

## ORR STREET

### (Research by the Coolamon & District Family History Group)

*Note: An image of Mr. Orr has not yet been found, if you are able to assist, please contact the Coolamon & District History Group.*

Mr W.T (William) Orr was the district surveyor and was responsible for the surveying of the Coolamon district and the allocation of land to the early settlers.

Below is his Obituary as it appeared in the *Wagga Wagga Express on Tuesday 7 May 1901*.

'...The severe paralytic stroke with which Mr. William Orr, district surveyor, at Wagga, became afflicted whilst returning from the Presbyterian Church on Sunday week, April 28th, ended in his death at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The seizure caused a painful surprise amongst his friends, and especially those who attended the forenoon service at St. Andrews Church on Sunday week. He conversed with many people after the service and was in the best of spirits and apparently in perfect health. Whilst walking home with two of his sons and his daughter he was struck with paralysis by the time the sons had assisted him to his home, 'Westhoe,' Kincaid street, the malady had developed to a serious extent, the whole of the left side of the body and limbs being affected. Dr. C. F. Warren was called in; and during the week he held a consultation with Dr. Woods, of .Albury. The patient's condition varied almost every day, alternating between improvement and relapse, semi-unconsciousness and unconsciousness. At times consciousness would so far return that he was able to recognise those around him. On Friday Mr. Orr was better than he had been all the week. On Sunday night, however, a severe relapse occurred, and death took place at 3 o'clock yesterday morning.

Deceased was- a very old resident of the Riverina. He was born in Sydney 55 years ago, and received part of his education at the Sidney Grammar School. His connection with the public service was long and meritorious. He first joined the Harbors and Rivers branch of the Public Works Department, and while there passed his examination for licensed Surveyorship.

Between 1875 and 1879 he removed to the Urana district, where he carried out surveys on fees as a licensed surveyor and was subsequently appointed Acting District Surveyor at Deniliquin. In 1885, after some years connection with the Wagga district, he was appointed District Surveyor at Wilcannia, and remained there two years. His next appointment was as District Surveyor at Hay, where he remained from June until December 1887, being then transferred to the position of District Surveyor at Wagga.

The deceased was always a hard worker and seems to have found his way into whatever place the work was thickest. The work devolving upon the District Surveyor at

Wagga has always been recognised as the heaviest of all the district survey offices, and the manifold new classes of settlement introduced under the existing Land Acts, taken in conjunction with the pre-eminence of the Riverine district for the purpose of such settlement, greatly increased the work. This necessitated Mr. Orr's untiring exertions both day and night, and the strain was so great that his health broke down in 1898 and acting on the advice of his medical attendant, Dr. Warren, he obtained six months' leave of absence, and visited England and Scotland, sailing from Sydney in the H.M.S. Victoria in March of that year. The tour thoroughly restored Mr. Orr to health, but the severe strain on his powers since his return renewed the trouble in an aggravated form and caused the formation of a clot of blood on the brain, which brought on the paralysis which ended in his death.

The late Mr. Orr married at Sydney, in 1870, Miss Danks, who predeceased him by nearly four years. Four children survive him, viz., Gilbert W. Orr, staff surveyor at Bathurst; Mr. Norman Orr, a member of the survey staff at Wagga; Mr. Hess, and Miss Orr. In private life he was somewhat retiring so far as his appearance before the public was concerned. He, however, took great interest in all movements in the town.

He was a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge and shared with Mr. John McIntosh the honor of being the oldest member of Lodge Harmony. He held the offices of secretary of the Lodge, Worshipful Master, Immediate Past Master, and Past District Grand Inspector of Workings, these offices conferring the style Very Worshipful upon him. He was also an active worker in connection with St. Andrew's (Presbyterian) Church, in which he was an Elder and Clerk of the Kirk Session. To the majority of field sports he gave liberal and active support, being president of football and cricket clubs and of the Cycling Club. Yesterday week he was chosen by an unanimous vote of the members as first president of the Wagga Branch of the Australian Natives' Association, in the formation of which he took a deep interest and an active part. He was a liberal donor in the cause of charity and the church, to which he made it a practice of distributing one-tenth of his annual income, which was reputed to be large. He disliked ostentatiousness in connection with whatever he gave, and large numbers of people have good cause to remember his for assisting them substantially in times of difficulty. He was probably the most generous giver in the district, but at the same time very few knew the extent of his generosity. He was an ardent lover and follower of field sports and rendered substantial monetary assistance in promoting healthy sport by giving prize money.

His funeral is timed to leave 'Westhoe,' Kincaid street, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The deceased will be accorded a Masonic funeral, and an advertisement in this issue requests members of the Order to assemble at the Oddfellows' Hall at 2.30 p.m. A lodge of sorrow will be held, after which members will march to 'Westhoe.' The Masonic funeral service will take place at the grave, W.M. Bro. T. Watkins Burgess officiating. The pall bearers will be: W.M., Bro. T. Watkins Burgess, I.P.M., Wor. Bro. W. J. Daley, Bro. Bellair, and Bro. A. Lewis; members who will carry the coffin are Wor. Bro. W. U. Morison, Wor. Bro. H. B. Jefferson, Wor. Bro. C.E. Layh and Bro. H. D. Cox. The remains will be interred in the Presbyterian portion of the cemetery, and Rev. Chas.

Bell who is on a visit to Melbourne will arrive at Wagga this morning in order to conduct the service....'

## Wagga Land Board.

Before Messrs. Wm. Orr (Acting-chairman),  
A. MacPherson, and J. J. M'Grath.

MONDAY, 13TH MARCH.

Nathaniel W. Wood, h s 97-21, 600 acres, appraisalment of improvements. Improvements valued at £30.

Robert H. Turner, h s 97-22, 570 acres, appraisalment of improvements. Improvements appraised at £39 7s 6d.

John Collis, h s 97-23, 611 acres, appraisalment of improvements and inquiry Sec. 16, Act '95. Improvements appraised at £28 19s 9d.

Alfred A. Dennis, h s 97-24, 597½ acres, appraisalment of improvements. Improvements appraised at £29 18s 4d.

James Dobbie, h s 97-26, 570 acres, appraisalment of improvements and application to cease living. Improvements appraised at £26 2s 6d. Application to cease residing on his h.s. granted.

Thomas Corbett, h s 97-18, 611 acres, appraisalment of improvements and application cease living. Improvements appraised at £43 2s 6d.

Charles C. Browne, h s 97-19, 597½ acres, appraisalment of improvements and application cease living. Improvements appraised at £15 17s 4d.

James M'Leish, h s 97-20, 611 acres, appraisalment of improvements. Improvements appraised at £43 5s 3d.

William Ayscough, h s 97-27, 598 acres, appraisalment of improvements. Postponed.

John Guinan, h s 97-28, 605½ acres, appraisalment of improvements and application to cease living. Improvements appraised at £20. Application to cease residing on his h.s. granted.

Thomas M. English, h s 97-31, 597½ acres, appraisalment of improvements and application to cease living. Improvements appraised at £39 10s. Application to cease residing on his h.s. granted.

Daniel Keogh, h s 97-32, 599½ acres, appraisalment of improvements and application to cease living. Improvements valued at £23 6s. Application to cease residing on his h.s. granted.

Wm. Williamson, h s 98-24, 348½ acres, parish Coolamon, county Bourke, appraisalment of improvements. Improvements valued at £8 14s.

S. M. Wild, h s 98-13, 740 acres, parish Ashcroft, county Mitchell, appraisalment of improvements. The Board appraised their value at £180 10s 9d.