



Thomas Benjamin Jackson

(McDonald, Gilbert, *Bowlswest*, 1998, p.12)

Thomas Benjamin Jackson (1840-1929) was born 12 April 1840 in Yorkshire, eldest of 11 children, and educated at Dulwich and Harrow. At an early age he was indentured as an architect with Edward M. Barry RA.

Jackson subsequently practiced in England, South America and Trinidad, and in 1879 migrated to New Zealand, first commencing work at Christchurch. Moving to Auckland, and then on to Melbourne by about 1886, with the great economic failures on the east coast in the early 1890s he came to gold boom Western Australia in 1894. Jackson continued in practice, designing a number of shops in Murray Street, and houses on and at the foot of Mount Eliza in Perth.

Jackson was very active in Bunbury in the period 1896-97, amongst other works designing Gordon's Hotel, and the Municipal Buildings opened by Premier John Forrest in March 1897, later remodelled in Art Deco style during the 1930s.

It has been noted that Jackson had at least 6 children with his first wife, Fanny Louisa Pitts, and 3 to his second wife Harriet Wainwright. Harriet died from „Bright's Disease“ at just 43 years old in October 1897, and family circumstances may have hampered Jackson's business activity at this time, as nine children were noted as surviving at his death in 1929. The eldest son, 37 year old Thomas Henry, had died of typhoid fever during 1899.

In 1897 publican Terence McEnroe applied to the Licensing Court in Perth for a provisional certificate regarding hotel premises to cost about £5,000. Jackson, as architect, successfully described the proposed building, the

Victoria Hotel in Hay Street, Subiaco, which was designed to contain 40 rooms, including 22 bedrooms, and the hotel was operating by 1898. Jackson designed the Continental Hotel at Victoria Avenue, Claremont in 1899.

T.B. Jackson designed a fine and prominent building on the north-east corner of Murray and William Streets in Perth for Mrs Harriet Mitchell in 1902. Later better known by the occupants' names, Masel's, and then Gayne's, it has been demolished. Jackson is listed as an architect in *Wises* directories up until 1910, and it can be surmised that he retired around the age of 70 years.

Familiarly termed "General" Jackson, he was one of the founders of bowls in WA and was the first president of the West Australian Bowling Association. The "General" was described as having a „particularly genial nature, which radiates in a perennial smile". Jackson died in a private hospital at Fremantle on 29 December 1929 at the age of 89 years.

References:

„Jackson, Thomas B.", in Sutherland, Alexander, *Victoria and its Metropolis, past and present* ..., McCarron, Bird & Co., 1888, Vol. 2B, p.521 (notes Jackson served articles with Edwin (sic) Barry).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 25 October 1894, p.8 (house Mount Street for W. Coleman).

„A Card", *The West Australian*, 26 November 1894, p.3 (has commenced practice at Perth).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 30 May 1895, p.7 (3 villas Mount Street for C.H. Humphreys).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 14 September 1895, p.7 (2-storey residence Mounts Bay Road for L.R. Menzie).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 18 November 1895, p.6 (residence Cannington for J.A. Menzie).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 18 June 1896, p.8 (block of buildings Bunbury for H.C. Gordon).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 27 June 1896, p.6 (timber residence Goldsworthy Rd Claremont for T.F. Gordon).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 29 December 1896, p.6 (2 villas Bunbury for W. Spencer MLC; block of shops in James St, Perth; villas in Broome St, Highgate for Robert Forrest).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 11 February 1897, p.6 (brewery for Bunbury Brewing Co.).

„The Premier at Bunbury, New Municipal Buildings", *The West Australian*, 16 March 1897, p.5.

„Bunbury Race Club – Improvements to the Course", *The West Australian*, 14 July 1897, p.6.

„Licensing Courts", *The West Australian*, 11 September 1897, p.3 (hotel Broome St [sic – Road, now Hay St] Subiaco for T. McEnroe).

„Tenders", *The West Australian*, 25 September 1897, p.3 (hotel Broome St (sic – Road, now Hay St) Subiaco for T. McEnroe, by 1899 James Todd proprietor).

„Tenders“, *The West Australian*, 3 April 1899, p.1 (Continental Hotel Claremont, A. Freecorn).
„Deaths“, *The West Australian*, 30 August 1899, p.4 (death of Thomas Henry at Nelson, NZ).
„Tenders“, *The West Australian*, 31 August 1899, p.3 (alts & adds to premises cnr Hay and Barrack Sts Perth for John Hunter Co. Ltd).

„Tenders“, *The West Australian*, 7 April 1902, p.1 (block of shops n-e cnr William & Murray Sts for Mrs Mitchell, later Masel"s, later Gayne"s).

„Bowls Veterans' Annual Reunion“, *The West Australian*, 26 March 1925, p.12 (birth date etc).

„Death of "General" Jackson, A Well-Known Identity“, *Sunday Times*, 29 December 1929, p.5.

„Personal“, *The West Australian*, 30 December 1929, p.12 (claims Jackson served articles with Sir George Edmund Street).

McDonald, Gilbert, *Bowlswest: a centenary history of the Royal Western Australian Bowling Association, 1898-1998*, Royal Western Australian Bowling Association, Perth, 1998.

Email correspondence, John Taylor with Jackson descendant Gaylene Oyston, 2010-2012.

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Shops built in 1902 on the north-east corner of William & Murray Streets, Perth for Mrs Mitchell, later better known as Masels, and later as Gaynes (SLWA 025584PD, 013043PD)



Gaynes following cyclone damage in 1957, and after „repair“ (SLWA 238441PD, 238594PD)



Reef (fmr Captain Bunbury, fmr Gordon's) Hotel of 1897, Victoria St Bunbury (Google 2012)



Victoria Hotel of 1898 at Hay St Subiaco in 1968 (SLWA 280919PD)



Continental Hotel of 1899 at Victoria Ave, Claremont (*Western Mail*, 8 April 1905, p.24)