

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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Name: John Richardson McWILLIAM **Sex:** M

AKA:

Birth Date: 11 May 1838 **Place:** County Armagh, Ireland
Chr. Date: 2 Jun 1838 **Place:** Creggan Presbyterian Church, Co. Armagh, Nth. Ireland
Death Date: 5 Jul 1916 **Place:** Coonamble, NSW... Australia.
Burial Date: 6 Jul 1916 **Place:** Coonamble, NSW... Australia.

Cause of Death:

Event Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
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• Baptism record		1838	
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This is from the surviving baptismal records of the Creggan Presbyterian Church. (In letter sent to Jean McWilliam, from the Historical Soc. of Ireland)

• Occupation of father			
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Presbyterian Minister at Creggan, Armagh, Ireland.

• History		1851	Hill End, NSW, Australia
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In 1851, gold was discovered at Hill End, then known as Bald Hill, and by 1872, at the height of the great gold rush, the town was the largest inland settlement in NSW. It had a population of 10,000 and boasted a kilometre of colourful shopfronts, including 28 pubs, an opium den and an oyster bar. Gold mining activity gradually dwindled, until by the 1920s there were just a few hundred miners left to pick over the former diggings. The town was proclaimed an historic site in 1967, when the National Parks and Wildlife Service began preserving and restoring the buildings on the site.



• Emigration		1852	Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
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From the Unassisted Passengers Victorian Index.
 MCWILLIAMS G R 14yrs. NOV 1852 " RIP VAN WINKLE" B 017 003. **I have a full copy of the Passenger list.**
 John Richardson McWilliam arrived in Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, Australia on the "Rip Van Winkle". It was said he was sent out here with a Tutor by his father. He would only have been 14 years old. He must have disobeyed his father, and refused to return to Ireland. His death cert. says he was 21 years in Queensland, and 42 years in NSW. (I have the Passenger list, and the above record is true. The name is correct, and the date/age is right also). note G.R not J.R.

There are no other McWilliam/s arriving in that year or around that time who are 14 years of age. (deducted from details on his death and marriage cert.)
 See details of Passenger list in General Notes.

• Residence		1853-1861	Unknown
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Unknown.
 1853 --John might have come to Queensland, the year after he arrived in Australia. (This is deducted from 'years in Qld' on his death cert., but I haven't been able to find him arriving in Qld before 1861. Perhaps he didn't come to Qld. until 1861??) He could have gone to the gold-fields with some of the young Irish men who were on the ship with him.

• Voyage to Moreton Bay "Janet Dickson"		Apr 1861	Victoria to Moreton Bay
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This is probably our John, right initial and age
 "Passengers travelling in ships leaving Victoria." PRO Vic:- http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search.asp?searchid=42.

Arrival in Brisbane:

McWILLIAM J....23yrs...ship "Janet Dickson"....11th April 1861, Moreton Bay...Apr-1861-001
 also on the ship was P. RUSSELL, 27years. *I need to find out if this person is a RUSSELL relation.*

and from Margaret, who viewed the passenger list at the PROV:-

"Janet Dickson", John Wilson --Master --66t, left for Moreton Bay 5/4/61. 23 adults, two of whom are ladies, all the others just Diggers, English, to Brisbane
 Name given as **J McWilliams 23**

Could be the above schooner:-

Wreck of schooner 1870

Janet Dickson. (Janet Dixon). Two-masted schooner, 66 tons. #31841 Built Scotland, 1853; reg. Sydney - 45/1866. Lbd 65.5 x 16 x 8.2 ft. Captain Maxwell McKee. Dragged both anchors and went ashore off beach now bearing her name, Cabbage

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Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

Tree Bay, 5 March 1870. The crew used the dinghy to row out to the passing steamer Fire King. [GB],[LN],[LPA],[SAN - lost Norah Head, Cabbage Tree Harbour, June 1870]
and

Author: Loney, J. K. (Jack Kenneth), 1925-1995.

Title: "Wrecks on the New South Wales coast " / Jack Loney.

1870--"After leaving Newcastle with 100 tons of coal, the Schooner, Janet Dickson, took shelter in Cabbage Tree Bay, but dragged both anchors and went ashore. Fortunately her crew landed safely".

- Ship journey¹ "Queensland" 6 Nov 1862
"Early Shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863. Winifred Davenport and Betty Mottram.
"Queensland"...J R McWilliam..... Arr. 6-Nov. 1862. Mail Steamer, Capt. Patullo.....Page 130.

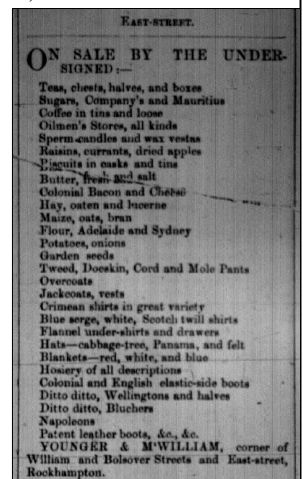
- Business imports² Younger and McWilliam. 1 May 1863 Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864) Wednesday 1 April 1863 Page 2

Younger and McWilliam; 3 bags maize. and also this ad (see photo)

and

Large Ad. as Photo in ? "The Capricornia"



- Ship journey³ "Williams" 24 Aug 1863
"Early Shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863. Winifred Davenport and Betty Mottram.
"Williams"...J R McWilliam....24-8-1863...400 ton..Capt. Cotter...Page 192

- Produce report⁴ 3 Nov 1863 Brisbane
" Younger and McWilliam report : The produce trade has been rather brisker during the past week. Maize has risen one shilling per bushel, and is scarce, recent heavy stocks having been cleared out. Bran is also scarce; hay is plentiful, and dull of sale. The stock of potatoes in town is lower than it has been for some time past. Oats are fully supplied, as is also butter. The following is a fair average of the prices current during the past week.
Hay, oats, £14 to £15 per ton ; lucerne, ditto, £12 to £14; maize, 6s. 6d to 7s. per bushel: bran, 2s 6d. to 2s.9d ditto ; oat 8s.to 9s. per bushel; potatoes, 15s. to 16s. per cwt.; pumpkins. 8 to 9s. ditto; onions, none; butter, 1s. 4d. to 1s.6d., by the keg."

- Business Advertisement.⁵ Mar 1863 Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

An Ad. for his business:-

In the Rockhampton Bulletin 14 March 1863 (became The Morning Bulletin in 1871)

.... HAY, MAIZE, BRAN, FLOUR,POTATOES, &c....

and

Advertisement in ?Rockhampton Guardian. ?date.

YOUNGER & M'WILLIAM (? C.Younger)

General Colonial Produce Dealers and Commission Agents. East Street, Rockhampton.

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Events: John Richardson McWILLIAM

- Activities in Rockhampton⁶ 1863-1870

Notes about his time in Rockhampton.

From "The Early History of Rockhampton" by J.T.S.Bird:-

Page 20 - JR M'William was a committee member of the School of Arts .

Page 54 - Cricket - played cricket for Australia in 1863.(Not the Australian Cricket team as we know it today).

Page 55 - Rowing - 1863 on committee for Fitzroy Rowing Club.

Page 83 - Settlers on the Agricultural Reserve - One of the Misses Orr (Janet) married JR M'William, and mother of T.M .M'William.

Page 65- Elected to the Board of the School of Arts, 1865 (The Develop. of R'ton and District by A.E.Hermann).

From the National Library of Australia:-

The Rockhampton School of Arts 1861-1894 [microform] / Wayne Murdoch

Manuscript Bib ID 1164672

Format Manuscript , Microform

Author Murdoch, Wayne

Notes Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Librarianship) in the Graduate Dept. of Librarianship, Archives and Records.

From Gwyn at the NLA:

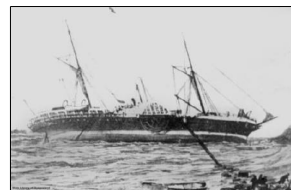
"I have read through the manuscript and found no reference to John Richardson McWilliam. The names of the steering committee and the first elected committee are listed on pages 15 and 16, however McWilliam is not among them. Page 44 states that no lists of members exist for 1861 to 1894."

- Ship journey⁷ "Collaroy" 6 Apr 1864 Brisbane to Rockhampton

The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864) Thursday 7 April 1864 Page 2 of 4

April 6.- **Collaroy**, steamer, 500 tons, Captain W. Cottier, for Rockhampton via Maryborough.

Passengers---Miss Lennehn, Mr. and Mrs. Plews, Messrs. **J. R. McWilliam**, W. P. Cuthbert, P. McIntosh, J. Gore Jones, T. Holme, Lohead, W.Hill, Keen, W. Delaney, M. Leith Hay, R. Gray, Richardson, D. T. Seymour, C. Kummerer, G. D.Lang, J. Sutherden, A. Blundell, J. F. Garrick ,D. Rodgers, J. Ferguson, D. Makay, Knott, J.C. Searle, and about 30 in the steerage



COLLAROY 330 gross tons. Lbd: 158'6" x 22'2" x 11'3". Iron paddle steamer built by J Laird, Birkenhead and purchased February 1854 by ASN Co on her voyage to Australia. As a passenger vessel she frequented the Hunter River trade. 1873 she was lengthened to read dimensions of 356 gross tons, 264 net with Lbd: 180'9" x 23'3" x 11'1". March 1873 she was fitted with extra passenger accommodation and a new spar deck. April 1879 sold to Newcastle Steamship Co Ltd., Sydney. Ran ashore at Narrabeen north of Sydney and remained there for nigh on two years. The current place now bears her name. From unsuccessful efforts to float her she was sold at auction March 1881 and finally refloated September 9th, 1884. Towed to sydney for repairs, work history since reveals little and she was converted into a sailing ship, with engine removed 1888. Wrecked at Eureka California USA July 1889 with a load of coal as cargo from Australia for the west coast ports of the USA. *Collaroy is an Aboriginal word for swamp reeds*

www.flotilla-australia.com/hrsn.htm <<http://www.flotilla-australia.com/hrsn.htm>>

- Ship journey⁸ "Clarence" 10 Nov 1864 Brisbane to Rockhampton

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864-1933) : Friday 11 November 1864 Page 2 of 4

November 10.- **Clarence**, s., 223 tons, Captain W. Cottier, for Maryborough, Gladstone and Rockhampton.

Passengers: Mr. and Mrs. Flaherty, Mrs. Collis, Mrs. Giles and servant, Mrs. Sugars, Miss Vicars, Miss Parkes, Messrs. P H. O'Regan, E. M. Todd, Paterson (2), Lloyd, T. A. Robinson, W. T. Grey, W. Ingram, H. Penfold, Hemmant, E. Clark, T. N. Staples, P. K. Mollarde,

J. R. McWilliam, Dr. Bancroft, Rev. G. Graham ; and about 50 in the steerage.

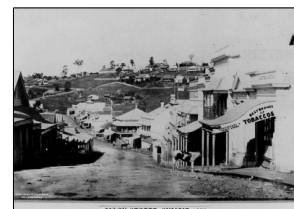
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Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

- Rockhampton in 1866.⁹ 1866
 There is no mention of John R. McWilliam in this manuscript.
Title " Rockhampton in 1866 " [manuscript] / Debra Thurtell.
 CQU Library Catalog - Call Number 994.3503 1 **Author Orr, Debbie.**
 Publisher Details 1980.
 Physical Description 53 leaves : ill., 2 maps ; 31 cm. Notes Typescript (photocopy).
 Notes Thesis (History III research)--Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education School of Humanities and Social Sciences, 1980.
 Notes Open to researchers under library restrictions.
 Notes Includes bibliography.
 Notes Includes photographs.
Subject Heading Rockhampton (Qld.) -- History.
 Other Author Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education. School of Humanities and Social Science
 Top of Form 1 Bottom of Form 1
- Marriage 1866 Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.
 Marriage to Janet ORR.
- Business Advertisement.¹⁰ 1866 Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.
 Morning Bulletin, Sat. Jan 20th., 1866.
 Younger and McWilliam
 "Corn factors", commission Agents and seedsmen. East Street, Cnr. William and Bolsover Sts.
 (from Rockhampton Library)
- Electoral Roll¹¹ 1866-1868 Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.
1860-1869 Queensland Electoral Roll CD has the following listings for J.R. McWilliam, (from a lister on the Qld Mailing list:)

Name	Electoral District	Years	Qualification	Residence	Fiche No
McWILLIAM J. R. <i>Port Curtis</i>		1866-67	Freeholder	Rockhampton 10	
McWILLIAM J.R. <i>Rockhampton</i>		1866-67	Freeholder	Rockhampton 11	
McWILLIAM J. R. <i>Rockhampton</i>		1867-68	Freeholder	Rockhampton 14	

and
 NO. 382. He is listed as J.R. McWilliam, residing at Rockhampton, and his qualifications are Freeholder. I have a copy.
- Postal Directory 1868-1874
 John is NOT on these Postal Directories for Qld. (Meyer) C.Q. Uni Lib. 383.49943 6.
- Abode 1868 Unknown
"Rockhampton Residents 1868"
 On the Central Qld Family History assn. web site, he is not listed as living in Rockhampton. (town)
- Electoral Roll 1870-1879 Queensland, Australia.
 There is no listing for John McWILLIAM in the 1870-1879 Roll.
- Abode Jun 1870 Gympie, Queensland, Australia.
 According to his Application date to the Queensland Bar.



- Application for Admission as a Barrister¹² 1870 Gympie, Queensland, Australia.
- Voyage to Sydney Jul 1871
 Mariners and ships in Australian Waters : <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/index.htm>
" CITY OF BRISBANE "
 of Sydney, FRESTING C. KNIGHT, MASTER, Burthen 504 Tons

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Events: John Richardson McWILLIAM

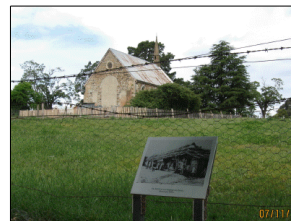
- Hill End Times 1874

I have been trying to find some of his writing from this newspaper, only 3 papers survive in the NSW State Lib., this is the reply from a Librarian:-

Ask a Librarian

Notes "Circulating throughout Hill End, Tambaroora, Bathurst, Sofala, Hargraves, Mudgee, Gulgong, Windeyer, and the western mining districts". Description based on: Vol. 4, no. 406 (Aug. 7, 1875).

Subjects Australian newspapers - New South Wales - Hill End. | Australian newspapers - New South Wales - Tambaroora. | Hill End (N.S.W.) - Periodicals. | Tambaroora (N.S.W.) - Newspapers. | Hill End (N.S.W.) - Newspapers.



"If you can help with a look-up for any papers you might have for 1874/5, for John Richardson McWilliam, he was a Journalist, I would be most grateful. He had a daughter born there in 1874, Juliana, and his wife was called Janet (Jessie). Thanks, Jill "

Our response is:

Dear Mrs Glover

Thank you for your inquiry. I have searched through the issues of the Hill End and Tambaroora times and miners' advocate" which the State Library of New South Wales holds on microfilm.

There were only 3 issues of that newspaper from 1875 but none from 1874.

I could not find any references to a John Richardson McWilliam in this newspaper. There were very few articles, (mostly advertisements and notices), and the articles were not signed. There was also no information about the contributors to the newspaper. There was a little mining news contained in the newspaper but it was not attributed to any particular writer. If you would like me to copy a page or two from the 1875 issues of the newspaper relating to mining news, please let me know. (I have received copies)

Julie Sweeten

Librarian, Access and Information

- Arrival in Mudgee Bef 11 Mar 1875

He was Secretary of the Railway League in Mudgee on this date.

- Mudgee Railway League Committee 1875-1885 Mudgee, NSW. Australia

From the Mudgee Historical Society:-

J.R.McWilliam was apparently quite an important man during the lead-up to the railway extension to Mudgee in the 1880's. He was Hon. Secretary of the Mudgee Railway League, he not only acted on behalf of the other committee members re matters concerning the railway League, but he took a personal interest into the importance of the rail link. He gained signatures and donations from people as far away as Coonamble.

Excerpts from the "Mudgee Railway League Committee Minutes Book, March, 1875".

To The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, Sydney.

....."it is of paramount importance to the pastoral, mercantile, agricultural and mining interests of Mudgee and surrounding district that a railway be formed between Wallerawang and Mudgee as early as possible." Yours obediently, J.R.McWilliam, Hon. Sec.

To S.S.Goold Esq. M.L.A. Sydney. March, 1875

..... requested that the govt. report re survey of the railway route be laid on the table, and further requested to obtain a copy of such report and send it to this committee for the information of the members. Signed J.R.McW.

".....the Secretary reported that he had sent a number of circulars, as instructed, to various gentlemen in the district and would send a number more during the week, also that he could procure no new maps of the kind required in Mudgee, but would write to the office of the Surveyor General for them at once"



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Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

From Stephen S.Goold, M.L.A. May, 1875.

".....and that after your petition is presented you need not have fear but an immediate survey will be made."

Again from the Mudgee Historical Society:-

Reading through the various minutes of Meetings held in this crucial year of petitioning and continuous correspondence to the Colonial Secretary, department of Works, etc., Mr.Jr.McWilliam had been given power by the Board to travel to outlying areas (e.g.Coonamble and Coonabarabran) to obtain petitions, signatures and donations from members of the general public and business houses. These all were then forwarded out to the M.P. etc, showing the importance and benefits a railway would be to Mudgee.

Mr.McWilliam placed advertisements in the local papers,stating that those gentlemen who received lists for petitions for the purpose of obtaining signatures to please forward them ASAP to him, c/- Mudgee Railway League. I would say, in doing this, the petition and cause was very public, and one that would be hugely supported.

By 20th June, 1875, Mr. McWilliam had sent to the Hon. George H. Cox, Mayor of Mudgee, petitions for the presentation to the Minister of Works, 2323 signatures. This presentation and also the appearance of the Mayor of Mudgee at the hearing in Sydney, paid in favour of the Mudgee Railway League.The Union Club of Sydney, stated in a letter to Mr. McWilliam that "...within a month a staff of surveyors should be on the proposed line...." and although members of both sides of Parliament who declined to sign the petition, did "express themselves warmly in favour of the Leagues movement and promised their support."

When the surveying teams were organised and well underway of surveying the land (with help of local landholders knowledge of the areas involved), Mr. McWilliam went to inspect on the progress of the surveying . He reported back to the League that he had visited the camp of Mr. Townsend and found that they had completed 12 miles. He considered the great probability the 'trial survey ' from Wallerawang to Mudgee would be completed in 2 or 3 months.

From John Rae, Commissioner of Railways:-

I have the honour to acknowldege Mr. J.R.McWilliam's reference to Estimates.....will receive the attention of the Government as soon as the survey of line has been completed, and the Engineer-in-chief has been requested to expedite the survey, and his report thereon.

The correspondence continued this way until construction began on the railway. The dedication and sheer hard work put in by John Richardson McWilliam, has to be congratulated. If it were not for him and the other committee members, Mudgee would not have had a rail link (well, not for many years after the 1880's).

There was a Public Ball to comemorate the opening of the Railway to Mudgee, held in the Engine Shed, on the 11th September, 1884.

- Residence¹³ 1876 Mortimer Lane, Mudgee, NSW. Australia

The Cudgegong Rate Books 1860-1905 from Mudgee Historical Society.

"J.R.McWilliam rented from James Hinton a wood house in Mortimer Lane on 1 acre 2 roods in 1876."

According to his Death Cert, he was 21 years in Q'ld and 42 years in NSW.

- Residence 1877 Lewis Street, Mudgee, NSW.

"Council Minutes" Wed.3rd October, 1877.

A home in Lewis St., owned by Mrs. Bloodsworth of Merri Merri Ck., and occupied by Mr. H.A.Wells, was destroyed by fire. There was no fire brigade, the adjoining cottage owned by Mr. G. Hazeltine, and occupied by Mr. J.K (? R) McWilliam was saved.

From another forgotten source, I have the address as 77, Lewis Street, Mudgee.

- Electoral Roll 1878-1879

No.2382 Household... Short Street, Mudgee.



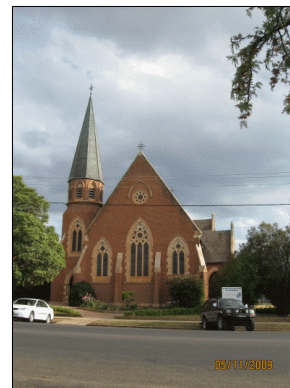
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- Place of Worship. Mudgee, NSW. Australia

St.Paul's Presbyterian Church.

This was probably the church where John and his family worshipped. It's on Mortimer Street.



- Coonamble Times¹⁴ Namoi Street, Coonamble.

"Back to Coonamble".

Not long after the advent of the "Independant", (?1878), Mr. J.R.McWilliam transferred his interest in a Mudgee Newspaper to Coonamble, and started the "Coonamble Times".(1st. April, 1885) His weekly column, by "The Outsider" was a principal feature of the paper, and was continued until his death called the author from his work, which was taken up by his son William and carried on till just lately. (1925)

- Residence in Coonamble 1885-1916
He was at Coonamble, "The Gumz", Macquarie St., Coonamble, NSW, Australia.

- Coonamble Times Founded Coonamble Times 1885 Coonamble, NSW... Australia.



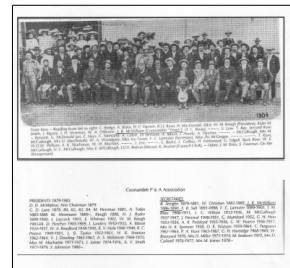
- Secretary 1886-1891 Coonamble, NSW... Australia.

He was secretary of the P&A committee for these years.

- Pastoral and Agricultural Assn.¹⁴ 1886-1890 Coonamble, NSW, Australia.

"Back to Coonamble". P & A Assn.

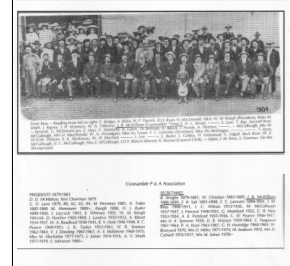
"Until 1891. J R McWilliam acted as Secretary, succeeding Mr. Christian.



- Pastoral Show¹⁴ Coonamble, NSW, Australia.

"Back to Coonamble". Pastoral Show.

"Everyone did their best to shove things along. Our trouble at the Ist was the Secretaryship, several of us had a shot at that. The first I think was W. Christian, also J.R.McWilliam had a try, but none of us were a brilliant success until the witty Fred R. Salt took on the job."



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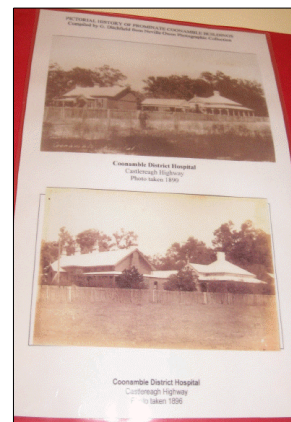
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Events: John Richardson McWILLIAM

- Coonamble Hospital Board.¹⁴ 1904 Coonamble, NSW, Australia.

"Back to Coonamble". Hospital Board.

"In 1904, veteran Journalist J.R.McWilliam was elected President. From then to July 1907, there were only the usual changes of staff and personnel of the Committee to note".



- Place of Worship. Coonamble, NSW, Australia.
St. Barnabas Anglican Church, cnr. Aberford and Namoi Street, Coonamble.

- Death record source 1916 Coonamble, NSW... Australia.
NSW Registry of BDM. 13863/1916. I have a copy.

- Death cause 1916
1 a) Senility.
b) Enlargement of the Prostate and Asthenia.

- Officiating minister at burial
A.H.Gribble.

- Informant at death.
J.D.Button, Solicitor, Coonamble. (No relation)

- Witnesses at Burial.
W.E.McCullough and W.H.Leck.

- Burial Place 1916 Coonamble, NSW... Australia.
John Richardson is buried in the Church of England section of Coonamble Cemetary.
This date is correct according to his death cert.
Cemetery records say he was buried on the 10-10-1916.

- Obituary 1916 1916

One of the most honoured and beloved residents of Coonamble, and one of the oldest pressmen of the State, Mr. John Richardson McWilliam, passed away to his coveted rest at 2pm on Wednesday at his residence, "The Gums", Macquarie Street, Coonamble, after an illness extending just over three weeks. Prior to taking to his bed he caught a slight chill, but continued to fulfil his duties as proprietor and editor of the "Times", until forced to relinquish. His condition gradually became worse until Saturday, June 24th, it was deemed advisable to summon his sons and daughters to his bedside. On the following Monday he appeared to rally, but it was only for a short period, as he again relapsed and gradually became weaker until the end, which was a peaceful one, came. During his illness his beloved wife never left the sick bed-side, and it was her loving hands and voice that soothed the departing soul as it gradually, but surely, passed to the great beyond where pain, sorrow and tribulation are no more. The late Mr. McWilliam was a devoted husband and father, his home was his earthly heaven, and he was never known to cause those he loved one pang of sorrow or regret. As he lived, so he died, honoured and beloved by all.

Deceased was born in County Armagh, Ireland, and was in his 79th. year. He was the son of the Revd. Thos. McWilliam, DD, and received his education at Trinity College, Dublin. In his early youth he came out to Australia, landing in Victoria in 1854, and subsequently came to New South Wales, where he soon became known as one of the leading provincial pressmen. Prior to coming to Coonamble in 1885, he was part proprietor of the "Western Post", Mudgee, and during his 13 years' residence in that town, he took an active part in public matters, more especially in connection with the Mudgee Railway League, of which he was secretary. He was also secretary of the Mudgee Railway Extension Demonstration, and successfully organized the opening banquet which was held in the Engine Shed, Mudgee, on 10th Sept., 1884. During the following year, 1885, he came to Coonamble, and established the "Coonamble Times", the first issue being printed on April 1st., of that year, in the old "Times" office in Namoi Street. So ably did he control the destinies of his

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Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

journal that it soon began to grow and it was not long before the "Times" became to be recognized as one of the leading newspapers of the western district. The late Mr. McWilliam had the proud honour of being the pioneer pressman of the west. For over thirty years he conducted the "Times", and no one can say that he at any time abused the privileges he enjoyed, for he, through the medium of journalist. The Coonamble "Times" stands as a monument to his untiring energy. For many years, the late Mr. McWilliam was closely associated with the local public bodies. He was connected with the local Hospital committee, of which he was president for several years, and was made a life member of the institution on retiring from the committee. In connection with the Agricultural Society, it may be mentioned that when that body was in financial difficulties he carried out the duties of honorary secretaryship for some time, and he also took up the honorary secretaryship of the School of Arts. Both these institutions owe much of their present prosperity to the unselfish work of Mr. McWilliam. He was also a loyal supporter of his church, and on more than one occasion helped it over financial troubles. As a private citizen he knew no enemies, and many there are who received practical sympathy from him. Truly, his life was an unblemished one, for his motto had been honesty in all things. The whole community mourn with the family in their loss, for they realize that, whilst the latter have lost a loved one, they, too, have lost a friend. A sad feature is that Mr. and Mrs. McWilliam would have celebrated their golden wedding on the 15th of the present month, and both were looking forward to a happy reunion of all members of the family, but he, who ruleth our destinies, ordained otherwise. Mr. McWilliam was married to Miss Jessie Orr at Rockhampton, (Q), just on 50 years ago.

His widow, three sons and two daughters survive---Thomas (Brisbane), William (Coonamble), and now attached to the 7th. Light Horse at Menangle Park), and Russell (in the infantry camp, Brisbane ; daughters---Mrs. E.P.R. Freestone, (Cumnock), and Miss Jessie McWilliam (Coonamble).

The funeral took place on Thursday, and was one of the largest seen in Coonamble for years, all sections of the community attending to pay their respects to one they honoured so highly. Before proceeding to the cemetery the Revd. A.H. Gribble conducted a short, impressive service in St. Barnabas' Church, at the conclusion of which the Dead March was played. The members of the Lodge Castlereagh (Masonic) marched in regalia in front of the hearse. The chief mourners were Messrs. Thomas, William and Russell McWilliam and Mr. E.P.R. Freestone (son-in-law). The coffin, which was of polished cedar, silvermounted, was covered with beautiful floral tributes. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rector, whilst WM Bro Mooy read the Masonic burial service.

A memorial service will be held in St. Barnabas' Church on Sunday night. His journal, was ever ready to assist any deserving cause which had for its object the advancement of the town and district. Many there are, not only in the Coonamble district, who were familiar with the writings of "Outsider", the nom-de-plume used by the deceased for over 40 years. His articles were straight to the point and always bore the stamp of a deep thinker, but they were never vindictive. Pressmen throughout the State will regret exceedingly the passing away of such a noble hearted and straightforward pioneer

- Obituary

1916

From Brisbane Courier Mail 6th. July, 1916

Very general sympathy will be felt for Mr. T. Mc William, (Brabant and Co.), on the death of his father, Mr. J.R. Mc William, which occurred at Coonamble, NSW, yesterday (says last Wednesday's edition of the Brisbane Courier). The deceased gentleman, who was 78 years of age, was a native of Ireland. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Thomas Mc William, D.D. of Creggan Manse, County Armagh, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. Coming to Australia at an early age, he became a pioneer business man at Rockhampton in the 1860's, and was one of the founders of the firm of Younger and Mc William. For the last 40 odd years he had been associated with journalism in the Western districts of New South Wales, and enjoyed the friendship and confidence of many of the leading figures in the political history of the State. He is survived by his widow, three married sons, and a married daughter. The whole of the family was at his bedside, including two of the sons in khaki, who had obtained leave from Enoggera and Menangle (New South Wales) camps respectively. Mr. T. Mc William may be expected to return to Brisbane about Monday next.

- Memorial Service

1916

An impressive memorial service, to the late Mr. J.R. McWilliam, was held in St. Barnabas' Church on Sunday evening. During the service appropriate hymns, including deceased's favourite. "Lead Kindly Light" were sung, whilst the choir sang the Anthem, "O, Death where is thy sting; O, Grave where is thy victory"

The Rector took his text from St. Mathew, 5-4, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted" During the course of the sermon, Revd. Gribble said; "I look on your faces tonight, and though I can know very little of the inmost hearts of some, yet I know you have all tasted sorrow in some form or other, hence the comforting words of my text. One well known to you has passed from this world to enter the World Everlasting, and has left behind him loving relatives and those who know him as a friend ; but he is now with his elder brother Jesus Christ, and the bosom friends of Eternity. He has left the fields of earthly labour and entered the peace and rest of Paradise. Can you wish him back again? I refer, of course, to our late townsman, the late Mr. J.R. McWilliam, for years past an officer and consistent worshipper at the church. Yes, a most consistent Christian, a lover of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that means a great deal more than words can express, for it sums up, most fully, all that we look for in the perfection of true manhood. In our departed co-worker for God we had a man of keenness which led him to grasp implicitly the faith in Christ as a personal Saviour. Death held no terrors for him. I want you to listen to his words tonight, for, he being dead yet speaketh. At the very onset of his illness he said to me, "I know I am going to my Maker, and I am going without regret, without fear. I understand death perfectly, but many, I fear, do not. It

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

means joy". A few days before God's Angel came to him he again spoke to me of his departure, ending by the request, "Now, I want you to thank God for all his goodness to me during my life here". Could we have a more beautiful example of implicit trust and fervent patience. And not only in the hours of death, but in the day time of health and vigor, he exercised the same spirit of perfect confidence in his God. This is what enabled him to lead a life of uprightness and won for him the admiration of his acquaintances, He has gone; to us all his life is a treasure for the future.

The Rector concluded his remarks by dwelling on the uses of adversity and the blessing of sorrow, bidding the bereaved lift their soul to the Conqueror of Death and they would be drawn nearer to the unseen and be able to say, "It is good for me that I have been in trouble. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted".

At the conclusion of the service the Dead March in Saul was played by the organist, Miss M. Francis.

• Messages of sympathy 1916 In Coonamble "Times"

The late Mr.J.R.McWilliam, the proprietor of the Coonamble "Times" and father of Mrs. E. P. Freestone, of Cumnock, was a pioneer pressman of the West, and was also one of the most highly esteemed residents of the Coonamble district. He is survived by -- (as previously mentioned). Our sympathy goes out to all the relatives of the popular brother pressman.

Mr. Freestone, of the Commercial bank, who has been relieved by Mr. Broad, during his visit to Coonamble in connection with the death of his father-in-law, resumed duty on Friday.

Words from Mr. Perry, (probably Magistrate, Coonamble, as printed in Coonamble "Times",

At the Coonamble Police Court on Monday, Mr. Perry, PM, referred to the death of Mr. McWilliam, and stated they had lost one of their oldest magistrates, who used to attend the court during his (Mr. Perry's) absence, and there rendered a great service to the state. As a Justice of the Peace he had signed more documents than any other honorary magistrate, and had ever been wiling to carry out his duties. He had a personality of the highest order, and the conduct of his paper showed what manner of man he was, for he would allow nothing offensive to appear therein. As a man he was a thorough gentleman, and highly educated. Deceased had been a close friend of his and they had spent many happy hours together and out of respect to the memory of Mr. McWilliam he would adjourn the court for five minutes.

From Mr. J.D.Y.Button.

Mr. Button, on behalf of the legal profession, also paid tribute to the memory of deceased, who had lived a clean, unselfish and noble life. He was a clean journalist, and would never allow extremists to sway him. His criticisms were clean and straightforward, and as a journalist, he proved himself to be a credit to the State. As a Justice of the Peace he had done many things, and had been ever willing to render assistance to members of the legal profession. His death had been deeply regretted for he had been, practically, the father of Coonamble, where his name would always be honoured.

First-class Sergeant Fraser also spoke a few words on behalf of the police, saying that the deceased had always been willing to adjudicate on the Bench. The Police had always been on friendly terms with the late Mr. McWilliam, and had received every courtesy from him.

• Press Tributes 1916 From "Old Ned" in the Coonabarabran "Clarion".

Mr. J.R.McWilliam, one of the pioneer pressmen of the western districts, passed away at the residence, Coonamble, on Wednesday last at the patriarchal age of 78. There were few more popular men in the district of Coonamble than the scholarly and gentlemanly J.R. McWilliam. It was my priviledge to have met Mr. McWilliam in Mudgee when our beards were black, where he was connected with the "Western Post"--this would be about the year 1878. My sincere wish is that "Outsider" will be rewarded in the Great Beyond according to his irreproachable life on earth. To his bereaved family I extend my heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement and for my old friend I pray "Requiescat in pace!".

From the Grenfell "Record"

The death is announced of Mr. J.R.McWilliam, editor and proprietor of the Coonamble "Times" at the age of 78years. Deceased who ran an excellent and well conducted newspaper was one of the most respected members of the profession. Present writer was associated with the late Mr. McWilliam when the latter was a mining reporter of the " Hill End Times" during the golden days of that famous field.

From the Namoi "Independant"

Mr. J.R.McWilliam , one of the oldest NSW country journalists died at Coonamble on Wednesday last, aged 78 years .Deceased founded, owned and edited the Coonamble "Times", since 1885. Prior to that he edited the Mudgee "Western Post", which position he took up in succession to Sir. John Henniker Heaton. Although a quiet, retiring disposition, the late Mr. McWilliam capably edited his paper, and was universally respected .By his death the writer loses a friend of many years standing, a friendship formed at Manly over a dozen years ago, having been renewed from time to time in recent years.

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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Event Notes: (cont. for John Richardson McWILLIAM)

From the Peak Hill "Express"

The death is recorded of one of the oldest pressman in the State in the person of J.R.McWilliam, of the Coonamble "Times". Deceased, who was born in Armagh, Ireland, was the son of the Revd. Thomas McWilliam, DD, and was educated at Trinity college, Dublin, and was in his 79th year. The late Mr. McWilliam was certainly the grand old man of country journalism. Apart from his all round knowledge of presswork and good sound sense of everything which appeared from his pen, he was personally a very lovable character, broad minded and charitable, and a man of high principle, the writer enjoyed his friendship for many years, and we can truly say the country journalism, and the community in which he moved has sustained a great loss in the passing of the late Mr. McWilliam. We offer our deepest sympathy to the relatives of deceased in their bereavement.

~~~~~  
"Mudgee Western Post"

Mr. J.R.McWilliam, for many years proprietor of the Coonamble "Times", which he established in April, 1885, died on Wednesday at the age of 78 years. He leaves a widow, three sons (two of whom have enlisted), and two daughters. The deceased was well and favourably known in Mudgee, being connected with this journal prior to his departure for Coonamble. He was a man of sterling worth, and held in high regard right throughout the Coonamble district. We (Mudgee "Western Post" ) extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

~~~~~  
• Ship journey

• Produce report

Father: Rev. Thomas McWILLIAMS (1806-1863)
Mother: Anna RUSSELL (1813-1905)
Spouse: *Janet (Jessie) ORR (21 Mar 1841 - 6 May 1938)
Marr. Date: 17 Jul 1866 **Place:** Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.
Children: 1 Thomas Moore William McWILLIAM (1868-1953)
2 Jeanie McWILLIAM (1870-1888)
3 Anna Russell (Annie) McWILLIAM (1871-1946)
4 Juliana Orr McWILLIAM (1874-1875)
5 * William Orr McWILLIAM (1876-1938)
6 Mary Jessie Orr McWILLIAM (1878-1961)
7 Russell Charles McWILLIAM (1880-1954)

General:

There is some interesting, extensive research on this site, for the Russell / McWilliams families and ancestors:-
<http://www.antonymaitland.com/hend0001.htm>

John Richardson McWilliams probably came to Australia in 1852, on the ship "Rip Van Winkle". (I haven't seen proof that this is him, though name and age, and his statement of years in the colony make this almost 100% correct.) I have a full copy of the Passenger List.

The Captain was Capt. Alfred F.Smith. Nov 1852. B:17:1.

RIP VAN WINKLE - 1851

Master: Captain Alfred F. Smith

Rigging: Ship

Tonnage: 1,095 tons

From the Unassisted Passengers Victorian Index.

MCWILLIAMS G R 14yrs. NOV 1852 "RIP VAN WINKLE" B 017 003.

(I have been trying to find out who J.R.McWm might have been travelling with on the ship, so the passenger list, as below, might give some clues. It will be a daunting task to try and trace G.B.Edwards and Thomas H.Brown, they are quite common names.)

From: "Marilyn Kenny" > kenjon27@netspace.net.au

The shipping list for the Rip Van Winkle Liverpool to Port Phillip.

McWilliams G R is just given as 14 yrs. Irish . No occupation He is not a cabin passenger.

It appears that the passengers are listed in order of boarding not alphabetical or class

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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General: (cont.)

This generally means that groups travelling together are listed next to or close to each other.

The one under McWilliams is Geo Robinson 35 Butcher English

The one listed above McWilliams is G P Edwards 25 English --No occupation given.

There are 47 Irish on board of 39 Scots 129 English

There are a group of Irish on the same page as McWilliams as though they have arrived as a group :-

?Wilson 23 Draper

Alice 24 Wife

Killen John 22 Grocer

?? Labourer

David Young 21

Charles Young 27 Ironmonger

So the order is:-

the 6 Irish (as above)

Thomas H. Brown, 27, English, Schoolteacher.(At least that's how I would transcribe it)

G B Edwards, or G P. 25, English, No occupation given.

G R McWilliams 14yrs.

Geo. Robinson, 35, English, Butcher

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### **From the London times, 1852:-**

Rip Van Winkle, 2,000 tons (temporarily withdrawn from the New York packet service for one voyage only);

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About the Ship:-

Sydney Shipping Gazette

Volume 9, Number 451 (20 November, 1852)

Page 319-322

...and on page 322 it mentions the arrival of Rip Van Winkle at Melbourne on November 11th 1852, from Liverpool on August 2nd 1852 with 46 cabin passengers and 256 steerage passengers.

... same page of the shipping gazette, quoting from The Argus "The Rip Van Winkle is an American ship, chartered by Liverpool merchants, and a superior class of ship, both as regards her model, accommodations and fittings, the latter being very superior. She entered the harbour with the American ensign flying from the peak, having fired a royal salute when about three miles below Williamstown. Little or no sickness has occurred on the passage--only two infants having died. She has upwards of three hundred passengers on board, and a small cargo, all for Melbourne.--Argus"

.....ARRIVED ...The Melbourne Morning Herald, Friday, 12th. November, 1852 has this paragraph:-

" November 11th, Rip Van Winkel, Ship, 1100 tons, A.F.Smith, Commander, from Liverpool August 2nd. Passengers 48 in first cabin, and 256 in the intermediate and steerage. Agents R. & P. Turnbull."

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**About the Builder of the ship:-** from George C. Kingston gcking@yahoo.com, who is writing a book about HOOD.

**J.M. Hood** was an interesting guy whom I ran across while doing some paid research for a collateral descendant of his.

He started out as a ship captain, then turned to building ships in Massachusetts (US), then got elected to the state legislature, went bankrupt, moved to Illinois, divorced his wife of 20+ years and immediately married an 18 year old girl, got elected to the Illinois legislature, then got appointed by Abe Lincoln to be US consul at Bangkok at the time of Anna Leonowens (Anna and the King of Siam), got into trouble for selling protections to chinese traders, moved back to Illinois, became a temperance advocate, and died there. If there's not a book in that, I don't know what is.

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An Ad for the RIP VAN WINKLE in The Times, 05 July 1852:

"AUSTRALIA.- Emigration from Liverpool.-

For PORT PHILIP direct, to sail positively the 20th of July, the clipper United States frigate-built ship RIP VAN WINKLE, A.F. Smith commander, 1094 tons register, 2000 tons burden, in Salthouse Dock. This new, powerful, and fast-sailing ship has cabins unequalled for extent and splendour; her second cabins are unsurpassed for space and comfortable accommodation, and her third cabins are arranged with the utmost regard to the convenience of passengers. She will be fitted up and provisioned with every attention to secure the comfort of passengers on the voyage, under the inspection of Her Majesty's Emigration Agents, and will carry an experienced surgeon. Cabins all enclosed. Captain Smith has had many years' successful experience in the passenger trade.

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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General: (cont.)

The Rip Van Winkle has been built in the most elegant and substantial manner, with all modern improvements, and with special regard to speed in sailing, being intended for the regular New York packet service, from which she is temporarily withdrawn for this voyage only. Apply to James M'Henry, 5 Temple-place, Liverpool; or to Campbell and Rudd, brokers, 2, King-street, Liverpool. This ship will carry Phillips' Patent Fire Annihilater."

** Main saloon 50 guineas, second cabin GBP 20 and 30, third cabin GBP 18 and 20.**

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**ADVERTISEMENT in The Times, July 8th, 1852; page 8, issue 21162; col F.**

**Emigration to Australia...The "Rip Van Winkle"**

Category : News.

Full Text: copyright 1852, The Times.

Now that the inclination to emigrate to Australia has become diffused throughout almost all classes of society in this country, a most commendable rivalry has commenced by the owners and charterers of vessels in London, Liverpool and Glasgow, not only to share in the trade, but to excel each other in rendering the voyage to the antipodes as expeditious and pleasant and safe as the recent improvements in naval architecture, the most judicious and liberal arrangements for the health and comfort of the passengers, and the newest scientific appliances in aid of navigation can effect. In transferring the Rip Van Winkle from the American to the Australian trade, Liverpool seems determined, if possible, to take the lead; for from a personal inspection of this magnificent Yankee clipper, we are of the opinion that a finer ship, or one better adapted for the particular voyage, was never afloat. While examining her on Monday, we could not help wishing that we had seen her preparing to leave the Clyde instead of the Mersey, for such vessels are sure to attract passengers whatever port they may sail from.

The Rip Van Winkle is a Frigate-built ship, of 1049 tons register, and 2000 tons burden. Notwithstanding her large size and tonnage, she has that appearance which indicates first-rate sailing qualities, and has already, we understand, shown what she can perform in this respect, by making the run from New York and back, including the time spent in unloading there, in little more than two months. It is confidently expected, we are informed, that she will make the voyage to Port Phillip in 75 days.

The accommodation for passengers are of a very superior description, and are certainly not surpassed in first class steamers. In the chief cabins, families, married couples and two or three sisters, can be accommodated separately, and at the same time, have sufficient space to move about; while the saloon is fitted in a tasteful and luxurious style, and is roomy enough to hold with comfort all the occupants of the surrounding state cabins for every purpose of social enjoyment. The other cabins are likewise fitted up with every attention to the comfort of those who go second class, while the space for the intermediate passengers is more spacious than we have ever seen before in an emigrant vessel, being upwards of eight feet in height between the beams.

Amongst the most modern contrivances for insuring the safety of vessels, with which the Rip Van Winkle is fitted up, is a recently patented helm of the most powerful description, and so easily manageable rudder is furnished with two screws, to which iron rods are attached by brass bushes, which approach or retire from each other as the wheel is turned, while the other ends of the rods hold the rudder steady, or run it at pleasure, by operating upon the top of it in different directions. We have rarely seen the mechanism of the screw more beautifully or successfully applied; and if the patent is not very expensive, we should expect soon to see the improvement introduced into all sea-going vessels. This ship is likewise to carry Phillips' patent, the annihilators, to give every attainable security against the casualty of fire during the voyage.

Some of the cabins, we are informed, had already been secured for young ladies going to the colony alone, the company and oversight of the captain's lady affording an excellent opportunity of getting to Australia by that class of passengers. As for Captain A. F. Smith himself, he seems in all respects fitted to be the commander of such a ship, and those who have sailed with him say he is all he seems.

On Monday last a "recherche dejeuner" was served up on the Rip Van Winkle. In the San? en Dock (where she was to be removed to the Salthouse Dock, preparatory to leaving for Port Phillip), to about 150 ladies and gentlemen, Captain Smith presiding at one table, and Mr. Potter at another. The company having done ample justice to the repast, and the preliminary toasts having been disposed of.

The gentleman, whose name we did not ascertain, rose, and after a few observations, proposed "Success to the good ship Rip Van Winkle" coupled with the health of the owners.

Mr. Baines said he rose with much pleasure to propose the next toast. Liverpool had long carried on an extensive trade with America, and other parts of the world, but it was something new to see a large trade between that port and Australia. Their trade with that country had hitherto been very small, for, indeed, the port of London had very nearly monopolized it, but the Liverpool shippers had turned over a new leaf; the gold discoveries had given an immense impetus to the trade; vessels of the first class had been laid upon the station, and he was certain that the Liverpool shippers, when they entered heartily into it, would prove to the world that they would be the best. They were now sending out finer ships to Australia than London - (Cheers) - and he was happy to say that the resources of that splendid country did not consist of gold alone, or its prosperity depend upon the trade in that metal, but in a great measure upon the rapidly increasing development of its earlier discovered means of wealth. Still the gold had given an immense impetus to the trade between the two countries; and he trusted that henceforth, instead of sending six or a dozen vessels to Australia in a year, that they would send hundreds. Mr. Baines concluded by giving as a toast, "The Liverpool Trade with Australia," which was received with applause.

Mr. Robertson returned thanks; and after referring to the great extent and resources of Australia, said he was quite

# Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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## General: (cont.)

satisfied that both employment and food for the best descriptions would be found for all who might choose to go to that country ;and he said this from some little knowledge of the place. The Rip Van Winkle certainly afforded an excellent opportunity for making the voyage to Port Phillip. (Hear)

Mr Parsons said he had been requested to propose a toast, and it was one he felt assured, which needed nothing from him to recommend it to their unanimous acceptance. After alluding to the elegant banquet of which they had partaken, the toasts which had already been given and the excellent manner in which the chairman had performed his duties, he expressed himself quite sure that all present would drink with the greatest pleasure. "The health of Captain Smith, and a successful voyage to this beautiful ship". (Loud and prolonged cheering).He hoped and believed that every person who went in the Rip Van Winkle to Australia would, when arrived there, entertain but one feeling of thankfulness and respect to Captain Smith for taking them in the most comfortable manner possible to that far country. (Applause). That the Rip Van Winkle would make a quick and successful passage was to be expected; and that under Captain Smith's command, she might succeed in doing so, was the sincere wish of everyone present. (Hear Hear). The toast was drunk with loud applause.

Captain Smith, in the first place, returned thanks for the very flattering manner in which the toast of his health had been received, and without saying that he would make a quick passage, they might depend upon it, that he would try to do it.(Applause)He would do his best, and nothing more could be expected from a man than to exert himself to the utmost to accomplish whatever might be expected from him, and that he would not fail to do. He hoped the company would enjoy themselves; and if they made themselves as comfortable here as he would make his passengers by the time they got to Australia, they would be a comfortable party before night. (Cheers and laughter).

"The health of the ladies" was then given, followed by that of Mr. Potter, who shortly returned thanks.

The next toast was "The Town and Trade of Liverpool", which was received with native enthusiasm.

Mr. Sherlock, in proposing the next toast, said he had no doubt about the successful voyage to Australia of the Rip Van Winkle. There was no doubt but she was the finest ship that ever was despatched to that colony; and, although she was the first American ship, she would not be the last which would be taken up for trade. He gave "The Liverpool Trade with America". The toast was received with applause.

The health of Messrs Campbell and Rudd, the brokers for the ship, and other toasts followed, after which a large portion of the company enjoyed themselves with a promenade, enlivened by a band of music on the deck of the vessel, the fine sweep and extent of which were universally admired.:- North British Daily Mail.

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John R. McW wrote a column for the "Coonamble Times" under the non-de-plume of "OUTSIDER". He used to travel around the area and write about everyday events. This is one of his writings, date unknown , probably 1912, about his annual trip to Sydney.

"MY ANNUAL TRIP"

During my trip I noticed that great improvements continued to be made on the western railway line. A large portion of the line has been duplicated, and at busy places there are at least three sets of rails laid down. The traffic on the western line has greatly increased since first I knew it. Then only one mail train ran at night, and there are now three trains, the Dubbo, Forbes and Coonamble as they are named. The change is especially a great convenience to Castlereagh people, who now retain their seats from Coonamble to Sydney and have not to change at Dubbo as formerly. The deviation on the Penrith end, to avoid the long tunnel, is nearly completed, and when it is finished there will be really an up and down line available to traffic .I suppose other lines have been improved as well as the western one, and looking at the great increase in traffic and the few accidents of any moment, I consider our railways have been well managed since Mr. Johnson took charge, carping and criticisms to the contrary .No doubt he has capable workers under him, but the head has a lot to do with the success or otherwise of any big concern.

However tight the money market might be and no money will be produced by the monetary institutions or speculations just now, although I believe plenty is available for ordinary business transactions, there seems no scarcity of the "needful", so far as the man in the street is concerned, in Sydney. No doubt the hot season has driven a lot of 'country cousins' to the big smoke this summer, who have a few pounds to spend but, be the causes what they may, spending money seems plentiful enough .All the places of amusement are crowded, and at the seashore resorts it is hard to secure accommodation. Manly, which is the chief of these seaside resorts, has gone ahead by leaps and bounds since I made it my home during my brief summer visits to Sydney for the last 10 or 11 years. The Hotel Pacific has been completed since my last visit, and is now in full swing. It contains about 100 bedrooms, and its erect and furnishing cost about 30,000 pounds, I understand. The tariff is high, the lowest being 12s 6d a day, the same as the Australia and Wentworth. The great attraction to the writer and thousands of others at Manly is the surfbathing. I had a run to both Bondi and Coogee, the two other chief surfbathing resorts. I would give the preference to Bondi but neither is to be compared to Manly. Tram accommodation has been largely added to at Manly, there being now lines to the Spit and Narrabeen. I visited both , Narrabeen for the first time. There is no doubt a fine, open beach, but no shade and there is plenty of room for improvement.

I visited two theatres during this visit, her Majesty's, my favourite, on account of its good ventilation, where "The Sunshine Girl" was staged by a lively company, including Miss Grace Palotta. When all is over there is really nothing much in it, but an agreeable hour may be passed listening to fun and frolic. The other theatre I visited was the Criterium, where Mr. Julius Knight and Company rendered "The Milestone". This play is an ably written one, containing a good deal of satire, as for instance when a self-sufficient youth paid a six months' visit to India, and on his return said he knew all about the country, as is so often the case with empty globe-trotters.The piece itself is far above the ordinary as regards literary ability, and was capitally staged. I didn't visit any of the many picture shows, with which Sydney is crowded, on the

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

General: (cont.)

present occasion.

In my last letter I said I went to St. Andrew's Cathedral to hear the Dean of Sydney, not long arrived from England, and who bore the reputation of being an able preacher in the Old Country. On that occasion I was placed a long way back, and as the pillars in St. Andrew's destroy the sound, heard but little of what was said. Noticing he preached again in the Cathedral on Sunday morning I went to hear him, and this time chose my own, a sort of free seat in front of the pews and just under the pulpit. One of the vergers wanted to show me a more comfortable seat, but I wasn't on. Well, the Dean is a very eloquent speaker, with more action than is customary in CE pulpits ; but his delivery and articulations are not too good, and will tell against him with large audiences. By-the-bye, an alteration has evidently been made re the preachers at St. Andrew's. Formerly drones spoke to half empty seats. Now preachers like Archbishop Wright and the Dean fill the old historic Cathedral. In this respect the practice of St. Paul's Melbourne, is being followed, where an able speaker is placed in the pulpit.---OUTSIDER.

***This might date the letter in this time frame. Between 1909 and 1916.

John mentions Archbishop Wright.
(John Charles Wright 1909 - 1933 (Primate from 1910))

[From the Advertiser, Adelaide, Sat. 29th October, 1912 :

Julius Knight will make his reappearance in "Milestones," and the first production in Australia of "The Sunshine Girl" will be given.

So that puts this trip around Oct. 1912.]

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## Research:

### Places searched for his education in Ireland.

John didn't attend Trinity college, as has been the story down the years.(from Peter McWilliam, who lives in Dublin, and has done extensive research on the family) **Quote" I can confirm that he didn't attend Trinity. The only family member recorded in the list of entrants was his brother, Samuel Russell."**

### Answer to request for school records for Creggan

.....info@presbyterianireland.org

"Thank you for your McWilliam request. The Presbyterian Church do not hold any school records. You might like to check with the Public Records Office, their web site is [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)."

Rebecca McConnell

Presbyterian Information Office

Church House

Fisherwick Place

Belfast

BT1 6DW

Tel: 028 9032 2284

### 8-01-2009 re Letter to Proni re Creggan School records:-

Our Ref: 9069 BH

"Thank you for your enquiry and my apologies for delay in replying. I have carried out a preliminary search within our records without finding records which cover the period you require.

Proni only hold the following records:-

\*SCH/1507 Glassdrumman School Parish of Upper Creggan - Daily report book 1933-1942

\*AELB/2/1/2 Creggan Primary School 1981-1984 - Committee Minutes

\*T/1392 Depositions relating to the burying of the Freeduff Presbyterian Meeting House, Co Armagh 1743

\*MIC/1P/444 Creggan or Freeduff church records

To further your search you may wish to contact the Education and Library Board which may hold earlier records. If you have any queries about this e-mail please advise."

Regards

Briege Hunter

Enquiries Unit

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

66 Balmoral Avenue

Belfast

Tel: 028 90 255879, [Briege.Hunter@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:Briege.Hunter@dcalni.gov.uk)

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Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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Research: (cont.)

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### Education in Australia. 1853-1860 cir.

John arrived in Australia as a 14year old. I have been trying to find out where he might have gone to receive further education here in Aus.

\*\*\***Letter to Ballarat Historical Society re John's education:-**

>>snip "I'm trying to find out the names of schools in Ballarat in 1852? Would you have any idea if there was any kind of Grammar School in those days"?

Reply:-

>>snip " Other texts state that the Anglicans did not really get going in Ballarat East or Ballarat until after 1853-4 at least. But there is a reference to a Church of England school opened by John Findlay in Plank Road in 1855. Plank Road was part of the present Main Road. In 1856 William Stallard opened the Ballarat Grammar School in Doveton Street. (*The Spielvogel Papers* vol 1. p.171)

These are the only references I can find.<<

Elizabeth Trudgeon Ballarat Historical Society

(I thought he might have headed for the goldfields, because he was in Gympie and Hill End, and those were gold towns.

\*\*\***Ballarat Grammar** didn't come into existence until 1911"

(*Peter Burnett* Director of Development Ballarat Grammar)

\*\*\***Ballarat and Clarendon college:-**Ballarat College commenced on Wednesday 6 July 1864. (Wikipedia)

\*\*\***I've also emailed Geelong Grammar**, reply--"I have checked our records and there were no students attending this school by the name given. The school began in 1855 "

\*\*\***I've emailed Melbourne Uni** re his education there:- reply "I'm afraid we have no student record for John Richardson McWilliam or McWilliams. This means he was never enrolled in any course at the University."

Regards,Jane Ellen, University of Melbourne Archives

\*\*\***I've emailed Buninyong Historical society re their school .** \_

" I looked at our records of pupils attending the Buninyong Presbyterian School in the 1850s, and could find no record of McWilliam. Have you tried Scots College in Melbourne as a possibility?"

Anne Beggs Sunter, Buninyong and District Historical Society.

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\*\*\***I've emailed Melbourne Grammar School** \_

(Founded on 7 April 1858 as the **Melbourne Church of England Grammar School**, ) from wikipedia. their

reply:-

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the education of your great grandfather John Richardson McWilliam. Melbourne Grammar School was established in 1858 and not surprisingly given your great grandfather's age when the School was founded we do not have a record of him having been a student. You may like to try Scotch College as they were established in 1851, the Archivist is Mr Jim Mitchell and he can be contacted by email at [jim.mitchell@scotch.vic.edu.au](mailto:jim.mitchell@scotch.vic.edu.au) "

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\*\*\***I've emailed Scotch College**\_

"I fear we have no record that he came here. The earliest McWilliam here was born in the 1890s. should add that our records only start with full accuracy in 1857 (as the first Principal, 1851-56, took the books with him when he left!) and thus in cases such as your great-grandfather's, where he may have attended in the years 1853-56, we cannot say that he definitely did not attend. we do know of many of the pupils from those first years, and, as I say, he is not among them. "

Good luck in your quest, Jim Mitchell, MA, PhD

Archivist,Scotch College,Morrison Street,Hawthorn

### \*Reply to my letter to Bar Association of Queensland re John's admission as a Barrister.

"The best place to contact on this would be the Supreme Court Library as at the time to which you refer (1870)

Admission as a barrister went through the Supreme Court. When you were admitted as a barrister it was actually your admission to the Supreme Court. At the time of being admitted, your name was entered on the Roll of Barristers. As far as I am aware, the Supreme Court hold these records."

Donna Rea, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive.

### \*Reply to query from Old University re John McWilliam and his admission to the Bar:-

"Your inquiry has been passed onto me in the Fryer Library.

I checked the publication, "History of the Queensland Bar" and found no reference to McWilliam/s.

I am sending you the webpage for The Supreme Court Library. I'm sure they will be able to assist you."

Ms Cassie Doyle

# Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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## Research: (cont.)

Fryer Library  
University of Queensland.

### \*Reply to request for look-up in "History of the Q'ld Bar"

"I am writing in response to your request asking me to look in Ross Johnston, *History of the Queensland Bar* (1979) for any reference to John Richardson McWilliam/s.

Unfortunately, there is no mention of John Richardson McWilliam in *History of the Queensland Bar*.

I have, however, contacted the Registry (they maintain the legal rolls of Qld), and asked them if they are able to look up the legal rolls around 1870 and confirm that he was admitted to the Bar in that year. I am still waiting for a reply from them but I will contact you as soon as I have heard either way"

Yours faithfully,

Anita Dawbarn, Research Officer  
Supreme Court of Queensland Library, The Law Courts Complex  
304 George Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000 26-2-2009

### **AND**

"Further to your query about whether JR McWilliam was admitted as a barrister in Queensland, I found in our collection the letters saying that McWilliam qualified for admission (I believe these are probably the same ones you have from State Archives). However, I have checked the barristers legal roll from that time and he was not admitted in 1870. A scan of that page of the roll is attached, although unfortunately it does not copy well and is difficult to read. Having looked at in person, however, I can definitely say that McWilliam did not appear on it.

As to your question about the education required to qualify as a barrister at that time, please see the attached chapter from Ross Johnston, *History of the Queensland Bar*. I have also attached the Rules Relating to the admission of Barristers, Solicitors, Proctors and Conveyancers as published in the Queensland Law Calender, 1871, for your interest.

I hope this is of assistance to you."

Kind regards,

Anita Dawbarn, Research Officer.

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Business in Rockhampton with Younger

MINING WRITER AT HILL END.

Request to State Library for look-up, 6/8/2009 :-

Good afternoon,

My g.g/father, John Richardson McWilliam, was the Mining Reporter for the "Hill End Times" for a year or so, during 1874/5. There seems to be one copy of one edition at the Library, and I wonder if you could look at it, and see if there are any of his writings, please?

Bib ID 1153314

Format Journal/Newspaper

Publisher Hill End, N.S.W. : George William Morison, [1870]-

Description v. : ill. ; 59 cm.

Notes "Circulating throughout Hill End, Tambaroora, Bathurst, Sofala, Hargraves, Mudgee, Gulgong, Windeyer, and the western mining districts". Description based on: Vol. 4, no. 406 (Aug. 7, 1875).

Our response was:

Dear Mrs Glover

Thank you for your inquiry. I have searched through the issues of the Hill End and Tambaroora times and miners' advocate" which the State Library of New South Wales holds on microfilm. There were only 3 issues of that newspaper from 1875 but none from 1874.

I could not find any references to a John Richardson McWilliam in this newspaper. There were very few articles, (mostly advertisements and notices), and the articles were not signed. There was also no information about the contributors to the newspaper. There was a little mining news contained in the newspaper but it was not attributed to any particular writer. If you would like me to copy a page or two from the 1875 issues.....

Julie Sweeten

Librarian, Access and Information.

LATER:-

Dear Mrs Glover

As requested, I have copied the relevant Mining news pages from the Hill End newspaper from 1875.

There were only 3 issues held on microfilm and two had been copied from a print copy which had been in very poor

Individual Report for John Richardson McWILLIAM

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Research: (cont.)

condition. There are small sections missing but most of the article is readable. I will send the relevant pages to you in the mail today. (I replied with thanks)

(I received the pages, there are Mining Reports, but nothing is signed. Also, the papers are for the year after John left Hill End.)

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"Early Shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863. Winifred Davenport and Betty Mottram.

These names probably aren't JR McWm.

"Clarence"....2-6-1863...McWilliam....Page 174.

"Queensland" ...8-6-1863...McWilliam....P. 175

"Queensland" ...22-10-1863...McWilliam....P. 207

"Clarence" ...25-10-1863...R.McWilliam...P. 207

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Source Citations

1. Winifred Davenport and Betty Mottram, "Early shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863 (N.p.: n.p., n.d.), 2: 130. Surety: 4; "Queensland" J R McWilliam...6-11-1862...Mail Steamer, Capt. Patullo.
2. <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> ., "Exports," *The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864)* , 1-4-1863, p. 2; digital images. Surety: 4.
3. Winifred Davenport and Betty Mottram, "Early shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863 (N.p.: n.p., n.d.), 2: 192. Surety: 4; Records taken from "The Moreton Bay Courier".
4. <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> ., "Commercial News," *The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864)* , 3-11-1863, p. 2; digital images. Surety: 4.
5. "Business Advertisement.," (*Rockhampton.*) *The Morning Bulletin* ., 14-3-1863. Surety: 3.
6. J.T.S Bird, *The Early History of Rockhampton.*, "The Early History of Rockhampton" by J.T.S.Bird. Surety: 4.
7. <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> ., "Shipping News.," *The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864)* , 6-4-1864, p. 2; digital images. Surety: 4.
8. <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> ., "Shipping News," *The Brisbane Courier.*, 11-11-1864, p. 2; digital images. Surety: 4.
9. Debra Thurtell, *Title " Rockhampton in 1866 " [manuscript]* (N.p.: n.p., 1980), Physical Description 53 leaves : ill., 2 maps; 31 cm. Surety: 4.
10. "Business Advertisement.," (*Rockhampton.*) *The Morning Bulletin* ., 20-Jan-1866. Surety: 4.
11. Mudgee, NSW., Australia, J.R.McWilliam household. Surety: 3.
12. Queensland State Archives, Queensland State Archives. Surety: 4.
13. NSW : The Cudgegong Rate Books 1860-1905, Surety: 4.
14. Back to Coonamble Executive Committee (N.S.W.), "*Back to Coonamble.*" (NSW.: Published by the Direct Publicity Company, under the auspices of the "Back to Coonamble" Executive Committee, 1925, n.d.). Surety: 4.

Australia. Mudgee, NSW. J.R.McWilliam household..

Back to Coonamble Executive Committee (N.S.W.), . *"Back to Coonamble."*. NSW.: Published by the Direct Publicity Company, under the auspices of the "Back to Coonamble" Executive Committee, 1925, n.d.

Davenport, Winifred and Betty Mottram. *"Early shipping into Moreton Bay" 1860-1863*. N.p.: n.p., n.d.

J.T.S Bird, The Early History of Rockhampton.

Queensland. Brisbane. *The Brisbane Courier*..

Queensland. Brisbane. *The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864)* .

Queensland. Rockhampton. *"The Morning Bulletin"*..

Thurtell, Debra. *Title " Rockhampton in 1866 " [manuscript]*. N.p.: n.p., 1980.