

Comet Tales & Walking Trails



NORTH AUSTRALIAN HOTEL 1878

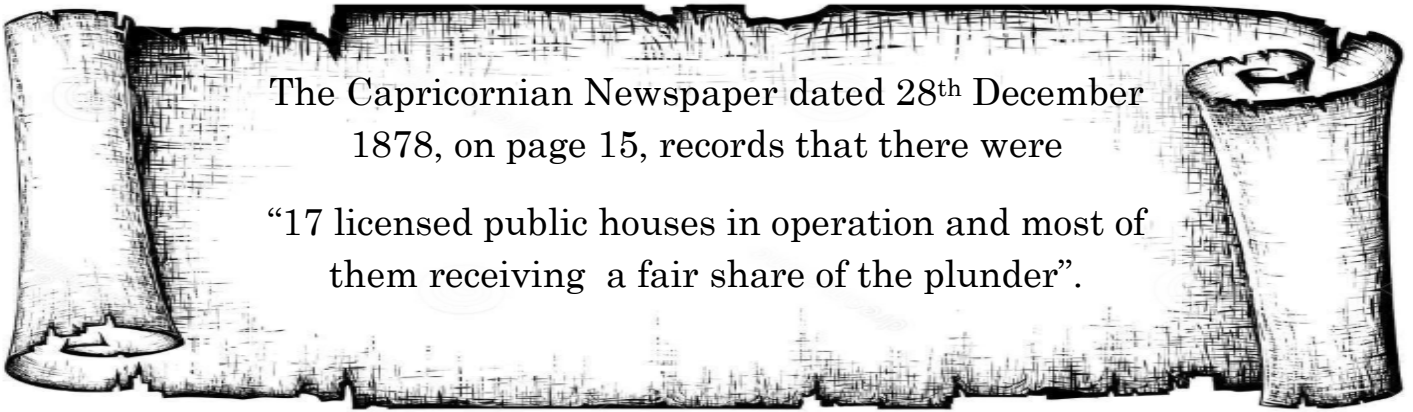
SITE 6

This hotel was situated on the corner of Corio and Ballard Streets. It was owned by Edward Wilmot Neill Godber who held the publican's licence from 1878 until 1886. Some years later this block of land was bought by the pioneering Semfel family who resided in Comet for many years.



THIS BUILDING IS A COMET HOTEL HOWEVER IT IS UNKNOWN IF IT IS THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN HOTEL

George Godber was the publican of The Traveller's Rest hotel at the Sixteen Mile near Springton, on the old coach road between Gainsford (Duaringa) and Clermont. His brother Edward took over running this hotel in 1873. The application for Edward's hotel licence was advertised in the Capricornian Newspaper on 12th June 1877. "Inns and Outs", written by Mary Snelling states that the Sixteen Mile was also known as Jones Ridge.

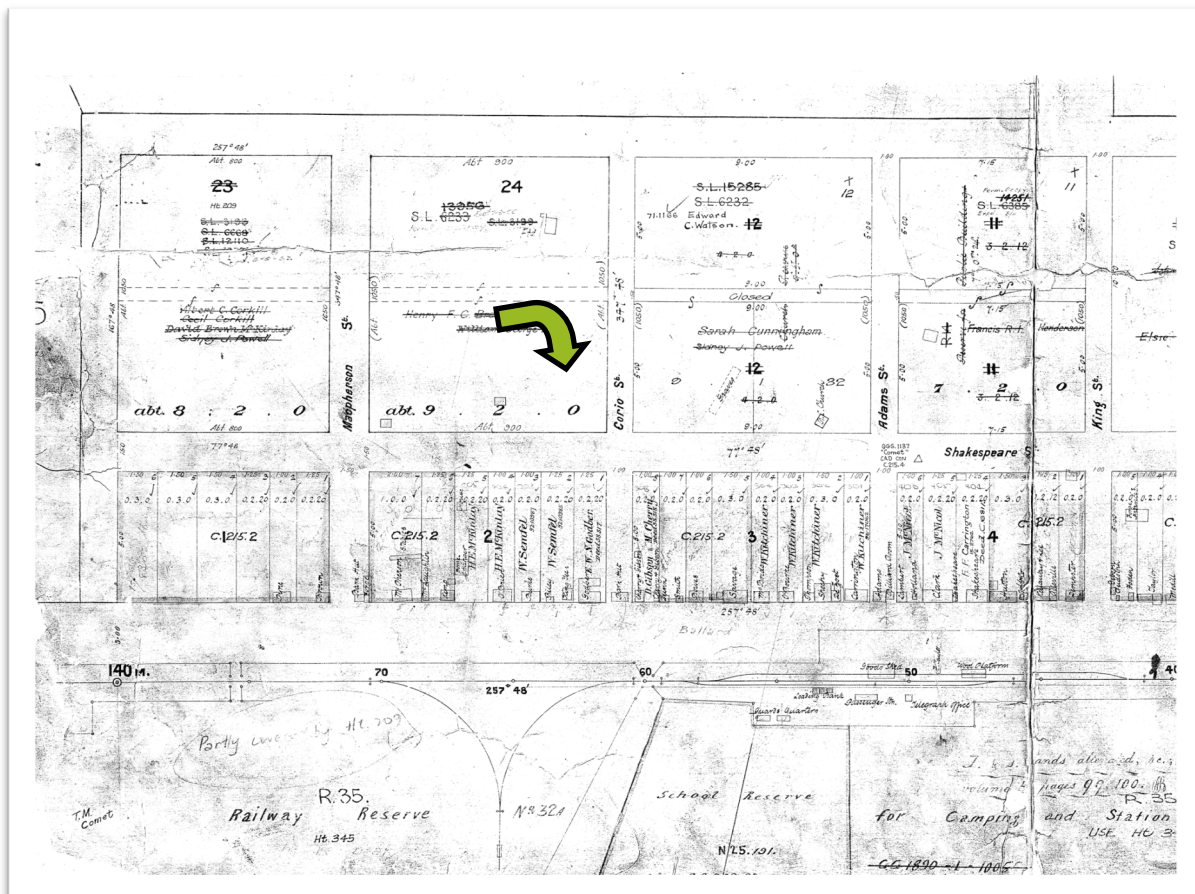


The Capricornian Newspaper dated 28th December 1878, on page 15, records that there were

“17 licensed public houses in operation and most of them receiving a fair share of the plunder”.

Business was booming in the new town of Cometville, luring the Godber family to take up residence.

When the land sales commenced in the town, Edward purchased a block of land comprising 2 roods and 20 perches (approximately a half acre) costing £7.10.0 (\$15.00). The sale took place on the 15th October 1878. The block is bordered on three sides by Shakespeare, Corio and Ballard streets. He built the family home on this block and later it became the North Australian Hotel. The Capricornian Newspaper reports that a publican’s licence was issued to Mr Godber on 23rd August 1878. It would seem that Mr Godber squatted and built his home on this allotment before he officially owned it .



land became transmitted to The Curator of Intestate
Estates

as appears by Supreme Court copy of Order
and documentary evidence produced 10 August

1887 at 11:25 am Entered 3 October 1887

Howell
Registrar of Titles.

NEW TITLE No. 40205a

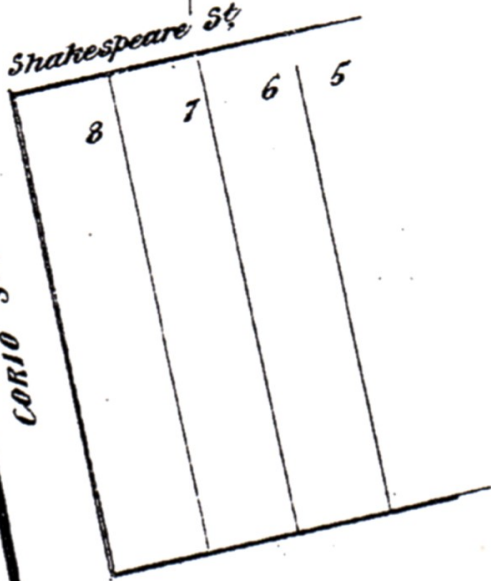
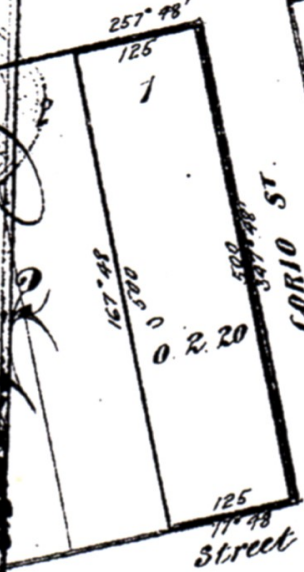
PURSUANT to Memo of TRANSFER No. 168990 Produced

26 Sept 1887 at 11.0 am Regd. 3 October 1887

James Collinson
OF 10000 SEIZED OF AN ESTATE IN FEE

SIMPLE in the WHOLE of the w^o. in land

Howell
Registrar of Titles.



Scale 2 Chains to an Inch.

TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT.

No. 28317

QUEENSLAND.

FORM 3

County Humboldt

Parish Ballard

B. DEED OF GRANT. AUCTION LANDS. TOWN LOT.

Town of Cornelville

Date of Purchase 15th October 1878

VICEROYS, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc. etc.

Area One 2^o 70^o 0^o

TO BE taken when these Presents shall come, Granting:—

WHEREAS, in conformity with the Laws and Regulations in force for the Alienation of Crown Lands in Our Territory of Queensland, Edward Wilmet Nhill Godber of _____ has become the Purchaser at Auction of the Land hereinafter described, for the Sum of Seven pounds ten shillings Sterling:

Now Know Ye, That in consideration of the said Sum, for Us and on Our behalf well and truly paid into the Treasury of Our said Territory, before these Presents are issued, And in further consideration of the Quit-Rent hereinafter reserved, We, with the advice of Our Executive Council of Queensland, have granted, and for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do hereby Grant unto the said Edward Wilmet Nhill Godber His Heirs and Assigns, subject to the several and respective Reservations hereinafter mentioned, All that Piece or Parcel of Land in Our said Territory, containing by Admeasurement Two rods, twenty perches be the same more or less, situated in the County of Humboldt Parish of Ballard and Town of Cornelville being Allotment No. One of Section No. Two

Commencing on the South side of Shakespeare street at the Northwest corner of the section and bounded thence on the North by that street bearing two hundred and fifty seven degrees forty eight minutes one chain and twenty five links on the West by allotment two bearing one hundred and sixty seven degrees in forty eight minutes five chains on the South by a street bearing seventy seven degrees forty eight minutes one chain and twenty five links and on the East by Corio street bearing three hundred and forty seven degrees forty eight minutes five chains to the point of commencement
Being the land proclaimed as Town Lot 7 on 26th August 1878.



with all the Rights and Appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging: To Held unto the said Edward Wilmet Nhill Godber His Heirs and Assigns for ever, Yielding and paying therefor Yearly unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, the Quit-Rent of One Penny for ever, if demanded: But Subject Nevertheless to the several conditions and reservations contained and declared in the Laws of Our said Territory in that behalf: In Witness Whereof We have caused this Our Grant to be Sealed with the Seal of Our said Territory.

[Signature]

WITNESS Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir JAMES EDWARD KEENEY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of QUEENSLAND and its Dependencies, at Government House, Brisbane, in QUEENSLAND aforesaid, this twelfth day of February in the forty-second year of Our reign, and in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

[Signature]

ENTERED in the Register Book day of February

Vol. 356, Folio 77, this eighteenth day of February 1879.

[Signature]
SPT: REGISTRAR GENERAL

THE WORSHIPFUL THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE,
 ACTING IN AND FOR THE POLICE DISTRICT OF
 COMET, QUEENSLAND, I, EDWARD WILMOT
 NEILL GODBER,

now residing at Cometville, Q.N, Railway,
 in the district of Springsure, do hereby give
 notice that it is my intention to apply at the
 adjourned monthly Licensing Meeting, to be
 holden for this district on the 20th of August,
 1878, for a Country Publican's License, for the
 sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors in
 the house and appurtenances thereunto
 belonging, situated at Cometville,
 Q.N. Railway.

The house contains the necessary
 accommodation required by law, and is my own
 property. It will be known by the sign of
 THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN HOTEL,
 and which I intend to keep as a country inn
 or public-house.

I am married, and have held a publican's
 license before. Given under my hand this 13th day of
 August, 1878.
 E. W. N. GODBER.

Comet Police Court.

BEFORE J. G. Maconnald, P.M., and Frank
 Taylor, J.P., on the 13th August, the under-
 mentioned applications for country licenses
 were considered:—

James McPherson, Mack's West End
 Hotel, Comet; granted.

Catherine Smith, Rockhampton Hotel,
 Comet; granted.

John England Kellaway, Kellaway and Lee's
 Hotel, Comet; granted.

William Huston, Royal Mail Hotel, Comet;
 granted.

Herman de Zoet, Carriers' Arms Hotel,
 Comet; granted.

John Burns, Railway Hotel, Comet; granted.

Geo. E. Mitchell, Sandhurst Creek Hotel,
 Q.N.R., granted.

Geo. P. Shakespeare, Shakespeare Hotel,
 Comet; adjourned.

Fanny Clark, Walton Creek Hotel, Comet;
 adjourned.

William Carrington, All Nations Hotel,
 Comet; adjourned.

Michael O'Rourke, Commercial Hotel,
 Comet; adjourned.

E. W. A. Godber, North Australian Hotel,
 Comet; adjourned.

Patrick Burk, Blackwater Hotel, Comet;
 adjourned.

William Kemp, Comet Hotel, Comet;
 adjourned—all till the 20th instant.

An auctioneer's license was granted to
 James Phillips, and carrier's licenses to John
 Burns, Robert Bell, and William Robbins.

A letter was received from the Comet
 Progress Association, addressed to the Bench
 of Magistrates, Cometville, referring to the
 following resolution, viz.: That the secretary
 write to the Bench of Magistrate requesting
 them to have the places of business at the
 Comet closed on Sunday, and the day generally
 observed according to law.

Now a little about the Godber family. Edward Wilmot Neill Godber married Annie Bateman in 1871. Their nine children were:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1871 Mary Anne | 1873 Johanna |
| 1875 Joseph Bateman | 1876 Edward Wilmot |
| 1877 Annie Florence | 1878 Sarah Jane |
| 1881 James Lewis | 1882 Robert Neill |

1884 Willoughby Cole who died at five days old on the 12th December and is buried in the Comet Cemetery.

Edward Godber was also the elected treasurer of the Cometville Progress Association which did much to make life a little easier for the townspeople. Cometville then had very few of the conveniences that we would expect today.

E. W. N. GODBER,
 PROPRIETOR,
 (Late of the Peak Downs Road and Springsure,
 G. N. R.)

E. W. N. G., in returning thanks for
 past patronage, begs to inform the
 public that he has removed into the above
 premises, at the

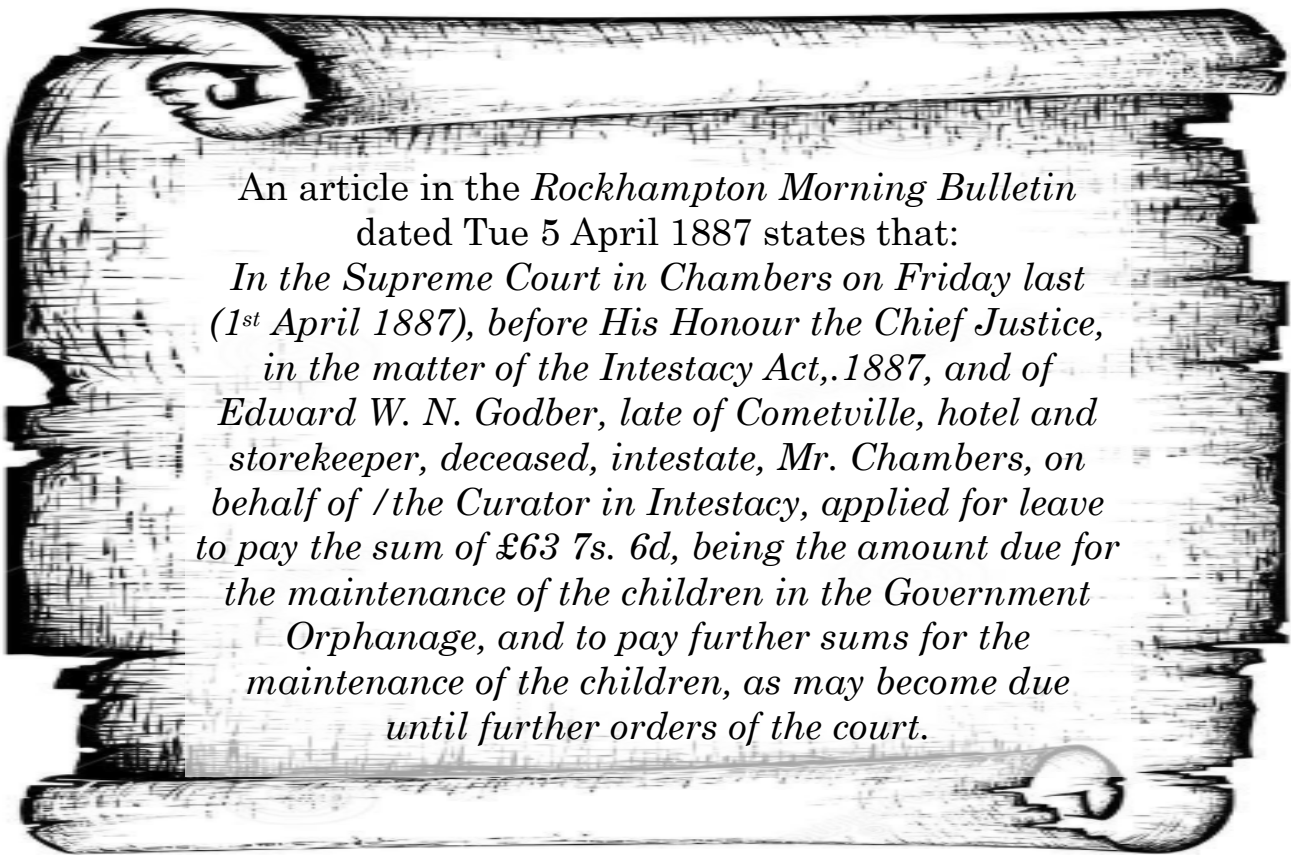
COMET RAILWAY STATION,
 Where travellers, commercial men, and others
 will meet with every accommodation and
 comfort.

A choice selection of favourite brands of
WINES, SPIRITS, & BEERS always in
 stock.

GOOD STABLING,
 And strictest care and attention taken of horses
 intrusted to the proprietor.

A report in the Capricornian newspaper dated 13th June 1885 tells us that a banquet was held at the North Australian Hotel for the stationmaster on his departure to Jericho. 'After supper an adjournment was made to the ballroom where dancing was kept up to the small hours of the morning.'

Unfortunately, his wife Annie died on the 27th March 1886 and is buried in the Rockhampton Cemetery. Edward died intestate just three months later, on or about the third of June 1886, sadly leaving their children without parents to care for them.



An article in the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* dated Tue 5 April 1887 states that:
In the Supreme Court in Chambers on Friday last (1st April 1887), before His Honour the Chief Justice, in the matter of the Intestacy Act, 1887, and of Edward W. N. Godber, late of Cometville, hotel and storekeeper, deceased, intestate, Mr. Chambers, on behalf of /the Curator in Intestacy, applied for leave to pay the sum of £63 7s. 6d, being the amount due for the maintenance of the children in the Government Orphanage, and to pay further sums for the maintenance of the children, as may become due until further orders of the court.

Mr. Chambers, on behalf of /the Curator in Intestacy, applied for leave to pay the sum of £63 7s. 6d, being the amount due for the maintenance of the children in the Government Orphanage, and to pay further sums for the maintenance of the children, along with the placement of daughters, Mary Ann and Julia (Johanna) Godber, with a dressmaker, to learn the business of dressmaking, also, for leave to expend such reasonable sums for the clothing, maintenance, and advancement of such children as may no longer be inmates of the orphanage from time to time, and to apprentice all or any of them and expend money for their apprenticing, and to pay an annual premium of £6 4s. 4d. upon, an endowment insurance policy effected by the deceased with the Colonial Mutual Life Insurance Company. An order was made according to the prayer of the petition, also, that if the income of the estate shall be insufficient for this purpose let the Curator pay from the capital thereof.

Five months later the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* featured this advertisement on Friday 9 September 1887, on page 8

THIS DAY, FRIDAY, ON SEPTEMBER 9th, 1887
FREEHOLD PROPERTY

In the Estate of the late E. W. N. Godber, Cometville.
By order of G. H. Newman, Esq., Curator of Intestate
Estates.

GEO. B. SHAW has been favoured with instructions as
above, to sell by public auction, without Reserve, At 11
o'clock, This day Friday the 9th September next. All that
parcel of Land being allotment No. 1 of section No. 2, in
the town of Cometville, together with the Hotel and other
Buildings thereon.

This property is now let to a very respectable tenant. As
an investment the property will give a steady and good
return. Terms declared at sale.

Reported in the Morning Bulletin on 6 Jan 1887.

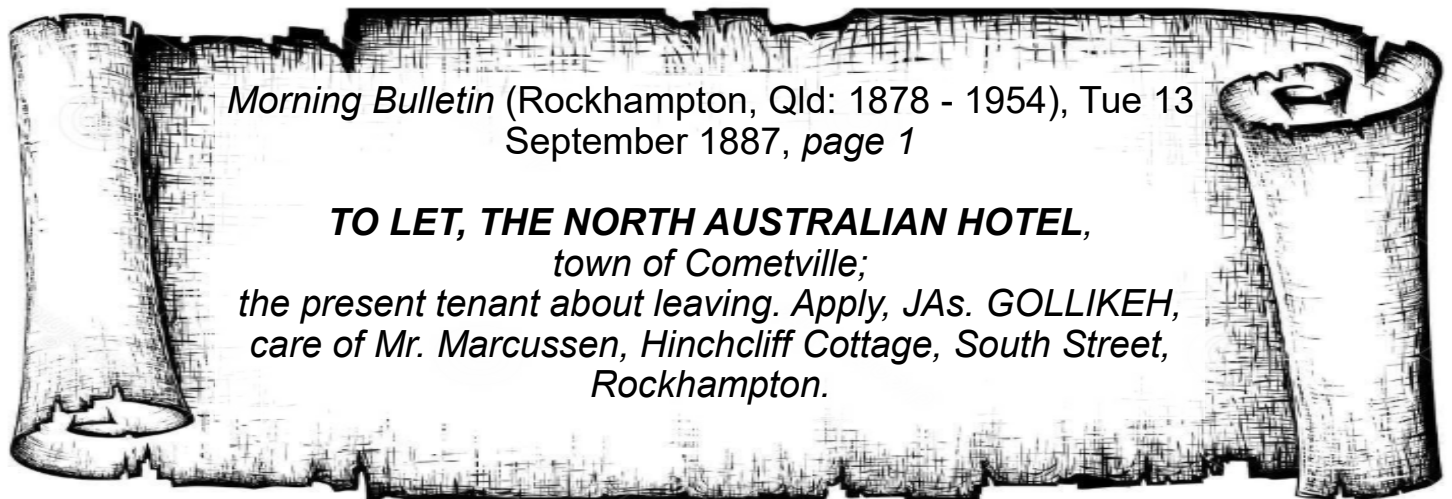
INTESTATE ESTATE OF THE LATE E. W. N. GODBER.

***I have sold to Mr Tw. KITCHENER, of Comet, all
horses belonging to the above Estate; also the
book debts.***

***All accounts must be paid to him, and his receipt
will be a sufficient discharge.***

William Kitchener also owned the Comet Hotel and was certainly very active in the township's community. So, it was that he was able to keep the North Australian Hotel alive until James Golliker bought the hotel on the 26th September 1887.

It was then bought by William Semfel for £5.0.0 (\$10.00) on the 6th July 1892. William's wife Caroline Semfel purchased the adjoining block for 10/6 (\$1.05) on the 6th April 1911. The receipt was made out to Caroline. These parcels of land passed on to William's son, Ernest Semfel, on the 6th May 1925. Ernest, along with his wife, Elsie, (nee Hobbs), resided in Comet for many years.



21354

REGISTRAR OF TITLES' OFFICE,
CENTRAL BRANCH,
ROCKHAMPTON, 21. 1. 1911

Stamp Duty:

RECEIVED by THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES from
C. Semfel the Sum of
5 pounds *ten* shillings *five* pence
for Registration of *1* Transfer Mortgages Releases
Requests *Collar*

DOCUMENTS.

Titles: _____
Other Documents: _____

S. D. Edwards
Cashier.

The land was sold to the late Jane Edwards on the 26th July 1977, who built a store on the site followed by a caravan park. This property has passed on to other owners over the years with the store now incorporating the Comet Post Office.

Compiled by Rosemary McLeod, 2017.

Acknowledgements:

*S. McDonald, Department of Environment and Resource Management, Emerald;
Mason Eyles.*

Photos:

National Library of Australia; State Library of Queensland; Rosemary McLeod collection; Trevor Kemp collection.