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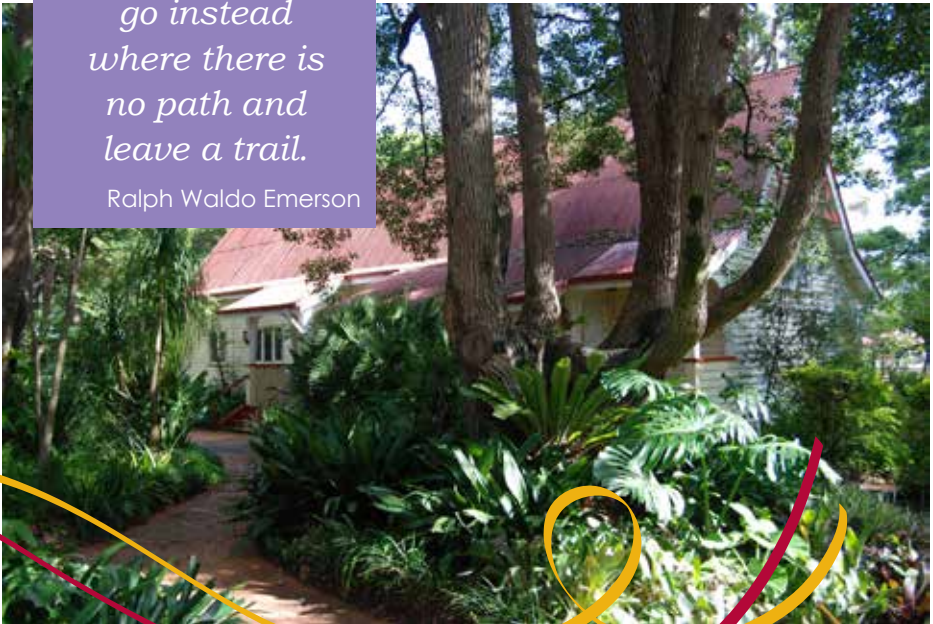
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# Glennie Archives

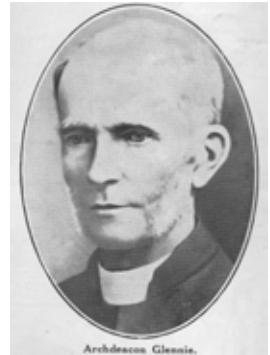
## Benjamin Glennie 1812–1900

*Do not go  
where the path  
may lead,  
go instead  
where there is  
no path and  
leave a trail.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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## **BENJAMIN GLENNIE 1812–1900**

Benjamin Glennie was known as the “Apostle of the Downs” and was a pioneer of the Anglican ministry in Queensland. He was a tremendous worker who was loved and respected for his devoted pastoral work, his long patient ministry in the face of many setbacks, his extensive travels and his foresight in laying the Church of England's foundations on the Darling Downs. Of his 53 years spent in Australia, he spent 26 years on the Darling Downs. Benjamin Glennie covered over 4,828 kilometres per year, walking or on horseback, in all types of weather, through bush that was largely unexplored, coping with conditions it is now hard to imagine. As there were no roads as we know them in the mid 1800s, his travel was even more amazing.

Benjamin Glennie was very methodical in his ways and almost solely responsible for laying the foundations of the Church of England on the Darling Downs by establishing congregations, buying land and building churches. He was also concerned that education facilities should provide for the children of the settlers. One of Benjamin Glennie's aims was to build a schoolhouse and secure the services of a suitable schoolmaster. He decided that any building erected should serve as a school during the week and as a church on Sundays. It was very hard to find teachers during this era, maybe due to the general shortage of labour in the colonies and the discovery of gold in Victoria. Although Benjamin Glennie was often very poor, he was generous with money and he himself raised the nucleus of the funds which made possible the foundation of the Glennie School in Toowoomba. He sold fruit and vegetables he grew in his own garden and collected money from people on his travels across the Darling Downs. His most endearing quality was his roving spirit that saw him easily relate to bush people. On one occasion he was held up and robbed of his watch by bushrangers. The watch was immediately returned to him when the thieves discovered who he was.

Benjamin Glennie was a remarkable man who left an enduring mark on the Church's life and history of the Darling Downs. His Parish included Drayton, Toowoomba, Dalby, Leyburn and Warwick, an area of at least 8000 square miles. Benjamin Glennie was responsible for the founding of the first four evangelical churches on the Darling Downs. They were named in order from the New Testament and were St Matthew's, Drayton; St Mark's, Warwick; St Luke's, Toowoomba and St John's, Dalby. These churches bear silent witness to the work of Benjamin Glennie. Brick and stone buildings have now taken the place of the original old wooden slab and shingle church buildings. He developed into a well-known character with a vision for the future.

It may be truly said of Benjamin Glennie, "If you seek his monument, look around". For over half a century of his life, Benjamin Glennie worked to lay the foundations of Church life in Queensland. He was loved and respected by all who knew him, leaving a devoted and unselfish life to all generations of Queenslanders.



St Matthew's, Drayton



St Mark's, Warwick



St Luke's, Toowoomba

## TIMELINE:

- 1812 Benjamin Glennie (BG) born at Dulwich in England on 29 January. He was the youngest of 12 children
- 1842 Moreton Bay open to free settlers
- 1848 Benjamin Glennie arrived in Sydney on 16 January on the ship "Medway".  
In March he was appointed Deacon of Moreton Bay.  
In June he made his first visit to Drayton.  
First church service held on the Darling Downs at the Royal Bull's Head Inn.  
First European children baptized.  
First time the name "Toowoomba" used on official documents.
- 1849 Ordained as Priest on 3 June and sent to Moreton Bay where he faced an immense pioneering task  
Warwick and Drayton laid out as townships
- 1850 Appointed as Priest to the Darling Downs – lived at Drayton.  
Parish officially called St Matthew's
- 1850 – 1860 Benjamin Glennie served at Drayton for the first time.  
After the Diocese of Brisbane created, his territory was divided into parishes.
- 1850 (late) Benjamin Glennie purchased two allotments of land totalling five acres, in trust for the Church of England
- 1857 Drayton Parsonage built with slab walls and shingle roof. Two rooms were used as the Church  
Slab church schools built in Warwick and Toowoomba
- 1859 Queensland declared a Colony and Diocese of Brisbane formed. At this time there was already a widespread Church of England schools system with six schools with a total enrolment of 387 children.  
Benjamin Glennie performed the first marriage ceremony at Drayton for resident, Gustav Schwilk at St Matthew's
- 1860 Aged 56, Benjamin Glennie married Mary Broughton-Crawshaw (1826 – 1860). They had no children  
First general elections held in Queensland. Warwick Parishioners paid for a gig for Benjamin Glennie to make travel easier

- 1863 Appointed first Archdeacon of Brisbane
- 1866 St John's built at Dalby
- 1867 Railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba built
- 1860 – 1872 Benjamin Glennie served at Warwick
- 1871 Railway from Warwick to Toowoomba built
- 1875 Education Bill introduced – stopped aid to Church schools. It resulted in the foundation of Grammar Schools. Private schools did not cease, but flourished, with no less than 15 private schools known to have started in Toowoomba during the period 1880 to 1900
- 1872 – 1876 Benjamin Glennie returned to serve at Drayton (second time) for another 14 years
- 1876 Benjamin Glennie returned to Brisbane to take charge of the Parish of Toowong – Resigned from Toowong in 1877
- 1882 Benjamin Glennie handed over £1627 to the Diocese for the formation of a school or schools
- 1885 Benjamin Glennie appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Brisbane
- 1886 Benjamin Glennie was appointed Honorary Canon of St John's Cathedral after retiring from active work
- 1890 Mrs Glennie passes away
- 1898 Purchase of 12.5 acres land in Herries Street West for a School (now the site of The Glennie School)
- 1899 Anglican Synod creates a "Council of Education"
- 1900 Death of Canon Benjamin Glennie. He passed away at Wynnum on 30 April. Benjamin and Mary Glennie are buried in Toowong Cemetery in Brisbane.
- 1900 Formally resolved that secondary schools be constructed in Toowoomba to perpetuate his memory
- 1901 Federation of Australia. The six self-governing colonies combined to form the Commonwealth of Australia

## REFERENCES

This booklet has been compiled by The Glennie School Archives Officer, Mrs Jennifer Black, from resources within the Glennie Archive and Historical Collection.

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