

## Origin Of Mann St.

BY C. SWANCOTT

Mann Street, Gosford, commemorates the name of Captain Gother Kerr Mann, a Gosford magistrate of the eighteen-forties. He was born in England in 1808, and was descended from an old military family.

He obtained a commission in the Bombay Horse Artillery and saw considerable service. Owing to ill-health, he left India and came to Sydney in 1836. He went on a cruise in HMS Rattlesnake, whose Captain (Robson) raised the British Flag at the Bay of Islands, a splendid harbour north of Auckland, New Zealand.

Captain Mann was appointed a magistrate at Gosford in 1840 and married Mary Johanna, eldest daughter of Frederick Augustus Hely, of Wyoming.

From the Hely estate he became the owner of 438 acres on Narara Creek, and 738 acres at Wyong creek adjoining Allison's holding. With a brother-in-law, who had married another daughter of F. A. Hely, he conducted a sawmill at Wyoming for some time.

Captain Mann built a cottage at Wyoming, and in the light of present day building costs it is interesting to note costs laid out in some of his papers, now in the Mitchell Library.

He paid thirty shillings a thousand for 75,000 bricks used in the building; 8 - per 100 feet for the timber used; £3 per week each to his carpenter and bricklayer and £2 a week to his stonemason. The total cost of the cottage was £350.

He brought a brother out from England, and after leaving Gosford he started civil engineering and surveying in Sydney.

He was instrumental in forming the Volunteer Artillery Corps in Sydney, and in 1855 the Corps gave a public dinner in Sydney in honour of their commander, Captain Mann. The dinner was featured in the "Illustrated Sydney News" of April 28, 1855.

In July 1855 he was appointed Chief Railway Com-

missioner for New South Wales and served until 1857.

He was later entrusted with the construction of the Fitzroy Dry Dock at Cockatoo Island, and although it was at that time considered too large in design, time justified his foresight.

Later Captain Mann held the position of engineer-in-chief and superintendent and retired from active service in 1870.

He designed a remarkable plan for the layout of wharves at Circular Quay, which is to be seen among his papers in the Mitchell Library.

Captain Mann built a home at Greenwich Point in which he lived till his death on New Year's Day, 1899, at the age of 91. He had been seen in the streets of Gosford attending to the family property only the year before. He had five daughters all of whom lived to a grand old age ranging from 89 to 99 years. The last two of his daughters died in the old Greenwich home in 1949.