

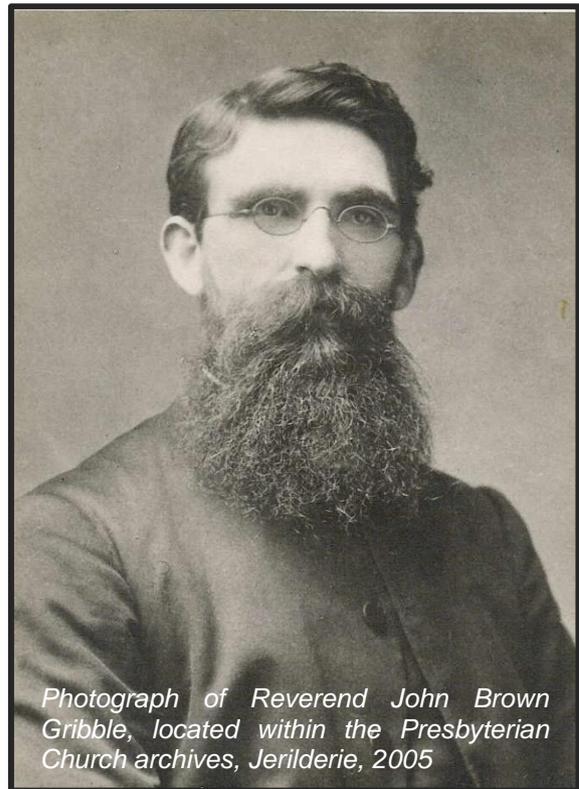
The Park Residence

Rev. Gribble was unaware of the Kelly Gang's presence in Jerilderie until informed of the situation by the junior teller of the Bank, James Mackie, who had been ordered to the park to run in the horses of the Bank Manager and the teller.

Rev. Gribble decided to walk into town to find out for himself what was happening, and met up with the proprietor of the Traveller's Rest Hotel, Mr Thomas McDougall, who informed him that the Kelly Gang had taken his daughter's race horse "Minnie".

Proceeding on towards the police barracks Rev. Gribble confronted Ned Kelly, who subsequently ordered Steve Hart to let loose "Minnie" and take Sergeant Devine's grey horse instead. Having already been ordered to hand back Edwin Living's saddle to him, Steve Hart was then told to ride bare-back into town and obtain a new saddle.

On retracing his steps towards home, Rev. Gribble again met Mr McDougall walking towards him, this time carrying a saddle on his head. Gribble began to advise Mr McDougall of "Minnie" being left in the police barracks paddock, when Steve Hart stepped out from behind Mr McDougall, and promptly relieved Rev. Gribble of his watch. The good Reverend stood somewhat perplexed for some time before gathering his resolve and returning to the Traveller's Rest Hotel, where, by that time, Ned Kelly had arrived. He again confronted Ned Kelly. Ned subsequently ordered Hart to return the watch, admonishing him to next time 'go for a good one'.



Photograph of Reverend John Brown Gribble, located within the Presbyterian Church archives, Jerilderie, 2005

Thinking that he had pushed his luck far enough, Rev. Gribble beat a hasty retreat for his home.

John Brown Gribble was born in Cornwall, England in 1847 and migrated to Melbourne with his parents in the following year, settling in Geelong. In 1868 he married Mary Ann Elizabeth Bulmer and was admitted to the ministry of the United Free Methodist Church in 1876. Shortly thereafter he joined the Congregational Union of Victoria and moved to the Rutherglen area from where he travelled widely, preaching the gospel.

It was during one of these such travels that Rev. Gribble came into contact with the Manager of Wunnamurra Station, at the time Mr Mackie, who enticed him to settle in Jerilderie by offering him the use of the main house of what was once William Virgoe's South Jerilderie Station.

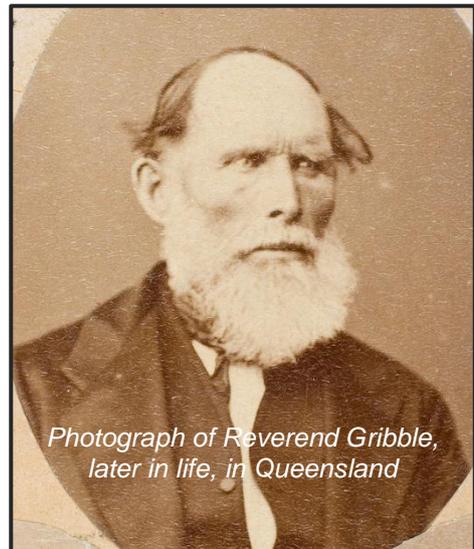
It was at Jerilderie that Gribble began what was to become his life-long work in the struggle to improve the welfare of the Aboriginal people. Gribble's stay in Jerilderie was short-lived, moving to Darlington Point in March 1880 to establish an Aboriginal Mission at Warangesda on the Murrumbidgee River.

During his time spent at the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission, Rev. Gribble came into contact with Bishop Mesac Thomas of Goulburn. When the Mission received a Government grant in 1880, Bishop Thomas paid a visit to acquaint himself on the objects of the Mission, and the progress being made. The Church of England subsequently decided to sponsor the Mission, with Rev. Gribble being made a Stipendiary Reader in that year, the following year a Deacon, and in 1883 he was ordained as a Priest of the Church of England.

Reverend Gribble left the Warangesda Mission in 1884 and took a long sea voyage to England to recuperate from illness, returning in 1885 to establish a Mission on the Gascoyne River in Western Australia, at the invitation of Bishop Henry Parry. His work among the aboriginals in that State so incensed the pastoralists that Gribble's reputation was sullied through smear campaigns and innuendo. In 1889 Gribble had to abandon the Mission on the Gascoyne River and he returned to NSW a broken and penniless man.

After brief appointments on the Darling River, Temora, and Batlow, Reverend Gribble went to Queensland in 1892 where he opened the Yarrabah Mission near Cairns. Within a few months Gribble became seriously ill from malaria and so retired to Sydney where he died on the 3 June 1893.

On his tombstone in Waverley cemetery there is inscribed "The Blackfellow's Friend".



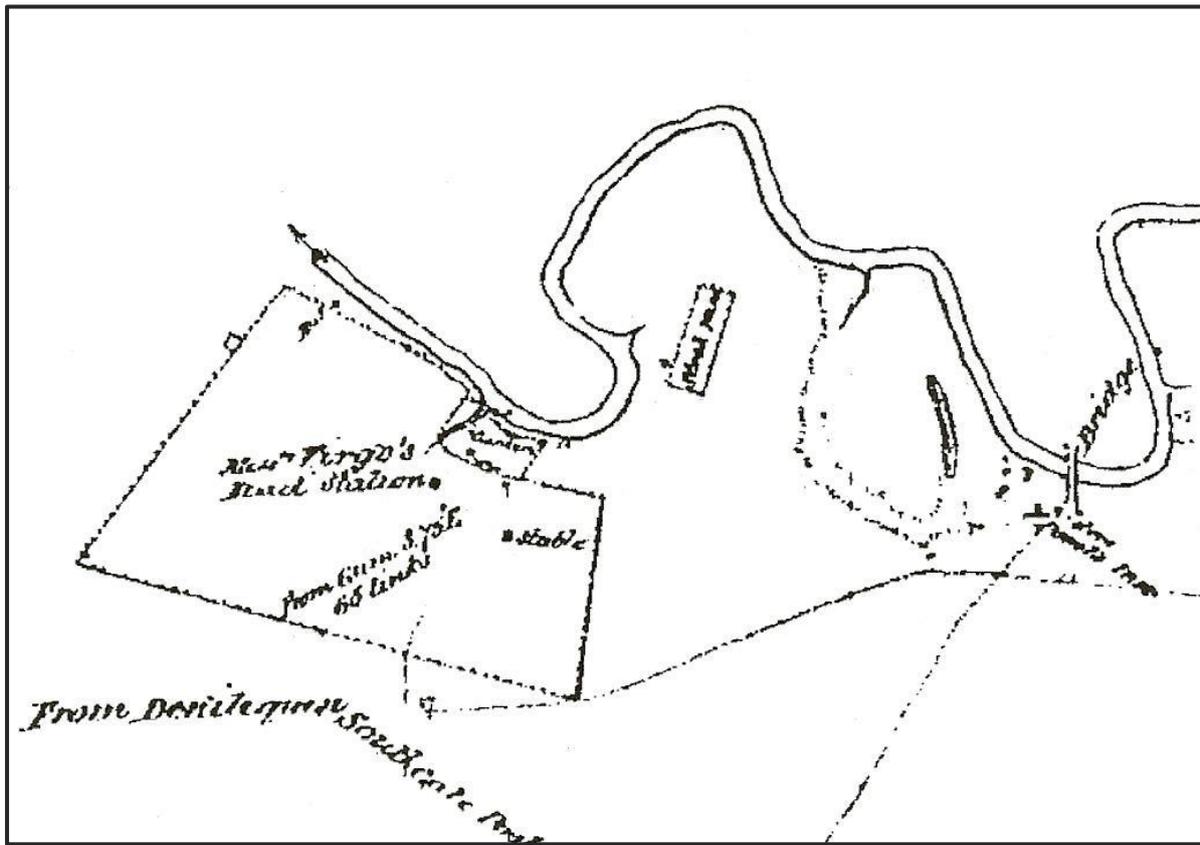
*Photograph of Reverend Gribble,
later in life, in Queensland*

The first known white settler to take up land in the immediate Jerilderie district was believed to be James Kennedy, who established the 80,000 acre Mary's Creek Run, situated on the Billabong Creek, and occupying both sides of the Creek, sometime after 1840 and before March 1847 when the Colonial Government issued Orders-in-Council requiring squatters to enter into leases with the Government.

By the time the official leases commenced in 1852, James Kennedy, for some inexplicable reason, had sub-divided his Run using the Billabong Creek as the dividing line, retaining the 47,760 acres Jerilderie North Station, with William R Virgoe being listed as the official lessee of the 33,190 acres Jerilderie South Station.

The "Park" residence was once the original homestead of the Jerilderie South Station, and, when sold to Peterson and Sargood in 1866 at the time of them acquiring Wunnamurra Station, the residence and park area was loaned to the township for community purposes. The adjoining paddock which now forms the Wunnamurra

Housing Estate and western portion of Lake Jerilderie, was used as a horse paddock for the town's businessmen.



William Virgoe's Head Station block, now occupied by Council's Wunnamurra Housing Estate