

CANBERRA

Poem by Henry Edwin Horne

written for the Opening of Parliament in Canberra 9 May 1927.

Courtesy of his granddaughter, Anne Chapman

The following poem for the opening of the Federal Parliament in Canberra appeared in the Supplement in *The Canberra Times* in 1927.

CANBERRA

(Written for the Canberra Times).

Let grateful hearts bow down to-day
Remembering the pioneers
Who made the wilderness their way
And fought through long heroic years
To win from circling sea to sea
A continent to dower the free—
Recalling, too, while gladness chimes
Through all the loud triumphal hours
The men of other lands and times
Who dreamed the beauty here that flowers,
And died in darkness for the sake
Of rights that we so lightly take
O! she must guard those sacred rights
Our City through the years to be
And hold unsullied on her heights
A temple of true liberty,
That never mob may violate
Nor money changes desecrate.
And over her the Star Cross Flag
Shall float of Sixty Thousand Dead,
And never must her purpose lag
Behind their Glory-light ahead
Till down the greater years we rise
All worthy of Their Sacrifice.
Our road, alas, is hard and long,
And more imperilled than they dreamed,
Who, through the breaking mists of wrong
Saw phantom promised lands that gleamed;
But surely shall the light reveal
The way for God and Commonweal.
Shine on O City—life shall know
An ampler joy, a richer worth,
Till million hearts around you glow
With patriot love of native earth,
Exulting in their birthright grand
Who call Australia, Motherland!

—H. E. Horne.

Henry Edward Horne also wrote the words to a song put to music by Mr Treharne and sung by 10,000 children for the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester on their arrival in Sydney in 1934.

(From *Sydney Morning Herald*, November 24, 1934)

YOUTH'S HOUR WELCOME TO DUKE - ENTHUSIASM AT SHOWGROUND

Ten thousand children of Sydney gave the Duke of Gloucester a wildly enthusiastic welcome at the Showground yesterday. They cheered, they applauded, they waved their flags, and were generally so unrestrained in their enthusiastic expressions of loyalty, that the adults who filled the stands were gripped by the atmosphere and cheered as mightily.

The children gave a colourful display of dancing and exercises, which greatly impressed the Duke. "I am greatly appreciative of the magnificent performance", he said later in conversation with the Premier (Mr Stevens) and the Minister for Education (Mr Drummond). All roads seemed to lead to the Showground. Throughout the morning special trams carried to the ground the children who took part in the displays, for which they had been painstakingly coached by the experts of the Department of Education. There were physical culture exercises, performed to the accompaniment of bands, maypole dances organised on a gigantic scale, and tableaux, the chief of which represented a map of Australia with the word "Welcome" boldly printed across it in human characters.

Ten thousand children performed their graceful evolutions with smiles and joyous laughter the girls in smart little frocks of every colour on an artist's palette, and the boys wearing almost universally a neat gymnastic dress composed of a white cotton singlet, black shorts and white canvas shoes.

A picturesque item was a version of the old maypole dance performed on a scale that would have made the old-time villagers who danced it on the village green, open their eyes with astonishment. Thirty seven maypoles were erected and several thousand capering, bright-eyed youngsters weaved brilliant patterns in their joyous evolutions.

It was not until the maypole dances were over that the Duke arrived at 12.25. With a premonition of his coming a crowd began to assemble in front of the general offices of the Royal Agricultural Society, where there was a distinguished gathering to welcome him. The Duke was acclaimed with enthusiastic cheering as he stepped from his car, wearing morning dress. He chatted for a few minutes and was then escorted to the ground, where grandstands and members stands were packed to capacity.

The children then formed the map of Australia. The state of N.S.W. was coloured blue, the space within its boundaries being completely filled in by young girls in blue frocks.

The rest of Australia was left white and the word "Welcome" was printed boldly on it from Western Australia's border to the N.S.W. coast.

The human map having been drawn and filled in, all the children sang the "Song of Welcome", written by Mr H.E. Horne, M.L.C. with music by Mr H.F. Treharne, Supervisor of Music.

The rendering of the song, which was conducted by the composer, was obviously appreciated by the vast audience, who applauded it vociferously.

N.S.W.
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROYAL VISIT
DISPLAY



NOVEMBER 23rd, 1934
SYDNEY SHOWGROUND



UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE
N.S.W. P.S.A.A.A.

E. CLARKE, President
F. M. GORDON, Hon. Treas.

Stephen Lynch
Secretary.



The following is an excerpt from Anne Chapman's family research on her grandfather, *HENRY EDWIN HORNE*

Henry Edwin Horne was born on the 8th September, 1872 at Bibbenluke, NSW, as the 6th child of William John Horne (Storekeeper) and his wife Louisa Anna Wilson...

In February 1887, Henry was appointed as a Pupil-Teacher at Bombala, NSW (at the age of 14 years) Public School, a position from which he resigned in October 1889. It is not known what happened for the next year, but in October 1890 he was appointed as teacher in charge of Mt Murray School, an appointment he did not take up as in November, 1890 he was appointed as teacher in charge of the small school at Coolah Bridge, NSW. (letter received from the Department of Education). This was a small locality between Leadville and Coolah in the Central West of New South Wales. Travelling from the Bombala area to Coolah Bridge would have involved various methods, including Cobb & Co Coaches.

Henry was lucky to find accommodation with Christina Cameron, who had taken up land in her own right a few years earlier, but it meant a walk of about 4 miles each way to the school rain, hail or shine. On the 15th June, 1895 Henry Edwin Horne and Isabella Jane Cameron (daughter of Christina) were married in the Leadville Mission Church and within 8 years along came 4 children, namely Marie, Harold, Raymond and Norman.

On the 31st August, 1899 Henry retired from the Department of Education as stated in the letter from the Department and took on farming full time.

His association with the "Bulletin" Magazine began about 1895 when he had a poem published by them, called "An Adventist's Adventures". This association was to continue for many years. At this stage the date of the final poem written by Henry and published by the "Bulletin" is unknown. Other papers were also accessed for publication of his work, the "Worker" "The Lone Hand" and "The Catholic Weekly" to name just a few...

Henry's Political life began when in September 1907, he successfully contested the Seat of Liverpool Plains for the Labour Party in the Legislative Assembly. This association was to last until July 1911 when he resigned because the Government of the time put forward a Bill whereas farmers could not convert their lands to Freehold tenure. Henry had promised his constituents he would never vote for this. This also resulted in his parting company with the Labour Party.

Then came his time as a Councillor of the Wyaldra Shire, between the years of 1911 to 1917, the family story being that on meeting days he would get up before dawn and catch the horse for the children to get to school before he left to go to Gulgong – a distance of about 50 klms on unsealed roads. We now have a photo of Henry and the rest of the Wyaldra Shire Councillors...

By July 1917 Henry Edwin Horne was offered and accepted a seat in the State Legislative Council – a seat he held till his death (this amounted to over 38 years) (from Tribute of the Legislative Council of New South Wales). The position of the Liberal Party Whip was also his from 1933 to 1947...