

All that was required of a vice-regal residence

A vice-regal residence

As a vice-regal residence, the House accommodated three equally important functions. It was the official office of the governor, a private family home and Brisbane's finest social venue.

The Office of the Governor

The governor was the representative of the Queen or King, and entrusted with the same rights, powers and privileges: to summon and dissolve parliament, appoint Ministers and members of the Executive Council, and grant Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament to enact legislation.

The governor selected recipients of British honours, entertained dignitaries, could pardon prisoners and commute death sentences. As Captain-General, the governor commanded the colony's defence forces.

Under Queensland's constitutional monarchy, governors exercised their powers on the advice of the premier, or the Executive Council, who regularly met at Government House.



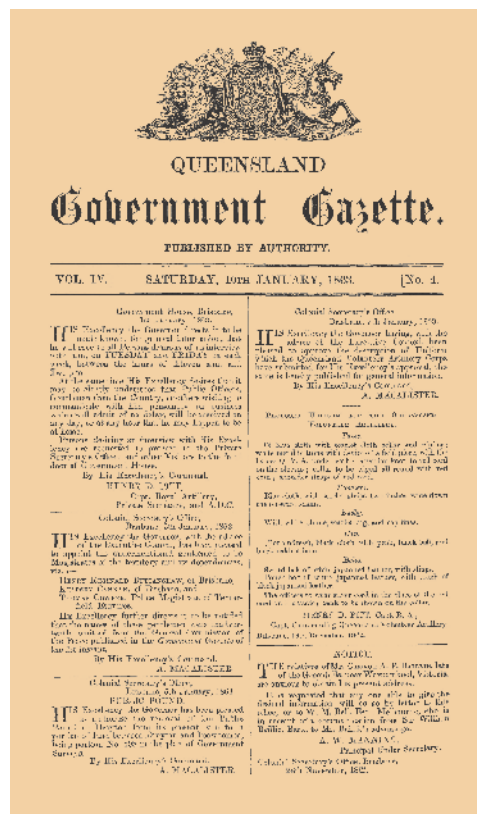
AWARD CEREMONY Lord Lamington presents Major Robert Gordon with the Distinguished Service Order medal, 1899.



CEREMONIAL DUTIES (Above)

Lord and Lady Lamington with personal staff outside Government House, circa 1896. The men are in full ceremonial dress. Back row from left: Mr PWG Stuart (Private Secretary), Lord Lamington, Captain CA Pelham (Aide de Camp), Sir EA Stewart-Richardson (Aide de Camp). Front row from left: Lady Lamington and Mrs Pascoe Stuart.

Images courtesy of the State Library of Queensland



OFFICIAL RECORD (Above)

This January 1863 edition of the *Government Gazette* highlights the range of matters considered by a governor in the administration of his office – from appointing magistrates to the relocation of a dog pound.

The business side of the House

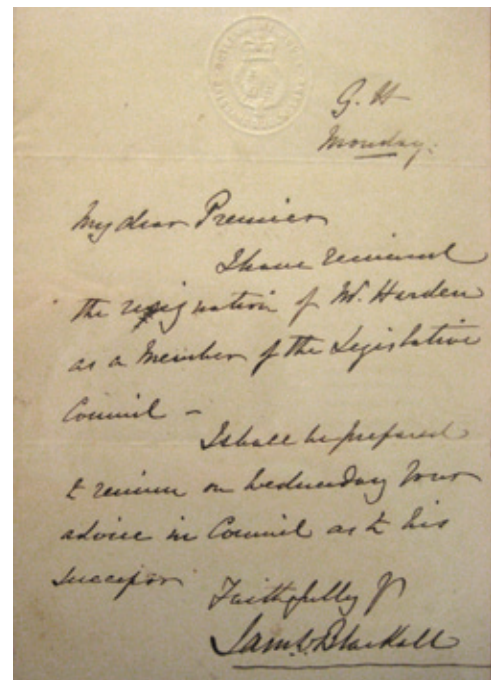
A suite of offices for the governor and his staff were in the eastern or business side of the House. The governor worked in the Governor's Library on a vast array of matters, from proclaiming new goldfields and municipalities to regulating the minimum size of a cedar tree that could be cut down.

On certain days the governor opened his doors for anyone to consult with him on any matter, without appointment.

The Office of the Governor was Queensland's administrative head office. From here the governor played an key part in Queensland's economic and political development.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (Above) Lord Lamington meets with Executive Council of Queensland, 1896.



ADVICE SOUGHT (Above) Governor Blackall requests Premier Palmer's advice on who should replace Mr Harden in the Legislative Council, 27 June 1870.

Image courtesy of the State Library of Queensland

LORD AND LADY LAMINGTON ARRIVE IN BRISBANE (Below) Crowds gather at the decorated gates of Government House to witness the arrival of Lord and Lady Lamington, April 1896.

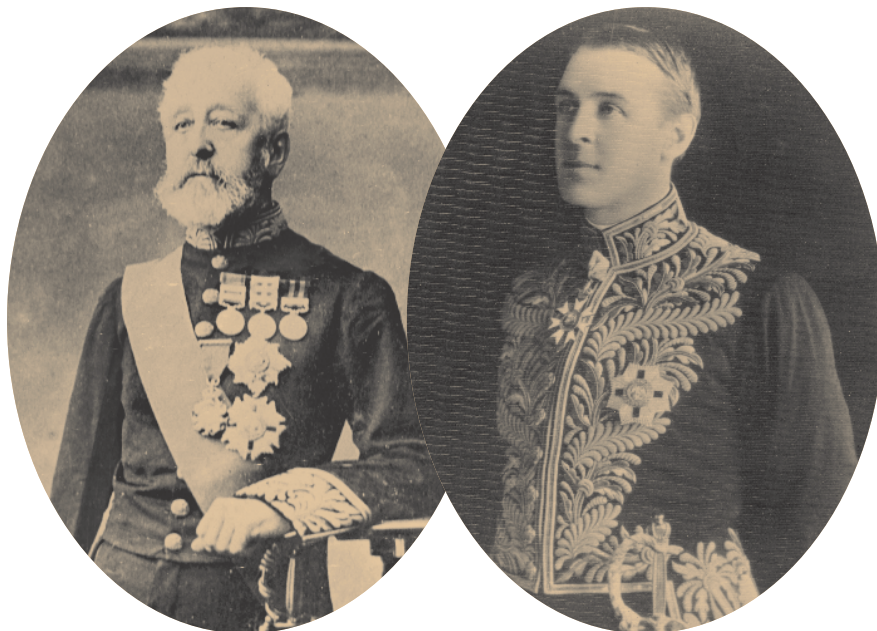


Governors in residence

From 1862 to 1910, eleven governors and their families lived in Government House. All were Imperial governors who came from overseas and most had been governors of other colonies.

Their ages varied widely, as did their careers: from civil service appointments to military or political backgrounds.

Governors Normanby and Norman had served in Queen Victoria's household and on her official staff. Lord Lamington's son was the Queen's godson. Some were immensely popular, some were not.



GOVERNORS OF QUEENSLAND Sir Henry Norman (left) served as Queensland's seventh governor from 1889 to 1895. Lord Chelmsford was our tenth governor from 1905 to 1909.

Images courtesy of the State Library of Queensland.

The First 11 Governors



Sir George Bowen
First Governor
1859 – 1868



Colonel Samuel Blackall
Second Governor
1868 – 1871



Marquess of Normanby
Third Governor
1871 – 1874



Mr William Cairns
Fourth Governor
1875 – 1877



Sir Arthur Kennedy
Fifth Governor
1877 – 1883



Sir Anthony Musgrave
Sixth Governor
1883 – 1888



Sir Henry Norman
Seventh Governor
1889 – 1895



Lord Lamington
Eighth Governor
1896 – 1901



Sir Herbert Chermiside
Ninth Governor
1902 – 1904



Lord Chelmsford
Tenth Governor
1905 – 1909



Sir William MacGregor
Eleventh Governor
1909 – 1914