



Special Points of Interest:

- *Profile of a Pioneer Local: James Charles Low*
- *Part 2 of the James Morrill Story*
- *Postcards by Nick Shailer*

A MESSAGE FROM TRISH

Happy New Year to everyone and I know 2015 is going to be another busy year for Townsville Museum & Historical Society – it’s our 30th Birthday! In September 1985 Townsville Museum was officially opened by the Mayor of Townsville, Alderman Mike Reynolds, in the old historical Magistrate’s Court building in Sturt Street and now, 30 years later, and after a move to our premises in Currajong, the Museum has one of the largest collections of local artefacts and photographs of Townsville’s past history, the majority of which are irreplaceable. In September 2015 it is planned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Townsville Museum, so put your thinking caps on and give us your ideas of how we can celebrate this milestone.

Our photographic exhibition of *“Townsville, the first 50 years”* has been well received by visitors at MTQ. This is the start of the Museum’s contribution to the 150th celebrations of the settlement of Townsville and was sponsored by Townsville City Council Community Grants program. There are two other planned displays for this year, the first showcasing Townsville during 1914-1918 WWI period and another display starting in September and going through until May 2016. Both these exhibitions will be held at MTQ, giving Townsville Museum more exposure. There have also been some changes to displays in the Dining Room area, thanks to Nick Shailer for the loan of his beautiful silverware and china. A new interpretive board featuring the story of Dr Bennett is now in place in Hall 1.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship by Hastings Printers, Townsville Museum & Historical Society now has a 2015 calendar for sale at \$10.00 and features the photographs from our exhibition of *“Townsville, the first 50 years”*. There will be limited copies available, so please give the Museum a call if you would like to have one of these exclusive calendars. They really will be a “keepsake” for the future. Remember to tell friends, neighbours and family about visiting the Museum so they too can “take a step back in time”.

Regards,

Trish Cronin President

Monthly committee meetings are held at the Museum on the third Monday of the month at ten o’clock. All committee members are notified a week prior to the meeting.

2015 CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW
Features photos from the “Townsville—the First Fifty Years”
 [Current exhibition at MTQ]
 ****Collector’s item****
LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE
\$10 per copy
Contact the Museum to obtain your copy
Details on the back cover
07 4775 7838



Harvey and Wendy at the TCC International Men’s Expo at RSL Stadium on Wednesday 12th Nov 2015.

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TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

First and Third Sundays of the month

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

FREE ENTRY

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(12 months from 1st July to 30th June)

Single \$ 11.00

Couples \$ 16.50

Corporate \$ 32.50

HANRAN STREET (CITY)

From John Mathew's "Highways and Byways"...

Named after Patrick Francis Hanran (1831-1916) general merchant and politician, who arrived at Cleveland Bay on 14th February 1868 with 250 pounds worth of stock (groceries and general merchandise). Mr Hanran traded as a general wholesale and retail merchant from premises in Flinders Street East and became a director of the Cleveland Bay Express Newspaper Company when it was established. During the St Patrick's Day Regatta in 1868, he rescued Messrs Cowan and Lovatt when the yacht "Flying Cloud" capsized. It was during this accident that Captain Sinclair, the discoverer of Port Denison, was drowned. Mr Hanran was elected a member of the Provisional School Committee and of the Townsville Provincial Committee.

With his keen interest in sailing he was a foundation member of the Townsville Yacht Club when it was established in 1869. In the same year he joined the Townsville Cricket Club and the Hibernia and Albion Star Masonic Lodge. He was elected mayor of Townsville in 1870 and served seven terms. He was always in favour of dividing the municipality into wards and also of numbering buildings in the town, but for this proposal he could never find a seconder.

Early in the year of 1894, *The Queenslander* ran an article called "Illustrations : Some Northern Men" featuring Mr Patrick Francis Hanran (Mayor of Townsville), Mr D. F. Treehy (Town Clerk of Townsville), Mr A.J. Halloran (Townsville Branch Manager of the Bank of NSW), Mr Thankful Willmet (Businessman), Mr James Macintosh (President of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce), and Mr Samuel Nesbit Allen (Manager of Messrs Allen & Sons). Below is the paragraph written on Mr Patrick Francis Hanran. Text in brackets is unclear.

Some Northern Men

TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Patrick Francis Hanran, the present Mayor of Townsville, was born in Ireland on 16th September, 1831. He came to Sydney with his parents in 1834, and remained there until the Turon gold rush broke out in 1851, when he went out to try his luck as a digger. He worked steadily at Turon until February of the following year, when he returned to Sydney, and after a few days at home went to Victoria to Forrest Creek and Bendigo diggings. He remained in Victoria until the year 1861, during which time he paid a visit to nearly every goldfield then open from Mount Ararat to the Ovens, and was also present at the never-to-be-forgotten Eureka Stockade affair in December 1854. After leaving Victoria he found his way to the New Zealand goldfields, and was at Gabriel's Gully in the earlier days, and also at Tuapeka in the Nelson province. The he went overland to the west coast and worked on the Grey, the Buller, and other rivers on the west coast. He left New Zealand in 1864, and returned to Sydney where he worked until the early part of (1866), when he left for Townsville, and in the Northern capital he has laboured ever since. During the last twenty-seven years he has been engaged in store-keeping, and Mr Hanran, it may be remarked, landed the first cargo of goods ever received at Cooktown. Mr Hanran is a shrewd, genial, kindhearted man with a large family. He has the esteem of all Northerners, and has been Mayor of Townsville no fewer than eight times.



Unknown. Mr Patrick Francis Hanran, served seven terms as Mayor of Townsville

Held by CityLibraries Local History Collection

Mr. Patrick Francis Hanran passed away on 8th August 1916, at around 85 years of age. In an article in the Townsville Daily Bulletin, it was mentioned that Mr Hanran was one of the first members on the Harbour Board, and sat on the Townsville Hospital Committee for twenty-five years. It was suggested that after his wife of many years passed away some four years prior to his death, Mr Hanran grew very reserved and gradually faded away. He left behind a family of six sons and daughters.

Mathew, J. (1995). *Highways and Byways*. Townsville, Queensland: Townsville City Council.

Illustrations. (1894, January 6). *The Queenslander* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939), p. 21. Retrieved January 14, 2015, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20712129>

DEATH OF MR. P. F. HANRAN. (1916, August 9). *Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Qld. : 1885 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved January 14, 2015, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58904859>

PROFILE OF A PIONEER LOCAL—JAMES CHARLES LOW

One of our very dedicated TM&HS members, Harvey Low, provided this profile of his grandfather, who led a varied and interesting life, contributing much to the local community.

James Charles Low was born in England in 1863 and came to Australia in 1887. His mother paid his fare so that he could look after a younger brother, George. A letter in the Townsville Museum says he came to Townsville at the request of his uncle, A. F. Low who owned an hotel where the Perc Tucker Gallery now stands.

James had served eight years of apprenticeship in each of his trades of bricklaying and plastering and was soon employed (1887) building the Hollis Hopkins building in Sturt Street. Other buildings he worked on are the old Railway Station, Buchanan's Hotel, D&W Murrays, Reece Thomas's shop and the Burns Philp warehouses. He also built the condemned cell and the building housing the gallows at Stuart Gaol but these were never used as hanging was abolished in Queensland a month after they were completed. When working on the Railway Station, the hod carriers refused to carry on until he agreed to reduce his output from 1200 bricks per day to 1000!

In addition he worked on the Mater Hospital in Rockhampton being particularly proud of a grape vine motif done entirely by trowel. He also worked in Charters Towers, made Bolands in Cairns and did some of the brickwork in the railway tunnels on the Cairns to Kuranda railway.

James married Mary Pearce from Cornwall. She claimed to have lived next door to the man they couldn't hang. Together they had three girls and two boys. Another two boys were stillborn and were buried in unmarked graves in the old West End cemetery.

Towards the end of the 19th century, Australia was in a severe depression and building slowed drastically. James started a bakery on Ross Island (presumed to be in Ninth Avenue) not far from Sandy Crossing. His son, also James, was made to leave school at nine years of age to deliver bread in the Hyde Park area. Young James hated driving the bread cart through Sandy Crossing when the tide was in. Bread was sold for 3d (2cents) a loaf.

James moved his family into a new brick house he built for them in Francis Street, West End. It was the first house in the street.

James became an alderman in the Townsville Council and, with the help of Mayor Tyack, was responsible for getting the street sweepings dumped in the shallow water in front of the Queens Hotel c. 1907. This eventually became Anzac Park. He also suggested that water be piped from Mount Spec to Townsville. This proposal was laughed at as being impractical but it was implemented about twenty years later, after he had left town.

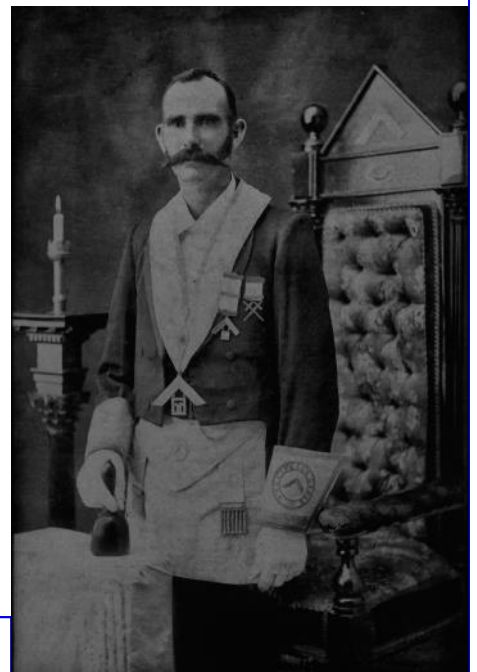
James Charles Low held very high status in the Masonic Lodge being District Grand Master. He was invited to open a masonic lodge in London in 1913 and travelled "home". The day after the opening ceremony he had an audience with the king who expressed the wish to "swap lives for a day".

James was auditor for the Townsville to Ayr rail link. Much of the paperwork was passed on to his son, William, but most of it was destroyed by rats. A few remaining receipts were given to James Cook University by his grandson, Harvey.

Soon after returning to Australia, James spent six months prospecting for gold in New Guinea without success. He made another trip north from Townsville to the Atherton Tablelands. Near the headwaters of the Russell River he found a fair sized nugget. The township of Towala sprang up in the area about three years later but was a short lived settlement. James had his gold dust melted down and made into a watch and chain with the nugget attached. This is still in possession of his descendants.

In 1914 James moved his family to a cane farm in Strathdickie, Proserpine. Both Mary and James passed away in 1945.

James Charles Low, District Grand Master



POSTCARDS BY NICK SHAILER

We all know postcards and see them for sale in newsagents, and no doubt sent some home while on holidays.

But what about the history of the humble postcard? The collecting of postcards is one of the top hobbies in the world and is called **Deltiology**. The earliest known card, a hand painted one, was posted in London in 1840.

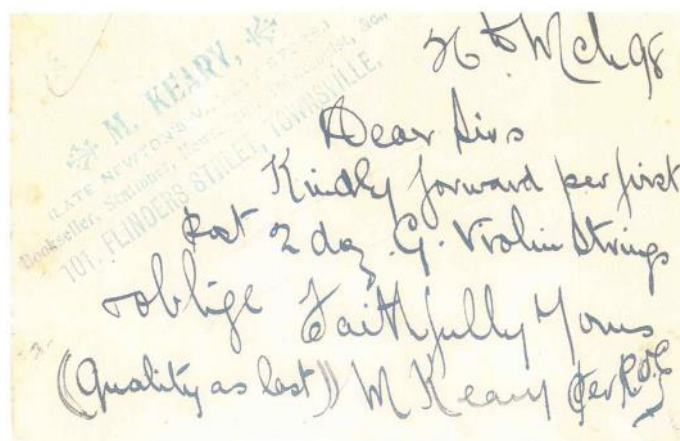
The first of the scenic cards used and sent as a souvenir was posted from Vienna in the early 1870s and the number of cards showing images increased from the 1880s.

Scenic postcards of the Townsville area seem to start in the late 1890s. To start with, the cards were mostly printed overseas but by the 1920s local photographers and printers were producing cards locally.

How many local cards could be found? There are at least several thousand. I have at least 6 albums for Townsville and still come across cards I've never seen before, and that is for cards produced before 1980. I still pick up new cards when they come out, date them and store them away. I also have two boxes of folder views.

Pre-dating the scenic cards are the postal cards. These were printed by the Post Office and have a printed stamp on the front along with the Coat of Arms for the state and a space for the address, and on the back, some are blank for the message, while others have company and club messages printed there.

For Townsville, I have six of these type in the collection and would rate them as very rare. The four shown here are dated from 1890 to 1898.



2015 CALENDARS FOR SALE—\$10 per copy

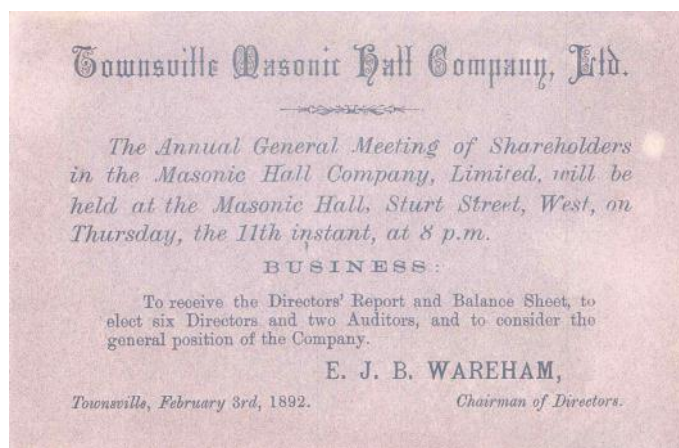
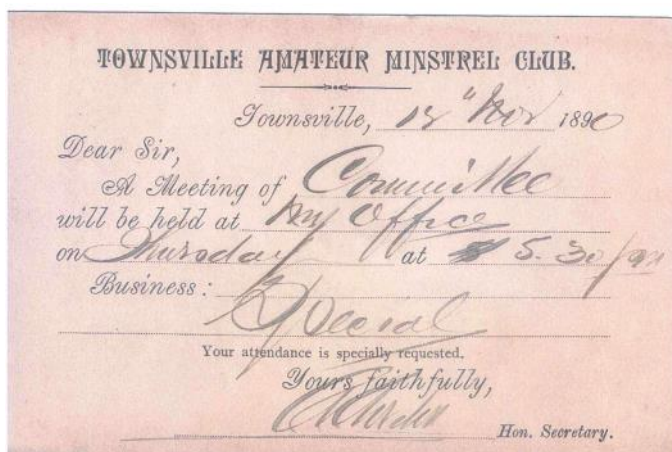
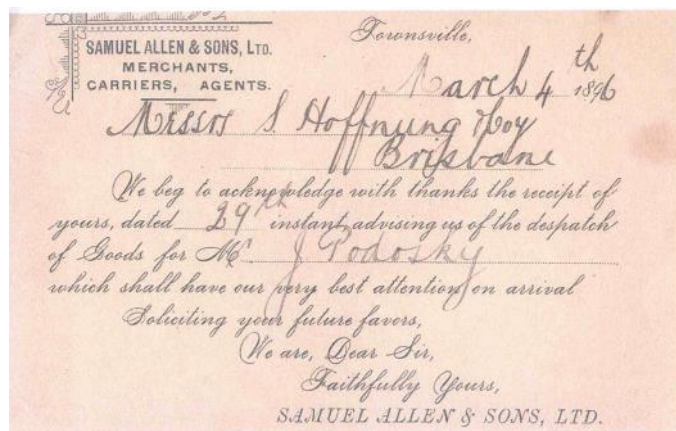
***This collector's item features 12 photographs
from the Photographic Exhibition—***

The First Fifty Years of Townsville

BE QUICK—LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE

CONTACT THE MUSEUM TO ORDER YOUR COPY

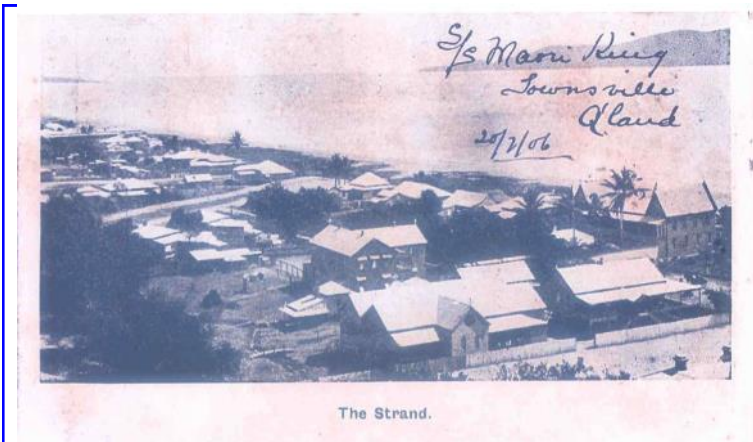
POSTCARDS BY NICK SHAILER



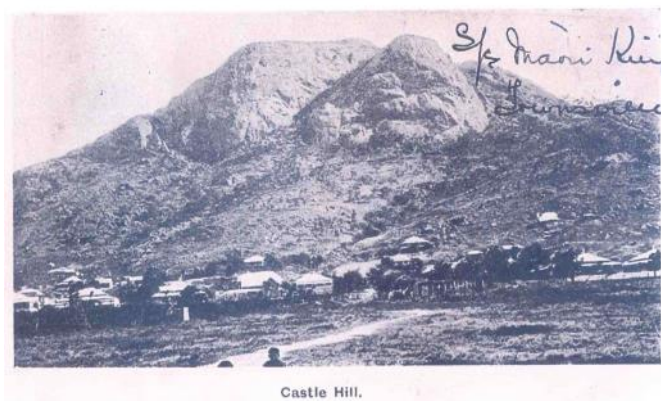
Just when you think you have you have most of the early postcards, new ones appear for sale somewhere. One recent lot for sale on Ebay from the UK (a set of 12 postcards) was sent from a seaman on the SS Maori King which was loading frozen meat from the Ross River Meat Works. Most of these views I had never seen before and though only able to purchase one, I was able to get scans of the rest. One of the views was printed by D.W. Hastings Printers. The rest though unmarked would have been printed locally and the scenes taken by a local photographer.

Nick Shailer

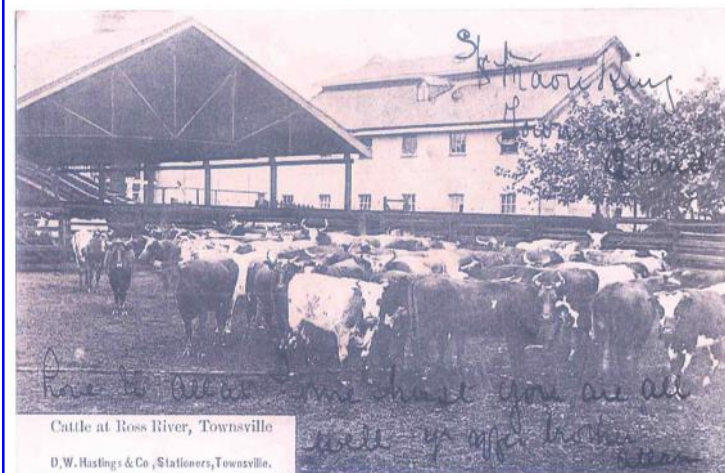
POSTCARDS FROM A SEAMAN OF SS MAORI KING - FROM NICK'S COLLECTION



The Strand

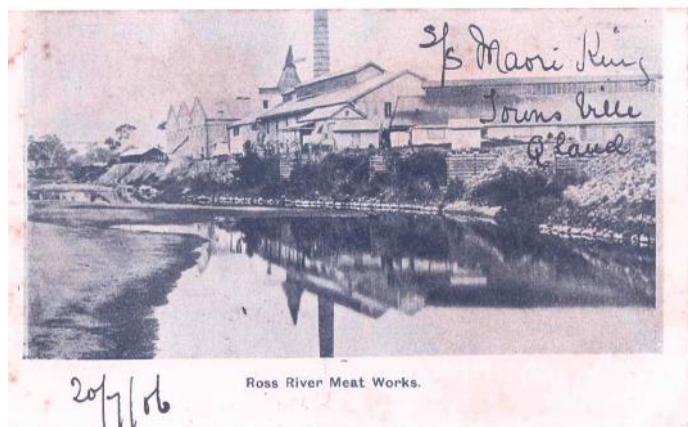


Castle Hill



Cattle at Ross River, Townsville

D.W. Hastings & Co., Stationers, Townsville

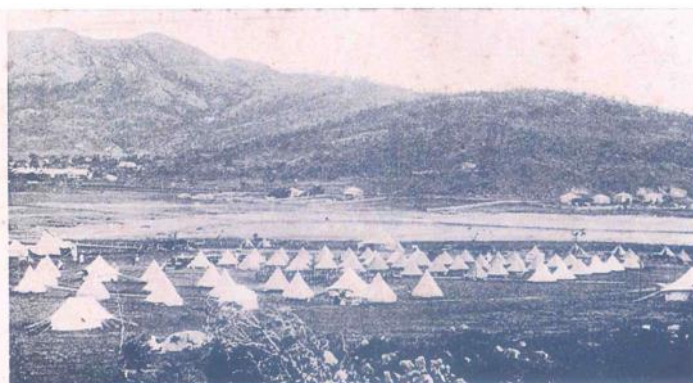


Ross River Meat Works

POSTCARDS OF EARLY TOWNSVILLE BY NICK SHAILER



Customs' House.



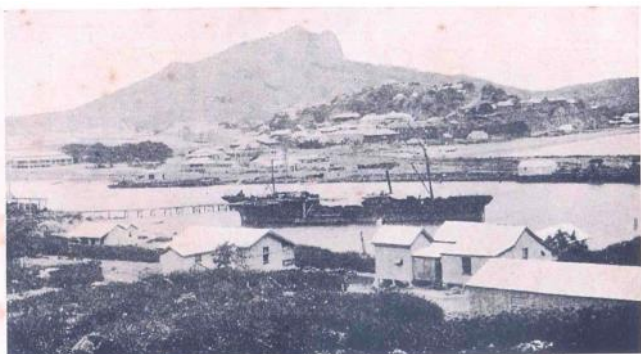
Encampment, 1903.



Townsville Hospital.



North Ward.



Ross Creek.



Spring Tide, Ross Creek, 1904.

From top left in a clock-wise direction: Customs House, Encampment 1903, Spring Tide, Ross Creek 1904, Ross Creek, Townsville Hospital.

Another two postcards from this set will be included in the June Newsletter.

2015 CALENDARS AVAILABLE FROM THE MUSEUM NOW!

THESE CALENDARS ARE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS For sale at \$10 per copy

**ALL TWELVE PHOTOS APPEAR IN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION CURRENTLY
AT MTQ**

Contact the Museum now. Details on the back cover.

RECENT EVENTS

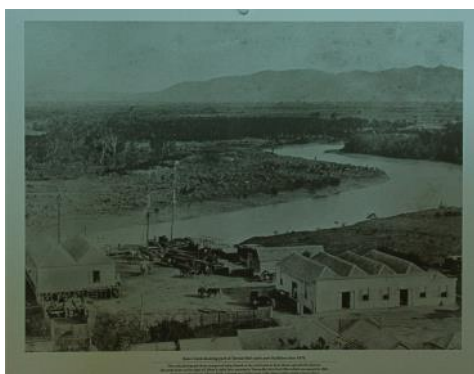
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

In November 2014, Dr Ross and Mrs Robin Cardell were made Honorary Members of the Townsville Museum & Historical Society. Dr Ross Cardell wrote a book called "Wings around us" about his childhood years growing up in the family home which was surrounded by World War II aircraft in the Dalrymple Road – Duckworth Street area. This book is now quite rare and the Museum's copy has been included in our Preserved Books Collection.

Both Dr Ross and Mrs Cardell visit the Museum when they return to Townsville to visit friends and family. Their commitment to our museum was recognised by the committee and so an Honorary Membership was awarded to them. Townsville Museum thanks them for their continuing support of our museum and its principles.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

On December 1st, 2014, Townsville Museum in conjunction with the Museum of Tropical Queensland launched "*Townsville – The First Fifty Years*", a photographic exhibition of around thirty photographs which are rarely displayed to the public and show Townsville in its early development years. The exhibition is now on display at the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Townsville Mayor, Councillor Jenny Hill, opened the exhibition before a crowd of close to a hundred guests. Included in the audience were some relatives of James Morrill who was a survivor of the ship "Peruvian" which sank off North Queensland on March 8th, 1846. These descendants represent three generations of James Morrill's family and we were happy to have them attend the opening. James Morrill lived in the Cleveland Bay area and spent 17 years living with the aboriginal people who inhabited this area. He passed away in the early years of the establishment of Townsville. Below are some photographs of the launch of the exhibition.



Above: Early port c 1870



Above: Mayor Jenny Hill launching the exhibition



Above: Guests at the opening

Below: Morrill Family Descendants



Left: Trish Cronin of TM&HS with Mayor Hill



Left: Peter McLeod of MTQ and Mayor Hill opening the display area



AMAZING ADVENTURES OF JAMES MORRILL—PART 2

In recent weeks, we were given a range of items which once belonged to a long time resident of Townsville, Miss Grace Mills. One of the items was a book on the history of Townsville, called "The Townsville Story", written by Rapier [Mr Les Watson], and published in 1952.

Continued from October 2014.

RAFT ONLY HOPE

The wind abated but the seas remained high. There was one hope left – a raft. A start was made on its construction, and there commenced as grim a race as could be seen at sea – fierce waves were lifting and edging the wreck, inch by inch, towards deep water. It was a matter of which would happen first: the ship break up or be sucked off the reef, or the survivors succeed in making and launching a raft.

They succeeded and were fortunate to get clear – a sudden squall drew the raft clear of the reef; in a few seconds rain had blotted out the melancholy remains of the "Peruvian".

Then commenced an episode all too familiar in annals of the sea. The worst of the cyclone passed; the only drinking water came from occasional showers.

After 22 days of privation, Mr Quarry died. In mournful procession there followed his son, then Mrs Willmott, her child and the nursemaid, and eight members of the crew.

The raft drifted on to a coral reef and for a while it appeared that the remainder of the wretched survivors would receive their quietus. There was an hour of terror while the raft ground and grated on the coral while, a few yards away, sharks cruised and hovered.

Finally Cape Cleveland was sighted, and 44 days from the time the "Peruvian" was wrecked, the raft grounded in the shallows and the survivors crawled ashore in Cleveland Bay.

SEVEN CAME THROUGH

Of the original 22 who sailed from Sydney, only seven remained: Captain and Mrs Pitkelley, and four crew members, Morrill, G. Gooley, J. Miller and A. Wilson, who was a ship's apprentice.

But the dreadful 44 days' struggle to survive had sapped the life from Willmott and Gooley. Three days after landing they succumbed to the ordeal.

Five were left. But already weakened, lack of food made their survival doubtful. Miller and Morrill patched an old native craft they found, and drew lots to see who should venture off in a desperate effort to secure food and assistance. Miller set out on the forlorn hope.

Days later, the sea flung ashore his body; it was found and buried by aborigines.

But it is probable that his effort saved the lives of his companions; the aborigines must have decided to investigate and discovered the castaways, who had kept themselves alive on shellfish.

The natives were very friendly; camped with the white people and fed them until they were strong enough to travel. Eventually the whole party set out for the natives' camp. Runners were sent ahead and the white folk were given a great reception; for days afterwards, aborigines came in from other areas to see the strange visitors. The natives had heard of white people, but had not previously seen them.

Excerpt taken from: Rapier [Watson, L. A.] (1952). *The Townsville Story*. s.n. [To be concluded in June 2015 issue.]



This image is of the barque "India" which was built in 1840. The "Peruvian" was built around the same time, in 1841. Original held by State Library of South Australia.



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Website: <http://www.townsvillemuseum.com.au>



SPECIAL OFFER! 2015 CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW—\$10

**THESE CALENDARS ARE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS, CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHS
 FEATURED IN THE CURRENT EXHIBITION AT MTQ**

“TOWNSVILLE -THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS”

Contact the Museum now to obtain your copy! Limited numbers available.

OUR SUPPORTERS



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 The
 Groups



That
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