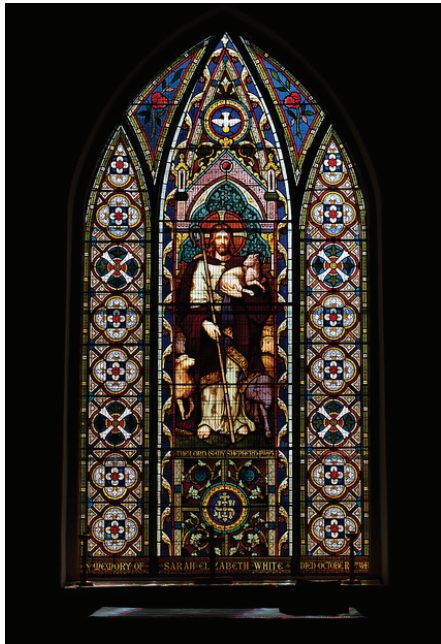




THE PIONEER

RURAL & RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY



R. H.D. White: the man behind the 'Good Shepherd' window in St John's Anglican Church

Robert Hoddle Driberg White (1838 - 1900) was born on 19th May 1838 in Stroud, NSW. White was born to parents James Charles White and Sarah Elizabeth White (née Hoddle). White's grandfather, Robert Hoddle, is one of the men given credit for

planning Melbourne's layout. White spent his early years with his Melbourne grandparents before going to Sydney for his schooling.

White held a number of positions from banking to law to politics. Life was full of excitement when White was around. He pursued bushrangers that stole from a bank branch in Deniliquin. In another escapade, he fought off men attempting to ambush him at a hotel while he was carrying a large sum of money for the bank on the Gympie Rd.

In 1863, White married a girl with Stroud connections, Eliza Jane Cowper, daughter of Rev. William Macquarie Cowper who was the first ordained Anglican minister and who served in Stroud from 1836 to 1856.

Robert took his wife on a trip to England in the early 1880s before returning to Australia and purchasing Tahlee House in Port Stephens. Tahlee was once home to the Commissioners of the Australian Agricultural Company.

The Whites always maintained their connections to Stroud and in 1883 Robert White presented the 'Good Shepherd' window in the eastern wall of St John's to the congregation in memory of his mother, Sarah, who had passed away at just twenty-two in 1841 in Stroud. Sarah's grave is located in the church grounds.

On 27 November 1883, 'The Correspondent' wrote in *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* that 'three windows of stained glass were presented by gentlemen as memorials of dear and departed relatives.' The writer continues to describe the 'Good Shepherd' window as 'a rich and most beautiful work' and states that White 'promised [the window] more than two years ago, when he was on a visit to his native place.' It is noted in the newspaper that 'this window was made by the firm of Lyons and Cottier, and is universally admired and its cost was £115.'

White died on 20 October 1900 at the Hospital for the Insane, Callan Park, Sydney. White was survived by his wife, two sons, and two daughters.

By Sharon Burke 2014

Thanks to Stroud Historical Society, John Chadban's *Stroud & The A. A. Co.*, *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* 27/11/1883 p. 2, *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (www.adb.anu.edu.au); and Elizabeth Bradhurst.

Photo credit: Ross Zimmerman, Flickr, 2013.

Wiggie – Correction

In the previous edition of Pioneer, it was noted that Wiggie was buried in an unmarked grave. Thanks to Mrs Glenys Grey, we can let you know that through her hard work at Stroud Historical Society, Wiggie is, in fact, buried in a marked grave.

