

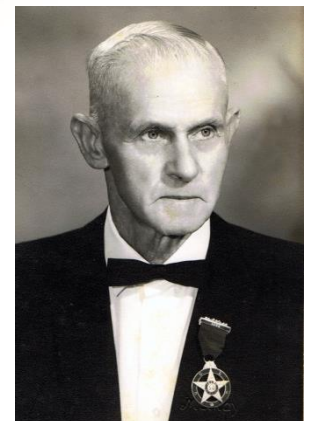
Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

John Rowe has made a donation to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of the contribution of his father

HENRY ROWE JNR

The first Henry Rowe arrived in Mackay in 1882 and married Alice Maud Staines at Holy Trinity Church in 1884. Both were employed by the Rawson brothers; Henry as a gardener and Maud as a ladies' maid. They had six children including two sons, Henry, born in 1892, Charles and four daughters.

The Rawsons took up the grazing lease known The Hollow, at Mirani, in 1866. In his 1860 exploration of the area, John Mackay entered the coastal lands from Nebo and camped on the property later settled by the Rawsons. When the Rawsons returned to England, Henry Rowe purchased the property in 1925. Interestingly, Nellie Armstrong (better known as international operatic soprano Dame Nellie Melba) was given support at The Hollow upon her separation from her husband Charles in 1883.



Henry's son, Henry Jr married Margaret McGregor and had two sons John and Harold. They occupied the original homestead of the Rawsons. Unfortunately, it was so white ant-infested that Henry had to build the family a new home one mile upriver at Mirani. Close to the original homestead are two graves, one marked Harry Rawson, died July 23, 1876. The second grave is unmarked.

Henry immediately commenced clearing land for cane production and purchased several grazing properties south of his holding and part of the original Rawson lease. Henry also became a keen breeder of livestock purchasing a Percheron draught stallion. These horses were used on the farm and hired out to council for retrieving bridge girders and decking after floods, as hauling rigs in the river drilling for town water and for scything grass at the local school.

Henry grazed 500 head of cattle, originally Aberdeen Angus and then tick-resistant Brahm and eventually the Brangus breed. During the war Henry served as an air raid warden, was elected to Mirani Shire Council and was a Justice of the Peace. Henry died on January 23, 1973.

The Rows were a significant pioneering family succeeding to ownership of the original grazing property of the Rawson brothers. Granddaughter Robyn Blackburn is currently co-owner of Rawson Run and manages the cattle side of the business, while her husband Graeme has extended their cane farming interests.