

Photo of Richard Jewell, and sketch following (Mike Sandover; *Possum*, 14 January 1888, p.7).

**Richard Roach Jewell** (1810-1891) was baptized on 12 May 1810, son of John and Margaret (nee Roach) Jewell, at Barnstaple, North Devon, England. Richard had a twin brother, Tom, who appears to eventually have enjoyed a similar career in building. Richard was living with his parents at Well Street, Barnstaple in 1820. In 1823 he was apprenticed to spinster Joanna Lowe until the age of 21 years, but the terms of this engagement, and whether it was fulfilled has not been discovered to date. Documents found in research by Jewell descendant Mike Sandover show that in 1826 Richard's father, initially a joiner, took a long building lease on a plot of ground at Union Street adjoining Vicarage Lane in Barnstaple, on which he built six or seven houses over the next year or so. The young Jewell twins may have gained significant early training, if they were involved in that work.

Richard married Ann Ford at Bishops Tawton in 1831, and the couple had two daughters – Elizabeth in 1832 and Mary Ann in 1834. At this time he was described as a joiner at Barnstaple. By late 1840 the family had moved east to Dale Street, Bristol where in tragic circumstance the two daughters passed away due to illness, followed soon after by their mother due to ‘phthisis’ (tuberculosis). By this time Richard was noted as a carpenter.

In a Western Australian periodical of 1888, presumably written with the input of the elderly Richard, it was noted that: *After completing his articles under an architect and builder living in his native town, he was employed superintending the construction of many important buildings in various parts of England—notably among these may be mentioned: Military Prison at Gosport, Extension of Fortifications at Portsea and Southsea Castle, building of Stanstead [sic Stansted] College, and Churches at Cardiff, Clifton, Bristol, Horsley, Stroudswater [sic Stroudwater] and Eye.*

At some time in the early 1840s, Richard was at Cardiff where he met Eliza Jane Andrews, the daughter of a local grocer. Given the projects noted in 1888, it is probable that he was involved in the construction of St Mary's Church at Bute Street, Cardiff, opened for worship in 1843. Richard and Eliza were married at Cardiff in August 1845, he was again described as a carpenter. The birth places of the couple's children further support Richard's English projects that were noted later in Western Australia.



St Matthew's Church at Eye of 1847 (<http://www.eyepeterborough.co.uk/heritage/eye-church/>); and Forton Military Prison, Gosport of 1850 (<https://collections.hampshireculture.org.uk>).

In October 1846 their first son Richard Roach was born at Eye in Suffolk, where a new church was erected 1846-1847. Another son, John Andrew, was born at Hornchurch (East London) in March 1848, but in April 1848 Richard Roach junior died of pneumonia after measles. In August 1849 the couple were blessed with the birth of daughter Mary Ann Arthur at Forton in Hampshire, by this time Richard is described as a superintendent of works and it is likely that he was working on the Forton Military Prison at Gosport, completed in April of 1850. In March 1851 another daughter Eliza Jane was born at Rowland's Castle, also in Hampshire; on the birth certificate Richard is noted as a clerk of works, and he would have been working on the nearby Stansted College, commenced in 1850.



Photo of Stansted College of 1850-51, and view from a painting by C.R. Cotton in the 1860s (Mike Sandover; <https://www.rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk/>)

In 1966 esteemed architectural historians Ray and John Oldham reported that Jewell 'reputedly worked in the English office of Sir Charles Barry', but Barry does not appear to have been responsible for the design of any of the above projects. Partly to seek a temperate climate more suitable for the health of his frail wife, Richard, Eliza and the three infant children sailed on the barque *Will Watch* from Plymouth on 14 November 1851, the vessel having departed from the Thames River port of Gravesend on 10 November 1851. The majority of the 104 passengers on board (120 persons in total with crew) were sent by the Colonization Assurance Corporation, established in 1849 by the British Government to encourage emigration to Western Australia. The corporation offered financial assistance to emigrants and provided them with land grants.

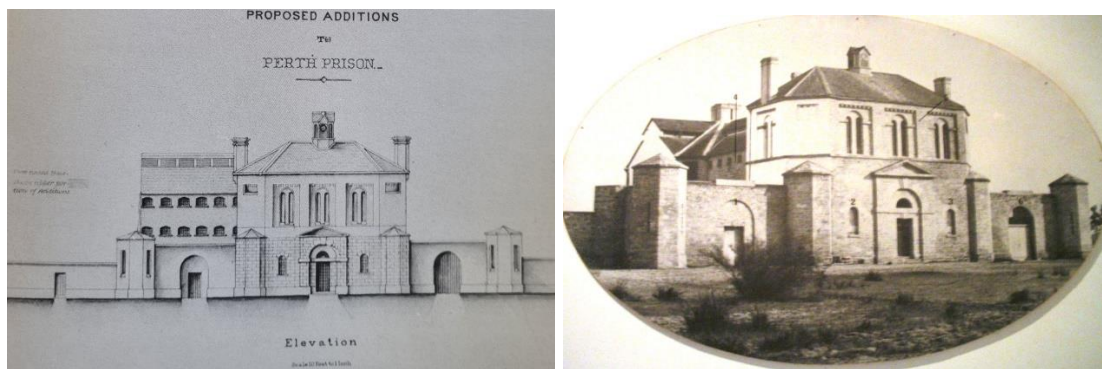
Arriving at the port of Fremantle on 24 February 1852 (after 102 days), the weary travellers were not released from the confines of the craft for a number of days due to a previous outbreak of measles during the voyage. The medical officer for the voyage, William Farrant Merson, made a detailed record of the entire passage, including his displeasure at the "stupid and timid" authorities at the Swan River Colony who delayed disembarkation. Merson mentions the poor quality of some of the provisions, and many of the privations of the rather difficult travel, including that the owners had instructed the ship's captain not to call at Cape Town in South Africa. His notes of latitude and longitude, and of distance travelled, outline the rich increase in speed with which the vessel headed west across the Indian Ocean, after rounding the Cape of Good Hope.

Having survived the long and arduous voyage to Western Australia, young Eliza Jane died at Perth in May 1852 of dysentery, aged 13 months. And Mary Ann was to pass away in 1869, aged just 19 years. None-the-less, the births of a further seven children to Richard and Eliza are recorded in government records: 1853 Eliza Jane [m. Ranford]; 1855 Richard Roach [d. 1879 lost at sea on the *Rosette* off n-w WA coast]; 1857 Lydia Sarah [m. Morrell]; 1859 Elizabeth Margaret [dec. 1860 aged 8 months]; 1861 Agnes Maria [m. Mayhew]; 1863 Thomas George; and in 1865 Bertha Margaret [m. Sandover].

In WA, Richard was first employed in the building section of the Convict Establishment at Fremantle, but soon transferred to the Department of Public Works and was appointed Foreman of Public Works under Superintendent

James Austin in January 1853 at a salary of £150. Although he suffered a small financial loss by changing his position, he saw that his prospects were improved, and was pleased to move to Perth. A hoped-for promotion came quickly, for when Austin resigned, Jewell was in the right place and Governor Charles Fitzgerald appointed him as acting Superintendent of Works. Jewell retained the title of Clerk of Works at a salary of £175, and acted as Supervisor of Towns at a further £25.

With the introduction of convicts to Western Australia, between 1850 and 1870 the population quadrupled from 5 900 to 25 000, and the area under crop grew from 3 200 to 20 000 hectares. With this boost in the economy came an added impetus to improve the design quality of the built environment. Convict labour was reserved for public works. Road building had first priority, with the upgrading of principal thoroughfares from Perth to Fremantle, York and Albany.



Drawing of Perth Prison, signed by Jewell in 1853, and a Nineteenth Century photograph. The scale of the archway recalls the Gosport Prison. The two storey principal entrance was one of the first attempts at finely detailed stonework in Perth, which proved to be costly and led to a greater use of brickwork, particularly at the upriver capital city, by the colonial administration. (*Western Towns and Buildings*, p.95; Wikipedia 2023).

Notable buildings of the convict era include Perth Boy's School (1852-4), Perth Gaol and Court House (1854), Fremantle Gaol (1855), Colonial Hospital (1855), Fremantle Asylum (1858-61), Governor's summer residence Rottnest Island (1858-64), Pensioners' Barracks (1863-7), and Pensioners' Hospital (1866). A majority of these places showed the influence of new government 'architect' Jewell, who provided much of Perth's colonial character and whose tastes led to controlled experimentation with the historicist Gothic Revival and Victorian Tudor styles. The gaol and the asylum (in part) at Fremantle were the work of Captain Edmund Henderson (1821-1896). The latter building shows traces of Cape

Dutch influence in an eclectic mix with Gothic Revival. Henderson had arrived at Fremantle on the *Scindian* in June 1850, appointed as comptroller of convicts. Henderson's and Jewell's readiness to experiment with architectural styles reflected a moderate growth in the colony's affluence, together with some lessening of the sense of isolation from English models.



1864 Governor's summer residence at Rottnest Island (SLWA 6909B 74)

Jewell was to have a long and influential career in the public service spanning the period from 1852-84. Unlike his predecessors, who resided in the colony during a period when building activity stagnated, Jewell was in office during a period of expansion and development, due to the introduction of convicts and increased migration of free settlers. Jewell's architectural output was considerable and included public buildings in Perth and in country towns throughout the colony.



Government House Perth in 1863 (SLWA 6923B 196)

In the convict period, Jewell is also associated with James Manning (1814-1893) of the Convict Establishment in the design of the second Government House (1859-63) and Perth Town Hall (1867-70). Appointed as a Clerk of Works in Western Australia, Manning arrived with Henderson on the *Scindian*, and played an active part in the building program initiated in the colony following the arrival of the convicts. Manning retired in 1872, and by his own description was an engineer rather than an architect.



With regard to the Perth Town Hall, an 1867 newspaper article notes: *The style of architecture is that of Scotland of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, more generally known as the Tudor style. ... Two designs were prepared by the architect, Mr. Jewell, the rejected style being that known as the English Gothic of the fifteenth century.* At the opening of the building in 1870, the press confirmed that Manning also had a role in the construction: *The entire building is from the design and drawing of Mr Richard Roach Jewell, Clerk of Public Works at Perth, with the exception of the roof, which was designed and prepared by Mr James Manning, Clerk of Works at Fremantle, ...*



The almost completed Perth Town Hall of 1870 viewed from St. George's Terrace in September 1869, with St George's Church (not by Jewell) at right (SLWA 6909B 135).

Perhaps controversially, Richard Jewell used his prominence to undertake work for a range of non-government clients. This may have been unsettling for the few other qualified professionals in the colony who could have carried out the work. The practice apparently had quiet official endorsement and encouragement, setting a precedent which was to become an ongoing cause of complaint and dissatisfaction between the architectural profession and the government. Buildings designed by Jewell for the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, and Catholic churches include: Bishop Hale's School - later known as The Cloisters (1858), The Deanery (1859), additions to Our Lady's College (1860s), Trinity Church (1864), Independent Congregational Church (1864-5), Wesley Methodist Church (1867), St George's Sunday School (1871), and St Bartholomew's mortuary chapel (1871) at the East Perth Cemetery. It is a notable list, which underscores the impressiveness of Jewell's overall portfolio of commissions.

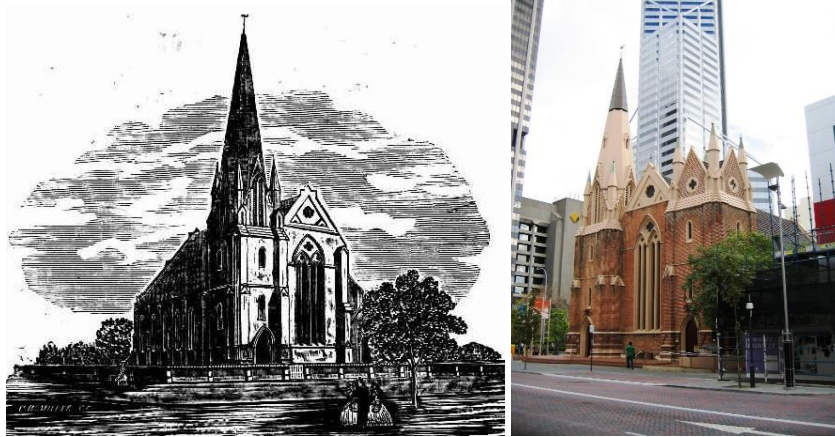


The *Cloisters* of 1858 in St George's Terrace, Perth (John Taylor, 2008).

Now-demolished buildings of note by Jewell at Perth include a Masonic Lodge (1867) in Hay Street, and the first railway station (1881) on Wellington Street. The Cloisters, Government House and Treasury Buildings (1874 portion), all on St George's Terrace, and the Wesley Church and Perth Town Hall in Hay Street, all - in part at least - designed by Jewell are stylistically similar in that they all have dichromatic brickwork, generally laid in Flemish bond. The outstanding characteristic of much of Jewell's work was this imaginative and beautiful use of brickwork laid in subtle patterns, which became a feature of local construction until the introduction of cavity walling.



Jewell's Masonic Lodge (1867) in Hay Street Perth was a fine example of his use of dichromatic brickwork; and the Central Government – Treasury Offices complex in St Georges Terrace Perth was built in a number of stages. The western wing of the Treasury was constructed between 1874-5 and 1877-8. The eastern wing between 1882-3. The southern wing (former GPO) in 1885-9. A third storey was added to the eastern wing of the Treasury in 1902 and the western wing in 1904. (p.29 online 8187518795\_c3f0fc2332\_o; SLWA 230498PD).



The Wesley Church of 1867 in Perth (*The Herald*, 15 June 1872, p.1; John Taylor, 2008).

Jewell is generally credited with the design of the large Pensioner Barracks that crowned St George's Terrace up until the 1960s, although his signature is absent from the original site plan for the building, but then generally found on the remainder of building documents. The site plan of August 1862 is signed by Manning as Clerk of Works and Captain Edward Grain (1827-1884) of the Royal Engineers. As WA at this time was still a colony of Great Britain, and not self-governing, the British Government was responsible for financing and staffing much of the colony's infrastructure. This section of the administration was known as the Imperial Establishment, a body governed by Great Britain and responsible for everything pertaining to convicts and the military in the colony.



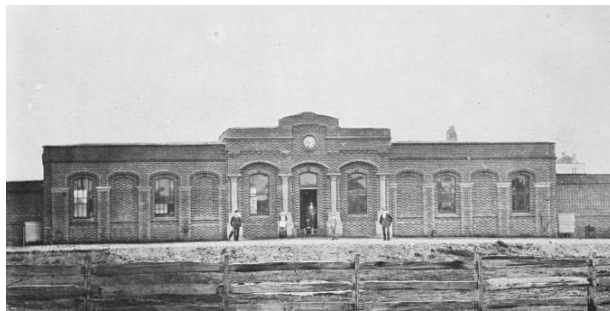
Nineteenth Century view from the east of 1863-67 Pensioners' Barracks, and west view of remaining archway in 1999 (John Taylor, *Conservation Plan for Barracks Arch*, 1999).

Jewell differed from Henderson and Manning in that he was employed within the Works Department of the Colonial Establishment. The construction of the Pensioner Barracks pertained to the military, and thus fell under the Imperial Establishment's umbrella of responsibility. Manning, as Clerk of Works, was an employee of the Imperial Establishment, responsible for buildings and other structural work required for its operations. It was in this capacity that he signed



the Barracks site plan. Sometime in 1862, however, Manning took up the position of clerk in the Works Department of the Colonial Establishment. Here, he would have worked with Jewell.

Captain Grain, as a Royal Engineer, was a member of the military and attached to the Imperial Establishment. The involvement of Manning and Grain, as well as Jewell, in the design and development of the Pensioner Barracks can be explained as collaboration between the Imperial Establishment and the Colonial Establishment. This complicated system exemplified the difficulty where public expenditure was controlled by the very tight-fisted Imperial Treasury in London, and the colony was not to be allowed much say in its affairs until 1870. Certainly there was little allowance in this period for the embellishment of public buildings, and Western Australia remained without designs of contemporary national importance until changed social circumstances and a greater economic force came into play toward the end of the nineteenth century.



Perth Railway Station in Wellington Street was opened in 1881 (SLWA B1938033\_3).

Richard Jewell served in the Works department from 1853 until 1884, when he was allowed to retire on a liberal pension, unanimously granted by the Legislative Council on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. This action recognised that in addition to Jewell's public buildings, in earlier years many of the colony's main roads and bridges were formed under his design and care. An 1888 newspaper account recorded some of his other responsibilities:

*In October; 1879, during the absence from the Colony of the Hon. J. Thomas, Mr. Jewell was appointed to discharge the duties of Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways for the purpose of effecting arbitrations under the Railway's Act, 1878, with the title of Deputy Commissioner of Railways for Western Australia. He again acted as Director of Public Works in January 1882 and March 1883. Mr. Jewell was appointed a Justice of the Peace for this Colony*

*in March, 1883. Very few among our public servants have seen such a long career of usefulness, and we trust our aged and genial friend may long be spared to enjoy his faithfully earned retiring allowance.*



The Jewell home *Belvidere* at Trafalgar Road, East Perth (sketch of 1972 made from an old photograph, by D.E. Finney).

By at least the 1860s, Jewell had built his home *Belvidere* at 116 Trafalgar Road, East Perth (this location is now on Victory Terrace) overlooking the Swan River. Jewell died 1 June 1891 at the house of son-in-law Henry Ranford, aged 81 years, and was buried at the East Perth Cemetery. Eliza had pre-deceased him, passing away in 1884. The Oldhams' book 'Western Heritage' noted that '... a fire at Belvedere [sic] destroyed all the private papers which Jewell had left, including many plans that would now be of considerable interest.' *Belvidere* was leased for various purposes (including by the Deaf and Dumb Institute in 1897-99), and rented out after being acquired by the Railways Department in 1913. Tenders were invited for its demolition in 1933, and it disappears from *Wises Directory* listings in 1934.

Luke Samuel Leake (later Sir) had sailed from England on board the *Will Watch* in 1851, and was a client of Jewell's for the 1880 design of a new house at 18 St George's Terrace, Perth. *Elderslie* was later owned by Leake's sister, the wife of Sir James Lee-Steere. With development pressure in central Perth, it became an apartment house in the 1920s, then offices, and was demolished in 1964.



Jewell's 1880 design for Sir Luke Leake, photographed in 1955 (SLWA 3542B 54).

Initially a student of architecture, Dot Finney wrote in 1972 of her admiration for the accomplishments: “*Under Jewell’s supervision, WA’s capital city of Perth had grown from a small scattered township to an aesthetically unified city, possessed of buildings of great vitality and charm*”. Much less recognised than his successor George Temple Poole (1856-1934), who enjoyed the phenomenal expansion of staff and budgets respondent to the Western Australian gold boom of the 1890s, Richard Jewell’s achievements have been outlined in the Oldham’s groundbreaking works of the 1960s, and in later student research papers.

With the advantages of digital technology, the publication of an extensively researched and illustrated record of Richard Jewell’s work remains to be undertaken. This would add to our knowledge of the remarkable portfolio of a highly productive Nineteenth Century designer-builder, first active in England and then in Western Australia.

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