



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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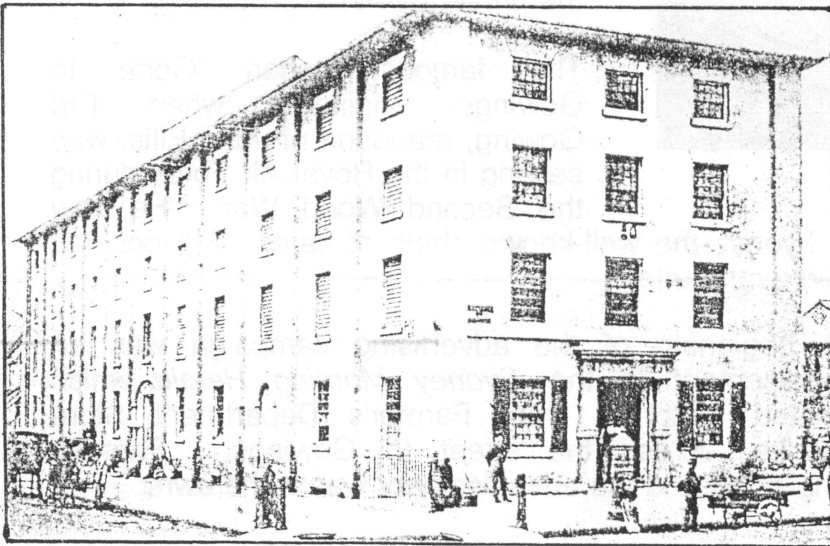
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'GONE TO GOWINGS'

On 2 January 1819, the Governor, Bro. Lachlan Macquarie, leased a parcel of land on the south-east corner of George and Market Streets to James Smith for 14 years.

Two years later, on 13 February 1821, the land was auctioned and purchased by Daniel Cooper who, with his partner, Bro. Solomon Levey, erected a stone and brick warehouse which, with patriotic fervour for Bro. the Duke of Wellington's famous victory, they called the Waterloo Stores. 2



The Waterloo Stores

at Sydney Cove with £400 in his pocket. His people were struggling English farmers and young John had come to seek his fortune on the goldfields. 3

He quickly found that the streets were not paved with gold and, after other members of his family arrived in Sydney in 1858, John took a job in a waterfront warehouse and then joined the live-in staff of the well established retail firm of David Jones. He became manager of the mercery department.

In 1863, John Ellis Gowing went out on his own and opened a small drapery business in Crown Street, East Sydney. He did well and so he decided to move to the city.

On 28 November 1868, he advertised his new Mercery and Glove Depot at 318 George Street. He sold "Ladies and Gents first choice kid gloves in all shades and silk umbrellas."

John took his brother Preston Robert into partnership and the firm of Gowing Bros.

The Stores became a thriving business and even issued its own currency known as Waterloo notes.

The building stood for some 60 years and in the 1920's, it was replaced by Hunter's City Bag Store.

Meanwhile, on Christmas morning 1857, the twenty-two years old John Ellis Gowing stepped ashore

