

# S. Paul's Church, Paterson

[Consecrated by Bishop Broughton, November 27, 1845.]

A SOUVENIR

of the

*Eightyfourth Anniversary, Wednesday, November 27th, 1929.*

*Dedication of Memorials to John Jennings Smith, M.A.  
First Resident Chaplain in the Paterson-Allyn Valleys, 1839—1846.*

*PARISH OF PATERSON*

Rector The Reverend H. M. R. Rupp, B.A.

Honorary Lay Reader Mr V. T. Osborne

The Wardens, 1929

*S. Paul's Church, Paterson*

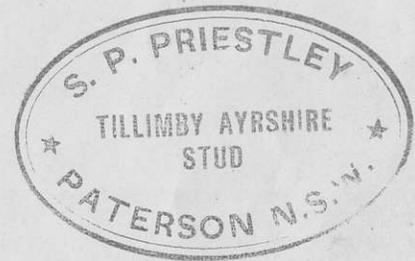
Messrs G. O. Marquet, A. Lowe and A. Cram.

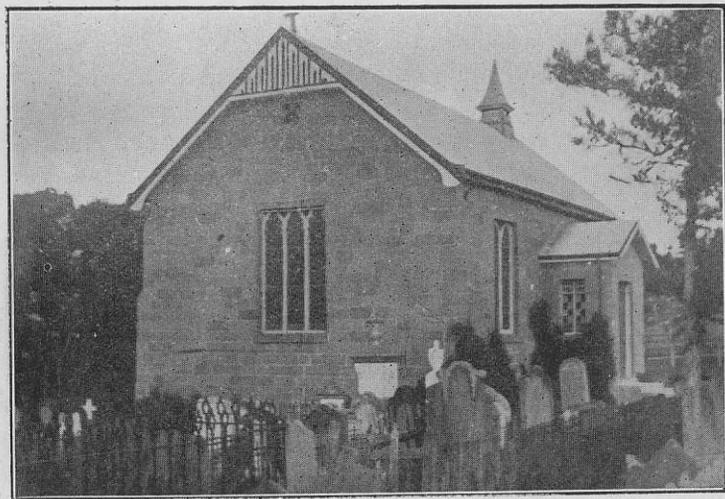
*S. John's Church Vacy*

Messrs G. C. Sellens, V. T. Osborne, W. J. Brooker

*S. James' Church, Martin's Creek*

Messrs P. Keppie, E. J. Priestly, T. Ellis





S. PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH, PATERSON

Photo

Rev. H. M. R. Rupp

collaboration of the other author, A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D., at present Rector of S. James' Church, Morpeth, was obtained. Dr Elkin had already planned a history of the Parish of Paterson as part of a series of histories of parishes of Newcastle Diocese, on which he has been engaged for some years. As a result, a history of 'Church and Settlement in the Paterson and Allyn Valleys' is in process of preparation, which should prove of very great interest to all who are in any way connected with those parts, and also to that quickly increasing number of Australians who take an interest in, and realise the importance of, the history of their own country.

#### A FORGOTTEN TABLET.

A forgotten mural tablet detached and laid aside in the Vestry of S. Paul's Church, Paterson, and recently brought to light again by the Reverend H. M. R. Rupp, B.A., the present Rector of this historic Church, has served as an historical snowball. The inscription on the tablet showed that it had been erected to the memory of the Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A. Cantab., the first Incumbent. Mr Rupp then sought information from the latter's descendants and relations, from official records and from 'old hands'. This opened up many problems and suggested further research into the history of the Church in the District both before and after Mr Smith's incumbency, and also into the general history of early settlement on the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. At this point, the



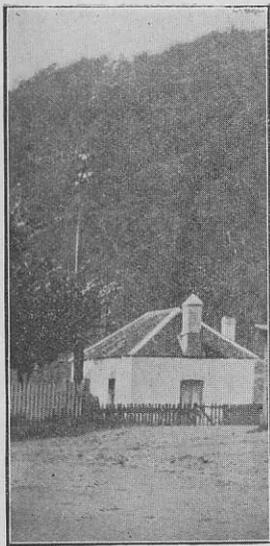
Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A.  
From a portrait lent by  
Miss T. Milner Stephen

In the course of this work some fascinating journals have been read, registers and records throwing informative sidelights on various aspects of early days examined, and treasured pictures and photos copied. But unfortunately, the history cannot be ready for publication in time for the celebration of the eightyfourth anniversary of the consecration of S. Paul's Church, Paterson, November 27th 1929. This little Souvenir has therefore been prepared to summarise, ever so slightly, some part of the larger work, and also to be a contribution to the celebration just mentioned, the outstanding feature of which will be the dedication by the present Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Long, of certain memorials to John Jennings Smith, the pioneer Chaplain and pastor of the Paterson and Allyn Valleys.

#### THE DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF THE VALLEYS

The Paterson River was named after Lieut-Col. William Paterson who examined the Hunter up to and for some miles beyond the present site of West Maitland in 1801. Strangely enough, his journal and also the chart drawn by Ensign Barrallier, the surveyor of the Party, suggests that Paterson believed the Hunter River above Raymond Terrace to be the Paterson, and the Williams River which he also partly examined, to be the main stream, the Hunter. When, however, the geography of the district became better known and the presence of a third river, 'The New River', became established, Paterson's name became definitely attached to the latter.

It was in 1801, too, that the first settlement was made at the mouth of the Hunter to win coal and procure timber. This soon failed, but a second settlement, like the first, penal in form, was successfully established in 1804 and called Newcastle. The timber-getters worked up to the site of Maitland and



Morpeth and to the lower Paterson, but the real development of the district was delayed until the beginning of the third decade of last century when the penal settlement was removed from Newcastle to Port Macquarie, and the district of the Hunter's River, which included the Paterson, was thrown open to free settlement. Thus it came about that a grant was made in 1821 to William Dun just below the present site of Paterson township, and by 1827 George Townshend, Alexander Park, and Charles Boydell had taken up large areas on the upper Paterson and the Allyn River. Particulars of the original grantees of the estates along the Paterson and Allyn Rivers will be given in our larger work. Some of the stories of the pioneers are of great interest, and none more so than that revealed in the journal of Charles Boydell for 1830—1834, for the use of which we are indebted to Mr G. J. Champain of Camyr Allyn. This journal not only gives a vivid picture of an early settler's life, but also mentions many other well known early Australian families, including the Allmans, Ogilvies, Scotts, John and Gregory Blaxland, Coxes, Sir John Jamison, the Reverend Samuel Marsden and the Reverend F. Wilkinson.

#### THE CHURCH IN THE VALLEYS BEFORE 1839.

The old Schoolhouse built and used as a church prior to the erection of S. Paul's. From an old photograph lent by Mr E. Wilson

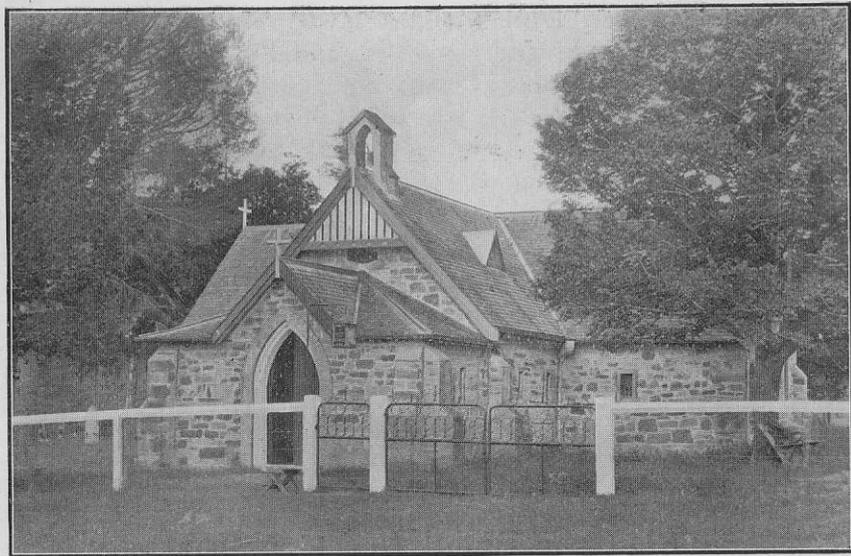
In 1821, the year in which William Dun received his grant on the Paterson, the Reverend G. A. Middleton, M.A., was appointed Chaplain at Newcastle where he remained until 1827. He was succeeded by the Reverend F. Wilkinson, M.A., from 1827 to 1831, and the latter was followed by the Reverend C. P. N. Wilton, M.A., in 1831. These three Chaplains all did pastoral work on the lower Paterson at least, though the last two left most of this work to Mr Middleton who after resigning his Newcastle position, took up his residence in a private capacity in the Morpeth—Hinton district, but at the same time gave his services to the Church. Mention

must also be made of two laymen, namely, the said Mr William Dun who for two years in the early 'twenties' conducted regular Sunday services for the cedar getters and prisoners, and Lieut. John Wood of (East) Maitland, who was appointed about 1827 by the Venerable T. Hobbes Scott, Archdeacon of Australia, to minister as a Catechist in a number of districts including 'Patterson's Plains'.

In 1834, the Newcastle Chaplain was relieved of much of his country area by the appointment of a Chaplain to (East) Maitland, the Reverend G. K. Rusden, M.A. The latter used to visit the Paterson monthly and also travelled occasionally at least as far as Camyr-Allen near Gresford, though he was assisted by Mr Middleton in the pastoral care of the lower Paterson. The next step was taken in 1838 when the Paterson was combined with the new Parochial District of West Maitland to which the Reverend W. Stack, B.A., was appointed on 31st March of that year. But this arrangement was not to last long, for on 26th October of the next year, 1839, the Paterson received its own resident Chaplain, the Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A..

#### THE REVEREND JOHN JENNINGS SMITH M.A. (CANTAB.)

The story of Mr Jennings Smith's career is quite a remarkable one. Born in London in 1784, he was a schoolmaster in his earlier adult years, and when nearly forty years of age—a married man with a family—he went up to S. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, to study for his degree with a view to taking Holy Orders. He was ordained by the Bishop of Gloucester in 1827, and after working in several country parishes, including Hartbury of which he was Curate-in-charge from 1829 to 1831, he went to London where he became one of the preceptors of the future Queen Victoria. In 1839, he accepted a Colonial Chaplaincy, and at the mature age of fifty-six migrated to Australia with his wife and ten children. One of the latter, his eldest daughter, was married and was accompanied by her husband, Captain C. H. Horsley, while his eldest son, John, had preceded him by a short interval.



S. MARY'S ON ALLYN

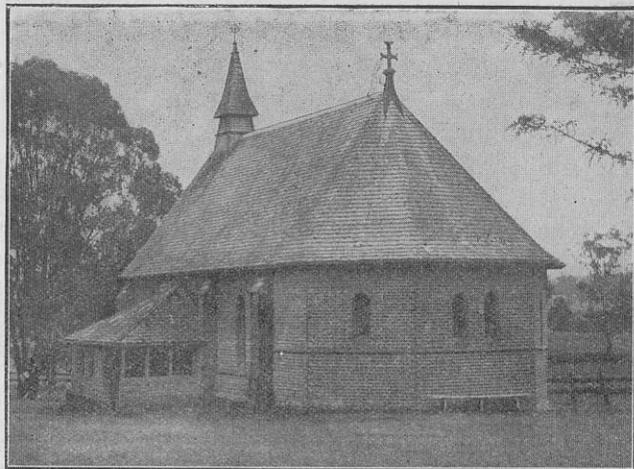
Photo

R. Marceau

School-house at Paterson, a slab Church at Lostock, and a store shed serving for a Church at Gresford. At the last named place, difficulties in connexion with the title-deeds of the site held up the building of old S. Anne's until the period of the next Incumbency.

The erection of the Church of S. Mary on Allyn at Caergwrlle is intimately bound up with the romance of William Barker Boydell, youngest brother of Charles Boydell, and Mary Phoebe Broughton, the

On arrival in Sydney, Mr Smith was offered by Dr Broughton, Bishop of Australia, the Archdeaconry of Hobart Town with the Headmastership of the projected Hutchins School, but his heart was set on pioneering, and so he accepted the alternative offered him by the Bishop, namely the difficult task of ministering to the settlers in the Paterson and Allyn Valleys. He arrived at Paterson at 10 p.m. on 2nd October, 1839, after walking fourteen miles through the cedar brushes and scrubs from Morpeth. He threw himself into his work with extraordinary zeal for a man of his years. There was not a Church building of any sort within the whole area from the foothills of the Barrington Tops to the Hunter River, but within a few years there were stone Churches at Paterson and Caergwrlle (Allynbrook), a stone



S. JOHN'S, VACY

Photo

Reverend Canon Drake

the greater part of the cost out of his own slender resources. Less than a year afterwards, as he was driving down to Hexham on the Hunter, where his son-in-law, Captain Horsley, had settled, he was thrown out of his gig, and taken in an unconscious condition to East Maitland where he died four days later on September 8th 1846. His loss was a very great one not only to his family and friends, but also to the Bishop and to the Church. 'In kindness of heart', wrote Bishop Broughton, 'uprightness of character, and earnest zeal to discharge in full the duties of his sacred office, I have never known a superior to my late friend and brother;' and again, 'to me and to the Church at large his loss is very great, and forms one of my weightiest cares at the moment.'

Bishop's eldest daughter. The Bishop, anxious to have a Church built near the latter's future home, visited the scene and assisted in the work of erection as often as he could, and there is no doubt that one of the happiest hours of his episcopate was the one in which, on November 26, 1845, he consecrated the Church of S. Mary on Allyn, assisted (according to the Maitland Mercury report) by J. J. Smith who read the prayers, C. P. N. Wilton, W. Stack, R. T. Bolton and C. Spencer, being the Incumbents of Paterson, Newcastle, West Maitland, Hexham and Raymond Terrace Respectively.

On the next day, the Bishop consecrated S. Paul's Church Paterson, assisted by J. J. Smith, Incumbent, C. P. N. Wilton who officiated as Chancellor, and W. Stack and G. A. Middleton (of Hinton) as Chaplains. This Church is the outstanding memorial to Jennings Smith, for when there seemed to be insuperable obstacles to its completion, he shouldered the liabilities himself, and bore



S. JAMES', MARTIN'S CREEK

Photo

Reverend H. M. R. Rupp

married life. She survived him by thirty-eight years, living in Sydney at first with her son, Mr Harold Selwyn Smith, and later, with her daughter, Mrs Edward Milner Stephen. She died in 1884 at the age of ninety, and is commemorated, as is also her husband, by a mural tablet in S. Andrew's Cathedral Sydney.

#### THE REST OF THE STORY.

Space precludes a fuller description in this souvenir of Mr Smith's life and works, and also more than a bare mention of his successors both in Paterson and Gresford. There is the long Incumbency, from 1846 to

Jennings Smith was buried outside the East End of S. Paul's, and a substantial tomb was erected by parishioners. This tomb has now been thoroughly renovated as a tribute of honour to his memory. A fund raised by public subscriptions has provided for this and also for certain mural tablet-work in the Church, the restoration of a damaged wall, and the erection of a window presented by some Queensland members of the Jennings Smith family. The greater part of the fund has come from descendants of this fine pioneer Chaplain, but Paterson itself has not been unmindful of him, having recently raised over £600 to restore other parts of the fabric of the Church

Mrs Jennings Smith, formerly Ann Timberlake, a member of an old county family, proved a wonderful helpmate to her husband both in the old and the new land for the twenty-eight years (1818—1846) of their

1884, of Frederick William Addams, one of the first Clergymen to be ordained By Bishop Broughton in old S. Andrew's Church, Sydney. Upon his resignation the northern end of the district became the new Parish of Gresford to which the Rev. A. J. H. Priest was appointed. The Rev. C. E. Amos succeeded Mr Addams at Paterson itself, but left in the following year, 1885, and has been succeeded by W. Swindlehurst (1886—1888), John Shaw B.A., (1888—1903, Canon in 1900), Stephen Taylor B.A., (1903—1908), A. C. Hirst, (1908—1922, Canon in 1911), Archdeacon P. S. Luscombe, M.A., (1922—1924), W. C. Latham (1924, transferred to Taree), and H. M. R. Rupp, B.A. (1924—). In the Parish of Gresford, the successors to A. J. H. Priest (1884—1889) have been Alfred Martin (Locum Tenens, 1890), George Moore (1890—1893), P. S. Luscombe (1894—1898), Stephen Taylor B.A., (1898—1900), G. M. Brown (1901—1914), C. N. Mell B.A., (1914—1916), R. B. Davison (1916—1918), C. M. O. Stretch (1918—1926) and A. R. Holmes (1926—).

NOTE [The book, '*Church and Settlement in the Paterson and Allyn Valleys*', will trace the story of the work and progress of the Church from the earliest days in the districts which later became the Parishes of Paterson and Gresford. Accounts will be given of the various Churches and Church-schools, including those which no longer exist, and we hope to publish a number of pictures which have been obtained of these interesting old structures. One chapter will contain records of faithful layworkers who have done so much for their Church in these districts. And finally, an outstanding feature of the story will consist of material of great interest which we have been fortunate enough to procure, connected with the early settlement of the Valleys.]

H. M. R. RUPP,  
A. P. ELKIN.



OLD S. ANNE'S, GRESFORD

From a Photograph by

Mrs D. C. Doyle

Investigation followed, which impelled me to a definite appeal for funds to provide for the renovation of the tomb, restoration of the old tablet, and other work in honour of the memory of a man whose character and accomplishments entitle him to a high place among the pioneer Church of England clergymen of Australia. The appeal was successful, thanks chiefly to the splendid response from members and friends of the Jennings Smith family in various parts of the Commonwealth. Meantime an addition was contributed to the memorials by the gift of a stained-glass window by Mr M. Selwyn Smith of Beaudesert,

THE JENNINGS SMITH MEMORIALS, 1929.  
BY THE REV. M. M. R. RUPP.

In 1924 I found a small white marble tablet hidden away in the vestry of S. Paul's Church, bearing the following inscription, *'In memory of the Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A., of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, First Incumbent of S. Paul's Church, Paterson. Died September 8th 1846, aged 62.'* This tablet had been rescued from a large fall of plaster on the north wall of the Church, but was afterwards apparently forgotten. The Jennings Smith tomb in the Churchyard also shewed signs of forgetfulness on the part of whoever might be considered responsible for its upkeep. Beyond one or two ineffectual efforts to have the tablet restored, nothing was done until 1928. I had no records of Mr Jennings Smith's work, and knew nothing about him or his family, but in 1928 I learnt that the pioneer chaplain had built the Church largely at his own cost.

Queensland, and his family. This window is now erected near the pulpit. Its outstanding feature consists of the Jennings Smith coat-of-arms and motto—*Mens conscia recti*. The tomb has been thoroughly renovated, special attention being paid to the prevention of roots penetrating between the joints of the stonework. A second white marble tablet has been placed below the one found in the vestry, both being mounted on a slab of beautiful S. Anne's marble, and placed on the restored north wall. The monumental work has been carried out by the well-known West Maitland firm of Thomas Browne Ltd. Mr A. Partridge-Wall, of East Maitland, has been responsible for the erection of the window, while the work of restoring the north wall has been done by Messrs B. Pryor and Son of West Maitland and Mr C. Collison of Paterson. The inscriptions in connexion with the memorials are as follows:

[1] White marble tablet on the tomb (an almost exact replica of the old one): *In the Grave beneath this Tomb rest the mortal remains of the Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A. of S. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, First Incumbent of S. Paul's Church, Paterson. Died September 8th, 1846, aged 62 years. This tomb was erected by his congregation.* IN MEMORIAM John Sketchley Bateman Smith, eldest son of the above, died at Sofala, January 12th, A.D. 1852, aged 32 years.

[2] New mural tablet: *This tablet was added, and his Tomb was renovated, by public subscription A.D. 1929, to honour the memory of his pioneer work in the Paterson-Allyn Valleys, and to record his devotion in the erection of this Church of S. Paul, the cost of which was provided in great part from his private resources. The Church was consecrated by the Right Reverend William Grant Broughton, D.D., Lord Bishop of Australia, on November 27, A.D. 1845.*

[3] Brass plate under window: A.M.D.G. *The gift of M<sup>r</sup> Selwyn Smith and family, A.D. 1929. This Window, bearing the Coat-of-arms and Motto of the Reverend John Jennings Smith, M.A., first resident Chaplain of the Paterson-Allyn Valleys, A.D. 1839—1846, was the property of his son Harold Selwyn Smith. It is erected here in remembrance of the Chaplain's self-denying zeal during his Ministry in this place, and in loving memory of his great-grandson, Hubert George Selwyn Smith, killed in action at Mesines, June 7th, 1917.*

A granddaughter, the late Mrs Alfred Cory, left a legacy of £25 to the Church in 1928, and £18 of this has been applied to the memorial work. A beautiful brass alms dish has been purchased with the balance, bearing the emblem of S. Paul and an inscription to Mrs Cory. The brass work mentioned here has been executed by Church Stores, Sydney.

