

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



180 Years in Australia

Celebrating the Eipper Family

Volume 25, Number 3

August 2018

*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Cover: The engraving (sourced from Wikipedia) shows the future Reverend Christoph Eipper (1813-1894) as a young German intellectual of 23, two years before arriving in Australia.

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Lecture meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations.

Business meetings are held on the third Tuesday of even months from 5:30-7.00pm.

Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd months from 5:30-7.00pm. Members are invited to attend all monthly meetings.

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland.

Membership fees : \$20 (single) and \$30 (double / family)

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From the Editor

In a departure from our normal practice, this edition of the Bulletin focuses on one topic only: the Eipper family. The Eipper family deserves to be widely known within the Maitland community, and a century ago it would have been. Even now some people may possess a sketchy knowledge of Christopher Eipper, who was the editor and then part-owner of the *Maitland Mercury* from 1894 until his death in 1905. I personally had not heard the surname Eipper in any local context until the article “How Google Maps Helped Find a House” was submitted for this Bulletin. It was that article which set off the desire to tell their story.

I quickly found that the Eipper family was far from being merely an ornament of late-Victorian Maitland. The circumstances surrounding the arrival of the family in 1838 illuminate various aspects of Australia’s Colonial history, including but not limited to early German migration and the role Germans played in establishing Christian missions to the indigenous people. This Bulletin will look at the overall history of the early family, followed by several, principally newspaper, articles on the Eippers, then annotated photographs.

Several individuals have assisted with this edition of the Bulletin by sourcing and/or contributing written and visual source material. Penelope Symes (the great-great-granddaughter of the Reverend Christoph Eipper and his wife Harriet), whose query to the Historical Society initiated the Bulletin article mentioned above, opened her family files for us. Val Rudkin, singularly and as one of the “Research Team” along with July Nicholson and Maree Farrally, was indefatigable in finding information. Dr Brian Walsh was our source for the history of the Presbyterian church in Paterson. Due to size limitations, as well as the relatively short period of time which was available to compile this edition, it has not been able to cover all aspects of this story to the extent warranted. For those wishing to read more, several sources are provided towards the end of this Bulletin.

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The first Eipper family member in Australia was the Reverend Christoph Eipper. The following information has been adapted from his entry, originally written by Niel Gunson in 1966, in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, along with other sources.

Christoph Eipper was born in 1813 in Esslingen (Württemberg) Germany. He studied in Switzerland (1832-36) and in England (1836) to become a missionary. In the passport issued in Esslington on 23 August 1836 he was described as being 5’6”, with a medium figure, light brown hair, and blue eyes.

In England he refused ordination in the Church of England because he would not submit to unlimited obedience to a bishop. Eipper applied in March 1837 to the Reverend John Dunmore Lang for appointment as a missionary to the Aborigines at Moreton Bay and was accepted. In London in June 1837 Eipper married Harriet Gyles, the daughter of a former missionary agriculturist. Later that month he was ordained in London at an Evangelical

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Lutheran service. Eipper and other members of the Moreton Bay mission group sailed from Greenock Scotland in September 1837.

The missionary group arrived in Sydney in January 1838. Eipper was admitted as a member of Lang's Presbyterian Synod of New South Wales in March 1838, and was delegated to Moreton Bay. Eipper and fourteen others sailed to Moreton Bay in March 1838 and selected a mission site about 11 km from Eagle Farm which they named Zion Hill.

Apart from the routine work such as teaching, Eipper learned the Turrbal language, travelled extensively in the mission area and wrote some detailed reports of his observations. The early history of the mission was recorded in his *Statement of the Origin, Condition, and Prospects of the German Mission to the Aborigines at Moreton Bay (Sydney, 1841)*. He also kept a diary. When a new site for a mission was necessary he, along with Carl Wilhelm Schmidt, his ordained colleague, tried to find a suitable place in the Wide Bay district. In March 1843 Eipper joined the acting administrator in an expedition into this district, which reached the Mary River in April.

In October 1843 the Sydney committee of the Society in Aid of the German Mission to the Aborigines decided to abandon the mission. One possible explanation was a concern over the influence of the Germans in the area. Whatever the reason, the cessation of funding left Eipper in a difficult position, particularly as he was a married man with a young family. After considering several options, Rev Eipper left Moreton Bay, travelled to Sydney, and was received by the Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland. The Synod of Australia appointed the Rev Eipper to go to the Braidwood district and become the resident Presbyterian minister at Braidwood, which he did in 1844. Rev Eipper took up residence in the old Strathallan house, now a ruin, and worked his wide parish from there, holding local church services in the Court House and at Strathallan and district in 1846. He went on alternate months to Limestone Plains and Broulea.

Eipper was then sent to the Paterson Presbyterian charge in late 1847, a position he held until February 1850. In Paterson he was on the boards of three schools: Lewinsbrook, Lennoxton, and Paterson itself. It is also possible that he was responsible for renaming the Paterson Scots Kirk "St Ann's" (see Archer & Sullivan at end of Bulletin).

Rev Eipper resigned his Paterson charge and in 1851 left the ministry itself. He later held several teaching positions at Muswellbrook and Aberdeen. He must have been in Richmond Vale (near Maitland) in 1852 as his last child Samuel Frederick was born there in that year. One of the schools in which he taught was Moonan Flat, which is east of Scone. Christoph Eipper died at Charleyong, now known as Marlowe, in the Braidwood district on 2 September 1894, and was buried in the Eastfield Cemetery there on land held by the Hush family, into which his daughter Sophia had married.

Christoph Eipper and Harriet had eight children.

Maria Julianna Eipper (1839–1930), born in Moreton Bay, never married.

John William Christopher Eipper (1840–1905), born in Moreton Bay, never married, editor of *The Maitland Mercury*.

Sarah Harriet Louisa Eipper (1842–1844), born in Moreton Bay, died young.

Sophia Matilda Eipper (1843–1915), born in Moreton Bay, married William Ralph Hush in 1865 in Braidwood.

George Hugh Coghill Eipper (1845–1895), born at Braidwood, married Louisa Beck in 1877 in Sydney.

Francis Ross “Frank” Eipper (1847-1942), born at Braidwood, married Maude Campbell in Singleton, New South Wales, then Leila Sarah Ayling in Newtown, New South Wales.

Albert Edward James Eipper (1849–1925), born at Paterson, married Mary Johnston Allen in 1878 in Scone.

Samuel Frederick Eipper (1852–1935), born at Richmond Vale, married Eliza Hannah Ayling in 1880 in Scone.

Christoph and Harriet had 38 grandchildren.

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The recent Bulletin submission which kicked everything off.

How Google Maps Helped Find a House

By the “Research Team” AKA Val Rudkin, Judy Nicholson, and Maree Farrally

An enquiry for help in establishing the position of an ancestor’s home at East Maitland led us on a merry search. This was the home of Christopher Eipper, the respected editor and part owner of the “Maitland Mercury” newspaper and publishing firm. In her enquiry, Penelope Symes stated that the Eipper home was in George Street, East Maitland.

Well yes, that was a clue, but those familiar with the streets of East Maitland will appreciate just how long George and High Street are. These two streets cross over the railway line, Newcastle Road and many other streets along the way. Another clue provided by Penelope was the name of the house, “The Summit” which, whilst not being known to us, did indicate that the house was on top of high ground.

One helpful clue that emerged was this notice of an auction for land which had frontages to both Brisbane and George Streets and was immediately opposite the residence of Mr. Eipper. We then knew which end of George Street to look for more evidence of this house.

EAST MAITLAND.

4 CHOICE BUILDING SITES

IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE THE RESIDENCE OF
MR. EIPPER, HAVING
EXTENSIVE FRONTAGES
TO
Brisbane and George Streets.

ON THE LAND,
SATURDAY, 10th JULY, 1886.
AT THREE O'CLOCK.

SPARKE & CLIFT have received instructions from Mr. John Farrell, to sell by auction, on the land, on SATURDAY, the 10th July, 1886, at Three o'clock,

4 CHOICE BUILDING SITES, having frontages ranging from 40 to 45 feet to Brisbane and George-streets, by great depths.

These allotments, immediately opposite the residence of Mr. Eipper, are beautifully situated, command an extensive view, and are well-drained.

TITLES PERFECT.

Terms at sale. 4508

Now we had a good indication of the location of this house, was it still there? This was a job for Google Maps and by travelling along this section of George Street and looking at the properties on both sides of the street, only one house seemed a possibility. Only problem being it did not have a frontage to George Street. On closer inspection and using an aerial view it was found the house sat on the middle ground and was now surrounded by more modern residences. The entrance to this house was from Flinders Street. Then a trip along this section of Flinders Street courtesy of Google Maps found the street view did not match the aerial view. The reason for this appeared to be two different time frames for the photography as the aerial view showed another residence on the land fronting Flinders Street. Confusion yes, but then a search of recent property sales enlightened us to the erection of this new residence at 76A Flinders Street with the listing dated April 2016.

So was No. 76 Flinders Street the house in question? Whilst everything was pointing to it being "The Summit" we had no proof. Then a surprise. Trying to find more Real Estate information on the house we just Googled 76 Flinders Street and a black and white photograph appeared on the screen as part of the Picture Maitland website. This information was sent to Judy Nicholson and we soon had the answer we hoped for. The photograph was published in the Maitland Heritage Study conducted in 1994 for Maitland City Council, the caption stated: House - Previous name "The Summit".

Sometimes you just get lucky.

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“The Summit” is a grey roofed house with a verandah on all four sides. Its driveway extends from Flinders Street and opens out in front of the house. It is imagined the old house once occupied extensive grounds and gardens giving it a stately appearance. The auction notice was published in *The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser* 6 July 1886.

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The following is a transcription from a typed document in the possession of Frances Bilsborough (nee Eipper). It sheds light on the early family.

Historical Data supplied by Miss Maria Eipper (daughter of Christoph and Harriet (nee Gyles) Eipper)

My grandfather [John Gyles] came to Tahiti, I think, sometime in 1817 to establish sugar growing on behalf of the British Government and was there long enough to get one crop, (It is likely that he reached there in 1815. A.J.E.) but King Pomare began to think the English were gaining too much power in his Islands and refused to allow any more work. My Grandfather had a brother, many years his senior who had been sugar-planting in Jamaica for some time, and after leaving school he made more than one voyage to that island and learned all about sugar cultivation and building of mills. His name occurs in a book entitled “Blazing the Trail” which is in the School of Arts Library at Willow Tree. He is there spoken of as helping a missionary to build a sugar mill on an island (I do not remember the name). This must have been after leaving Tahiti. It is quite a mistake to say that he was ever a Missionary, but there were several men from the L.M.S. [the London Missionary Society] in the Pacific Islands in those days and they were all his friends, Messrs Barff, Threkeld and other whose descendants are still in N.S.W. Mr Barff who died recently was a grandson of the Mr. Barff who was my grandfather’s contemporary. I remember meeting him several times in the house of a mutual friend in West Maitland. He had just returned to England

As nearly as I can judge the family must have been in Tahiti during 1818. After their return to Sydney where they spent some months, they were the guests of Rev. Thomas Hassall in Parramatta, whose wife was a daughter of Rev. Samuel Marsden who was well known in early Australian History. Mr. Hassall had several daughters (*one*) of them married a clergyman and they visited my grandparents in England. Measles were unknown in N.S.W. but Mrs Laurie contracted them in London and died there.

My grandfather [John Gyles] did live to see his children grow up. My mother [Harriet {nee Gyles} Eipper] was twelve years old when he died in Sierra Leone, which at that time had a most unhealthy climate, so unfavourable to Europeans that it was known as “the whiteman’s grave”.

My mother saw the first Guy Faux procession in Sydney. Some of the boys who took part in it were Charles Cowper, W.C. Wentworth & Geoffrey Edgar. When she returned to Brisbane, a bride, on her way to Brisbane Dr. Lang shewed her the house where her parents (had) lived. On their outward voyage from England they took the Cape of Good Hope route but the return journey was by way of Cape Horn. The ship touched for several hours at St Helena and my grandfather went on shore hoping to have an interview with the captive exile; but he was not in a mood for receiving visitors that day. A young West Indian accompanied my grandfather to Africa, but came back to England and I believe returned to Jamaica. I have a trunk in good condition which belonged to my grandfather with his initials in brass nails. It is over 100 years old.

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I think that my grandmother should have some mention in this record. She must have been a very capable women to keep her father's house and his books besides having the care of children much younger than herself. She was 18 when her mother died, leaving a small boy and girl of school age about 12 years old. Her father married again – a girl not much older than herself – who died when her baby was born so there was a second charge for his daughters. Her sister married young and a few months after met with an accident. Her husband was taking her for a jaunt in the country, and in driving through a London street his vehicle collided with a loaded wagon, she was thrown out and the wheel passed over her head killing her instantly. My grandmother's hair turned white in a few days.

But before my great Aunt's marriage her sister's had taken place though she was still in the Father's house. He had no objection to Mr. Gyles but refused his consent to the marriage because he had a dread of travelling by sea and they would have had to go to Jamaica immediately, so the marriage took place privately on the morning of the bridegroom's sailing and seven years passed before the couple met again. I do not know whether my great grandfather had overcome his antipathy to ocean travelling but his daughter with her husband sailed for Australia with their two children when the youngest was a mere infant.

I do not know much about the other side of the house. My Father has a seal which either his grandfather or father caused to be struck – representing a pilgrim with a staff in his hand appear on the horizon in allusion to a family, who, with many others, fled to Germany during the persecution of the Protestants in France. A daughter of one of these married an Eipper. That is all I know of the episode.

I had two rubber stamps made from the seal, one for stamping paper and the other for marking linen. I gave the seal to my brother Fred's youngest son Carl. My German grandfather like the English was twice married. My father was the youngest son of the second family. He and Mr. Schreiner, whose son was Premier of Cape Colony during the Boer War, at the University of Basle a city on the river Rhine. When their college course ended they came to England. Mr. Schreiner married a friend of my Mother and went to South Africa under the auspices of the L.M.S. and my parents came to this country with a party whom Dr. Lang was bringing out. I think the young men were ordained in England.

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Scone Advocate Saturday 18 October 1890, page 2

PAINFUL ACCIDENT. One of the most painful accidents it has been our lot to record occurred in Gundy on Wednesday last to Mr. F R Eipper, a well-known and highly respected resident Mr. Eipper, it appears, was in the act of shooting a kangaroo with a Winchester rifle, when, by some means, the pin of the rifle flew out and entered the right side of the left eye. The pin, we are told, penetrated to a great depth, and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Eipper (who performed the painful task himself) pulled it out. Bad as the accident is, seems it must be regarded as most fortunate that the pin did not penetrate the brain. Mr Eipper immediately came into Scone and consulted, Dr. Scott, who after examining the eye, advised him to proceed at once to Sydney, and place himself under the care of Dr. Evans, the well-known specialist. Mr. Eipper, accompanied by his brother Mr. A. E Eipper, accordingly left for Sydney by the mail train in the evening, and is now a patient in the Ear and Eye Hospital, Miller's Point. Although through the mishap Mr. Eipper will lose the sight of one eye, his many friends will be glad to hear from a telegram received by Mr. Barnes on Thursday, that there is

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no danger of the other being affected. In the first instance there were fears that he would lose the sight of both.

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Scone Advocate Friday 20 July 1900, page 2

RETURNED HOME.

It was not till the other day that we had an opportunity of a few words with Mr. F. S. Eipper, who returned to Sydney from Capetown, in the 'Australasian', with the second batch of invalids, some 200 more of whom, by the way, are on their way home in three different vessels, bringing to our minds, perhaps more vividly than anything else, the perils and privations of war. The extent of suffering can readily be imagined from the fact that of the comparatively small number of our contribution in men, about 2000, all told, not far from 200 have been invalided home, ill or wounded; and there are besides quite a number who have been killed, or died of fever. How many more are ill and unfit for service still over there, is not known. Mr. Eipper, whose mishap we have already referred to, did not go over as a soldier, but in charge of a large consignment of horses. He was standing on a vessel in the harbour, watching the departure of Boer prisoners for St. Helena, when a rifle carried by a soldier about 25 yards behind him, and lower down, on the wharf, went off accidentally, the bullet passing through his shoulder in an upward direction, and grazing the face of an officer of the vessel, who was just behind him. As if by a stroke of good fortune, Mr. Eipper says he had just, for the moment, turned his head, but for which the bullet must have gone through it. In no time, he found himself in the hospital, where, despite the rush and excitement, he received every kindness and attention, and was about again in a fortnight. The scene in the harbour is, he says, one of in-describable bustle and excitement, and it is impossible to think of all that was to be seen. In Capetown itself, one hears, among very well-informed people, very diverse opinions on the war — strong expressions of feeling on both sides. People, he felt, for the most part, spoke according to their prejudices; but there appears a strong preponderance of feeling on one point — that once over, and when things are settled down, South Africa will be all the better for the change. You hear the same things of the Boers over there as here — shady, "white-flag" tricks on the one hand, and most noble and humane conduct on the other ; but, he adds, you hear the same about the British also. There, as here, it is difficult to arrive at the truth.

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The following obituary is of John William Christopher (known during his adult life as Christopher or "Christie"), the eldest son of Christoph and Harriet Eipper. He is the member of the Eipper family most associated with Maitland.

Maitland Daily Mercury Saturday 5 August 1905, page 4

DEATH OF MR. C. EIPPER.

It is with the deepest sorrow we record the death of Mr. Christopher Eipper, editor and part proprietor of this journal, who after a lengthened and painful illness passed peacefully at his private

residence, " The Summit, " East Maitland, at half past nine o'clock last evening. For the past 18 months the health of the deceased gentleman was anything but good. He had an attack of rheumatism, and a painful internal trouble, and after a considerable period of suffering from those distressful ailments, he was compelled some three months ago, in hope of obtaining relief, to undergo an operation. That operation was very successfully performed in Dr.Hinder's private hospital at Ashfield, and from it he made a complete recovery, and was able for some time after leaving the hospital to attend partly to his editorial duties, either at the office or at his own home. But the rate of progress was not maintained. Other organic derangements manifested themselves, and for the past month he was forced to confine himself entirely to his home. He was attacked with frequent fits of hiccoughing, was unable to retain any food in his stomach, and as a consequence his once strong and vigorous constitution became gradually and completely shattered, and the end came as stated, death being due to a growth in the stomach, which made rapid headway once his bodily strength had declined. His medical attendants held out no hope of recovery for the past few weeks, and at his own request to be told the worst, the patient was informed that he could not long survive. He received the message calmly, and with every courage and resignation prepared for the inevitable end. He was sensible up till the last. Indeed death came rather sooner than was expected. He was sitting at the fire in his room yesterday morning, and spoke cheerfully as usual. But he was seized with great pain during the afternoon and went to bed. The doctors injected morphia to relieve the pain, and he awoke somewhat refreshed, and appeared to be better, but shortly before half-past 9 o'clock last evening he was observed to be breathing heavily, and in a few moments his spirit had fled.

The late Mr. Eipper was a native of the Paterson district, where he was born in the year 1839. He was the son of a Presbyterian Minister, and when he had attained the age of 7 or 8 years, the family went to reside at Richmond Vale, in the Maitland district. After finishing his education, mainly under the tuition of his father, he spent a few years as clerk in various stores in Maitland, and joined the reporting staff of the "Maitland Mercury" in 1867, receiving his early training for a journalistic career under the capable guidance of the late Mr. T. W. Tucker. He remained on the reporting staff for many years, and on the retirement of Mr. Thomas Ward, some thirty years since, succeeded him as editor, a position he continued to fill with marked ability and distinction up till within a few weeks of his death. In 1894 he purchased an interest in the paper with which he had been so long and honourably connected. The other proprietors at the time were Mrs. T. W. Tucker and the late Mr. John Thompson, since succeeded by his widow.

The deceased was a gentleman of considerable educational attainments, the result of close and constant study. He was a great reader, an acute observer, a hard worker, and had a wide knowledge of the world. Few men there are who devote themselves to duty with such self-sacrificing industry and perseverance. The great charm in life for him was the constant pursuit of literature and attention to his journalistic duties. In the discharge of his editorial responsibilities he was faithful, fear-less, and consistent, always imbued with an exalted sense of public duty. A liberal in politics, in which he manifested a keen interest, he exercised with his facile pen a great influence for good, and rendered effective service to the party whose cause he espoused. Broadminded and tolerant in his views, he gained the admiration of all — even of those who differed from him. He was a powerful writer, and could wield a trenchant and caustic pen when he felt there was occasion for it.

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Essentially a man of high ideals, he possessed deep religious convictions, in his spare time on Sundays frequently occupying the pulpit as layreader in Church of England parishes in the district, striving to do all the good he could in the cause of Christ and humanity. He was also a valued member of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod, in the deliberations of which for many years he took an active and a prominent part. But latterly the necessity for his closer application to the business of the journal over, which he so ably and worthily presided, precluded his giving that attention to the duties of Synod that he would have wished. He enjoyed the intimate friendships and esteem of three bishops of the diocese --the late Drs. Tyrrell and Pearson, and the present Bishop of Newcastle, Dr. Stanton. He was a Justice of the Peace, but took little part in public matters outside.

He was courteous and unassuming in his demeanour, and his geniality, thoughtfulness, scrupulous conscientiousness, and the manly uprightness of his life were an example and an inspiration to those immediately associated with him, and by whom he was very highly regarded and esteemed. His lamentable death removes the last, of three partners in the conduct of the "Mercury" who had been associated in varying capacities for nearly 40 years, and his loss will not only be felt by his co-partners and those around him, who had learned to love him for his many virtues, but the death of such a man is a distinct loss to the journalism of the country and its public life as reflected in the columns of the press. The numerous expressions of sympathy received by his family and the firm of which he was a member, are evidence of the profound respect and admiration in which he was held, and his memory as that of a good man in the widest sense of the word will long be cherished.

The late Mr. Eipper never married, but resided with his sister, whose loving and constant administrations did much to soften the anguish of his sufferings, which he bore with characteristic calmness and courage during his long and trying illness.

Our deepest sympathy is with the bereaved sisters and brothers who are left to mourn his death.

The funeral is announced to leave the late residence of the deceased at half-past 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

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From the pages of the Dungog Chronicle : Durham and Gloucester Advertiser of Friday 11 December 1925, page 6

Obituary

Great Bushman and Horseman Passes.

THE LATE MR. A. E. EIPPER

The passing recently of Mr. Albert Edward Eipper, removes one of the best known identities and one of its most striking characters when the district was half a century younger, says the Scone Advocate. A native of the Paterson, where he was born 70 years ago, the late Mr. Eipper became associated with these parts in the early 60's of last century, and when still quite a lad accepted a position as stockman for the old pastoral firm of Messrs. Campbell, Simpson and Co., at the head of the Hunter. In later years, he for some time succeeded to the management of the old Tomall property. He adapted himself to his

new surroundings, which proved to be most congenial so far as he was concerned. Those were the days of wild cattle, great horsemen, and of men who perforce had to steel themselves in keeping with the exigencies of the times. Within a year or two his name, because of his prowess in the saddle, spread far and wide. The rough and largely unbroken Hunter and coastal country was as an open book to him, and many a raid, associated with its intrepidity, he was instrumental in carrying out in driving and running down the wild cattle, then plentiful, from their haunts. This hazardous work called for fearlessness, strength, and the horsemanship, and Albert Eipper was never found wanting. That he possessed these adjuncts inseparable from the repertoire of the early stockman, evidence was readily forthcoming. He was contemporaneous with such doughty stockmen as the late Albert Withers, the colored bushman, who for versatility in or out of the saddle had no peer in the vast watershed; Jimmy Crimp (a faithful aboriginal servant); John and Neil McInnes, John Corbett, George Aslin, and the late William Morrison. Their exploits which took them further afield than the Barrington waters, were committed to ink by the late Mr. Eipper, who wrote as under the pen-name of "Uandoo," some five or six years ago. Modest and unassuming to a degree, the old man would much prefer to narrate the experience and laud the deeds of his mates rather than his own; but those of them who knew him, unanimously proclaimed him as one of the finest horsemen to throw a leg across a saddle. By his demise, the bushland of the Upper Hunter right through to the coast is the sadder by the disappearance of one of its celebrities, one of its landmarks, as it were. It was a great wrench for the deceased to dissociate himself from the haunts of his youth, and it was only well on in the evening of his life that he discarded the bridle and saddle and took up his abode in a more placid sphere, first in Scone and latterly in Sydney.

He was a son of the late Rev. Christopher Eipper, who was one of a band of thirteen clerics among 235 immigrants specially selected during one of his several voyages to the Old Country by the Rev. John Dunmore Lang, D.D., that sturdy Scot and Australian patriot of lofty ideals, whose beneficent work of nearly a century since will never be erased from the early history and colonisation of this land beneath the Southern Cross. The *Minerva* a brig chartered from Greenock, brought these newcomers to the colony as far back as 1837. Rev. Eipper, who in later years became one of the best known and most striking characters up the Hunter, was at first stationed at Moreton Bay (Q.). Having spent several years in Queensland with his family, he returned south, established himself at Moonan Flat, and there for a lengthy period conducted a school. Upper Hunterites of the period under review would often refer to their school days in the anything but pretentious building, and associate therewith many amusing incidents.

In addition to his wife, four children survive, namely, Mr. George Eipper (Griffith Returned Soldiers' Settlement). Mrs. Cornforth (Armidale), and Misses Emily and Florence Eipper (Mosman). Surviving brothers of the deceased are Messrs. Frank R. (Scone), and Frederick Samuel (Willow Tree), a sister being Miss Maria Eipper (Neutral Bay). Deceased brothers

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were Messrs. Christopher (for many years editor of the Maitland Mercury), and Hugh (of Scone, and father of Mr. Len Eipper, of Woolooma).

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The obituary of Maria Eipper from the Maitland Mercury, Friday 6 June 1930, page 6:

LATE MISS M. EIPPER.

AN APPRECIATION

With the death of Miss M. Eipper at her home, Crow's Nest, Sydney, on Monday morning last, there passed one of the very few remaining members of a family well-known and deeply-respected by many of the older residents of the Maitland district. The family, living in Maitland and Scone districts for many years, has identified itself at all times with philanthropic and religious activities, and its members, one and all will leave cherished memories in the lives of many residents who have come in contact with them in their various spheres of activity. It was in 1839 that Miss Eipper first saw the light of day, her father, the Rev. C. Eipper, having voyaged to Australia two years previously as a member of Dr. Lang's first Mission to the Blacks. The family settled first at Moreton Bay, but moved in 1843 to New South Wales, and one of its sons, Mr. C. Eipper, later became editor of the "Maitland Mercury," and a proprietor in partnership with Messrs. Tucker and Thompson; the three names having ever since been associated with the activities of this journal although all the founders have long since passed away, Mr. C. Eipper, the eldest of the sons, Mr Hugh Eipper, who resided in Scone for many years, and Mr. A. E. Eipper, another old Scone resident, have now passed on, and one daughter, Mrs. W. H. Hush, who lived for many years at Braidwood, had also joined the great majority. Both Hugh, and A.E. Eipper were in their day noted horsemen, and many old Scone residents will recall their prowess as stockmen of the old school, to whom no feat of horsemanship was too arduous or difficult to accomplish. Of the family of five children two only survive Mr. F. R. Eipper an old and well-known resident of Scone and Mr F. S. Eipper, who was for many years actively associated with the. A.A. Company, and is now living in retirement at Crow's Nest, Sydney. Miss Eipper, whose, deafness prevented her in later years from playing such an active part in social and other activities as she would have liked, had the somewhat unusual (and sometimes amusing), characteristic of being a very accurate and pedantic speller, and would be quick to point out any slight error which might be noticeable in the spelling of even the most involved and difficult words. She possessed, too, a very accurate memory, and in her later years, often surprised her friends with flashes of memory from Incidents of 70 or 80 years ago. Much of the good work that in her long life she was able to accomplish was done in a quiet and unobtrusive way, and the amount of good she was instrumental in doing will, perhaps, never be fully appreciated; but of her it can be truly said that she lived, and died, a practical Christian.

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An edited article from the Maitland Daily Mercury Saturday 7 January 1933 page 9

TIMES GRAVE AND GAY

In Early Days

PRACTICAL JOKES

(By Fred S. Eipper)

I am a native of the Maitland district, left it when young, and renewed my acquaintance with the town as it then was, in the early sixties.

The leading firms were David Cohen and Co., Wolfe and Gorricks, Owen and Beckettis, Jas. Wolstenholme, Robert Campbell and Co.

Others I have forgotten, but these remain in my mind because of the teams which loaded in their yards, for at that time, all the wool and other produce came to either Newcastle or Morpeth, mostly by bullock dray (as far as I can remember there were no waggons) or double-shafted horse teams, which were either loaded heavily on the shafters backs or light, lifting them off their feet.

The principal camping ground was the "Spread Eagle" opposite the present Rutherford Racecourse. With an early start teams could get to Morpeth, unload, and if fortunate, get back to Maitland, draw into the yard of one of the above mentioned firms, load and arrive back at the "Spread Eagle" often after dark, for those were the days when the men who made the country were not afraid of work.

Ask a carrier "Where are you loaded for?" "Oh, the woolshed" (now Gunbedah) or "The Page" (now Murrurundi) or "Ross" of Inverell, who must have done a great business, judging by the teams which carried for him.

Just in passing, I will tell you of a dodge practised by some carriers.

Few of the stations had scales capable of weighing a bale of wool, so a teamster took as many bales as he could stack on his dray, and weighed off on delivery.

Now wool absorbs moisture, and some carriers, the night before delivery, stood their drays over a water-hole and weighed off heavy.

It was a sight to see team after team going along High-street, loaded for Upper Hunter, Moree, Inverell, New England, Narrabri, Mungindi, Coonabarrabran, etc.

Life was not all bear and skittles for the carrier, for there was no

for the carrier, for there was no bridge at Singleton and those coming to Maitland had to camp sometimes for a long time at Rines Creek. They loaded outwards at "Falkiners" near Singleton, in those days. The Hunter if not in flood was continually in fresh.

THE ONLY MARKET

In those early days Maitland was the only market for both fat and store cattle and the old yards at Campbell's Hill could tell a tale of nearly a whole draft of cattle with the brand scarcely healed. For the stations had no paddocks to hold their freshly caught cattle or any that they wished to sell, and they herded them until they had sufficient to send away.

The principal auctioneers at that time operating on the "Hill" were Messrs. Brunker and Sparks, who succeeded Alexander Dodd, and did a large business, R. G. Yeomans, Cadell, W. G. Gibbs and others. The Sparks family has been connected with Campbell's Hill for at least seventy years and is still going strong. Nearly all the OLD business places with the exception of E. P. Capper and Sons are dead.

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Maitland Daily Mercury Saturday 19 October 1935, page 4

OBITUARY MR. F. S. EIPPER

Mr. Frederick S. Eipper, who lived on the Hunter for a number of years died early on Thursday morning at Bingara. He was spending a holiday with his son, the Rev. A. J. Eipper, of Bingara, and had gone on a visit to some friends about 20 miles away. While talking to them he suddenly collapsed, and died the following morning from cerebral haemorrhage. Mr. Eipper, who was 82 years of age, was born at Braidwood. He spent part of his early life at Maitland, and also lived for some time in the Scone district. He was overseer of Warrah Station for the A. A. Company, and when he retired from that position he went to Crow's Nest to live. Mr. Eipper was a particularly good judge of cattle and sheep. He was a brother of the late Mr. Christopher Eipper, at one time editor and part proprietor of the Maitland 'Daily Mercury,' and of Mr. Frank Eipper, of Scone. Mr. Fred Eipper was a shareholder in the "Mercury." He is survived by Mrs. Eipper, six daughters, and two sons— Mrs. H. Symes (Sydney), Mrs. W. Graham (Sydney), Mrs. J. W. Tomkinson (China), Mrs. A. Cameron (Curlewis), Misses Nina and Joyce Eipper (Sydney), the Rev. A. J. Eipper (Bingara), and Mr. C. F. Eipper (Balranald). Mrs. Tomkinson is at present doing missionary work in China. One son, Kenneth, enlisted during the war, and died of wounds received in action in France. The funeral took place in Bingara.

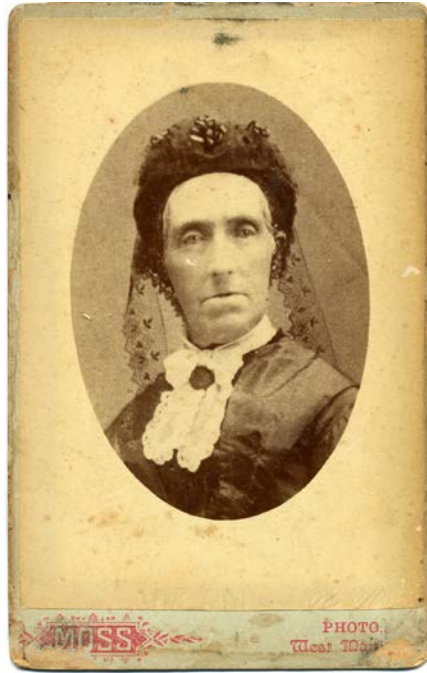
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Photo Gallery



Christoph Eipper in old age

Photo held by the National Library



Harriet Eipper nee Gyles



The (deconsecrated) St Ann's Presbyterian Church in Paterson BSW
2004 photograph by Dr Brian Walsh

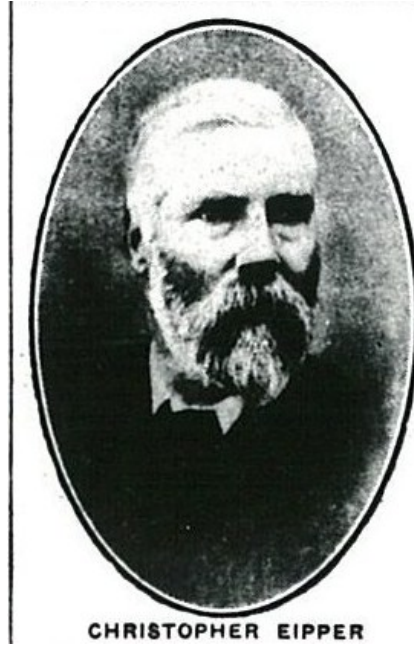


The grave of Christoph Eipper at Eastfield (Braidwood) Cemetery

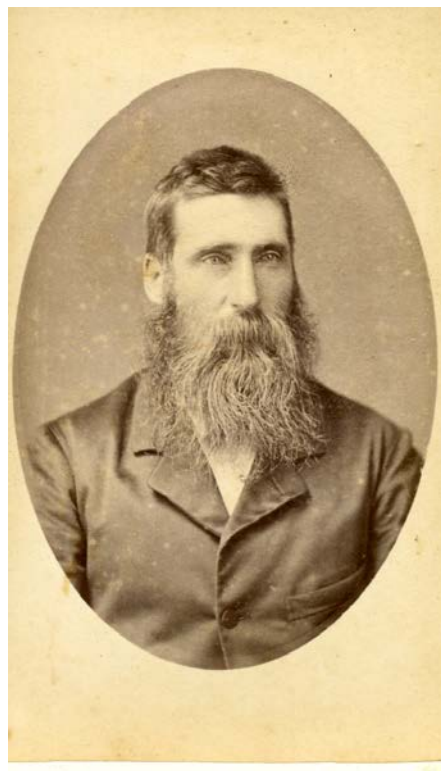


Scenic view of the Eastfield (Braidwood) Cemetery. Christoph Eipper was buried on the then Hush family land. His daughter Sophia Matilda had married William Ralph Hush in 1865.

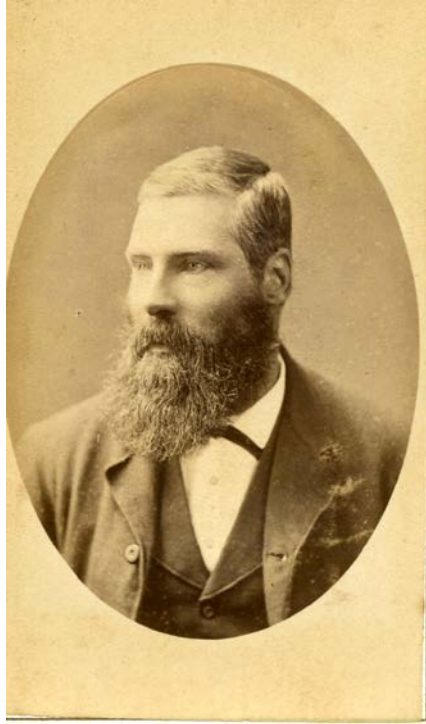
Photograph by Dr Cameron Archer



John William Christopher Eipper the onetime editor and part-owner
of the Maitland Mercury (1840-1905)



George Hugh Cogill Eipper
1845-1895



Albert Edward Eipper
1849-1925



Frederick Samuel Eipper (1852-1935) generally known as Fred or Fred S., of whom it was said "he never ventured out even to the post box without looking well groomed".



Jesse, Marjorie, Marion, and Helen Eipper, the children of Frank Ross Eipper. Marjorie was by his first wife Maude. The others were by his second wife Leila.



Fred Eipper with his wife Eliza Hannah (nee Ayling, the daughter of the Rev John Ayling). Photo taken at "Girrahween" their home at Willow Tree on land from the A.A. Company. With some of their children.



Maria Julianna Eipper with her niece Marjorie Ross Eipper. Marjorie was born in Singleton in 1898 and died in Maitland in 1970. She was the daughter of Frank and Maude Eipper. Maude died shortly after Marjorie's birth and Maria Eipper and JWC Eipper raised her. Marjorie inherited "The Summit" when she came of age.



Frank Ross Eipper and his second wife Leila Sarah (nee Ayling), the sister to Eliza Hannah, Fred Eipper's wife. They had three daughters: Jesse, Helen and Marion.



Maitland Girls High photograph of 1915 showing Nina Eipper. Penelope Symes has reported that Freda and Nina Eipper attended Maitland Girls High and, although she can find no evidence, she believes all Frederick Samuel Eipper's daughters attended this school: Mary Elizabeth (1881-1951), Harriet Ayling (1883-1961), Leila Marion (1892-1982) and Joyce Dalton (1900-1996) were certainly well educated.

According to Penelope, Helen Eipper also attended Maitland Girls High, as, she believes, did all the daughters of Frank Ross Eipper: Marjorie Ross (1898-1970), Jessie Ayling (1902-1969), Marion Dalton (1907-1973).

Freda trained as a nurse at Goulburn then went to China as a missionary.

Before her marriage Harriet worked as a governess.

Leila became a teacher.

Nina worked as a teacher then became a midwife.

Helen was a teacher, and became headmistress of Primary School at Scone. She never married.

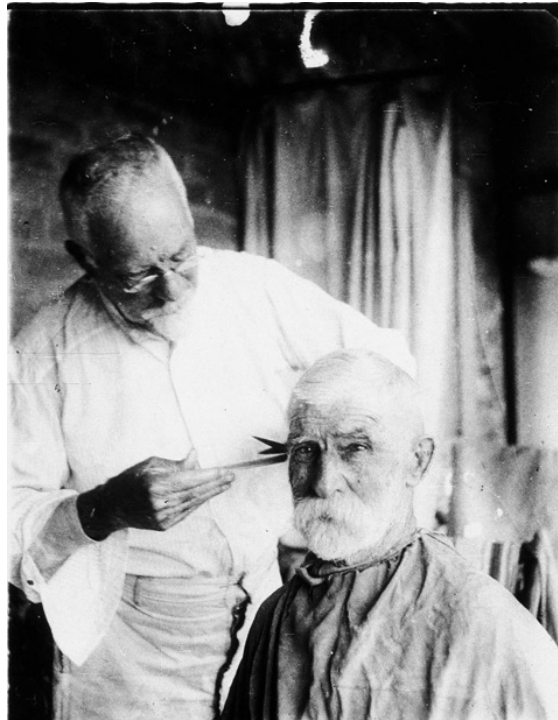
Joyce never married and, along with Harriet, nursed her mother.



Frank Eipper at "The Summit". Frank was the father of Marjorie Eipper to whom "The Summit" passed when she came of age, hence her father on his horse there. Frank had been a noted horseman.



Dogs on the well in front of the former kitchen area of "The Summit"



Fred Eipper cutting his brother Frank's hair in Scone 1932

Photo from the State Library of New South Wales

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For Further Reading

A History of St Ann's Presbyterian Church Paterson. By Cameron Archer and Jack Sullivan. Published in 2004 by the Paterson Historical Society.

German Missionaries in Australia – A web-directory of intercultural encounters. A project by Professor Regina Ganter, accessible through the Griffith University web page.

The Journal of Rev. Christopher Eipper: Observations made on a journey to the natives at Toorbal. Available through the "Free Settler or Felon?" web site.

Zion Hill Mission. Web site available on Wikipedia.

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The Maitland and District Historical Society Inc. has a number of publications for sale at the rooms at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland. For details of the publications for sale, or to purchase, please visit the rooms during open hours on Wednesday and Saturday between 11 AM and 3 PM.

Alternatively, contact the Society on 0438 623 299 or email maitlandhistorical@gmail.com.