

The Proclamation is one of the most important documents in Queensland's history. It declared Queensland a separate colony from New South Wales when it was read to an assembled crowd on 10 December 1859.

Around 4000 people lined Brisbane's streets to celebrate the historic occasion. Moreton Bay district residents were jubilant Queen Victoria had responded to their petitions requesting separation and had approved the establishment of Queensland's own representative government.

Sir George Ferguson Bowen was sworn in as Queensland's first Governor, empowered to make laws and provide for the administration of justice.

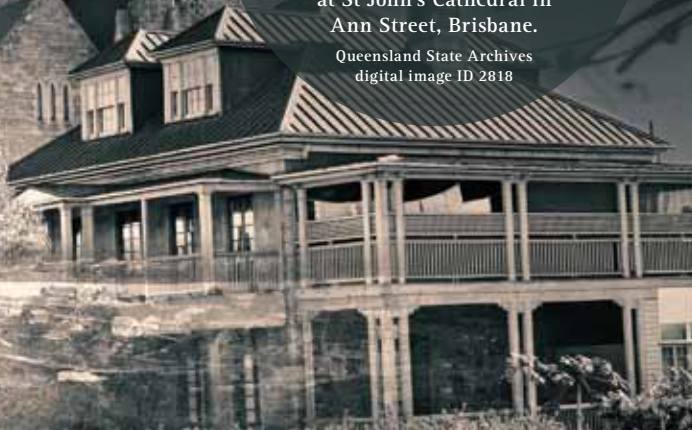
He was accompanied from England by Robert Herbert, whom he had personally selected to fulfil the role of Colonial Secretary. This was the forerunner to the position of Premier of Queensland.

The Proclamation is one of the principal documents held by Queensland State Archives, the custodian of the largest and most significant documentary heritage collection in the state.

Deanery at St John's
Cathedral, Brisbane,
21 July 1958

On Saturday 10 December
1859 the proclamation declaring
Queensland a separate colony from
New South Wales was read from
the balcony of the Governor's
residence, now the Deanery
at St John's Cathedral in
Ann Street, Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives
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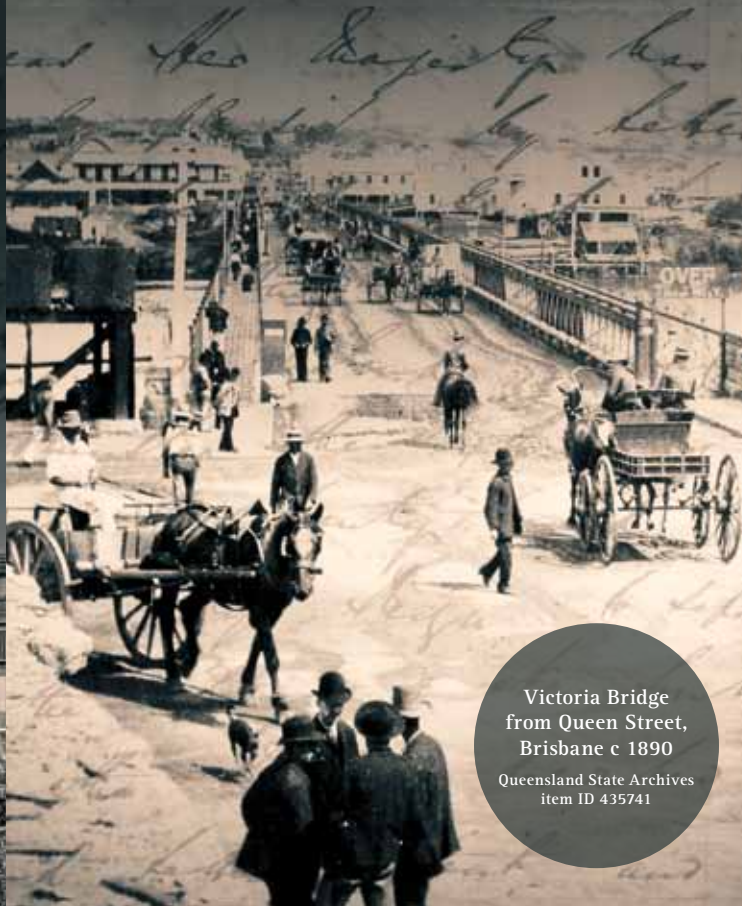
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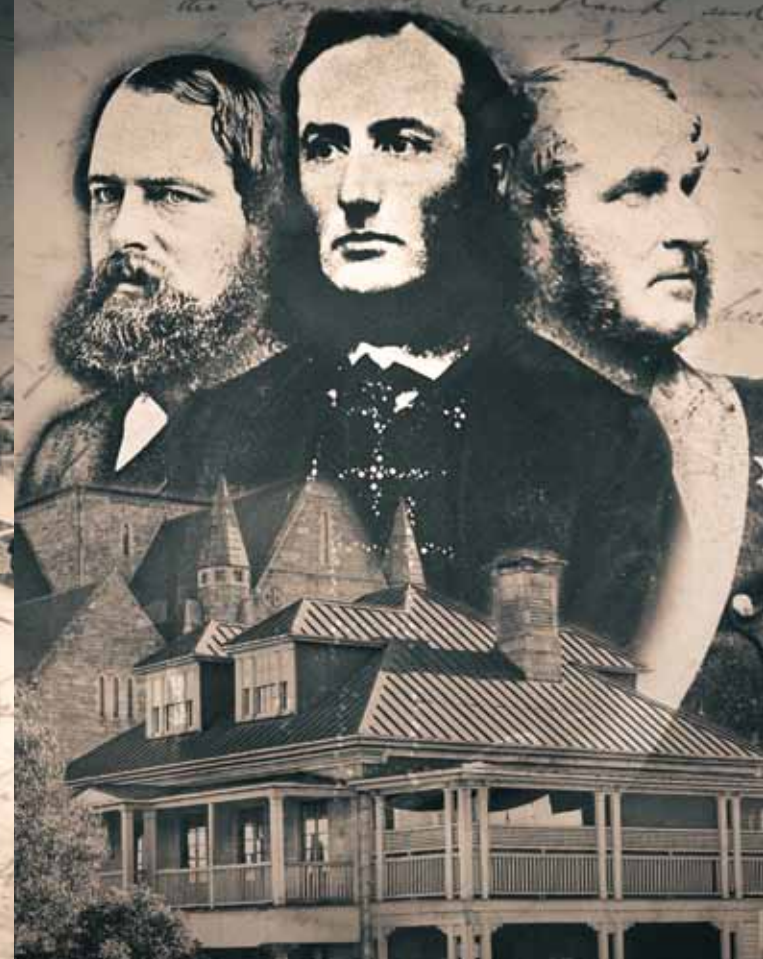
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Victoria Bridge
from Queen Street,
Brisbane c 1890

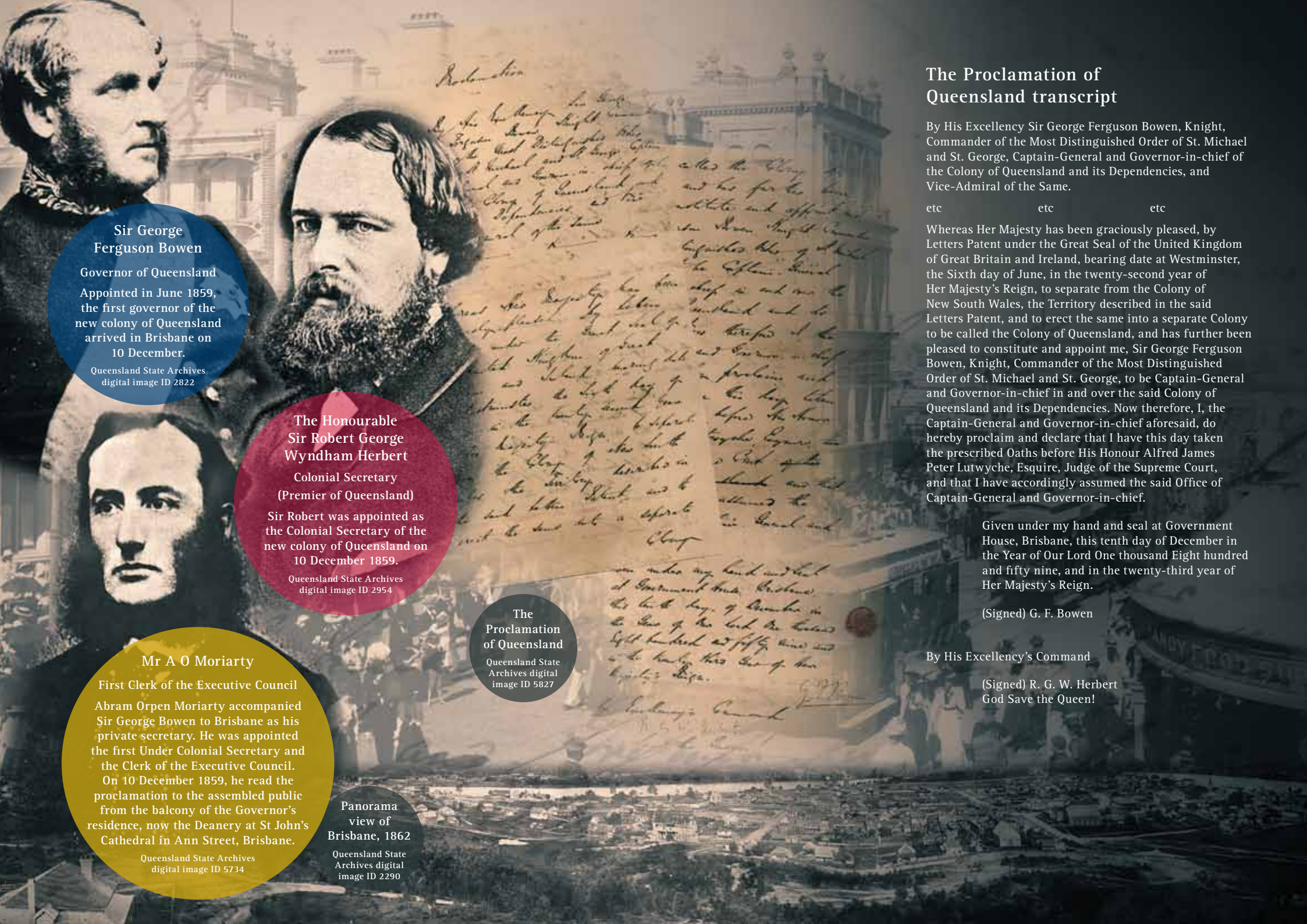
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The Queensland Proclamation 10 December 1859



Queensland State Archives
Department of Public Works

Queensland
Government



The Proclamation of Queensland transcript

By His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, Knight, Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain-General and Governor-in-chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the Same.

etc etc etc

Whereas Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date at Westminster, the Sixth day of June, in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign, to separate from the Colony of New South Wales, the Territory described in the said Letters Patent, and to erect the same into a separate Colony to be called the Colony of Queensland, and has further been pleased to constitute and appoint me, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, Knight, Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, to be Captain-General and Governor-in-chief in and over the said Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies. Now therefore, I, the Captain-General and Governor-in-chief aforesaid, do hereby proclaim and declare that I have this day taken the prescribed Oaths before His Honour Alfred James Peter Lutwyche, Esquire, Judge of the Supreme Court, and that I have accordingly assumed the said Office of Captain-General and Governor-in-chief.

Given under my hand and seal at Government House, Brisbane, this tenth day of December in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and fifty nine, and in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(Signed) G. F. Bowen

By His Excellency's Command

(Signed) R. G. W. Herbert
God Save the Queen!

Sir George Ferguson Bowen
Governor of Queensland
Appointed in June 1859, the first governor of the new colony of Queensland arrived in Brisbane on 10 December.
Queensland State Archives digital image ID 2822

The Honourable Sir Robert George Wyndham Herbert
Colonial Secretary (Premier of Queensland)
Sir Robert was appointed as the Colonial Secretary of the new colony of Queensland on 10 December 1859.
Queensland State Archives digital image ID 2954

The Proclamation of Queensland
Queensland State Archives digital image ID 5827

Mr A O Moriarty
First Clerk of the Executive Council
Abram Orpen Moriarty accompanied Sir George Bowen to Brisbane as his private secretary. He was appointed the first Under Colonial Secretary and the Clerk of the Executive Council. On 10 December 1859, he read the proclamation to the assembled public from the balcony of the Governor's residence, now the Deanery at St John's Cathedral in Ann Street, Brisbane.
Queensland State Archives digital image ID 5734

Panorama view of Brisbane, 1862
Queensland State Archives digital image ID 2290