

HERITAGE PROTECTION SOCIETY (TASMANIA) INC.  
[REDACTED] LAUNCESTON TASMANIA 7250

6 December 2017

The General Manager  
Mr Michael Stretton  
Launceston City Council  
Town Hall  
St John Street  
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

By email only to [contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

**Re: DA0585/2017 Demolition of exiting dwellings at 202 George Street Launceston.**

We refer our previously submitted representation dated 27 November 2017, and forward this additional information put together by our various researchers, and dealing with the earlier period to that when Sister Rita Whitelaw established Malonga Private Hospital for maternity patients there in 1929.

"Fullers Letters" 1836-47 describes that corner of George and Balfour Streets to be vacant land.

Map dated 1856, shows the corner of George and Balfour Streets to be granted to John James (or Jones?).

Lands Grant Map (undated) records that the land was granted to William H. Kidd.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1879, William Hepburn Kidd purchased 22 Balfour Street for 80 pounds, a sizeable piece of land that abutted other land also owned by Kidd.

William Kidd was born c1828 (or was this 1824, as he was aged 68 when he died in 1892) in Laming England, and travelled to Tasmania on "Whirlwind" 31 March 1855. He was the first teacher to be brought to Tasmania under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education by whom he was paid 100 pounds + forage.

From notes prepared by historian Dennis Hodgkinson, August 1980, he says of W. H. Kidd and Mrs Janet Kidd (she was actually Jessie Wood Kidd) – "They arrived in Tasmania in the ship 'Elizabeth' on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1855, being among eight teachers brought out by the Tasmanian Government."

“At first, Mr Kidd taught at the Evandale Public School in 1855 where there were 40 boarders. In 1872, he taught at the St John’s Public School, Elizabeth Street, Launceston near St Johns Church” (now part of Colonial Motor Inn).

“Mr. Kidd’s wife, taught in the Infant School, Frederick Street for 37 years. This old building dates back to 1836, and is still in use.”

The head teacher of Charles Street School, in 1886, was Mr. W. H. Kidd, who had been a teacher in England before he came to Tasmania with his wife..... who was also a teacher.”

“Mr. & Mrs. Kidd retired in 1892. They lived in George Street.”

“Mr. Kidd died that year and his wife in 1896.”

They had several children; a son Robert, was a doctor in Evandale and his influenza mixture is still being sold in Launceston. A daughter, Jane,[or Jane?] married a doctor, Dr S. J. Richards, who died at Gallipoli in World War 1.”

Supporting this information, can be found various references:-

Von Stieglitz says that W. H. Kidd was in charge of the school at Evandale until 1871, founded by Rev. Robert Russell as a Parish School for boarders and a day school. He was father of Dr. Robert Kidd of Evandale (famous for Dr. Kidd’s Influenza elixir). He was also Evandale Librarian from 1857.

The Examiner newspaper 6<sup>th</sup>. July 1886 – RICHARDS KIDD on 18<sup>th</sup> June at the residence of the bride’s parents, Upper George Street, Launceston, by the Rev. J. Lyle. Samuel J., second son of M. J. Richards to Jessie Russell, youngest daughter of W. H. Kidd.

Evandale was important to Kidd and his family.

The death notice in The Examiner newspaper on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1892, announced the death of William Hepburn Kidd on 4<sup>th</sup>.August 1892 aged 68 years, funeral leaving his late residence, Upper George Street to go to the Presbyterian Church Evandale on 6<sup>th</sup>. August. He was buried in the St Andrews Presbyterian churchyard alongside his 5 year old son and 19 year old daughter who had pre-deceased him.

The death notice in The Examiner newspaper of 17<sup>th</sup>. October 1896, for his wife Jessie Wood Kidd, said that the funeral would leave her Upper George Street residence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. October, at 2pm, proceeding along Lawrence Vale Road and arriving at Evandale at 4.30 pm. The obituary of the same date said that the couple were sent to Tasmania by the English Government as trained teachers and arrived in Evandale in 1856.

### **Summation**

The Kidds moved from Evandale to Launceston in c1871 to take up new teaching positions. Presumably they moved straight into the residence at 202 George Street, but in any event, they already owned it in 1879 when they purchased the adjoining property at 22 Balfour Street.

They were certainly in residence by 1886, when their daughter married.

They remain in residence until W. H. Kidd died in 1892, and Mrs. J. W. Kidd in 1896.

### **Significance**

William Hepburn Kidd and Jessie Wood Kidd were important pioneering teachers who were responsible for their work from 1856 at Parish School, Evandale, Lending Library, Evandale, St John’s Public School, Launceston, Charles Street Model School, Launceston, and Infant School, Launceston, until their retirement in 1892.

We note from Mr Jamieson's letter dated 30 November 2017, the undertaking that Council's assigned planner " **will make contact shortly to discuss the issues that concern you and to identify if these can be addressed within the scope of the planning assessment. This process may involve you being requested to attend a meeting with the applicant. Your views will be taken into account as part of the final assessment**".

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

*Lionel Morrell*

Architect and Heritage Consultant

President

**HERITAGE PROTECTION SOCIETY (TASMANIA) INC.**