

DEDICATION OF THE OSBORNE MEMORIAL WINDOWS :

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The following is reprinted with thanks :

On Sunday, 8th August at 10 a.m., the Bishop in Wollongong, The Rt. Rev. Graham Delbridge, dedicated the John and Mary Osborne Memorial Windows in the Northern transept of St. Michael's Pro-Cathedral in the presence of a large congregation. The Rev. J. F. S. Campbell, one of the descendants who attend the ceremony, assisted the Bishop in the offering of the occasional prayers.

The following information supplied by one of the many relatives who attended the ceremony is of genuine historical interest.

John Osborne was born in 1790 at Derniseer, Stradbone, County Tyrone in Northern Ireland and having qualified at Dublin University as a surgeon, entered the Royal Navy. In 1825 he came to Australia as surgeon superintendent of the convict ship "Lanark", and made several later voyages in that capacity until 1831 when, impressed by prospects in the vigorous young colony, he settled here with his wife, formerly Mary Clarke, and their infant family. His attachment to this country was such that he was instrumental in bringing his junior brothers, Dr. Alick Osborne and Henry Osborne here to settle. Dr. John obtained a land grant of 640 acres known as Garden Hill, where Wollongong Hospital now stands, and acted as Government Medical Officer in the district. This was even before the town of Wollongong was officially founded. He lived at Garden Hill until his death in 1850 at the age of fifty-nine years. His widow died eight years later, in 1858.

Their deaths, of course, both took place before this present Church of St. Michael was built. But the same Church as an institution of worship was already flourishing, and from the beginning the Osborne family had identified themselves with it. Indeed, Dr. John was one of the Trustees for the original St. Michael's, which stood in Corrimal Street. Family identification with religion was both broad and strong. Of his four sons and four daughters, one daughter married the Reverend Campbell Atchison, the second Presbyterian Minister in Wollongong, whilst one son and another daughter married issue of the Reverend Matthew Devenish Mears, the first Rector of Wollongong. A grandson, Frederick Osborne, bequeathed a generous endowment to the Church his forbears had helped to establish.

Though Henry Osborne was commemorated by the Osborne Memorial Church of St. Luke at Dapto, there has been no fitting memorial to the senior brother of the family until now, when his descendents have combined to erect these memorial windows. The donors are grateful to the Rector, Canon Williams, for his guidance and inspiration in the choice of subject, Christ's call to Andrew, the simple fisherman, with his beckoning "Follow me". This, it is felt, aptly expresses the pioneering achievement, the earnestness of purpose, and the useful lives of these early settlers who, in their own modest but telling ways, helped found the community in which they lived and the Church in its centre, just as Andrew played an important and effective part in pioneering Christianity.

The lives of John and Mary Osborne were full of goodness and fruitful of more goodness, both privately and publicly. As such may they be ever remembered.

EDITORIAL NOTE : The windows are on the left of the altar looking East, Andrew on the left of the Saviour. The inscriptions below are :

To the glory of God and in memory of John Osborne, Surgeon,
R.N. 1791-1850, and in memory of Mary Osborne, 1795-1858.
Given by their descendents.

They were both buried in the old Church of England Cemetery ("Pioneer Park").