

Walter Cabbage

1869-1942

A quiet man of few words who was happy to stay at home and mind the children while his wife volunteered her musical and fundraising talents for any worthy Maleny cause.



Walter Cabbage

Birth

Walter Cabbage was born on 27 April 1869 in Milton, NSW. The second youngest son of Emma Ann (nee Jones) and John Fisher Cabbage, he grew up in the "Applegarth" homestead his father had built in 1868. Walter's father had arrived in NSW as a convict in 1835 but, by the time of his death in 1896, was a wealthy man who left an estate sworn under £18,696.

Marriage and Children

On 6 June 1900, Walter and Ada Caroline Garrad married in the Picton district, south of Sydney. The following year, Walter was a farmer in Thirlmere when their first daughter, Dorothy, was baptised in St Mark's, Picton. Two more children were born after the family moved to Maleny: Robert in 1908 and Grace in 1912.

Northern NSW

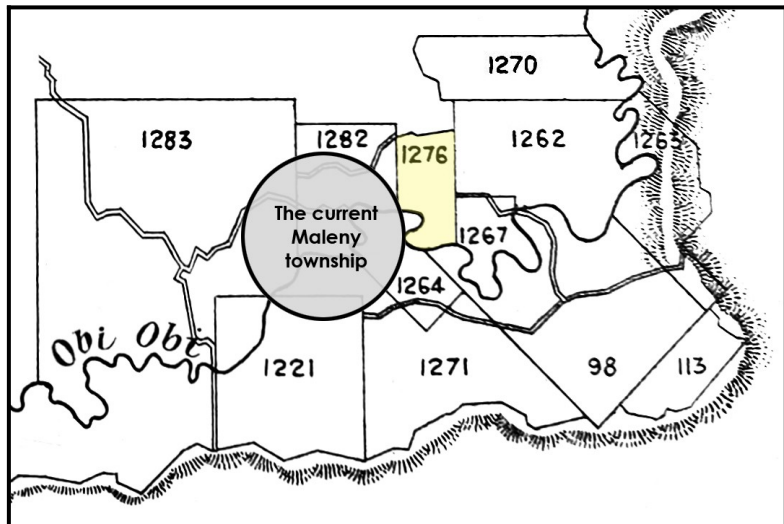
After the birth of Dorothy, the Cabbage family moved to northern NSW. However, only a few years later, Walter bought Portion 1276, Parish of Maleny, from the Estate of Margaret Hankinson. The 160-acre Hankinson farm was purchased for £5 2s. 6d. per acre in March 1904. A price thought to be the highest paid for unimproved land in the Maleny district up to that time.



"Applegarth", Milton



Dorothy, Grace & Robert Cabbage



Portion 1276, Parish of Maleny. The original selector in 1880 was John Hankinson. After his death in 1881, the land was transferred to his widow, Jane Hankinson, who died in 1887.

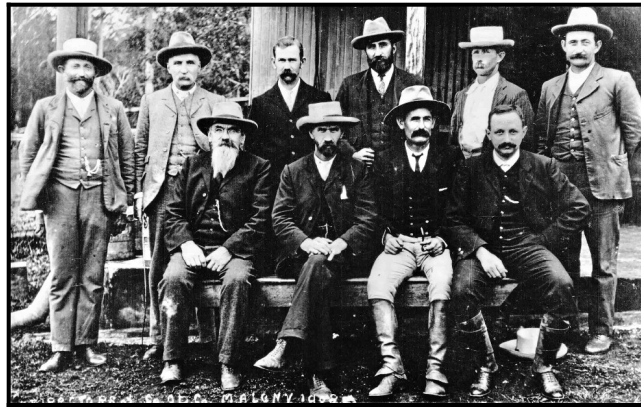
Walter Cabbage and A. C. K. Cooke move to Maleny

Planning for the move to Maleny included the sale of Walter's 100-acre farm in Alstonville and a clearing-out sale of household items, a horse and cattle at his residence in Newrybar. When it was time to leave northern NSW, Walter did so in the company of Alfred Charles King Cooke (a man who would become prominent in the early days of Maleny). Together, they sailed down the Tweed River on their way to Maleny.

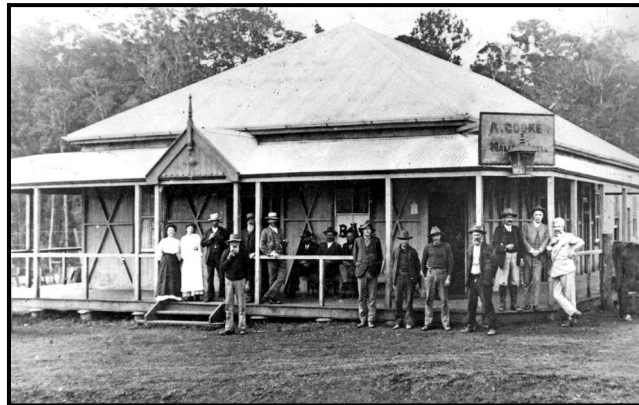
Maleny 1904-1918

1907 - Walter was a judge for the Maleny Wood-chopping contest.

1908 - the following photos were taken in Maleny on the same day in 1908.

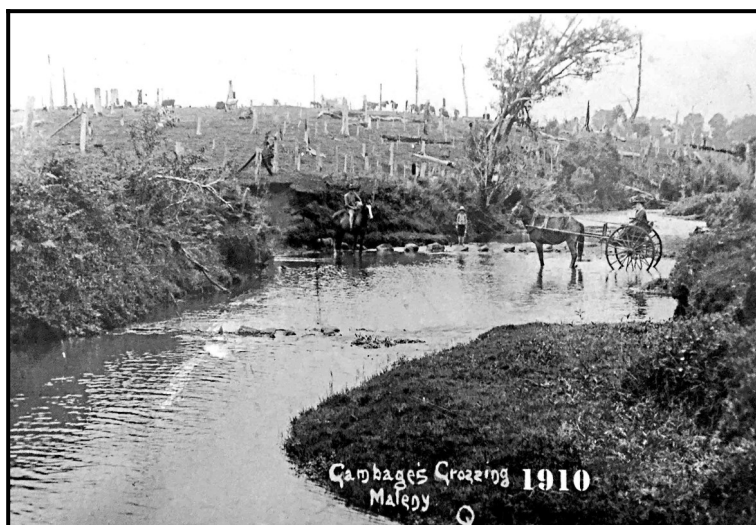


*Maleny Butter Factory Directors. Back L-R: Louis Tesch, William Rough, John Skerman (Butter Factory manager), **Walter Cabbage**, William Aplin and Carl Nöthling. Seated: Joseph McCarthy, Alfred Cooke, Robert Bryce and Alex Hunt (Butter Factory's Co-op store manager).*



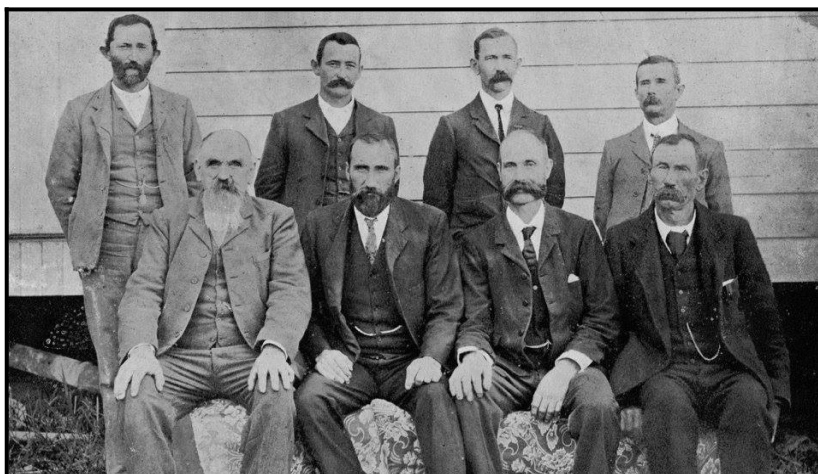
*Maleny Hotel. Back L-R: Mrs Thompson and her daughter, Alfred Cooke (licensee), Joseph McCarthy, Ludwig Tesch, **Walter Cabbage**, Carl Nöthling and (--?--). Front: (--?--), Charles Flesser, (--?--), August Flesser, (--?--), Robert Bryce, William Rough and (--?--).*

1910 - Walter was one of the first trustees of the Maleny School of Arts.



Cabbage's Crossing, one of the first routes into Maleny, located at the bottom of the Maleny State School grounds. The original road crossed the Obi Obi Creek at Reynolds Crossing (upstream from Gardners Falls) to North Maleny, past the Pattermore's property "Fairview" and down the hill, crossing the Obi Obi again into Francis Dunlop's paddock.

Undated



Maleny Butter Factory Directors, pre-1914.

*Back L-R: Ludwig Tesch, Carl Nothling, John Skerman and William Aplin.
Front: Joseph McCarthy, **Walter Cabbage**, Edward Lawley and James Cork.*

1913

Mr. Walter Cabbage, the well-known dairyman from Maleny, and Mr. R. H. Cabbage, brothers of Mr. William Cabbage, the well-known dairyman here (writes our correspondent) passed through Cooroy yesterday going north for a tour through Queensland, including the Gulf Country. Mr. R. H. Cabbage is chief mining surveyor of New South Wales and a well-known geologist.

The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette, 9 August 1913, page 5.

Leaving Maleny

After fourteen years in Maleny, the Cabbage family moved to Brisbane although Walter retained ownership of at least two pieces of Maleny land (Portion 1276 and subdivision 1 of Portion 1262, Parish of Maleny). To recognise their community involvement, they were given a public send-off and presentation during the Maleny Red Cross Ball in June 1918.

The Maleny Union Church, School of Arts, Patriotic Committee and Red Cross Committee combined to gift the Cabbages a silver tea and coffee service on a silver mounted oak tray. In addition, the Maleny Red Cross Committee presented Ada Cabbage with a silver-plated cake dish as she had been a tireless worker as well as president of the society for the previous twelve months. She had also played the organ in the Maleny Union Church for three different denominations so thanks were given to Walter for looking after their children while his wife "lent her aid to every worthy object".

Several people spoke, including Alfred Cooke who said, "He and Mr. Cabbage had come to Queensland the same day, some fourteen years ago. He had sat for seven years with Mr. Cabbage as a director of the butter factory, and found that while he was a man of few words his judgement and advice were always sound. Since the outbreak of war, Mr. Cabbage had been to the fore in helping every patriotic movement...He was pleased Mr. Cabbage had attained what he came to Maleny for, and was able to retire, and Maleny's loss would be Northgate's gain."

Walter appreciated everyone's kind words, especially those of Mr. Cooke as they were old shipmates who had travelled together on their way to Maleny. He thanked the speakers but thought the farewell was due to his wife's community efforts as he believed the most prominent part he had played in the district was staying at home to mind the children.

Obituary
Mr. Walter Cambage

By the death of Mr. Walter Cambage, of Moorooka, Brisbane, there has passed away one of the early pioneers of the dairying industry in the Maleny district. Awake to the importance of a district, the news of which held potential possibilities equal to the Northern Rivers districts of New South Wales, Mr. Cambage decided to face the many adverse conditions which beset the opening up of a tract of country clothed with dense primeval scrub.

He purchased the property, previously selected by the late John Hankinson in 1904, and forthwith had it converted to a billowing field of paspalum, on which a herd of Illawarra-Shorthorn cattle was pastured. Being alive to modern equipment, Mr. Cambage was the first in the district to install the Echelon lay-out of milking shed, which afforded easy handling of the milking machines, then installed.

He was a member of the board of directors of the Maleny Co-operative Dairy Company, also a trustee of the Union Church, and was esteemed for his honest and impartial handling of all public matters. Mr. Cambage came from the Milton district of New South Wales, and is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters, Mrs. L. G. Campbell (Moorooka), and Mrs. K. G. Morris (Cooroy).

The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser, 8 May 1942, page 5.

Desley Malone
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