

## BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Free Presbyterian Church of Australia 1947**

The Rev James Campbell Robinson (born 1883 at Marlee, New South Wales – died 1952 South Yarra, Melbourne, Victoria) was a minister of the Free Presbyterian Church. In 1947 he published a history of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

His Australia-born parents John Robinson and Jane Campbell settled at Marlee, near Wingham. John Robinson's parents Joseph Robinson and Martha Long had arrived as assisted immigrants from County Londonderry (Derry), Ireland per *Brothers* 1841.

The Free Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia had been founded in Sydney in 1846 as a breakaway denomination from mainstream Scottish Presbyterianism.

Robinson's book includes an appendix containing 205 biographies of lay and clergy members of the church. These biographies have been transcribed and added to BDA.

**Contemporary review of *The Free Presbyterian Church of Australia* (1947)**

The Free Presbyterian Church of Australia.

From the Rev. J. Campbell Robinson, of 88 Alma Road, East St. Kilda, Victoria, we have received a splendidly printed and illustrated book of 337 pages, dealing with the founding of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. The preface to this historical book very aptly points out that it is necessary to say a few words by way of preface.

“The writing of the history was undertaken at the request of the Assembly of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia. The work has been produced under great difficulties, the writer requiring, with few exceptions, to make all researches himself and to prepare it during the late war—in order that its appearance might synchronise with the Centenary of our Church on October 10, 1946, which event it was intended to commemorate, and while still engaged in carrying on the exacting duties of a City Pastorate. The author regrets not being able personally

to peruse some early newspapers and documents in NSW, owing to their absence from the library for security reasons — and Dr. William Nicholson's diary in Tasmania, due to difficulty of travel restriction. He, however, was fortunate, in that it was unnecessary for him to go much beyond his own library for the information required. The writer desires to place on record his sincere thanks to Mr. Maxwell Bradshaw, MA, LLD, of Hawthorn, Melbourne, and the Rev M. C. Ramsay, MA, of Taree, NSW, for their careful reading of the manuscript and useful suggestions; the NSW Government Printer for permission to use a number of early prints and photographs; and Mr. Gordon Dennes, of Petersham, Sydney, for valuable information supplied. The writing of the history has been the subject of earnest prayer, and it is trusted that the work will serve a useful purpose.”

The author of this historic work is to be complimented on the worthwhile manner in which, he has placed a most interesting and instructive historical work before the adherents of the Free Presbyterian church, and also those who are not of that faith. The book deals with the very early days of colonization in Australia, and traces the movements and history of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia from its very infancy in this country. It not only deals with the history of the Church, but it also refers in plain and understandable language to those early and historic navigators who first set foot on Australian soil way back in the dim and misty past— men like Dampier, Captain James Cook, and others whose work in those early days really laid the foundation for the Australia we know to-day— in the year of Our Lord, 1947. The illustrations— like the reading matter contained within the pages of this notable and historic book are splendid.

The early day pioneering clergymen and people associated with them receive full mention. Wingham, Taree, Tinonee and other centres. In this district are interestingly referred to in this book — as also are many of the pioneer clergy, and ordinary members of the religious body of the Church in question. Photos of the Free Presbyterian Churches at Wingham, Taree and Tinonee are among the illustrations of much interest. There is also a photo of a group of Manning River Elders and Deacons.

Reference is made to the visit of the late Rev. S. P. Stewart to Scotland and the reception that was accorded him on his return to Wingham at a gathering presided over by the author's father, Mr. John Robinson, of Marlee, who was an Elder of the Church. Generally speaking, the Rev J. Campbell Robinson, who is a native of Marlee, and a son of the late Mr. and Mrs John Robinson, of that

centre, has produced a historic book that will materially assist in keeping the long and early years of the past before the Generation of the Present. The book is certainly a very fine addition to the literature of Australia. We desire to thank the Rev. J. Campbell Robinson for sending along to us a copy of this historical work.

*The Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer*

(NSW: 1898-1954) 30 May 1947: 3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168523468>

### **Obituary of James Campbell Robinson's father**

#### OBITUARY MR. JOHN ROBINSON

The death occurred at, Wingham of an old and respected resident of the Upper Manning, in the person of Mr. John Robinson. Mr. Robinson, who had reached the ripe age of 85 years, was born at Anambah, on November 4, 1860, He was the son of Joseph Robinson and Martha Long, who emigrated from Limarvady, near Londonderry, Ireland, about 1840, The Robinson family moved to, the Manning River in 1856. In 1879, Mr. John Robinson was married to Miss Jane Campbell, of Wherrol Flat, by the Rev. John Bannatyne. His family consists of Martha (Mrs. Thomas Middlemiss, Tinonee); Frank Robinson, of Marlee, the Rev. James Campbell Robinson, of St., Kilda, Melbourne, Walter Robinson, of Marlee; Bertha (Mrs. James Campbell, of Wingham Brush); Edwin Joseph Robinson, of the Bulga. His first wife died in 1904, and in 1908 he married again, this time Marjory Cameron, of Mount George. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, the cortege leaving deceased's late residence Dingo-st, Wingham, for the Marlee cemetery.

*Maitland Daily Mercury* (NSW : 1894 - 1939) 19 May 1936: 4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article127371920>

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