As mentioned in the previous article the Marks property was due to be officially transferred to Queensland University of Technology (QUT). This took place on Monday 23rd March at QUT with the signing of transfer documents by Patricia’s executors, Margaret Ward and Stephen Tonge and Professor Peter Coaldrake, Vice-Chancellor of QUT.

This significant ceremony was witnessed by members of the Marks family and representatives of interested organisations including Samford Museum and fulfilled Patricia’s wish that this property be kept in its natural state and be used for educational purposes.

Following is some further history of the property.

Dr Charles Ferdinand Marks graduated in medicine in Ireland and arrived in Brisbane in 1879. He married Elizabeth Dods who was a young widow with three sons. After a short time practising medicine at St George, Charles set up practice in Brisbane, living on Wickham Terrace. The couple had three sons and one daughter. Two of their sons also became doctors one of these being Patricia’s father Edward Oswald (known as ‘Ted’).

In that era the main means of transport was horse and buggy and this was the way Charles visited his patients in their homes.

He travelled long distances and needed to own enough horses to always have a fresh horse to use in emergency. The horses were stabled and fed behind the house on Wickham Terrace.

Patricia said, ‘I have seen letters and other documents that indicate that grandfather certainly went as far as Petrie and Oxley to see patients, so his horses needed to be fit and to be spelled out in a paddock. In 1887 grandfather bought land at Samford to spell the horses.’

The original selection of 457 acres comprised land on both sides of Camp Mountain Road and was known as Cushleva Farm.

The part of the property now transferred to QUT was known as The Old Farm.

The first homestead was the slab hut which still exists near the boundary of The Old Farm. Patricia said, ‘There was a cottage right on the boundary of the property. My father always said no one in their right mind would have built their house on the boundary so it must have been there before the land was surveyed, which was in about 1865. My suspicion is that it was built for the government surveyors who were out in the area for quite some time, because the roof, which is original, is built of galvanised iron. Perhaps the government provided the iron for the cottage roof as the local farmers at that time roofed their houses with shingles. This building remains on the land I still own. It is reputed to be the oldest building in the Pine Rivers Shire and although it is not in very good repair it still holds up’. Later another homestead was built on the other side of Camp Mountain Road. The family spent weekends and holidays on the property and Charles retired to the property in 1920.

Following Charles’ death in 1941 the property passed to his family and Ted took over The Old Farm. In 1942 he had the barracks building, from the by then disused granite quarry on Cushleva, dismantled and rebuilt on the Old Farm. This became the weekend and holiday home of Patricia and her parents and Patricia’s home after her retirement and the sale of the Wickham Terrace property. This house was known as The Barracks. The other building known as The Mews was moved to the Old Farm around 1948. This had originally been the office for the quarry. The remainder of the Cushleva property was eventually sold by the family but The Old Farm was retained by Patricia’s parents and then by her until her death in 2002. Ted, his wife Nesta and Patricia ensured that the property was kept in its natural state and all wildlife preserved and it is now one of the few significant examples of original valley floor forest remaining in Samford Valley.

There is much more detailed information on this historic and interesting family contained in Samford Reminiscences and Mosquitoes and Memories together with other data at the Museum.

Kath Cummins

Museum Information: Margaret Hickey 3289 1259
Opening Hours: Sunday and Wednesday - 10am to 4pm (Other times by arrangement)
Admission: Adults $4, Students $1