

First Landing Party at Cardwell, January 1864

The first party of non-indigenous people to settle at Rockingham Bay arrived in January 1864. They were 20 in number and they came from Bowen on the small schooner *Policeman* with the 3-ton cutter *Heather Bell* in tow.



George Elphinstone Dalrymple was the explorer and entrepreneur who led the first landing party of settlers to Rockingham Bay.

The new port was founded to serve the pastoral stations of the upper Burdekin west of the Ranges, such as the Valley of Lagoons. It was the most northerly settlement on the Queensland coast, the only port north of Bowen.

The new settlers brought with them on their small schooner: 10 horses, 12 sheep, 2 goats, dogs, fowls, building materials, equipment and other supplies.

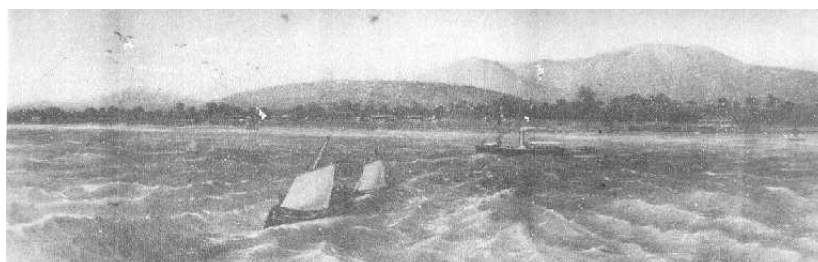
After some preliminary reconnoitering, the landing party formally went ashore and hoisted the Union Jack on Friday 22 January, 1864.

A re-enactment in celebration of the centenary of Cardwell took place in 1964, as shown in the photograph to the left.



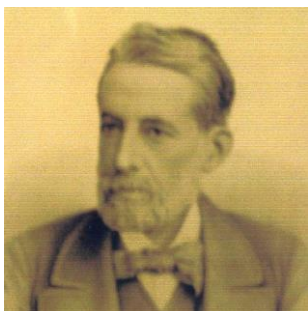
The party chose the eastern end of the beach for their settlement and soon set about erecting an iron store and huts. The cutter *Anna Maides* arrived, bringing four slab cutters among other supplies, and the building of timber dwellings commenced. The first street was surveyed off and the township began in earnest.

The Port of Hinchinbrook was proclaimed a port of entry on 21 May 1864. The township was later named Cardwell by Governor Bowen.



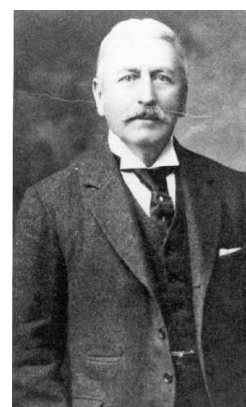
The men on that first expedition which founded Cardwell were an interesting group of pioneers, speculators and adventurers.

Arthur Jervoise Scott (*pictured below*) along with **George Elphinstone Dalrymple**



instigated the expedition in order to advance their pastoral venture at the Valley of Lagoons by establishing a port closer to the property. Dalrymple went on to lead further expeditions and later to enter politics. Scott was to return to England when he inherited his father's property at Rotherfield Park in Hampshire, but the family maintained an interest in the North Queensland properties for many years.

William Alcock Tully (*right*), born in Ireland, came to Queensland in 1863 and was Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Kennedy and Warrego pastoral district when he joined the first landing party. He became Surveyor General for Queensland in 1880 and retired in 1900. When Tully died in 1905 his obituary said: "he probably exerted more influence on the land laws, procedures and practices of Queensland than any other person."



The Mackay River was later re-named the Tully River after him and subsequently the township of Tully was given his name.

The landing party included **Lieutenant Marlow** of the Native Police, along with 3 black troopers: **Archy, Warbragen** and **Norman**. A fourth Aboriginal in the party was **Cockey** from Stradbroke Island, who worked for Dalrymple.



James Morrill (*left*) accompanied the expedition as interpreter because he had spent 17 years with the Aborigines of Cleveland Bay after the *Peruvian* was shipwrecked.

Among the group was **John Dallachy**, a botanist sent from the Melbourne Botanical Gardens to accompany the party. His children William and Mary joined him at Cardwell and descendants of this family have remained in the district.

Wilhelm Peters (*right*) was a ship's carpenter from Hamburg; his wife soon joined him and their son, George Cardwell Peters, was the first white child born in the district.



The others were **P. Selheim**, an Austrian Baron turned squatter and **George M. Farquharson**, a Scot from Invercauld, Aberdeenshire, **J. Morrissey** hotel-keeper, and **T.F. Milne** (store-keeper). **Muller** (market gardener) and **Walter Butler**, **C. Kerr**, **R. Ewart** (bushmen).

Captain Walter Powell was Master and owner of the schooner *Policeman*.