial tablet on west wall). He worked in the Government Architect's Department. George Stack joined the Balmain Company of Volunteer Rifles in 1863 and rose to the rank of honorary Major. He died at Orange aged 83.



George Morant Simpson - d. 10/4/62 and Ruth Simpson - d. 2/12/65

Baptised at Islington in 1806, Simpson moved to NSW in the early 1830s and married Ruth at St Philips Church Hill in 1834. He was granted 40 acres in the Field of Mars (Ryde) in 1839 but never developed the land. He was a Public Accountant, Arbitrator, and General Agent. However, he went bankrupt in 1849 (owing £800) leaving him with nothing but his furniture and his 'apparel'. He managed to recover financially and resumed his career. He was Church Warden of St Mary's for several years and lived on Johnston Street. His death at age 52 was sudden. An inquest found heart disease to be the probable cause.



James Peter Franki - d. 24/1/24 and Eric Franki d. 1919 and Noel Franki d. 1919

Franki was born in Switzerland and emigrated to NSW at the age of 12 (in 1855). Working his way up from engineer with *MacArthur & Co*, he became General Manager when the company listed as the *Mort's Dock & Engineering Co* in 1872. During his tenure the company grew from 200 employees to 1,500. He became Managing Director in 1915. Franki was a JP, an Alderman and strong supporter of both St Mary's and St John's churches. The Franki family lived at 'Montrose' on Thames Street (now a Salvation Army home). Plaques to Noel and Eric Franki (sons of James Franki) are located beneath the WW1 Honour Roll. Both Noel and Eric died in the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1919. The Honour Roll is dedicated to their younger brother Stirling Napier Franki who was killed at Pozieres in 1916.



Ina Best - d. 8/7/19 Born Rosina Yalden North, Ina first married George Stuart in 1888. She was widowed three years later. Ina subsequently married Rev. Stanley Best in Melbourne in 1894.

Rev. Best was Rector of St Mary's from 1915 to 1921. Ina died at age 57 at St Mary's Parsonage and is buried at the Field of Mars Cemetery at Ryde.



Annie Elizabeth Woodhart - d. 31/1/79

Annie was the daughter of Edward and Louisa Woodhart (nee Pashley). The plaque is erected by her brother (also Edward) and her mother. Her father, an iron moulder, having gone bankrupt in 1857, deserted the family in 1860 when Annie was only 3 or 4 years' old. Louisa moved her family to the Gas Hotel (Cumberland Street), at that time run by her mother and stepfather before relocating to Balmain where two of her brothers worked as shipwrights at Mort's Dock. One brother (James) was a shareholder in *Mort's Dock & Engineering Company*. Annie lived with her mother on New John Street (Mort Bay). She died at home after what was described in her death notice as a 'painful illness'.

EAST wall



Henry William Downes - d. 27/10/47

Downes arrived in Sydney from Plymouth on the yacht 'Wanderer' in 1841. His illustrated journal of that voyage is held at the State Library of NSW. Downes was a Captain of whaling ships. His illustrated log of his voyage as Captain of the whaler 'Terror' is held at the Australian Maritime Museum. He captained the *Lucy Ann* a whaler owned by Benjamin Boyd and previously crewed by, amongst others, Herman Melville, who took inspiration from the *Lucy Ann* when writing *Moby Dick*. Downes drowned off Wilson's Promontory when a harpooned whale overturned his boat. His body was stored in a barrel of rum until the ship's return to Sydney in January 1849.



Reverend Canon Stack - d. 14/6/71

William Stack was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland in 1810 and graduated from Trinity College Dublin. He took Holy Orders before emigrating to NSW in 1838. After incumbencies at West Maitland and St Peter's Campbelltown, he was Rector of St Mary's from 1855 until his death. Tragically he was killed near Murrurundi whilst journeying with his wife to Walgett to see his dying son. Travelling at night, the mail coach overturned causing serious injury to the coachman and another passenger and fatally injuring Rev. Stack. He died at the scene. Rev Stack's funeral took place at St Mary's with large numbers attending (40-50 carriages followed the hearse). He was buried at Campbelltown alongside three of his daughters who had died as children.

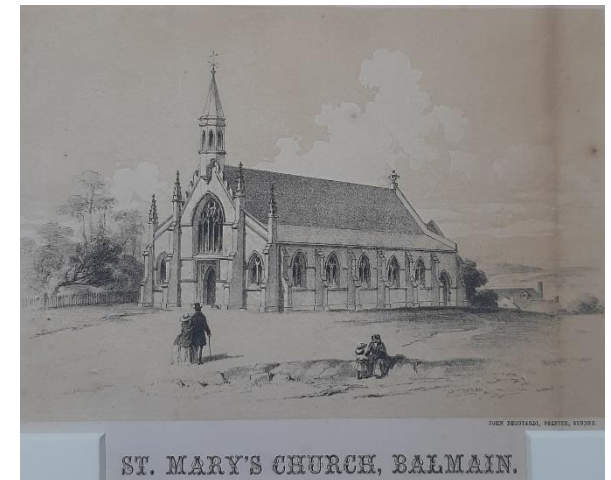
Introduction

Welcome to St Mary's Balmain!

St Mary's has been a centre of Christian community in Balmain since 1846. During that time, St Mary's growth and its prosperity (or lack of it) has largely mirrored Balmain's ups and downs.

The memorials within the church date from 1847-1923, and mostly represent a certain type of Balmain resident. In the 19th century, very few could afford to memorialise their life in marble. As a result, in this booklet we tell the story of the people who built Balmain. People who created a wealthy suburb with villas fit for their large families and well away from the filth and crowds of the city. They were merchants, lawyers, ship's captains, clergymen and businessmen.

Most were born in England or Ireland and made the long journey to the colony of NSW during the first half of the 19th century. Although relatively privileged and often extremely successful, their lives did not always go smoothly. Their stories include personal grief, loss, accident, relationship breakdown and bankruptcy.



Most of those memorialised had a record of long service to St Mary's, usually as a Church Warden. Many donated substantial sums to build not only St Mary's but also our 'daughter' churches of St John's Birchgrove and St Thomas' Rozelle. We're proud of, and grateful for, their faith and their contribution.

Image: copy of 1858/9 lithographic print by John Degotardi. Used to illustrate a list of the subscribers to a fund established to rebuild St Mary's. Original held by the State Library of NSW.

WEST wall



Mervyn Allen Lown – d. 6/5/15 and Andrew Thomas Lown – d.18/5/16

Originally from Ireland, Andrew Lown ran a grocery business on Darling Street. He and his family were heavily involved in life at St Mary's. Andrew was a Church Warden for many years and a Sunday School Superintendent. His son Mervyn was also an officer of the Sunday School. Mervyn volunteered in 1914 and took part in the Gallipoli landings. He was the first St Mary's parishioner to die in WW1. There was much confusion over his death. The family first received a telegram advising he was dead, followed by one saying he was wounded but not killed. A short while later they received a letter from one of Mervyn's fellow soldiers confirming his death describing how he died. Andrew Lown died a year later.



Richard Blake Corkhill – d. 10/12/87 and Harriette Louisa Corkhill – d. 24/7/04

Born at Whitehaven in Cumbria in 1813, Corkhill was a Sea Captain and made several journeys between England and Australia before settling in Sydney during the 1850s. He and Harriette had ten children. They lived first at Newtown where their daughter, Edith, died aged six (of acute dysentery). Later, their third son died aged only 23. Corkhill went into business as a wine merchant (*Watson & Co*) and continued in that trade until he retired. He was a Church Warden of St Mary's for many years. By the 1880's the Corkhill family were living at *Oakley* (a large house situated between Brett Avenue and School Lane). Harriette continued to live at *Oakley* after Richard's death.



Henry Earnshaw Tidswell – d. 23/10/82

Born in Manchester in 1820 Tidswell was the son of a merchant. He worked as a calico printer before emigrating to NSW. He developed diverse business interests (wine merchant and pastoralist as well as secretary and treasurer of the Balmain Penny Bank). Tidswell was a Balmain Alderman; he lived at '*Alderley*' on Booth Street. After his death his son sold the house to the local municipality to establish Balmain Hospital. Henry Tidswell served as Church Warden of St Mary's over many years and made large donations to the church, the Sunday School and toward clearing a substantial portion of a loan taken out to build St Mary's Parsonage.



Theodore James Jacques – d. 23/7/93

Born in Rochester, Jacques moved to NSW as a child. He joined the Supreme Court Registry Office and rose to be Registrar General. He was a solicitor, magistrate and Chairman of the Land Titles Commission. In 1874 Jacques went into partnership with his nephew creating a law firm that eventually became *Malleson Stephen Jacques*. He served as St Mary's Church Warden. He lived at *Eastcliffe* on Pearson Street (the house still stands).



William Henry Manning – d. 10/5/59

William died aged just 15 whilst attending Winchester College in England (his death notice states he had 'already distinguished himself'). The Mannings were prominent businesspeople. William's father Eyde was a merchant, pastoralist and shipowner who came to NSW in 1831. He was a pioneer in the steamship trade (founding what became the *Shoalhaven Steam Navigation Company*). The Manning brothers were in business with Thomas Sutcliffe Mort and had large landholdings around Monaro and Bega. William's uncle, Sir William Manning QC KCMG, was Attorney General and Chancellor of Sydney University.

NORTH wall



Sophia Usher - d. 8/1/78

Eldest daughter of merchant George Nail, Sophia married Ewen Wallace Cameron at St Mary's when she was only 14 (he was 35). They had 12 children. After his death and in his memory, she gifted to St Mary's a new pulpit (designed by Edmund Blacket) and the '*Three Kings*' north window.



Ewen Wallace Cameron – d. 25/5/76

The son of a British Army Colonel, Cameron moved to NSW at aged eight. After initial forays as a pastoralist and a two-year trip to California to (unsuccessfully) prospect for gold, he joined the company of Thomas Mort. Mort made him a partner three years' later. A wealthy but civically minded man; Cameron was President of Balmain's Working Men's Institute and Vice-President of Sydney Infirmary. A great supporter of St Mary's, his was the largest single donation to the fund established to rebuild the church in the late 1850s (£500). He loaned the church funds to install gas lighting and made numerous other financial contributions. Cameron's Cove is named for him, as is Ewenton House, Ewenton Street and Ewenton Park.