

# William Stewart Caswell, Police Magistrate. Part 1.

## by Wendy Simes

With special thanks to Helen Taylor the current owner of Tanilba House

William Stewart Caswell was the first Police Magistrate at Moruya. He started work in Sydney as a Clerk of the Court before becoming the Clerk at Tumut. In 1853 he became the Clerk of Court at Moruya where in 1857 it was decided there was a need for a permanent Police Magistrate in the area and he was promoted to the position. He remained in this position for 22 years. He bought land at Mynora where his 9 children were born. However his job was not an easy one and was dogged by controversy with the community polarised into those who supported him and those who wanted him removed. This first article deals with his early life before he came to Moruya.

William arrived in Australia on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1829 aged 13 months. He had been born in Walworth, Surrey on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1828. The journey to

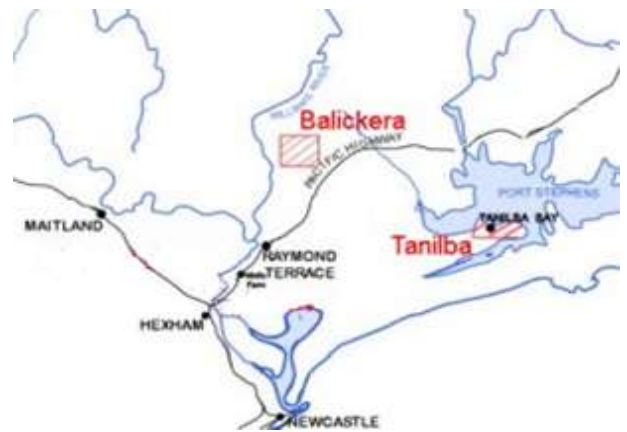


The Portraits above are of Lt William and Susan Caswell. They are images from portraits that are on display at Tanilba House, Port Stephens.

As a retired naval officer William's father Lt William Caswell<sup>1</sup> was entitled to a land grant of 1000 acres when he arrived. The major part of his holding was 920 acres on the Williams River, a property which he called Balickerra. He also selected 50 acres on Nelson's Bay, Port Stephens which was known as

<sup>1</sup> William was the son of John Caswell and Ann Strangewig. He was born in 1789

Tanilba. He was of course assigned convicts to work the land and quickly set about having accommodation built at Tanilba for his family, while at the same time regularly travelling to Balickerra to check on work there. The first hut built at Tanilba was reported to be of slab construction and was quickly expanded to a cottage. This was where the family were to live while he had constructed a much more substantial home.



Adapted from a map at <http://members.pcug.org.au/~pdownes/sharp/#caswell>

Sir Edward Parry from the AA Company across the bay at Carrington recorded a visit to the Caswell's in 1832 –

*"In the afternoon I went over with Captain Moffatt and Mr Stacy to Mr Caswell's and I certainly never saw so much misery in a family of the same class – one child dead, another dangerously ill and an infant very poorly, and the mother like a walking skeleton – I fear not long for this world. Mr Stacy is rather apprehensive that the complaint of the children is of a typhoid nature."* (Mr Stacy was the AA Company doctor).

The child who died was George, he was born in 1830. The baby also died and both are reported to be buried at Tanilba. Fortunately Susan was tougher than Parry realised and survived, going on to have 5 more

<sup>2</sup> Susan was the daughter of Robert Hoddle and Elizabeth Marsden. She was born in 1805.

children and outlived her husband, dying in England in 1886 aged 81.

The foundations for the main house were not laid until 1837 by which time young William was away at school at Parramatta.

Before he was sent away to school William and his sister Emily when they could escape from their mother or the Governess's watchful eyes would have played on the foreshores of the bay which surrounded their home. Little is known of the governess except that she died of typhoid

The family home his father planned to construct was a solid construction of quartz porphyry stone quarried locally. His mother was concerned about the escalating costs and how she would find the servants needed and the furnishings. The house however was completed and still stands today.



Tanilba House, Port Stephens as it stands today



However by the 1840's the family could not afford to live there any longer and moved to their property on the Williams River sometime between 1841 and 1844. Young William would have been able to enjoy life at Tanilba into his early teens though most of his



Balickerra House as it exists today

time would have been spent away at school. A letter from his mother to Catherine Jackson<sup>3</sup> of Lambeth records in 1837 that William is away at school in Parramatta and reported to be doing well. Later in his education he was boarding in Maitland and tutored privately.

William had other Caswell relatives in Australia as his father's brothers James and Lt Thomas Caswell had also come to Australia. His mother's letter in 1837 makes a comment which suggests that the brothers may however have had a falling out. She says

*"You will hear from my mother how Mr Caswell's brothers have behaved to us what with one thing and another I am quite in a dull mood."*

Thomas was William's younger brother and early records show him also in the Hunter region. The first records of convicts being assigned to him is in 1837. By 1840 however he had moved to the Hastings River, Port Macquarie where it was reported his eldest daughter Fanny aged 12 years and 3 months died. Thomas remained at Port Macquarie and died there in 1862 aged 64. Of James little is known, he wasn't a naval officer so he would not have had the same entitlement to land as his brothers. <sup>ii</sup>

However their Hoddle Cousin Sarah who came out with them on the ship did continue to have close contact with them, as Susan writes in her letter to Catherine that Sarah is about to be married to Henry Stacy who she had introduced her to.

The Caswell's seem to have quickly made a viable farm at Tanilba. Susan reported in 1837 they had large bunches of table grapes on the table from their grape vine plantings and that they were receiving 1/9 per lb for their butter from the dairy herd which was above the going market value. The grapes were not just used for enjoyment at the table but also to make wine, The Colonist 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1839 reported

*Lieutenant Caswell, of Tenilla, (sic) has six or seven acres, and that three of them are six years, and two fours years old. He makes ten hogshead, and would have made twenty but for the hot winds about six weeks ago, which cut his vintage in half.*

So on his holidays from school William not only enjoyed grapes with the family meals but maybe also a taste of some of Australia's early wines.

The main worry for the family at this time was a case of defamation coming up before the courts. Lt Caswell after hearing rumours of inappropriate behaviour of Mr Whitfield, an AA company

<sup>3</sup> Catherine Jackson was Emily's Godmother

employee to a man named Howarth reported the situation to Colonel Dumaresque. The Colonel dismissed Whitfield who then proceeded to prosecute Caswell for defamation. This was perhaps young William Caswell's introduction to the legal system with the case being decided on a point of law rather than the truth of the allegations.

The early years at Tanilba were difficult ones for William's mother. She had trouble finding and managing suitable domestic help and reports:

*I have been quite a slave since I came to this country & now find my health suffering from it since I have had my last baby. I have kept two women servants one of them has been in the cells for the last fortnight & vows she will never do anything more for me. This is quite a common case. The other a stout masculine woman fancies herself killed with work and I am obliged to do the best share to keep her at all quick.*

On a happier note she reports:

*I have now five children my last is the finest baby I have had she did nothing but cry till she was three months old. Since then she has been tolerably good, is as fat as a little pig.*

William's parents eventually returned to England with his sister Emily and her husband Andrew Lang. Unfortunately Lt. Caswell died on the voyage home. By this time William had become a clerk and was appointed to Tumut where he met his future wife Maria Pentland who was acting as a companion to Mrs Shelley. The couple married at Richlands near Goulburn by special licence on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1853. Maria's sister Alicia was the wife of George Martyr

<sup>i</sup> **Lieutenant Caswell's naval record** was recorded in O'Bryne's Naval Biography and reprinted in the Empire 5<sup>th</sup> June 1857 p.6. William was given the rank of commander in February 1857.

William Caswell entered the navy in September 1805, as A.B on board *Fox*, (under various captains) on the East India Station, where he remained until his return in 1811, previous to which he had been taken prisoner as midshipman, in a conflict with the Malays, and detained a prisoner among them from September 1807, to April 1808, and then had commanded Fox's barge at the capture, March 28, 1809 of *La Carvanne*, French Privateer, of 8 guns and 100 men under the batteries of Sappers. In November 1811, he joined, as master's mate, *Maidstone*, Captain George Burdett, and on proceeding to the Mediterranean, commended her launch at the capture of a privateer of 5 guns and 59 men. For his subsequent conduct on August 3 1812, at the taking in the Bay of Fundy of the American cutter, *Commodore Barry*, of 6 guns, by the boats of *Maidstone*, one of which he again had charge. Mr Caswell was appointed April 26 1813, Acting Lieutenant of *Spartan* under Captain Edward Pelham Brenton, and on November 13 following, was confirmed into the *Plantagenet* under Captain Robert Lloyd. He was afterwards, on September 25,

the manager of Richlands Estate which was part of the Macarthur estate at Taralga.

Maria had grown up in a large family in Rathmacknee County Wexford where her father was the Rector. The 1837 Topographical dictionary of Ireland describes it as a glebe comprising 12 acres of cultivated land with the Glebe house, the residence of the Rev. Francis Pentland. The church is now in ruins



Rathmacknee Rectory. Source Department of Arts and Heritage Ireland

but the rectory built in 1809 is still standing though unoccupied at the time of the photograph above.

Four Pentland sisters are known to have come to Australia, Maria, Alicia, Eliza and Emily. The exact date of their arrivals is unknown to date. Their father Francis Pentland is reported to have died in 1840 and their mother Mary Anne Blanchois in 1844. Alicia married in 1848, which means that Alicia must have arrived between 1844 and 1848. An elder sister Eliza Pentland was said to have arrived in 1855 and spent a few months in Queensland before coming the NSW. The youngest sister Emily Jane married Rev. David Evans Jones in 1873.

**To be continued**

1814, wounded in a sanguinary attack on the American privateer General Armstrong. On his return home after visiting the West Indies, he joined, September 7 1815, *Superb*, Captain Charles Ekins, one of Lord Exmouth's ships, at the bombardment of Algiers, in which he continued until paid off, October 1818. He was subsequently appointed, November 23 1820, to *Surinam* sloop, Captain William McKenzie Godfrey, on the Jamaican station, in November, 1821, as First Lieutenant to *Bann*, Captain Phillips, on the coast of Africa, and March 5, 1825, to the coast blockade, as Supernumerary of *Hyperion*, Captain William James Mingaye. He has been on half-pay since 1828.

A medal with two clasps has been awarded him, one for coast service, and one for Algiers. Naval and Military Gazette February 21.

<sup>ii</sup> The Maitland Mercury of 25<sup>th</sup> May 1850 reported the marriage on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1849 of Eliza Esther Caswell at the Bombay Cathedral to W.T.B. Evans esq, reporting Eliza as the only daughter of the late James Caswell, Esq Hunter River, and niece of Lt Thomas Caswell, Port Macquarie.

# William Stewart Caswell, Police Magistrate. Part 2.

## by Wendy Simes



William Stewart Caswell from  
"Tanilba House" by Helen  
Taylor and Angela Lind.

In part 1 of this article on William Stewart Caswell we left William recently married to Maria Pentland. He had received a transfer from Tumut to Moruya in January 1853 and it was here their first child William George Pentland Caswell was born on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1853 at Glenduart.<sup>1</sup>

This was where the court house was located at the time. By the time of the birth of their second child Maria Ann Rose Caswell on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1855<sup>2</sup> they were living in "Mynora Cottage", where they were to spend the rest of their time in Moruya and a further 7 children were born.

In July 1857, at the age of 29 he was promoted to Police Magistrate, Moruya.<sup>3</sup> An appointment that would appear to have been supported by the community or at least in the opinion of the Correspondent who wrote for the Sydney Morning Herald. He wrote -

*"we may yet have the benefit of the long experience and business habits of our much esteemed Clerk of Petty Sessions, Mr. W. S. Caswell, as Police Magistrate. Should this take place it would give universal satisfaction and certainly would not lessen the popularity of the Government in this district."*<sup>4</sup>

Writing again after the appointment the correspondent wrote -

*"The Government has put the right man in the right place. Mr W. S. Caswell, out late Clerk of Petty Sessions, in now a Stipendiary Magistrate, and police business, I am persuaded, will go on more satisfactorily than at any time heretofore."*<sup>5</sup>

The Courts of Petty Session were the main arm of government in country areas. The first Courts of

Petty Session (or CPS as they became known) were proclaimed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1832. These courts are known today as Local Courts.<sup>6</sup> The CPSs in country areas were presided over by local Honorary Magistrates with an employed Clerk of the Court. The Honorary Magistrates were usually from the local land owning establishment. The legal system in the early days of the Colony of NSW was of course inherited from England with the Magistrate system having its origins in the ancient English office of the Justice of the Peace. "In the colony it was an office which conferred state power on prestigious, usually wealthy individuals."<sup>7</sup> The role of the court was both administrative and judicial with the Magistrates having control over the convicts from their assignment to the issuing of their Tickets of Leave.

The salaried or Stipendiary Magistrates were known as Police Magistrates as they also originally had the function of supervising police. The salaried position of Magistrate was created because of the difficulty in securing Honorary Magistrates who were readily available. This occurred in Moruya when William Trueman Collett was left as the one remaining Honorary Magistrate, leading to the promotion of Caswell to Police Magistrate for Moruya CPS.

William Caswell was to spend 21 years in the position, during which time he became very much a member of the community, participating in local events and on the committee of the Church of England. He took an active interest in his land at "Mynora" where he had a fine orchard and by 1871 was reported to have an acre of grape vines and making about 200 gallons of Riesling a year.<sup>8</sup> The wine making he had no doubt learnt from his father. His wine is described in details in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1865 -

*"as being perfectly clear and bright. By all it was allowed to be a very superior article, beautifully fine, delicate, and with good body."* The article went on to say "Mr Caswell considers that the Riesling grape is a very suitable variety for this country. He has cultivated about twenty-five sorts, but some of the varieties are very unsuitable for the rich flats about Moruya. The Riesling and the Hermitage he confidently recommends."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SMH 10<sup>th</sup> December 1853. Birth Notice.

<sup>2</sup> SMH 11<sup>th</sup> August 1855. Birth Notice.

<sup>3</sup> Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser 28 July 1857. p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> SMH 11<sup>th</sup> July 1857. p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> SMH 25 August 1857. p. 8.

<sup>6</sup> Their name was changed in the 1985 Act.

<sup>7</sup> Lowndes Paper. The Australian Magistracy: from Justices of the Peace to Judges and Beyond.

<sup>8</sup> Australian Town and Country Journal 21<sup>st</sup> October 1871.

<sup>9</sup> SMH 20<sup>th</sup> June 1865. p. 4.

His grape vines were inundated in the floods of 1863 and 1870, but apart from a covering of thin mud appeared to suffer no damage.



Photograph taken 1907 well after the Caswell family had left the area.

He was interested in the agricultural development of the district in general and wrote a detailed account of the successful growing of *Sorghum Saccharatum* in the area which was printed in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1858.

The fact that Police Magistrates were allowed to remain so long in the one area is thought to be one of the problems that lead to the difficulties experienced by some of them. In small country towns they often had to pass judgement on their neighbours and friends which inevitably caused some resentment. The Moruya community however seemed to have polarized for and against Caswell within a year of his taking up the position.

He had a large number of supporters in the Community but he also had some powerful detractors in the Hawdon family and William Clements the editor of the local newspaper.

The case of “Mr Flanagan’s Insanity” seems to have fanned the debate in the community. No Moruya newspapers exist from this time period but letters were published in Illawarra Mercury in May and June 1858 dealing with the case. The correspondent who supported Caswell wrote –

*“All those whose opinion is worth anything acknowledge that more worthy persons in every relation of life than those who at present occupy the Moruya Bench, cannot be found in New South Wales, and that it would be a calamity to the district if it was deprived of their services.”*<sup>10</sup>

The above contrasts greatly with the opinions in an article written in support of Francis Flanagan Jr. which states that –

*“Francis Flanagan Jr was apprehended on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, at the instance of his father and brother,*

*and presented by them on the next day, for attempting to “steal” (as they termed it) a horse, the alleged property of his father, and being of unsound mind and dangerous to them (his father and brother) to be at large.*

*Although there was no evidence adduced to show that he either attempted or threatened any violence to any one, much less his father, to whom he, on that occasion, showed the greatest respect, yet, the verdict of the Court was that he should find security to the amount of three hundred pounds, to be of good behavior for twelve months, or, in default, to be imprisoned in Darlinghurst Goal until the next Quarter Sessions. Surely their Worships gave him the full benefit of the Act, in demanding such security – well knowing that any of old Mr Flanagan’s tenants would not dare go bail for him. He asked a few of his once chosen friends who are not dependent on his father, but they, as well as the rest, refused, on the plea, that they were afraid his brother’s conduct would very likely lead to a breach of the peace. Under such trying circumstances, what wonder, I say, if he should go mad!*<sup>11</sup>

The article then goes on to detail the ill treatment of Flanagan by Constable Smith and claims Magistrate Caswell left the scene through a window. It then details that Constable Smith was later charged but merely reprimanded by the bench for beating Flanagan. The author of this article who calls himself “A Lover of Justice” claims Flanagan was chained, he was given moonshine and was known to dislike the Constable. The letter supporting Caswell’s decision however refutes these claims.

Needless to say Caswell was not removed from his position and life in the court continued as usual.

Most of the court cases heard were disputes between neighbours, petty theft, masters and servants disputes, and many drunk and disorderly charges.

Typical of a neighbour dispute is the case on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1858 of P.T. Flanagan of Shannon View charged by Robert Jones of Shannon View with unlawfully taking away and using a mare. This case was however withdrawn but then P.T Flanagan charged Robert Jones with unlawfully using insulting and threatening language towards him in a public place. This was followed on October 18<sup>th</sup> by Mr Flanagan charging Robert Jones of unlawfully and maliciously throwing down a panel fence, the property of Francis Flanagan. Jones pleaded not guilty and the case was dismissed with Mr Flanagan ordered to pay costs of 6s 4d.

<sup>10</sup> Illawarra Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 1858. p.2

<sup>11</sup> Illawarra Mercury 24<sup>th</sup> May 1858 p. 2

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1858 under the Master and Servants Act an aboriginal Paddy Narang was charged by his employer Francis Malacky of Shannon View. Malacky was allowed to take Paddy back but the comment from the bench was that it was not surprising that Paddy would run away given the wages he was paid of £2 12s per annum and further stated *"I consider the blacks should get more wages, and then they would not be so apt to run away."*<sup>12</sup>

The bickering over the actions of the Police Magistrate eventually culminated in a meeting at the Gold Diggers Arms Hotel when a resolution and address supporting the Police Magistrate was proposed and carried. The resolution was signed by 217 individuals. In his reply William Caswell said – *"I am not so hardy as to assert that my judgement is unerring, but I do maintain that I have always worked zealously and devotedly, and with the best intentions, and your favourable testimony will, I trust, receive a just recognition by my continuance in that course which has won your support. I remain, gentlemen, your grateful and obedient servant."*<sup>13</sup>

However the arguing over the Police Magistrate continued with petitions and letters to the papers. In November another letter appeared written by O.L. claiming a testimonial of support of Caswell sent to the Colonial Secretary could not contain the number of signatures indicated and went onto say –

*"As to the "persecutors", they are really such only in the fretful and terror-stricken imagination of him chiefly interested. It looks as if something is really wrong when one is always under the influence of terrorism – afraid of his shadow."*<sup>14</sup>

There were unfounded rumours that Caswell was to be transferred, but these were no more than rumours and he retained the confidence of the Government.

Matters were always simmering and although in the early years it appears not have been a Catholic versus Protestant divide in 1870 after an altercation with the Reverend J. J. Garvey over the flood relief subscriptions the community did tend to polarize on religious grounds at least in Caswell's eyes. The matter became a subject of debate in Parliament leading to an enquiry in October 1870 by His Honor Judge Macfarland. At the hearing Caswell claimed that he had been persecuted by *"Father Garvey, and his predecessors and his party for the last 17 years."* He felt Father Garvey had come to the meeting to

sneer at the Protestant Clergy who did not have funds available for the relief and that Father *"Garvey came to the meeting to parade his charity."*<sup>15</sup> Caswell claimed to have been treated unfairly by Father Birch, Father Garvey's predecessor and that Father Birch had made charges against him but declined to go any further with the matter at the enquiry.

The inquiry also looked into the conduct of the inquest into the alleged case of infanticide by the daughters of Mr. William Duggan Tarlinton. This alleged event had happened in 1864 and a further inquest in 1870 led to Margaret and Elizabeth being charged with infanticide and the matter referred to the Central Criminal Court. The case was based on the evidence of Emily Wintle who had grown up in the Tarlinton household. Although Dr Boot gave evidence that the remains exhibited were those of a new born child the case against the two women was dismissed on the evidence of Dr Cox that the sphenoid bone was united in one piece and therefore the remains were not those of a new born.

The result of the enquiry into Police Magistrate's conduct was –

*"Caswell was censured for the improprieties of conduct sufficiently proved... and that his serious attention be called to the failings to which he appears to be subject (namely, those of occasionally permitting his zeal as a Magistrate and Coroner to get the better of his judgement, - of failing, at times, to exercise that command over his tempter which is desirable in an officer discharging judicial duties, - and of too great readiness to construe slight and innocent circumstances into personal affronts) – with a view to their correction in the future."*

The report also stated that when a suitable opportunity occurred for a transfer the Government will facilitate such an exchange.<sup>16</sup>

In all fairness to his detractors Caswell did appear to have a short temper and sometimes speak before stopping to think of the consequences. He also appears to have felt his position as Police Magistrate gave him particular importance in the district, which of course to some extent it did. It is to be wondered however if the community would have become so polarized for and against him if the editor of the local newspaper, William Clements had not been so satirical in his dislike of Caswell. He usually managed to add his own opinion of the Court's

<sup>12</sup> Illawarra Mercury 28 June 1858. p.2.

<sup>13</sup> SMH 31<sup>st</sup> July 1858

<sup>14</sup> SMH 30<sup>th</sup> November 1860. p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Freemans Journal 12<sup>th</sup> November 1870. p. 12-13.

Inquiry into charges against the Police Magistrate at Moruya.

<sup>16</sup> Freeman's Journal 24<sup>th</sup> December 1870. p. 11. Final decision in Mr Caswell's case.

judgement if he disagreed rather than simply reporting on them.

After the enquiry Clements did not give up on taking every opportunity to lampoon the Magistrate. Typical of this is his article on a misprint in the Braidwood Dispatch. The paper had a small item stating that *H. Caswell Esq. P.M. of Moruya was to play a game of chess with an Araluen Gentleman, and that he was a crack*. Clements managed to turn this simple misprint into a 300 word article on who this P.M could possibly be. After going through all the possibilities of what P.M. could possibly stand for he finished the article with the following –

*“ ‘crack’ the word means ‘a flaw’; and it struck us at once that the Dispatch after all might mean W. S. Caswell Esq. P.M. and that idea was rather strengthened by a fact we found dotted down in our memory respecting the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Hussars, known as a crack regiment, in truth the crackest regiment under the British Crown, and as a proof of their crackness, they had more marks against them at the Horse Guards than any other regiment. We therefore concluded that a ‘crack’ at chess has more marks against him than any other player can boast of, that is, he loses more games than other players. Hence we have no doubt the Dispatch has mistaken the initial, and put H. Caswell Esq. P.M., when it ought to have been W.S. Caswell Esq. P.M. If any of our readers can help us to a better solution we shall be most happy.”*<sup>17</sup>

It would be 8 years before Caswell left the district. There was however another major conflict before he left and that was with Reverend James Graham Love who he took to court for defamation. Love was ordered to pay a fine which he refused also refusing to let any of his supporters pay his fine so he went to prison until he was eventually persuaded to allow his fine to be paid.

Caswell did have friends and supporters in the district, his wife and children would have been very much involved in the community and we can only presume when he finally transferred to Wellington it was a wrench for them all. On his departure from Moruya he was presented with a purse containing 150 sovereigns and an accompanying address as a substantial token of the esteem in which he was held. It was signed by over 400 people.

During his time as Police Magistrate we have little information on his wife and family. Maria would have been involved in Community events and it was

she who laid the foundation stone for the Church of England Rectory in November 1870. Ironically James Graham Love was the first minister to live in the rectory.

Caswell sent his eldest son to high school in Sydney in 1866, first to St Marks Collegiate College and then to Kings School, Parramatta.<sup>18</sup>

After a term at Wellington Court of Petty Sessions he was transferred to Dubbo, which also covered Peak Hill, Warren and Nyngan. The main street of Peak Hill is named Caswell Street so hopefully this indicates he was well respected in the district. After Dubbo he was transferred to Goulburn.

William Stewart Caswell died in Sydney on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1909, aged 81, having retired from the position of Police Magistrate in Goulburn in 1903. Maria Caswell died in Goulburn in 1895.

Caswell’s character is probably best summed up by Martin Brennan in his series of articles entitled ‘Looking Backward over Fifty Years’. Brennan was a Constable at Moruya in the 1860’s, he later rose to the rank of Senior Superintendent.

*“Mr Caswell as police magistrate, was a very capable officer, and possessed many good qualities but his natural imperiousness, which was Caesar or nobody, brought him into collision with some of the residents.”*<sup>19</sup>

## The Moruya Court House

The court in the district was originally held in Broulee where Morduant McLean was the Clerk. When Caswell arrived the court was in temporary premises at Glenduart, the McLean property. It then moved to rented premises on the corner of Church and Vulcan Streets in a building belonging to William Campbell.



In January 1859 a court house on the present site in Vulcan site was completed. This was replaced by the Court House which still stands today. The foundation stone of the new building being laid in November 1879. The 1859 building had to be demolished prior to the start of the new building as the same site was being used. The demolition was carried out by the community who were invited to come and take away whatever building materials they needed.

<sup>17</sup> Moruya Examiner 4<sup>th</sup> April 1874.

<sup>18</sup> Details provided by the Archivist. Kings School, Paramatta.

<sup>19</sup> Freeman’s Journal 4<sup>th</sup> November 1909. p.41