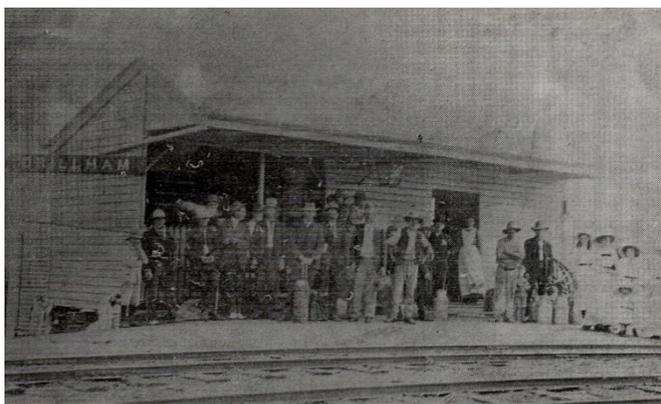


Excerpt from the 75th anniversary Look Back With Pride Souvenir Book 1899 – 1974



DRILLHAM RAILWAY STATION—1909



AN EARLIER PHOTO



GROUP OF DRILLHAM RESIDENTS about turn of century

The first building used as a school in Drillham was privately owned and was available for only a short time.

“Application for a provisional school at Drillham was made on February 16, 1899. The total cost of the building, offices, tanks and furniture was estimated by the applicants at 100 pounds.

The original school building was provided by the residents of Drillham as a temporary measure, and seems to have existed for sometime prior to the establishment of the school. In a letter from Mr Mobbs (secretary of the school committee) on January 2, 1899, the accommodation is described: the size of room to receive pupils 22 x 12ft. with verandah in front, desks and forms off (sic); a temporary description which seat 20 or more pupils, chair and table, also closet accommodation (sic); accommodation (sic) which can be given to teacher. If the teacher is desirous of doing for themselves (sic) there are attached to the schoolroom two rooms 8 x 11ft. each which are at the teacher’s disposal.”

The residents of Drillham had expressed a preference for a female teacher. Mrs Mary Harper (nee Curran) was transferred to drillham from Christiansburg Provisional School. She was born in Irreland in 1867 and had trained as a paid monitress in Cahirciveen Convent School. After her period at Drillham, her next transfer was to Sandy Cape Provisional School, taking up duty there on January 1, 1901.

In her report of September 21, 1899, Mrs Harper writes that: “Altogether there will probably be between 30 and 40 children enrolled in a short time and an average of 25 – 35 may be expected.”

On October 9, 1899, the committee was informed that 10 acres of Crown land had been made available for proclamation as a school reserve.

The tenders were received for the building of a permanent school. The lowest was accepted – 94.10 pounds for cypress pine, rather than the more expensive hardwood. The successful tenderer, A. C. Bond, claimed to have made an error in his tender, but amended tender of 99.19 was accepted.

The new building was completed by February 14, 1900 and was inspected by Mr Richard Hodson. In his report of February 26, 1900 he says only the: “The buildings throughout seem to be thoroughly and honestly put up”.

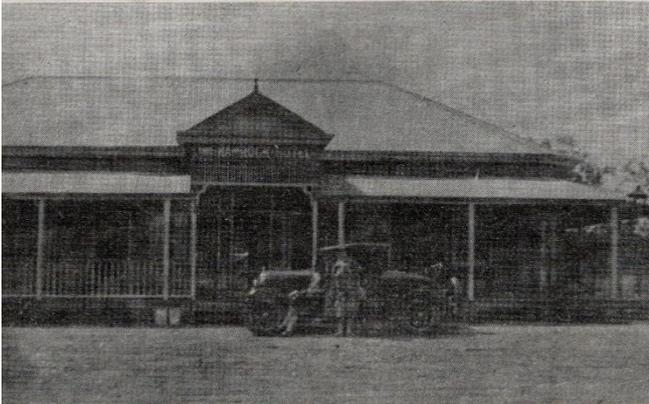
The Government paid a subsidy of 79.12 pounds towards the cost of the building.

In 1900 the School Committee proposed to build an extension to the existing building because of lack of space. However, despite complaints of the lack of space, the Department of Public Instruction refused to subsidise the project. The committee eventually decided to carry out the work at their own expense.

On July 31, 1903, Alfred Devitt (secretary to the committee) notified the Department that: “the work is completed to match the original building in the matter of timber, iron, workmanship etc”.



RAILWAY HOTEL—the first hotel (1908)



DRILLHAM'S SECOND HOTEL



CAMERON'S STORE

This addition cost 20 pounds and Devitt was soon asking the Department for desks and forms, saying that the committee had no fund left.

On May 25, 1922, the committee made application to have the school building removed to another site “on the opposite side of the creek” because of the dangerous crossing. However, after an inspector’s report on the matter, the Department notified the committee on September 1, 1922 that approval could not be given. But permission was given for a shed to be moved from Warooby State School to Drillham, as both the committee and the inspector and complained of the lack of shade at the school. (Q.S.A. 38/793)

In March, 1970 when the building was of no further use to the Education Department, it was purchased for \$45 and moved to the Miles and District Museum at a cost of \$400. A further extension has been added and it has been transformed into a very comfortable caretaker’s cottage, for the further expense of \$2100.

This building now bears the name “Freeman Cottage” in recognition of the Society’s Patron at the time – Mr T. B. Freeman of “Monreagh”, Columboola.

More information about the Drillham State School’s upcoming 125th anniversary celebrations and regular updates can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Drillham125years> or Instagram @drillham125anniversary or the Drillham State School website <https://drillhamss.eq.edu.au/>

Alternatively, you can contact Madonna Moore on 0417 775 494 or the school on 07 4627 6289.