

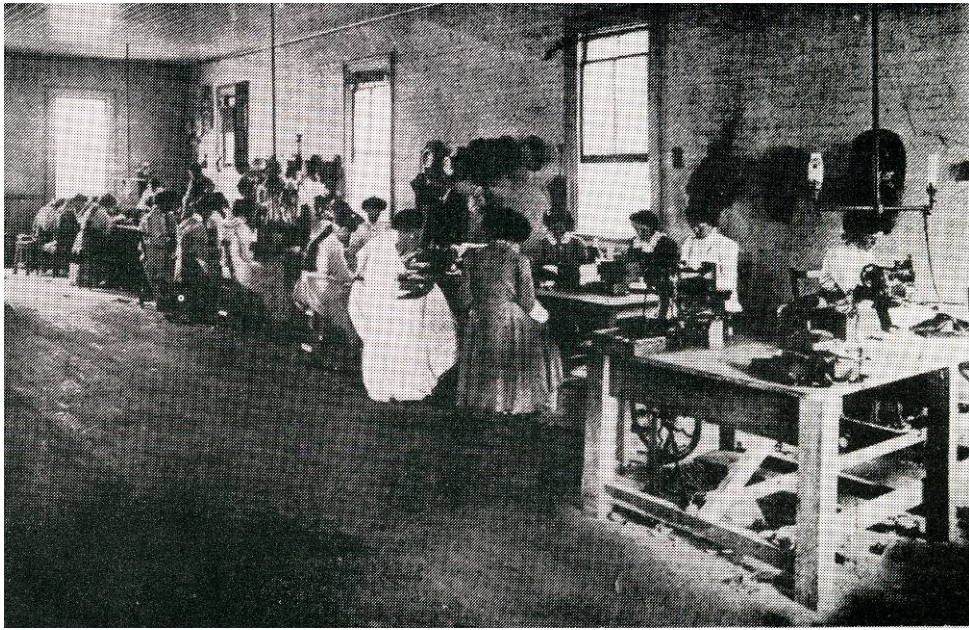
In the Factory

The photographs in this category, apart from women working in the service industries, are the only photographs that show women in the labour force. Cranny-Francis et al explore the workplace as being gendered. Despite the fact that women are shown as a part of the workplace, their positions are limited to those that reflect their stereotype as being 'naturally nurturing, sensitive, emotional and deferring natural mothers' (2003: 143). This is reinforced in the photographs of women in the factory.

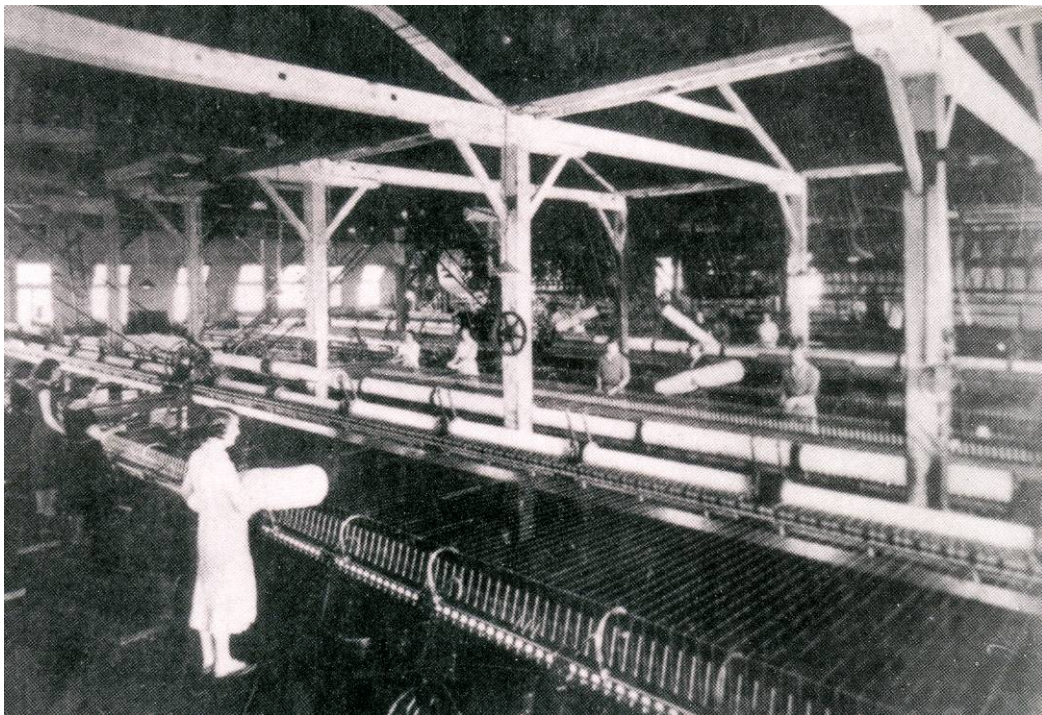
While they do contribute to the factories that were represented in the standard historical narrative of Ipswich, their part is minimal and very much linked to the domestic arena. Betsy Wearing argues that this is because there are 'differential definitions of male and female skills' (in Cranny-Francis et al, 2003: 224), and women are restricted to using those skills that are practiced in the home.

All of the photographs of women in factories show their place in the clothing industry. This links them both to the fashion industry and back to the home. Sewing is stereotypically a 'woman's activity' that is generally done in the home. Despite the fact that the women in the photographs are in the labour force, their jobs emulate the position that they hold at home.

Photograph 15 features women as tailors, and Photograph 16 shows women in the Woollen Mill.



*Photograph 15 – Parker & Goertz, Practical Tailors, Brisbane Street, Ipswich
Source: Source: Harrison, Geo. Jubilee History of Ipswich. 1980, p 149*



*Photograph 16 – Queensland Woollen Company, North Ipswich
Source: Nolan, 1994. p55*

Miscellaneous

There were other photographs that appeared in the records, and these did not fit neatly into the categories mentioned above. However, it is important that they be included in this analysis to show that all of the photographs that were taken of women in these particular historical sources have been recognized in this chapter, and also because they give a further account of how women were depicted outside of the categories included.

These photographs show women 1) at a sports day; 2) at Sunday School; 3) in the Photographic Club; and 4) at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School.

I will address both photograph 17 and 19 as there are distinct similarities between them, namely, the women's ability to participate in the activities for which they are being photographed. Iris Young discusses the notion of women and space. She recognizes that women are restricted in the space that they use, and are reluctant to use the space around them to their full extent (1990). Instead, women keep close to themselves. I further this idea by saying that women's fashion contributes to their use of space. The Edwardian fashion that I noted before in the section on women 'In Town' can also be seen in photographs 17 and 19.



*Photograph 17 – Sports day at Mount Sylvia, near Ipswich, Queensland, ca 1890
Source: Picture Queensland Website*

Interestingly, however, the women in the photographs in this category are not shopping in town and their activity calls for different attire. The first photograph shows women at a sports day. Most of the women are wearing large dresses, accessorized by a hat. This would not be the typical attire required for most sports, however, and the many men featured in the photographs seem more appropriately dressed. This suggests that women were restricted in what sports that they may have been active in. No doubt, women of the era did play sport in this attire - however, there were limitations on what could be played.

Photograph 19 shows a similar problem. The photograph of the Photographic Society itself shows both men and women in the image. The men are appropriately dressed for the activity, and again the women in the image wear hats and layered dresses. This does not suggest that women were not active in photography, however there were certain physical limitations placed on them that men in the same group did not experience.

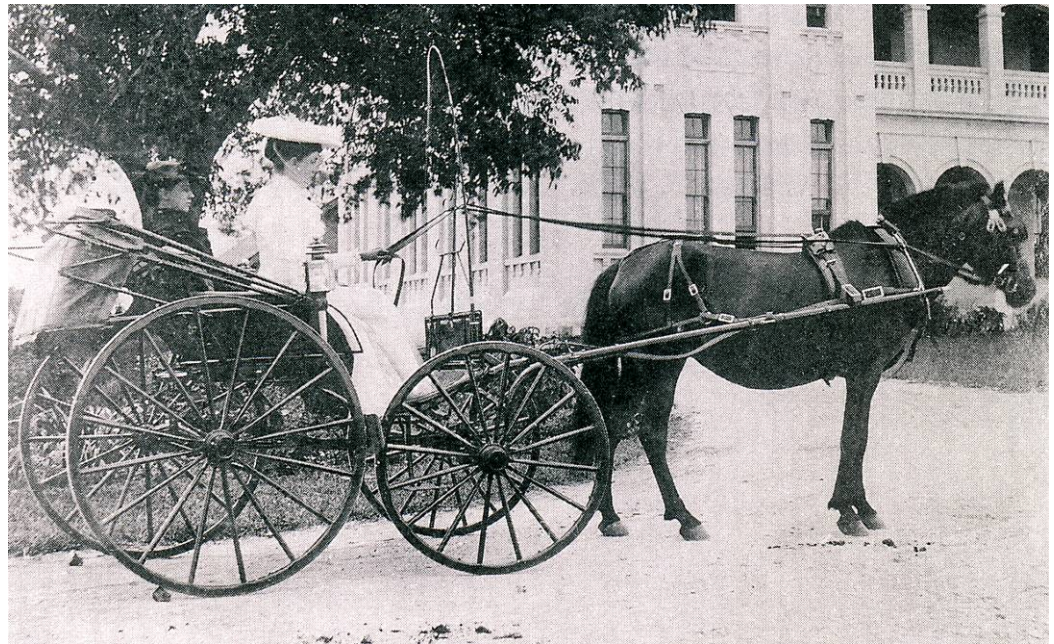


*Photograph 19 – Ipswich Photographic Club, upper reaches of the Bremer River, 1907
Source: Nolan, 1994. p57*

There is also a photograph of the principal of Ipswich Girls' Grammar School and her sister (photograph 20). This inclusion in the records is an interesting one. The picture of the woman controlling the buggy, notably the principal of the Girls' School, is in stark contrast to the picture in the section of 'In the Home' where the woman is passenger in the vehicle.

In this image, the principal is literally ‘in the driving seat’, and she is not under the control of a husband or male figure. Her role is, however, reflective of mother; she is in charge of a school for girls, and is, through her position as principal, a replacement mother-figure in school hours.

The school position still requires the woman to be ‘naturally nurturing, sensitive, emotional and deferring’ (Cranny-Francis et al, 2003:143).



*Photograph 20 – Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, 1890s
Source: Nolan, 1994. p26*

The last picture in this category is one at Sunday School. This photograph features mainly women, apart from a few males in the congregation (Photograph 18). Again, women are dressed in their hats and best attire. It is not entirely clear as to why the hall is filled with women only, and it is understood that Sunday School was actually run for children of the church. Perhaps these women are present at the church for this photograph as carers for the children attending Sunday School. More knowledge of this particular photograph and the church that is featured may shed light on the connotations of this image. Unfortunately, given the limited access to research for this paper, the analysis can only lead thus far.



*Photograph 18 – Interior of the Congregational Sunday School
Source; Nolan, 1994. p29*

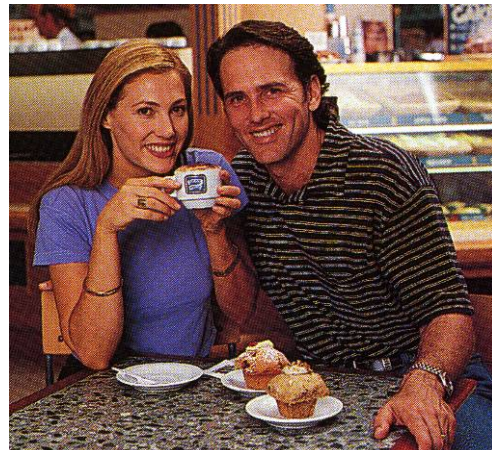
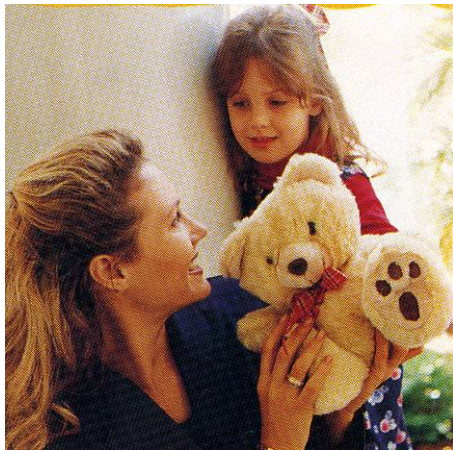
Another Category – In the Present

I would also like to introduce another category to the history of women in Ipswich photographs, namely, the category of women 'In the Present'. This is perhaps one of the most important categories to include in this paper.

Although we may track, pictorially, the history of women, the recent history of Ipswich must also be included in the analysis to allow comparisons to be made. There has been little change across the epochs of Ipswich with regards to how women are depicted, and in recent times it also appears that women are similarly being represented as mothers and homemakers.

In a recent publication, *Ipswich Queensland in the New Millennium*, which documents the achievements in Ipswich in 2000, there were only three photographs of women.

Photograph 21(a) shows the woman as mother. Photograph 21(b) also shows the woman as wife. Interestingly, these photographs were not even included for the purpose of showing the achievements of women, but as an advertisement for a shopping plaza, which as we explored before, is seen as an extension of, or having similarities with, the home.



Photographs 21 (a) and (b). Source: 2002 Ipswich Queensland p30

Another photograph featuring a woman in Ipswich was also included in the booklet (photograph 21). This was taken in 1966, and shows a woman in an advertisement for Sunbeam Shavemaster. She holds the shaver to a man's face. Her pose is one of wife, in both the act of shaving the customer (husband) and through her duty to serve.

Although this photograph was included, possibly for nostalgic reasons, the juxtaposition of Photograph 21 with the first two photographs shows that despite the time differences, women in Ipswich are still being viewed in much the same way. This publication heralds the 'New Millennium' - it is my hope that this is not what the new millennium will look like.



*Photograph 22 – The many uses of electricity were still being discovered when Swanbank A began operating in 1966
Source; 2002 Ipswich Queensland p21*

And thus ends the analysis. It must be noted that the readings of these photographs are not exhaustive. They give an indication of how women are represented across public history in the photographs that were taken at different time periods.

Similarly, we have been limited only to images of women, and taking a closer look at both oral and written histories could also show a different history. However, as it was explained at the beginning of this paper, photographs do show a story that is often left unsaid in written histories and indeed oral histories.

From these photographs, we can see that the patriarchal stereotype of women is shown throughout history, and is evident in present photographic records. The

photographs that do show women at work, and indeed out of the home, are still of women working on activities that emulate their domestic roles.

Their assumed 'caring and nurturing' nature follows the women in history to the workplace, so that they are intrinsically linked to their role of mother, wife and homemaker.

The photographs of women in the factories are particularly important in illustrating the dichotomy between work and home, insofar as they do show women in the workplace (and factories certainly were a significant presence in the Ipswich historical timeline). However they are only shown assisting in the making of clothing; an activity that was, no doubt, regularly done in the home.

Chapter 3
A HISTORY FORGOTTEN

If a picture tells a thousand words, then the photographs taken throughout history certainly do give us a detailed account of Ipswich over the years. In written history, the town is marked by its industrial, agricultural and economic growth. Photographic histories also capture Ipswich history in relation to the different growth periods. However, it is more evident through these photographs that the different markings in time feature mainly men, as they are the subjects of the pictures taken to commemorate the different eras.

Women, while they do feature in historical photographs, are not at the centre of the historical record. The mining, farming, and railways that mark Ipswich history are visually male dominated. Women are not shown in such roles. This is not to say that they did not play a pivotal role in Ipswich history. While women's roles were important, they are recognized across history in public records not for their associations with those highlighted achievements, but women lived in a parallel history not often marked in the Ipswich timeline. Their history is shown, pictorially, as one of mother and wife, intrinsically linked to the domestic arena and far removed from the industries that the town is noted for. The lived reality of these women *was* connected to the home. It was such roles that have produced the stereotypes and explain the lack of public photographs of women in that era.

It is therefore my hope that historians and researchers look closer at the history of women in the town, to tell their story and make it as integral to Ipswich history as the current recorded history. It is also my hope that women, in the present, are given a place in the record books. While there are many notable women of recent times being recognized for their achievements – let us make sure that they are shown in the recorded histories that will colour how people looking back over *this* epoch will view women in the region.

It is time that we rewrite the history books and tell the stories that remain only as peripheral histories. The timeline of Ipswich history should be dotted with the achievements of women, and in the future let us not make the mistakes that are evident in the current historical records.

EPILOGUE

Did women in Ipswich assume only roles of wife and mother? For those women who did venture out to the workforce, did they simply take positions that reflected patriarchal ideology? Were there individual women who stepped outside of this square? Or do the current history books truly represent the different epochs in Ipswich, that follow women as wife and mother? The historical records attempt to capture the essence of the city of Ipswich. The timelines that are produced that put notches against important dates in Ipswich have neglected to record a population that has also contributed to its past. While there are no photographs to assist in recording this history, there are a few notches that should be added to the records - they are women who have shaped Ipswich's past and women today who should be remembered for their contributions.

AN ALTERNATIVE TIMELINE

Below is an abridged timeline of Ipswich - a women's timeline

1920-1930: Alison Simpson (nee Smith) was a journalist for the Queensland Times. She went on to be a director of the newspaper.

War: Australian Women's Land Army, WAAFS.

1970's: Lucille King (published under the name – Mary Bishop) wrote a number of books. She was based in Ipswich and had much literary importance despite little recognition of her in any historical records.

Helen Haenke – a writer.

Blodwyn Whitehead – a conductor of the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir. Made an impact locally, nationally and internationally. Led choirs in many eisteddfods that had success overseas.

Vi Jordan was a councilor for the Labor party in 1946 and in 1961 became the first woman to be elected to the Ipswich City Council. Later on she became the first woman Labor representative in the Queensland parliament. She was renowned for fighting for equal pay and addressed discrimination in the workplace. She was also an avid supporter of child care services for families.

Margaret Barton was a pianist who gained acclaim locally and internationally. She was first broadcast on ABC radio and when she was offered a scholarship, she studied and performed overseas.

Contemporary Ipswich

Ann-Marie Edwards a prominent family member behind the longstanding and successful R.T. Edwards store in Ipswich.

Lynn Marshall a local artist who has recently spent time in China showing her artwork and continuing to develop her unique techniques.

Viva Cribb one of the family members of the famous Cribb family and the great grandchild of Benjamin Cribb who was one half of the Cribb and Foote store in Ipswich. The Ipswich Library hosts a Local History Resource Room devoted to Ms Cribb.

Rachel Nolan involved in State and local politics. She is the youngest woman to be elected to Queensland politics.

Pauline Hanson despite her contentious reputation was involved heavily in Federal politics and while her policies may have been considered outlandish they caused a stir in Australia and overseas.

This timeline is by no means complete. The small amount of information on these women is only to serve as a canvas for other historians of Ipswich to acknowledge their place in its history. These facts were gathered from conversations and

recollections from Ipswich residents and can not replace the value of recording their stories and preserving them in publications. It is the hope that when this chapter is published, historians may be compelled to turn their focus from a history of Ipswich to the women who inhabited it..

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