

## Early Visitors

In the first part of 1868, Hugh Cloughton had travelled from Maryborough to provide some worship services for Anglicans on the goldfields of Gympie. After his departure his successor at Maryborough, George Giborne Danvers had maintained the practice, so for the latter part of 1868 there were opportunities perhaps every two months or so for Anglican worship in Gympie. Bishop Tufnell, the first Bishop of Brisbane, had in the meantime allowed services to be taken by a layman, and Police Magistrate Faircloth took these, increasing the frequency with which Anglicans could worship together.



Bishop Tufnell, clearly a dog lover, was the son of a banker, and one of a family of eighteen children; he was well educated, and a most cultured man of perfect courtesy. He struggled to get the Diocese underway. He was in his day rather misunderstood, and was much criticised for building himself a fine episcopal home, but few knew that he had paid for most of it himself, and he was also using his own private income to support much of the work being done in the fledgling diocese.

He made a few visits to Gympie which must have been excruciating given the available transport. He travelled around the Wide Bay Burnett region in 1870, a slow and painful trip which took from October till December, to get around the major population centres, such as they were. As bishops are wont to do, he held confirmations where ever he went. There could not have been much to inspire on his visits to Gympie. The place was a shanty town with bush buildings scattered round the broken earth. By the time he visited, much of the alluvial silt had been worked over very thoroughly, and miners were realising that further gold had to be dug from the heavy seams of gold underground. The Gympie Times treated his visits coolly, with only brief non-committal comments.

But Hugh Cloughton and George Danvers in Maryborough had made the effort to see to it that Gympie people had opportunities for worship, and Edward Tufnell did what he could to encourage and support the outreach. He struggled to build a workable infrastructure for the diocese, get

churches and rectories built, and deal with an interesting collection of clergy, some of whom were described in the press as "erratic". His perseverance earned him our thanksgiving.

Thanks to the State Library of Queensland for this picture of Edward Tufnell.