

# Dr Edward Boot, first Surgeon in Moruya

Details from the "Moruya Pioneer Directory" and the MDHS Museum and Photograph collection



## BOOT, Edward

b. 28 Apr 1814 Gaunt Castle, Lincolnshire, England son of Henry Boot and Susanna Hopkinson. Arr NSW 7 September 1841 as Ship's Surgeon per 'United Kingdom'. Died 4 Sep 1899 Yarragee. Bur: Moruya CE.  
Mar: 1837 Dublin, Ireland to **Catherine MORRISON** b. 1819 Dublin, Ireland dau of Bryant Morrison and Mary. Died 28 Mar 1880 Yarragee, Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.

Issue:

- (1) **Angelina Hopkinson BOOT** b. 23 Nov 1842 Broulee. Died 11 Feb 1923 Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.  
Mar 1: 24 Jan 1865 Moruya CE to **Dean FRANCIS** b. 1844 England son of Alfred John Dawson Francis. Died at sea pre 1880.  
Mar: 2 1886 Berrima, NSW to **Henry TOOSE** b. 1852 Taunton, Somerset, England. Arr NSW 20 October 1857 per 'Boanerges'. Died 6 Feb 1888 Pedro Swamp near Moruya. Bur: Moruya.
- (2) **Henry Eshalby BOOT** b. 14 Nov 1844 Broulee. Died 5 Apr 1907 Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.  
Mar: 1878 Armidale, NSW to **Annie BAXTER** b. 1850 Peterhead, Scotland dau of William Baxter and Margaret Jeffrey. Arr NSW c1870. Died 22 Sep 1939 Cremorne, Sydney, NSW. Bur: Cremated Northern Suburbs. Headstone Moruya CE. Late of 88 Cabramatta Road, Cremorne, Sydney.
- (3) **Edward BOOT** b. 18 May 1847 Broulee. Died 11 Jun 1930 Sydney, NSW.  
Mar: 1869 Wollongong, NSW to **Sarah HEWITT** b. 1848 Dapto, NSW dau of John Hewitt. Died 11 Feb 1878 Yarragee, Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.
- (4) **Susanna BOOT** b. 15 Nov 1849 Yarragee. Died 4 Jun 1923 Yarragee, Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.
- (5) **George BOOT** b. 25 Apr 1852 Yarragee. Died 4 Feb 1924 Redfern, Sydney, NSW. Bur: Moruya CE.
- (6) **William BOOT** b. 23 Jul 1854 Yarragee, Moruya. Died 23 Jun 1924 Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.  
Mar: 7 Feb 1881 North Adelaide, South Australia to **Ada Blanche DEMPSTER** b. 1859 Port Adelaide, South Australia dau of Edwin James Dempster, Solicitor, and Matilda Caroline Humberson. Died 22 Mar 1931 Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.
- (7) **John BOOT** b. 23 Jul 1854 Yarragee, Moruya. Twin of William. Died in infancy.
- (8) **Augustus Octavius Caesar BOOT** b. 15 Aug 1857 Yarragee.  
Died 21 Jul 1896 Moruya. Bur: Moruya CE.  
Mar: 1891 Sydney, NSW to **Eva GUY** b. 21 Feb 1865 Nelligen dau of Francis Guy and Elizabeth Harrington. Died 23 Feb 1938 Sydney, NSW.



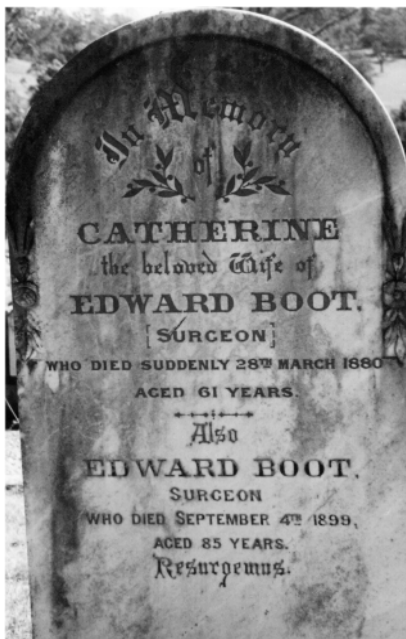
## Obituary - Moruya Examiner 18 September 1899:

### Dr Edward Boot

This week we have to chronicle the death of the oldest resident of Moruya in the person of Dr Edward Boot who passed away at his residence Yarragee on Monday night at the ripe old age of 86 years. Deceased was born in Lincolnshire, England and came to this colony in 1841 as surgeon to the immigrant ship "United Kingdom". A month later he came to Moruya where he has resided ever since and for 58

years practiced his profession. For nearly 50 years he was the only surgeon in the district, the nearest doctor living at Braidwood. The deceased was proverbial for his kindness and humanity. Without thought of fee or reward the necessitous in early days were visited by him at any hour or place, and many a patient he has visited at midnight, guided thither by an aboriginal carrying a torch before him, for in those days roads were a thing of the future.

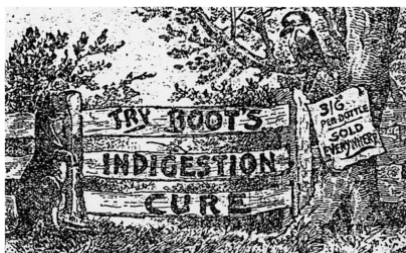
Deceased filled the position of Government Medical Officer for the district for upwards of 30 years. His family were all born in Moruya, five sons and two daughters, all living except the youngest son Octavius. Dr Boot's remains were interred in the CE cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, a large concourse of people paying their last tribute of respect to the highly esteemed pioneer. The Rev J.H. Williams officiated at the graveside.



The headstone in Moruya Cemetery.



Dr Boots Surgical Saw displayed in the MDHS Museum



Also in the Museum can be found some of the reference books used by Dr Boot.



Parish map showing Boot family holdings at Yarragee

## Asides from the Editor

## Gowts

The IGI records show that Edward Boot was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 8 children of Henry and Susannah Boot. The children were all christened in St Peter At Gowts, Lincoln, England. The name gowts (“go outs”) derives from the watercourses nearby the Church. A Gowt is the outlet of a canal or sewer where two or three drains flow into a river. It is where they “go out”.

## Physicians v. Surgeons or Dr v. Mr

Edward is reported to have studied to become a surgeon in Dublin. He was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons, England on July 21 1837.

Surgeons in England were traditionally addressed as Mr and Physicians as Dr. At the beginning of the eighteenth century physicians possessed a medical doctorate. Physicians were gentlemen with a university education who dealt with internal diseases, arrived at a diagnosis on the basis of history and external appearance of the patient and prescribed in Latin. Few 18<sup>th</sup> century Surgeons had formal qualifications and were addressed as Mr. With the growth of the number of voluntary hospitals between 1730's to 1800 the hierarchical division ended and surgeons were elevated to the level of physicians. However they now saw the title of Mr as a badge of honour rather than a put down so the term Dr and Mr continues to prevail in England today.

Source: British Medical Journal Dec 23, 2000