

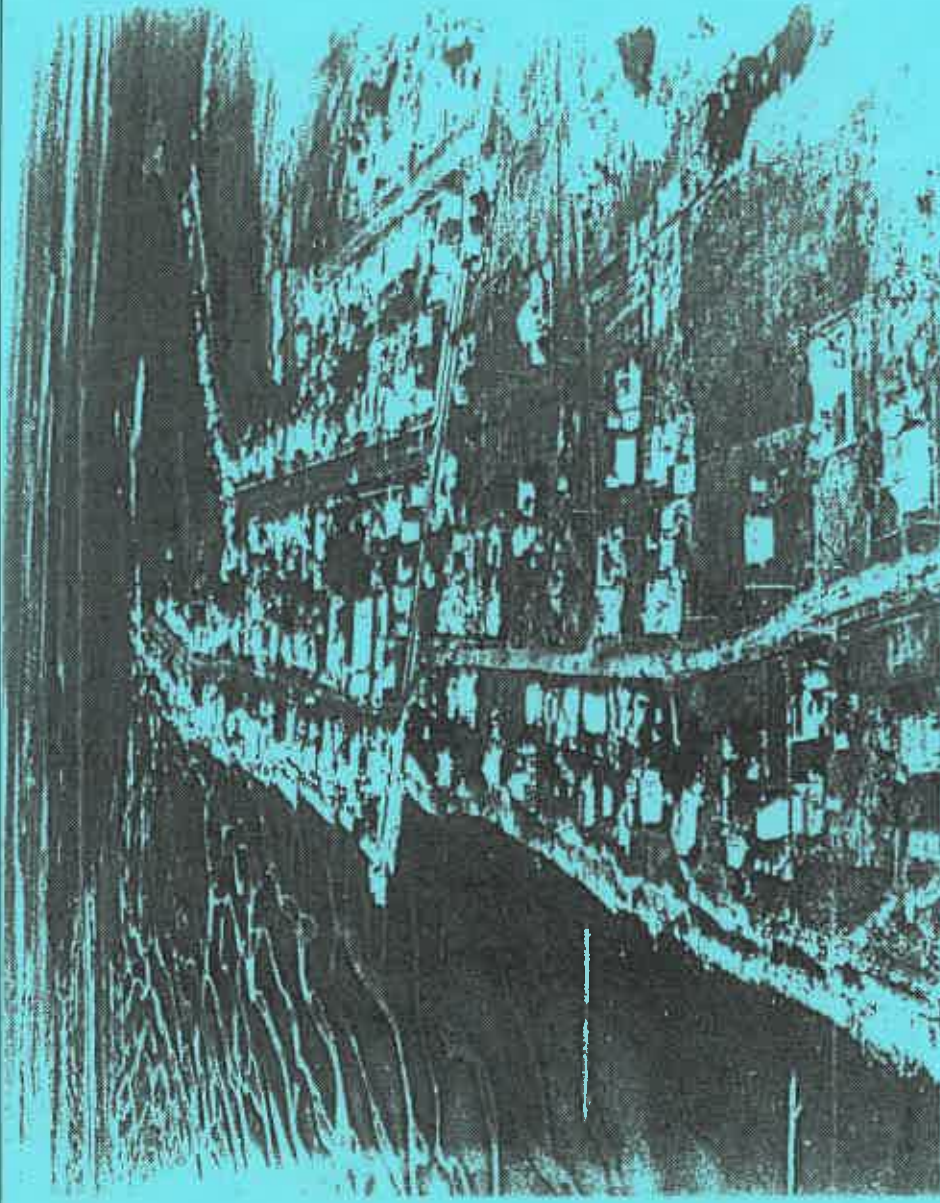


Nundah and Districts Historical Society Bulletin

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CRIBB ISLAND FROM THE AIR
(Photograph M. Merritt)

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In this issue...

Coming Events

Cribb Island makes way for
new Airport

John George Cribb

**The Society meets on the first Sunday of each month
at 1:30 p.m. at the Centre**

Cribb family file 4686

CRIBB ISLAND MAKES WAY FOR NEW AIRPORT

John George Cribb, one-time Brisbane banker and native of Dorset, in 1863 purchased 150 acres of low-lying land at £1.00 an acre bordering Moreton Bay just north of Serpentine Creek. He could not have foreseen the changes that would follow over the next 120 years. The weed-infested marshland would become in turn a thriving small-crop area supplying fresh produce and fish for the Brisbane markets, a lively little township and popular day-trip and holiday resort for Brisbane residents and finally the most up-to-date metropolitan airport in Australia.

In 1896 James Jackson, who as a 10 year-old had come to Australia from Lincolnshire in 1882 with his parents, three brothers and two sisters, purchased 62 acres of the western part of what became known as Cribb Island. He started clearing the lautama, which in some places was 12ft high, and prickly-pear before planting a variety of orchard crops. Grapes, bananas, pineapples, watermelons and even peanuts which produced a crop of 3 tons to the acre, thrived in the fertile soil with the help of an abundance of excellent water within a depth of 1 to 2 feet. Mr Jackson successfully grew cotton, but the cost of ginning the crop was too expensive to make it a viable proposition. He also had a pineapple canning business on *Bramble Farm* as he called his property. During high-tide it was impossible to reach the mainland as the mud flats which separated the island from the mainland were under water. The resourceful Mr Jackson constructed a shallow draft boat also named *Bramble*, originally 30ft, later lengthened to 50ft, to take his fresh produce and canned pineapple to the city. A plentiful supply of fresh fish obtained by both weekend campers and professional fishermen found their way to the city in the same manner.



PINEAPPLE CANNING, BRAMBLE FARM, JACKSON ESTATE, CRIBB ISLAND 1913

Ella Eva Jackson, James Jackson, Edgar Hooper, Mrs Thomas Brassington,

George, Tilly and May Harris

(Photograph E. Hooper)

A handful of other farmers, Robinson, Fischer, Schultz, Grauf, Gray, Bateman, Blinzinger, Rauber (some of these names being perpetuated as road names for many years) grew small crops and ran poultry and dairy cattle until just prior to World War 1 when the remaining 80 acres of Mr Cribb's holding was cut up into building blocks. This area was known for a time as *Cribb Town*. Mr Jackson cut his holding into small areas and granted leases to 160 owners of little cottages, some only one room 20ft by 20ft made from car cases. Several members of the same family would build on adjacent blocks. This area was referred to as *Jackson Town* or *Jackson Estate*. This arrangement for home ownership was believed to have been unique in Australia at that time.