



Emma's offices at Ralum near Kokopo, built with materials from the de Rays expedition.

Emma greatly loved Phoebe, and admired Parkinson. Moreover, when her Forsayth establishment had collapsed, in the Steinberger era, the Parkinsons took charge of Emma's son, J.M.C. Forsayth (known always as Coe Forsayth) and gave him early training.

About 1880 Parkinson became involved in an incidence with Godeffroys to do with another employee and in the resulting row he resigned from Godeffroys. Emma knew him not only as a surveyor, but also as a skilled planter and botanist and she wasted no time in inviting him to join her at Mioko and assist her in establishing plantations on the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain. Without realising it, she thus shaped the most far-reaching enterprise in her life. Richard and Phoebe Parkinson and their two children, and Emma's nine-year-old son, arrived in Mioko early in 1882. It was a notable occasion. Parkinson not only laid the real foundation of Emma's great fortune, he was also the first planter of any note to grow coconuts in New Guinea.

Farrell, engrossed in trading, was far from pleased with the new development. He saw no sense in planting coconuts and waiting seven or eight years before they were in full bearing when there was money to be made in recruiting labour for Samoan plantations; or selling cotton cloth, tobacco and beads to local natives at big profits. For the most part, Farrell grudgingly left her to it. In the period just before the arrival of the Parkinsons, Farrell was much concerned with the survivors of the latest members of the de Rays expedition. These were hungry and now desperate people who had arrived late in 1881 in the *Neu Bretagne* – many months after the departure of the *India's* equally desperate contingent.

The remnant – some 40 men and women – now were marooned at Cape Breton. With them was an extraordinary collection of machinery, building material, farm tools and miscellaneous hardware. Lying on the beach were cases of knives without handles; hundreds of dog-collars; 180,000 bricks – but little food. The goods the colonists had on the beach at Port Breton seemed useless – unless someone wanted to build a church or start a sugar mill or run poultry, none of which the Farrells wished to do. Farrell eventually moved the colonists over to Mioko while arrangements were being made to ship them down to Australia. In the ensuing month, the Farrells at Mioko fed and cared for the colonists, coaled and provisioned the *Genil*, and found for her a navigator and a scratch crew whom they paid in advance.

Farrell, driven almost to desperation by the colonists, finally got the *Genil* away south on March 20, 1882. The colonists carried his bank draft for 496 Pounds; in return, Farrell had documents which made Farrell and Company owners of the old steamer *Marquis de Rays*, and of a great deal of miscellaneous hardware. Most of this was collected quickly off the beaches and stored in Mioko. Emma was happy over the building materials and equipment she salvaged. All in all, the de Rays development in the end gave a distinct fillip to the Farrell-Forsayth fortunes. A few weeks after the *Genil* departed, Richard and Phoebe Parkinson arrived, and the planned empire of Queen Emma began to take shape.

After lengthy trials, de Rays finally was convicted of frauds and was sentenced to some years in goal. One account says that, after his release, he engaged in other frauds; another says that he went from goal to a lunatic asylum, where he died; and

that, for long after the debacle of 1881-2, and his imprisonment, his newspaper, *La Nouvelle France*, continued to publish highly-coloured accounts of the progress of the "colony".

To be continued...Emma's dream takes shape.

NOTE: A few of the colonists of the de Rays expedition who landed in Sydney eventually ended up in the Northern Rivers of NSW and were the pioneers of the "New Italy" settlement near Woodburn.

Most of the materials that Emma and Farrell salvaged from the de Rays expedition were later used by Emma to build her mansion and offices at her trading port of Ralum on the mainland. Most of the 180,000 bricks were used up in these constructions including a large altar and huge broad terrace steps to her home at Gununtambu. In January 1970 while visiting Gununtambu, I walked up the remains of the famous terraced steps and again in November 1970 with Penny. Within a few years the famous terraced steps no longer existed.

We visited New Ireland for two weeks in November/December 1970 during our PNG holidays and visited Likiliki where some of the de Rays colonists were eventually found. We got to within two kilometres of the exact spot on the south-east coast of New Ireland where most of the colonists "Nouvelle France" (New France) was to be established..

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