

Industry, Society, Politics, and Ideology in the Runcorn-Sunnybank-Kuraby Communities

1880-1950

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What follows in this draft research paper are historical sketches of the Runcorn area with attention to the local communities across the interconnected Runcorn-Sunnybank-Kuraby districts, from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The location is marked by the 'main Brisbane Road', Beenleigh Road, a spine pathway from the railway crossing at Kuraby to the historic intersection with Mains and Pineland Roads. Running parallel with Beenleigh Road, for most of the way, was the old South Coast-Beenleigh Railway Line. Dominating the landscape in this era was the fruit farms to the north of the road-rail passage, the major fruit production for the greater Brisbane region, and to the south, paddocks and dense scrub. It gave the landscape a picturesque country feel – open road, racing with stream trains, and bush with flat farming land as far as the eye could see. Contra nostalgia, it did not just happen as distant memory. There is a complicated story to tell of the land and its people. The reports of the first land sales in the Runcorn Estate occurred in 1880.¹ The first commercial transportation infrastructure for the Runcorn farms came in early 1885 with the opening of the Runcorn platform on the South Coast Line.² Alfred Williams' nursery, close to the Runcorn station, was well-known to the residents of the Brisbane Township through several reports in *The Brisbane Courier*, where Williams was prominent as a journalistic source for the local agricultural happenings.³ Although it appears trivial to an urban audience, one such happening was the alarm among the local farmers that the Runcorn Bone Mills were exporting too much fertilizer product to New Zealand, ensuring a short-supply in the local market.⁴ The gossip may have been a marketing ploy of the Messrs. Clazy, Main, and Smith, owners of the Mill, to increase the demand in the local market. They were currently selling 100 tons in the Queensland colony compared to 500 tons in New Zealand.



A Sunnybank Farm in 1935, BCA, BCC-B120-81164

With better foresight, the Runcorn and Coopers Plains Fruitgrowers' Associations were part of a campaign against urban dwellers carrying out weekend bird shooting events, in the surrounding

bush of their farmland. The local campaign action was led by Alfred Williams, then the Chairman of the Yeerongpilly Divisional Board. They were seeking the implementation of the Native Birds Protection Act. Williams was reported:

... that Sunday shooting was becoming a perfect nuisance in all the districts around Brisbane, and that fruit-growers were, in danger of being deprived of their best friends, the insectivorous birds. On a recent Sunday he found a ship's company, from a large vessel in the Brisbane River, marching through his grounds and shooting at everything they saw. When spoken to by him they politely said they were not aware that there was a law in force against the unnecessary use of firearms on Sunday, nor that the native birds were protected. This was only one instance of many ; for not a Sunday passed without shooting parties of a similar kind destroying little birds— a destruction that it would take years to rectify, for it was found that once the birds are frightened away from a district they are very slow in returning. There were many places around Brisbane where there were scarcely any small birds left, in spite of the law. The other day he had drawn the attention of a policeman to a boy who was actually carrying protected birds along Stanley-street, but that official either did not know the law, or had no instructions to act. He strongly urged the members of the association in their various neighbourhoods to support him in putting a stop to this nuisance of Sunday shooting, which was so evidently destroying the best natural protection fruit-growers had from the insects that, when not kept down, made the growing of good fruit an impossibility.⁵



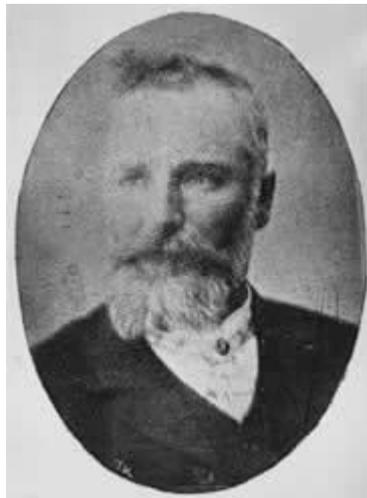
Runcorn State School, April 1951, QSA 1084412

The major start in the cultural development in the Runcorn area can be marked by the coming of formal primary education, in the establishment of Runcorn State School in 1901. Primary schools in this era were more than basic educational facilities for young children. They were important cultural sites for the local community, not only for arts and crafts, but for religious and political debates, in spite of state school policy of partisan neutrality. The official opening of the provisional school on Wednesday 10 July 1901 was an occasion for bringing together the local community with important figures in Queensland educationalist history. The local community was represented by William Main, the school's Chairman of the Building Committee, along with James Stodart, the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Logan between 1896 and 1918. Stodart was a very influential

political figure for the times. A. L. Lougheed, in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry, said of Stodart:

He held broad liberal views and favoured Federation, moderate protection, closer settlement and immigration of 'the yeoman class'. He opposed the indiscriminate introduction of Pacific islanders, wanting them restricted to tropical industries and segregated from large population centres. In his electorate, where he owned a sugar mill, he enthusiastically supported the establishment of the co-operative Farmers' Industrial Association.⁶

Stodart was accompanied by another parliamentarian, Thomas Bridges, the Member for Nundah. Among the dignitaries who made up the official party, which travelled by the South Coast line from South Brisbane to Sunnybank Station, were the Minister for Education, John Murray, and his Under-Secretary, John Anderson. After the school committee had met the official party at the Sunnybank Station, and transported to the Runcorn Provisional School by drays or horse-drawn cab (?), they were joined by George William Bennett Story and his wife, Ellen Lavinia Story (née Fletcher).⁷



George Story MLA for Balonne 1896-1904. From the 'Former Members' at the Queensland Parliamentary website.

George Story was the Member for Balonne, in South West Queensland, up until 1904. Sometime in this period the Story family became locals with a farm in Runcorn. Story's son, Thomas, was killed by a falling tree near Sunnybank on Thursday 13 August 1903.⁸ While farming, Story established and managed Sturmfels Ltd (from 1907) and acted as a wool and produce agent in Brisbane until retirement in 1925. In May 1907, *The Brisbane Courier* ran a full-page 'political portrait' on George Story and noted:

His life in Tasmania was full of experience which has served him well since, especially at the present time, when he has gone “back to the soil” on his pretty farm at Runcorn on the South Coast Railway, where he resides.⁹

The quote speaks of the Longheed reference to 'the yeoman class' and the ideology of Queensland as an agrarian utopia. Archbishop Duhig in this era was a noted campaigner of the virtue of 'living on the land' and the idea that the majority of Queensland men and boys ought to make their professions or invest their labour in rural industries. These ideas extended from the European romantics who argued that virtues in the good life were obtained in the familial innocence of the countryside and that the townships were the centres of moral corruption. The ideology might help to explain why the Sunnybank-Runcorn districts became a magnet for retirees. Among the commercial farmers and their families were urban dwellers that purchased an acreage or hobby farm as their own retirement home, after prominent careers in the city. One of the most noted retiring family was the Soutters. William Soutter and his wife Martha (Pattie), née Hill, had lived at the Bowen Gardens Estate, where William became the overseer (1885-1898) at the Acclimatization Gardens, Bowen Park. Soutter influenced the development of horticulture in Queensland through his experimental work for the Acclimatization Gardens, and for his contributions to agricultural shows and international exhibitions, as well as his scientific publications.¹⁰ He was the first editor of the "Queensland Horticulturalist", the journal for the Fruit-Growers' Association (Qld.). William and Pattie Soutter's son, Richard Ernest Soutter (1878–1955), became a noted Queensland agricultural scientist. The Soutter seniors purchased a property at Sunnybank ca. 1913, before William retired from his position at the Bowen Gardens, and they named the property, 'Coolibah'.



Soutter Family, 1910, SLQ 122060 (Pattie and William Soutter seated at table)

It is in these years, between the opening of the Runcorn School and the time of World War I, that we get an impression of an emerging urban cultural development, very similar to what was occurring in the Annerley District at the outskirts of the Brisbane Township (see my book, 'No Regrets in the Evening of Life').¹¹ The Brisbane City Archives has images of Runcorn State School Tennis Team 1910 and 1915. The group photograph in 1910 is of a larger group, mostly athletic young adults with a few

seniors and a couple of infants. The photograph in 1915 is of a much smaller group and all young adults; perhaps the influence of the war. In both cases we see very formally dressed individuals and the impression of a rising upper middle class, not what we would expect of rural Runcorn.



Runcorn Tennis Team 1910 (left) and 1915 (right), BCA, BCC-B120-81179, and BCC-B120-81172

There is a cultural development in the district with the migration of socially prominent families, such as the Storys and the Soutters, who have taken up the retiring ‘out-of-town’ semi-rural living. We see a more strident social and political ideology expressed very formatively by Pattie Soutter, poet and lady of letters. From 1911 to 1935, Pattie published around 100 letters to the editor in *The Brisbane Courier*. Pattie was never shy about expressing her political views which were very anti-Labor Party, and, during the war (1914-1918), pro-conscription and pro-recruitment to the point of vitriol. At times her political views were elitist and anti-democratic, such when on 13 May 1913, Soutter supported a call for educational tests for suffrage (this was eight year after – in 1905 – Queensland became the second-last Australian State to grant women the right to vote in state elections) and declared:

...When a man steps out of one of the lower rank of society and offers himself as a legislator and a leader of the people.^[12] This audacity, or shall we rather say the "valour of ignorance," is astounding and could possibly be controlled by the educational and commercial training test. If we have not the powers to enforce this they should be sought and firmly fixed at once...¹³

Among other unpalatable views of Soutter was promoting the ‘Sterilisation of the Unfit’.¹⁴ Soutter argued that women could be trusted with this ‘humanitarian’ and ‘scientific’ role to ‘prevent any interference with the liberty of the subject’. However, as part of her anti-Labor politics was a defence of the cosmopolitan view, what we would call multiculturalism today, and as attack on ‘unionism’ Pattie Soutter was more astute in her criticism of the White Australia Policy:

...I would also ask the preference to unionists persuasion how it happens that the colour of the skin varies, but the colour of the brain does not? I suppose I ought to first apologise for stating this fact, but there is really an intelligence above theirs which created them and all the dwellers on the earth. Now this intelligence, of whose creative laws we have not yet mastered the ABC, has provided that in tropical and subtropical regions, for the better protection of the vital organs, the pigment of the skin should be systematically darkened, and thus nullify the intense heat rays of a tropical sun. Yet in no wise [sic; way] in any race does this affect the grey colour of the brain. I would ask our portion of the community who howl for a white Australia, where do they stand in regard to this very decided law of colour in nature? Are they not with their white skins of a Northern clime altogether in their wrong place? They are not where the creative power placed them. For this, if for no other reason, they should deal thoughtfully, reasonably, and humanly with our darker brethren, who in many instances are quite our equals in the matter of the grey substance of the brain, and in some greatly our superior. They also in the first process of creation are in their right place. We white skins, by the rule of creation, are not. What of the boasted principle of unionism? Is it not the brotherhood of man? Let, then, this ruling power be love of mankind, not colour kind.¹⁵

On a broader agricultural platform, we can see, in the local community in this era, an alliance between the Runcorn-Sunnybank farmers and the local urbanized middle class folks, such as William Soutter with a passion for the emerging scientific horticultural practices. The alliance is well symbolized in the visit of the Queensland Horticultural Society to Alfred Williams' Greenhill nursery on Saturday 27 April 1912. The visit was important because the party included a number of Brisbane's social elite, prominently the attendance of Lady Mary Jane MacGregor, wife of the Queensland Governor, and who was escorted by Albert Norton, a Member of the Legislative Council (previously a Member for Port Curtis). Norton was an enthusiastic gardener and was the President of the Horticultural Society of Queensland. Williams proudly showed off his seedling roses to the distinguished audience, and Mary Ann Williams served afternoon tea.¹⁶

As with all rural districts of Queensland, the war 1914-1919 shaped the political outlook of the local community into the 1920s and 1930s. Farming communities tended to rally around Prime Minister Billy Hughes and the new Nationalist Party, breaking with the Australian Labor Party over Australia's contribution to the war effort. The tensions were unlikely to reach the violence of the Irish rebellion in 1916 and the subsequent Irish Civil War in the years ahead, but the very ugly rhetoric (even worse than Donald Trump in 2016) and the occasional fist fight, melee, and riots, was violence enough. The effort to support Hughes in the very divisive conscription referendum debates of 1916 and 1917 galvanised locally in the Sunnybank Nationalist Council, which centred their meetings and rallies at the Runcorn School.¹⁷ The Liberal Party James Stodart kept his seat of Logan up until 1918. Alfred Arthur James, representing the Labor Party, won the seat of Logan at the 1918 Queensland state election, defeating Reginald MacDonnell King, the Nationalist candidate, but by the time of the 1920

state election, James had switched to the Country Party and lost to Reginald King. King, representing, at various progressions, the Nationalist Party, the Queensland United Party and the Country and Progressive National Party, remained the Member for Logan until 1935. Quite coincidentally, the one-time Education Minister (1929-1932), in retirement, was a keen gardener.¹⁸ From February 1919, Australia-wide, the parliamentary wing of the Nationalist Party was supported by its organisational body, the National Democratic Council (N.D.C.).¹⁹ By the end of 1919, Sunnybank was among the first eight local N.D.C. centres to form (Chelmer was the only other greater Brisbane centre).²⁰ Again, the Runcorn School was the central meeting place for the Nationalist political activities.²¹ Mr. D.M. (Daniel Murray) Henderson, a local fruit-grower and noted resident in the community, was the chairman of the Sunnybank N.D.C.²²



Augustus Cecil Elphinstone, MLA for Oxley 1918-1929. From the 'Former Members' at the Queensland Parliamentary website.

The Queensland Nationalist ideology was pronounced in Sunnybank by the parliamentary leader of the Nationalist Party, Charles Taylor, on Thursday evening 1 December 1921, at the Runcorn School. Taylor made several comments on the 'non-cooperation' from its (informal) coalition partner, the Country Party, and the decision of the Augustus Cecil Elphinstone, the Member of Oxley [²³], to run a three-way contest against its natural ally. The report in *The Brisbane Courier* was entitled "The Revival of Nationalism" and Taylor explained that nationalism opposed 'sectionalism' and represented "...the broad interests of the welfare of the whole State, and so it is able to combine the city worker and the producer, who are declared by the Caucus and the Primary Producers' Union to be opposed to each other."²⁴ Nationalism "...has no association with class legislation or sectionalism. It realises that the city and the country are interdependent, and that capital and labour must pull together for the good of the State."²⁵ Pattie Soutter was also very unimpressed with Elphinstone's three-way contest, but chose to condemn both the Country Party and the N.D.C. Such was Soutter's anti-socialism that the local lady of letters was desperate in pinning her hopes on a strong man in state politics, or an obscure woman as a last resort:

...For seven weary years our ship of State has been floundering along on an uncharted course [²⁶]. The captain [²⁷] has never dared to direct its course from the bridge. Most of the time his mates [²⁸] had him securely locked up in his state room and all navigation orders were issued from the fore-castle. At present she is wallowing in a desperate shoal and as at present directed, will ere long bump her bottom out on the rocks of bankruptcy. To meet this parlous state of things we are thoroughly disorganised and practically leaderless, for the two weak-kneed men [²⁹] who at present have the name should at once stand down and make way for the better man. Surely there is one man amongst us who has sufficient strength of character, diplomacy and tact to take the helm of the Ship of State at this critical juncture. Or shall we the entirely superfluous women voters have to hunt among the ranks of our obscure ones and unearth another "Maid of Orleans" [³⁰] to save Queensland from destruction.³¹

The same sentiments and political arguments, as from Pattie Soutter and Charles Taylor, were expressed at the local N.D.C. meeting at Runcorn School on Saturday 2 December 1922 in relation to the federal election campaign, supporting the Nationalist candidate for Moreton, Captain Josiah Francis.³² The federal electorate of Moreton had been under the control of the Nationalists since 1919.³³ Francis retained the electorate for the Nationalists, and held it until his retirement in 1955, representing it under later party transformations, United Australia Party (1931–1944) and Liberal Party (1944–1955). Henderson chaired the Runcorn meeting and it had the participation of Reginald King, and his Nationalist colleague, James Francis Maxwell, Member for Toowong (1920-1938). Maxwell made wild speculations about the threat of the capitalist system in Australia being overthrown in a matter of a few months. Maxwell praised Hughes as a great leader, quoting commendations of the returned services organisations throughout Australia for Hughes, the Nationalists, and 'the Digger'. A month later, Pattie Soutter was writing to the editor from Coolibar, Sunnybank, reporting on the Rockhampton Convention which had been planning a unity party under the potential state parliamentary leadership of Sir Thomas Glasgow. Soutter declared in saccharine and proto-military terms:

Let us hope, for our benefit, that he, like his prototype, Abram Lincoln, will hear the call of his State, and come to her aid, for we have need of him. With such a leader, and such an army of stalwarts behind, what can we not accomplish with our united effort? With the great lever of a good purpose we can most surely lift our glorious State out of the morass of debt and disorder, into which she is now plunged, and once more place her in her unassailable position, Queensland of the States!³⁴

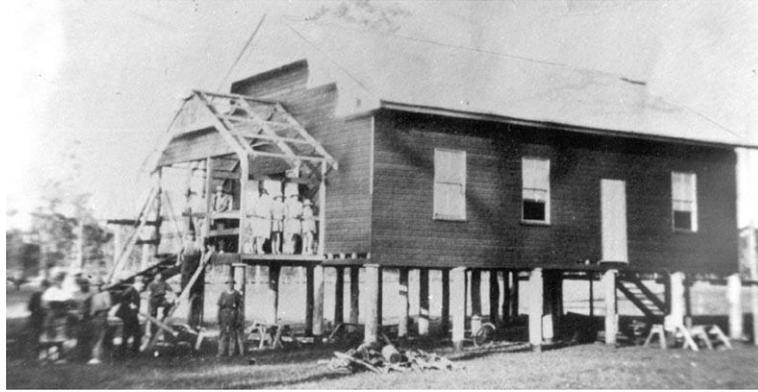
The former Australian World War I General and Queensland Nationalist Senator (since 1919) had more strategic sense, and remained in the federal parliament, to become the Minister for Home and Territories, Minister for Defence, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.³⁵ Eventually,

after losing his Senate spot in the 1931 election, Glasgow did fulfil some form of the earlier hopes by becoming the President of the Queensland branch of the United Australia Party.



Alderman Frederick Arthur Stimpson, c. 1928, BCA BCC-B120-32751

The preceding sketch covered the socio-political culture of Runcorn on the state and federal arena. At this level the Runcorn School was a centre which stretched the attention outwards into the sphere of the Sunnybank Township and beyond. On the level of local government, Runcorn came more into its own from the Greater Brisbane scheme (1925); whereas the area had previously been socially subsumed in the very large rural region of the Yeerongpilly Shire Council. From 1925 the area of Runcorn-Sunnybank became part of the Oxley Ward with Frederick Arthur Stimpson as the first alderman and who held the position until 1931. However, by this time the Runcorn-Sunnybank area became part of the Logan Ward, represented by Alderman Robert Ellersleigh Nixon-Smith. By the 1932 election the Runcorn-Sunnybank area was part of the Wynnum Ward, which was weirdly contrary to the usual urbanised pattern in electoral distribution. It was a large stretch in the ward boundaries. The district alignment with ward boundaries got worse. By the 1937 election the polling booths at Runcorn Progress Hall and the Sunnybank School of Arts Hall were in the Wynnum Ward. The polling booths at Runcorn State School and Sunnybank's Potten's Post Office Store were in the Oxley Ward, which also, somehow, included the Kuraby State School. The awkward division through distinctive sets of communities would have made no sense then as it does today. The Oxley Ward had been represented since 1931 by John Edward Lane, who retained his position until 1952. The Wynnum Ward was initially represented by William Logan Dart. Both Lane and Dart were part of the Citizens' Municipal Organisation running against Labor candidates. Willie Russell McNeill Howard was the Citizens' Municipal Organisation elected alderman for the Wynnum Ward from 1940. The split community by the wards remained until the 1952 election when the whole Runcorn-Sunnybank and the Kuraby areas became part of the new Sherwood Ward, and the Oxley Ward ceased. John Edward Lane, now under the 'Sherwood Municipal Organisation' campaign, lost to the new Alderman Thomas Reginald Groom, the official Citizens' Municipal Organisation candidate.



Runcorn Progress Hall, 1925, BCA, BCC-B120-81163

The local community was also represented by the Runcorn Progress Association, which formed just before the Greater Brisbane amalgamation, on Monday evening 14 July 1924. The first President was a Mr Oliver, Vice-President – Mr Tuke, Secretary – Mr Whineup, Treasurer – Mr A.C. Boorman, and the rest of the Committee – Fitzell, Brackley, Warburton, Swanston, and King.³⁶ The first items of business were the dangerous state on portions of Beenleigh Road ('main Brisbane Road'), adjustments to the level crossing near the Runcorn platform, and a request to the Federal member to have a public telephone installed at the Runcorn Railway Station. In a year and half the Runcorn Progress Association was able to produce their own new hall, opened by the Mayor, William Alfred Jolly.³⁷ Jolly, supported by Alderman Stimpson, were there singing the praises of the Greater Brisbane Scheme. They also emphasised the importance of community self-reliance and saw the progress associations as the way residents could participated "in the work of civic government, instead of expecting the council to do everything for them." Still, Jolly generously arranged for the Parks Committee to grant nine acres surrounding the hall for recreation; hence, much of the sporting grounds and parkland along Nathan Road we see today.



Runcorn Cricket Club - Premiers of Turf 1956, BCA, BCC-B120-81169

It is, therefore, not surprising that we get from newspapers more frequent reports of sporting meets and fetes, and of sporting clubs, in the Runcorn area from the mid-1920s and onwards. The very first Runcorn picnic sports meeting for the area was held on Saturday 4 September 1926.³⁸ The chief activities were tug-of-wars, wood-chopping, and various races. By 1933 the annual event, now called the 'Runcorn Fete and Sports', took on a carnival atmosphere.³⁹ The focus of the competitions were, perhaps, less of the athletic sports, more of the awards for such things as sponge and fruit cakes, scones and damper, knitting, sweet pea displays, and the prize for the most popular baby. Mrs G. Mackenzie's baby won the silver mug. In the same year (1933) the Runcorn Tennis Club was reformed with two new tennis courts opened on Sunday 9 July.⁴⁰ The reconstituted club was more prestigious than what we can see of its earlier pre-World War I version (see above). Thomas Nimmo, the Member for Oxley 1929-1943, was the club's patron, and Alderman Robert Nixon-Smith was its vice-patron. One of the club's vice-presidents was the federal member, Josiah Francis. It is probable that the political representatives were not very active on the local courts, but the linkages say much about the social status of the tennis community in Runcorn. As with the earlier organisation, the community tennis club was formally the Runcorn State School Tennis Club, but it is quite clear that the club was run by, and participated from, the wider group of residents, and not merely the children, parents and teachers of the school. It again indicates that, in the early and mid-twentieth century, the primary schools acted as the key community centres of social and political activities.



William Powell Home, Kuraby c. 1926, SLQ 181747.

In fact, there were some major activities where the local community participated in larger schemes for the state of Queensland. The William Powell Home is a prime example. The idea was first proposed and developed by the Queensland Methodist Conference in 1915. Well-known Queensland Methodist preacher and former President, William Powell, had gained the idea during his visit to England in the year before. Upon Rev. William Powell's death in August 1922, the decision was made to name the pending facility in his honour.⁴¹ The concept was for a place of transition for those who had served-out their prison sentence and needed "to obtain suitable employment in favourable surroundings."⁴² By 1918 public funding was being raised for the scheme which was now being proposed to be placed in Runcorn. In the end the location was made in near-by Kuraby. The William Powell Home was officially opened on Saturday afternoon 18 November 1922, by the

Queensland Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, who declared very bleakly, and with the certain airs of romanticist arrogance:

For all of us the chariot of life is harnessed to our passions and desires. It depends on early training whether the will is strong enough to hold the reins and keep the pulling steeds on the right road by the use of the whip of reason.⁴³

It was probably not the merciful vision that late William Powell had, and it is a future research project to investigate further the history of this local institution. However, what we do know is that the home did not exist as an isolated religious institution. It was constructed as a working farm with a local farmer's house and workers' barracks for the discharged prisoners. The appearance is something of a prison farm. There is certainly a worthy history book yet to be published on the William Powell Home.



Williams Paddock, Runcorn, August 1937. Photo by Mr Frank Beauvalet.

By the late 1920s and early 1930s the Runcorn Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society had become very active in the community. The formation of the Society is shrouded in controversial circumstance. The President, Mr G. Stombuco, had announced in August 1928 that the Runcorn Society had begun when a decision was made to withdraw from the Sunnybank Society, and “form a more comprehensive society, embracing not only Runcorn and Sunnybank, but Kuraby, Eight-Mile Plains and surrounding districts as well.”⁴⁴ Stombuco explained that the first object of the society was to hold an annual agricultural horticultural and industrial show on a big scale. By 1936 the show became a carnival including a ‘baby show’.⁴⁵ There was also a cookery competition. The agricultural shows tell much about the life on the farming land in Runcorn, but it will have to wait for further investigations. We have here only a few insights by way of history sketches. For the moment, it can be noted that one significant event in the local agricultural history was a very large loss of the tomato crop in the Runcorn district during November 1933.⁴⁶ The other major events were campaigns for local, state, and federal governments to provide adequate public services and utilities

to the outlying areas, such as public telephones and postal deliveries, schools, and sealed roadways.⁴⁷

The landscape in Runcorn-Sunnybank-Kuraby areas was changing as these urban constructs were introduced. The paper here started with the Williams' Greenhill Nursery in the 1880s. From a photograph in *The Brisbane Courier*, August 1937, we find not the nursery, but Williams' paddock, a site of landing accident of a gipsy moth.⁴⁸ The site had been operating as an Emergency Landing Ground for Archerfield airfield since April 1931. There has been mention of another emergency landing in November 1931, a Ryan monoplane.⁴⁹ As a rough kind of imitation of the history, in August 2013, a Jabiru J170 was forced to make an emergency landing in the St Laurence's College playing fields; close-by to what had been the Williams' paddock.⁵⁰



Runcorn Quarry, 1940. SLQ 63547

Planes falling out of the sky were the omen in the 1930s that the days of a rural Runcorn was coming to an end. With its going, and with rapid urbanisation in the late twentieth century, would come new and more diverse societies, new politics, new ideas (with also the recycling of old ideologies), and new industries. The Runcorn Quarry, which operated in the 1940s, is good example of a new emerging urban industry which the Brisbane City Council was developing in the outer Brisbane Southside. Much of the crushed rocks were used for local gravel streets and roads. Today, that quarry hole in Runcorn is the site of the Queensland State Archives. It is here that is housed state governmental records; what is an extraordinary research potential for local history. The State Archives, along with the records held by the Brisbane City Archives in Moorooka, holds the great possibilities to produce something far better than the Runcorn history sketches as we have in this paper. Sketches are okay on amateur standards, but if future generations – a far more astute generation of young and virile minds – are to care about local history, a fuller and detailed history is needed.

ENDNOTES

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- ¹ Abstract of Sales by Auction this Day. *The Brisbane Courier*. Monday 3 May 1880, p. 2.
- ² The Logan Railway. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 23 January 1885, p. 5.
- ³ Green Hill Nursery. *The Brisbane Courier*. Saturday 27 March 1886, p. 9; *The Brisbane Courier*. Saturday 8 February 1890, p. 4.
- ⁴ Farmers and Protection. *The Brisbane Courier*. Monday 9 April 1888, p. 6.
- ⁵ Fruitgrowers' Association. Runcorn and Cooper's Plains. Destruction of Native Birds. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 12 October 1897, p. 2.
- ⁶ A. L. Loughheed, 'Stodart, James (1849–1922)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stodart-james-8672/text15167>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 18 October 2016.
- ⁷ There are no apparent family relations between George Story and John Douglas Story, and the noted Queensland educationalist and Vice-Chancellor. George W.B. Story was born 24 March 1849 in Colac, Victoria, and he did not migrate to Queensland until 1882. John D. Story was born on 7 August 1869 at Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland, and his parents immigrated with the family to Queensland, arriving in Brisbane on 15 September 1877.
- ⁸ [Death of Thomas Story]. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 14 August 1903.
- ⁹ The "Courier" Political Portrait Gallery. Mr G.W.B. Story. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 3 May 1907, p. 10.
- ¹⁰ see <http://eheritage.metadata.net/record/QLD-601523>
- ¹¹ Neville Buch. *No Regrets in the Evening of Life: The History of Junction Park State School (1888-2013)*. Boolarong Press, 2015.
- ¹² As punctuated in the original published letter, i.e. not a full propositional sentence. It is most likely that the first full-stop should have been a comma.
- ¹³ Educational Test, For Suffrage. To The Editor. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 13 May 1913, p.7.
- ¹⁴ Sterilisation of the Unfit. *The Courier-Mail*. Wednesday 10 January 1934, p. 10.
- ¹⁵ Penalising the Indians. To The Editor. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 14 September 1915, p. 5.
- ¹⁶ Horticulturists' Visit. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 30 April 1912, p. 6.
- ¹⁷ *The Brisbane Courier*. Monday 25 September 1916, p. 6; Sunnybank Nationalists. *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 11 July 1917, p. 4.
- ¹⁸ "Day by Day.". *The Courier-Mail*. 5 April 1950, p. 1.
- ¹⁹ The N.D.C. was an amalgamation of four previous councils and unions. Nationalist Unity. An Agreement Reached. National Democratic Council Evolved. Official Announcement. *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 26 February 1919, p. 6.
- ²⁰ Women in Politics. Q.W.E.L. Annual Meeting. Mr. Macartney and The Government. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 30 September 1919, p. 7.
- ²¹ National Democratic Council. Meetings of Branches. *The Brisbane Courier*. Thursday 11 May 1922, p. 8.
- ²² Fassifern Electorate. Sunnybank Branch, N.D.C. *The Brisbane Courier*. Saturday 13 May 1922, p. 7.
- ²³ Oxley was the adjoining seat which divided the eastern part of the Sunnybank District from the western areas of the Logan seat.
- ²⁴ The Revival of Nationalism. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 2 December 1921, p. 6; Sacrifices Fail. Country Party's Sectionalism. Efforts For Unity Rejected. Nationalism Takes Up The Gauntlet. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 2 December 1921, p. 7.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*
- ²⁶ Since the first stable Labor Government in Queensland in 1915; Queensland had the world's first Labor Government, but short-lived in December 1899.
- ²⁷ Premiers Ryan and Theodore.
- ²⁸ Labor Caucus.

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- ²⁹ William Vowles, the Country Party Leader of the Opposition 28 July 1920 – 11 July 1923 and Charles Taylor, Nationalist Parliamentary Leader, and later Leader of the Opposition 11 July 1923 – 9 April 1924.
- ³⁰ 'Joan of Arc'.
- ³¹ The Need of Leadership. To The Editor. *The Brisbane Courier*. Thursday 27 April 1922, p. 13.
- ³² A Warning. Labour's Policy of Communism. Addresses at Runcorn. *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 6 December 1922, p. 7.
- ³³ Under the conservative-side, first under Hugh Sinclair, as Anti-Socialist 1906–1909, and then Commonwealth Liberal 1909–1917, and the Nationalist Arnold Wienholt 1919–1922.
- ³⁴ The United Party. To The Editor. *The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday 30 January 1923, p. 7.
- ³⁵ Ralph Harry, 'Glasgow, Sir Thomas William (1876–1955)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/glasgow-sir-thomas-william-6397/text10935>, published first in hardcopy 1983, accessed online 19 October 2016.
- ³⁶ Runcorn Progress Association. *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 16 July 1924, p. 9.
- ³⁷ Civic Spirit. Runcorn's Example. The Mayor's Tribute. *The Brisbane Courier*. Monday 25 January 1926, p. 9.
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- ⁴¹ Rev. W. Powell Dead. Veteran Methodist Minister. A Splendid Record. *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 3 August 1922, p. 6.
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- ⁴³ Discharged Prisoners. William Powell Home. Opened By The Governor. *The Brisbane Courier*. Monday 20 November 1922, p. 8.
- ⁴⁴ Runcorn Show Society. *The Brisbane Courier*. Friday 31 August 1928, p. 8.
- ⁴⁵ Runcorn Baby Show. *The Courier Mail*. Wednesday 1 July 1936, p. 25.
- ⁴⁶ Tomato Crop. Runcorn Farmers' Losses. *The Courier Mail*. Monday 20 November 1933, p. 4.
- ⁴⁷ Public Telephone at Runcorn at Runcorn. *The Brisbane Courier*. Tuesday 25 August 1925, p. 15; *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 11 February 1931 p 18; Runcorn Roads. *The Brisbane Courier*. Wednesday 11 February 1931, p. 18; Postal Services Inadequate. Runcorn Complaint. *The Courier Mail*. Thursday 24 August 1939, p. 10.
- ⁴⁸ Landing Accident. *The Courier Mail*. Monday 2 August 1937, p. 17.
- ⁴⁹ Runcorn Emergency Landing Ground. Runcorn, Qld, During WW2. <http://www.ozatwar.com/runcorn.htm>
- ⁵⁰ Kristian Silva. Runcorn crash-landing plane involved in similar incident in August 2013. Brisbane Times. 30 July 2014. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/runcorn-crashlanding-plane-involved-in-similar-incident-in-august-2013-20140730-zyjl6.html>