

Canon Robert TAYLOR:

Robert Taylor b.1834, son of Robert Taylor of Brighton, England, married Elizabeth Stevenson b.1829, daughter of G. Stevenson of Piltown, Kent, on 27th February 1855, and the same year came to Australia. Robert was one of the first four Students at Moore Theological College, then at Liverpool.

From 1859-1860 he was Curate-in-Charge of St.Barnabas', Sydney; was Priested 1860 by the Bishop of Sydney and, in July, was appointed to St.Paul's, Castle Hill, Dural and Pennant Hills - the Parish extended to Pearce's Corner. St.Paul's Church, Castle Hill, was under construction and was consecrated by the Bishop of Sydney in 1861.

Services at Pearce's Corner were held in the house of Mr. Herbert C. Fowler, who donated three-quarters of an acre of land, and Robert an additional chain to the road, making more than an acre, and the first St.Paul's - a wooden structure - was erected in 1861, and was used also as a School.

Fiftyfive years later Robert's <sup>2nd</sup> youngest son, Stephen, was appointed Rector of St.Paul's & St.Andrew's, Wahroonga, and a stone Church had replaced the wooden one.

In 1866-68 Robert was Curate of Newtown; 1868-70 he was Curate-in-Charge; and 1870 was appointed Rector, which position he held until he died in 1907.

In 1884-88 he also was Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Macdonaldtown;  
1872 Chaplain of Camperdown Cemetery,  
1883 Chaplain of Prince Alfred Hospital,  
1884 Dean of West Sydney,  
1891 Canon of St.Andrew's Cathedral.

He served at St.Stephen's, Newtown, for fortyone and a half years.

Transport would have been by foot or buggy.

Robert and Elizabeth had nine children. The eldest daughter, Raynor, married REV. REG. NOAKE Two of their children <sup>Reginald and Arthur</sup> were Priests, and a grandson was Keith Noake, a well-known Church Organist in Sydney, and Newcastle Cathedral.

Robert's <sup>second</sup> youngest son, Stephen, was ordained in England in 1894, and returned to Australia and worked with his father from 1895-1898.

Robert's first wife died in 1897, and in 1898 he married Deaconess Mary Schleicher. Mary's father was Rector of St.Paul's, Castle Hill, 1877-1885. Mary was a greatly loved member of the Mothers' Union in Sydney - she died in 1947. There is a book "How the Church was built" about St.Stephen's. All monies for its building came through prayer. Robert worked hard and expected his Staff to do likewise, and depended on prayer for results. He would have nothing to do with money-raising efforts.

Robert was noted for his forty minutes Sermons!

There is a statement about him in a letter of recommendation for his son, Stephen, when leaving Sydney Grammar School in 1889 - "... the son of one of the hardest-working and most respected Clergy in the Diocese."