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HERITAGE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET 23 JOHN CHARLES VON STIEGLITZ

With the refurbishment of the Library it is timely to remind you of the origin of von Stieglitz, the name given to the public room in the Library.

John Charles von Stieglitz was a prominent resident of early Thuringowa.



In 1880 he became a member of Thuringowa's first Divisional Board. von Stieglitz served as the representative for Division 1 until 1886. It is thought he also named Thuringowa, as his ancestors came from Thuringia, an area in Germany.

John von Stieglitz was born Tasmania in 1844. At the age of 23, and on completion of his studies he moved to North Queensland where he worked as a surveyor for several He moved to Ravenswood years. where he tried his hand at gold mining and worked as a surveyor. He was awarded the contract to Ravenswood in 1870 and was also engaged to survey the site for the Macrossan Bridge.

A succession of government appointments followed. He was appointed District Road Inspector and Engineer for Roads, Northern Division in 1871 and subsequently became Government Surveyor for the Thuringowa and Townsville district in 1873.





holding south of the Ross River where he built a homestead. The homestead was given the Aboriginal name of 'Bereberinga'. The remains of the homestead are visible on Calvary Hill at Lavarack Barracks. von Stieglitz also selected a number of other pastoral holdings within the area.



Bereberinga ca 1873

He married his first wife Mary Jean McKenzie in 1883. They had a son, Frederick Lewis, in 1882. In 1885, Mary died of tuberculosis and in 1886 von Stieglitz returned to Tasmania. In 1896, he married his second wife Lilian Stead, they had two daughters, Bertine and Nora and two sons, John and Karl.

John's second wife died in 1903 at the age of 39.

John Charles von Stieglitz was a Magistrate and Member of Tasmanian Parliament for many years. He died in New South Wales in 1916. Thuringowa City Council has recognised his significant contribution to the region by naming one of its public rooms after him.

Acknowledgements:

Thuringowa Library Local History files.

