

Rev Wilfred Henry Abbot

- **On Merlin as at 18 Jan 2010**

Rev. Wilfred Henry Abbot was the first Anglican priest resident at the Wanigela Anglican Mission, in Collingwood Bay, from 1899 to 1901. The mission was located on the beach, between Rainu and Oresan villages. He worked there with a South Sea Islander teacher from Vanuatu, named James Nogar. This object is therefore from an early period of contact. Prior to this time, colonial government officers (i.e. MacGregor) had travelled through the area. Abbot was the first "long term" resident.

C H Reed to Abbot, 8 July 1901

Delay in responding to Abbot – apologies. Partington has examined Abbots collection. They agreed to take a number of items, on a list supplied by Abbot. (Numbers 1, 4,5,6,7 -15, 16 (one shell only), 117-19, 21-28, 32, 33, 35-40, 43-53/ Agreed price of £80. Do you accept the offer, and Museum will pay cost of delivery.

CH Reed to Abbot, 10 July 1901

Abbot agreed to sale.

- **Other (Main) Sources:**

- *Engendering Objects: Barkcloth and the Dynamics of Identity in Papua New Guinea* Anna-Karina Hermkins – published PhD thesis 2005
- *Reluctant Mission: The Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea 1891 – 1942* David Wetherall (University of Queensland Press 1977)
- Also by Diane Langmore *Missionary lives: Papua, 1874-1914* University of Hawaii Press, 1989 (in CfA)

- **ODNB**

N/A

- **Australian DNB**

N/A

- **JSTOR**

Cheerful Pragmatists: Anglican Missionaries among the Maisin of Collingwood Bay, Northeastern Papua, 1898-1920 Author(s): John Barker Source: *The Journal of Pacific History*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Apr., 1987), pp. 66-81 Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd. Stable URL:

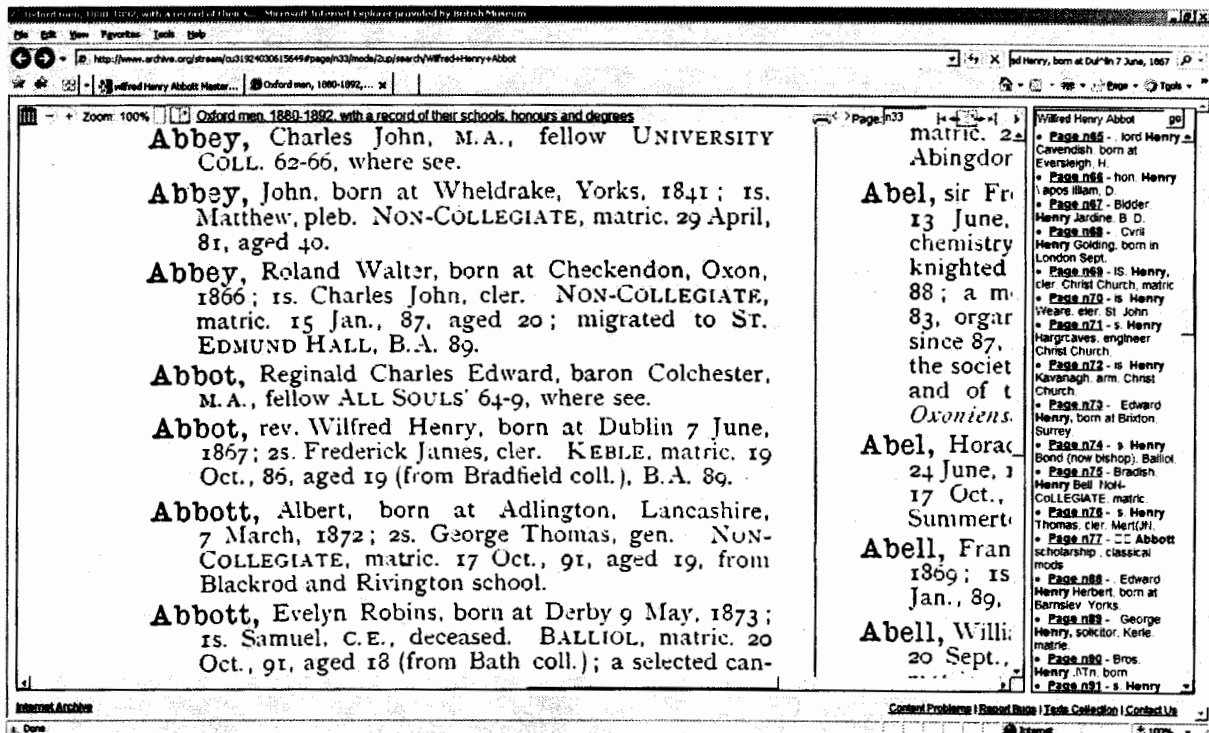
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25168919>

Article has numerous references to Abbott

- **Oxford men, 1880-1892, with a record of their schools, honours and degrees**

<http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924030615649#page/n33/mode/2up/search/Wilfred+Henry+Abbot>

See screen print below of entry for Abbot – born Dublin 1867.:



• Information from Jill Hasell:

Dept of Prehistory and Europe archive correspondence 1899 - 1902

1899 - 1902 A - Bem box

Mrs Harriet Abbot 28/5/00

"My son the Rev. W.H Abbot who is doing pioneer mission work under the Bishop on the N. coast of British New Guinea has sent home some curious bones & implements of the cannibals there & also fine specimen head-dresses in feathers."

1900 outletters

1494

29 May 1900

Mrs Abbot

4 Northcote Mansions
Hampstead Heath

Madam,

We have a great quantity of ethnographical objects from North New Guinea & I fear it is not very likely that we should want more than a few of those sent home by your son -

Would it be convenient for someone to call and see the collection? If so please let me know the most convenient days and hours.

Yours faithfully

Charles H. Read

6 July 1900

Dear Madam

I fear that it would be scarcely worth while now, in view of the very modest amount of money that I have available this year, to send anyone to see your N. Guinea things - if you wish to sell them in any case, you had better send them for sale by auction to Messrs Stevens King Street Covent Garden

Yours faithfully

Charles H. Read

Mrs Abbot

1899 - 1902 A - Bem box

W.H Abbot, Oxford House, Bethnal Green, E. 27/7/01

'I do hope the Museum authorities will take these facts into consideration when making their offer 1) That I have waited to allow them first pick out of my curios that they are taking all the plums - leaving the poorer specimens in my hands. That I was the first white settler in the Bay & that I have been collecting for three years in the Bay. That I have not yet sold or given away a single article. That several of the clubs especially the white and knobby one are the only specimens I have ever seen. That they are the results of three years collecting on the spot.'

1901 outletters

2nd July 1901

Rev. Wilfred H. Abbot,
Oxford House,
Bethnal Green, E.

Dear Sir,

I have delayed in writing to you about your collection which Mr Partington was good enough to examine on behalf of the Museum, because until this morning I did not know for certain how I stood with regard to funds. Mr Partington has come to-day for the first time since he paid you a visit, and he and I have gone over the list with the collections in the Museum, the result being as follows :- Taking the following numbers :- 1,4, 5, 6, 7-15, 16 (one shell only), 17-19, 21-28, 32, 33, 35-40, 43-53. For these Mr Partington fixed the price at £80. I shall be glad to know if you will accept this sum and send the articles here. The sending being of course at the cost of the Museum.

Yours faithfully

C.H Read

[Added in handwriting] the Triton shell

W.H Abbot to Read (answered 10/7/01):

"I beg to inform you that I can tell quite plainly from my list which curios you do not want, though Mr Partington did not number them I find there are 53 altogether & that No 16 is the shells; I shall be in town next week & I shall go to Gerrard & superintend the repacking of them as you direct omitting the sticks you have left out."

1901 outletters

10 July, 1901

Rev. W.H. Abbot,
Myles Down
Mill Hill

Dear Sir,

I am obliged by your letter of the 8th, in which you propose to send the objects brought from your collection at the price of £30. I shall be glad to receive these specimens at your early convenience.

Yours faithfully

1899 - 1902, A - Bem

Wilfred H. Abbot, Crawford Street, Leicester 19/7

Rev. Wilford Abbot (Assume this is meant to be Wilfred not Wilford)

"Can you send me the following - a bow and arrow from West coast of New Guinea, a complete sling from Goodenough Island, New Guinea a string as used by men from Port Moresby District, B.N.G for their dress & also if possible a shell as used in certain[?] districts. I sold a selection of curios to the British Museum last year. However certain objects I refused to part with. If you have extra specimens of the above that you could part with I believe I have curios that you would take in exchange - example - two chiefs shells [skulls?] bound together and made into a fighting mask. I have never seen another example. You may remember that I did not haggle over the price paid me & that I did not allow anyone else to see my curios before the Museum had had first choice. I wrote last week & asked the Governor of New Guinea if he could do a deal with me. He had not a sling or a string dress himself. The reason I want them is that I going to Rugby [?] & to Uppingham next term to lecture on New Guinea" [if B.M not interested, ask for recommended dealer]

1899 - 1902, A - Bem

F.R Barton, Government House, British New Guinea, 27/12/ 1900:

"Dear Mr Reid,

This is to introduce you to the **Reverend W H Abbot** who is returning to England today. He has been for some time residing among the tribes in Collingwood Bay, & I think he will be able to afford you some useful information concerning them. Besides - he takes with him he tells me, a large collection of implements collected in that little - known district."