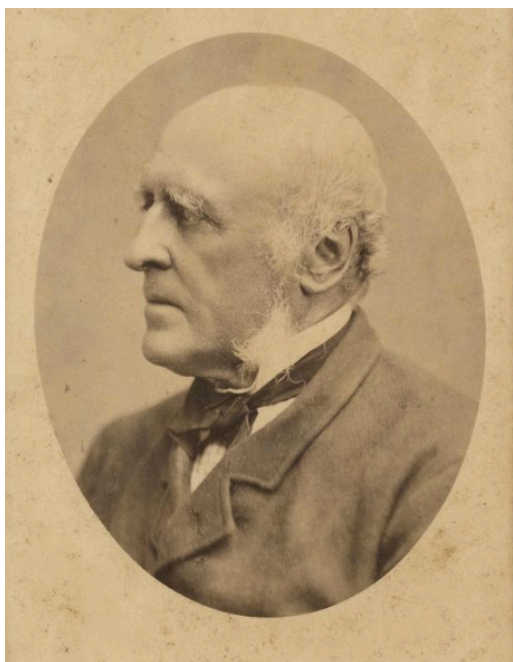


Fact sheet: Edward Lord and German migrants to Drayton

Edward Lord was a storekeeper who arrived in Drayton in 1848. He had lived in Brisbane for the previous four years, but before that he had spent several years in Germany, where he learnt the trade of **wool classing**. He also learnt to speak German and became familiar with German people and their way of life.

Wool classing:
checking the
quality of the wool
fleece before it is
sold



Edward Lord (John Oxley Library)

By 1851, there was a desperate shortage of labour on the Darling Downs. This meant that there were not enough workers to help on the farms and to construct buildings. Previously, convicts had done these jobs but they were no longer being sent to New South Wales.

In 1851,
Drayton was in
New South Wales.
Queensland did
not exist until
1859.

In July 1851, Edward Lord held a meeting in the Royal Bull's Head Inn at Drayton to discuss bringing workers from Germany. The other people at the meeting agreed that this was a good idea. Lord placed advertisements in the local papers to let the **squatters** know that he was going to Germany to find workers for them. The worker would be assigned to the squatter for four years and the squatters paid Edward Lord a fee of 8 pounds per year.

Squatters:
wealthy people
who operated
farms on the
Darling Downs

In 1854, Edward Lord visited Germany to persuade people to make the journey to Australia. He told them that there were many opportunities in the Darling Downs. He spoke about the rich soil and fine pasture land, where they would be able to grow crops and plant vineyards to make wine. He explained that he would organise their transport and find them work on a farm when they arrived. Many German people liked this idea and in 1855 nearly 1000 German settlers arrived in Moreton Bay, having made the long and dangerous voyage from Germany. Many brought their families with them, but others made the journey alone. Between 1855 and 1870 many German people settled around Drayton and Toowoomba, transforming the area into a land of orchards, vineyards and farms.



A German settler family outside their house in the Bethania area, c.1871. (John Oxley Library)

One of the German migrants who settled in Drayton was Joseph Rub. He was a carpenter and he found plenty of work. He built the first Roman Catholic church in Drayton and in 1872 he built an extension to the school. In 1868, when Queen Victoria's son, Prince Alfred, visited the Darling Downs he was presented with a cedar box made by Joseph Rub.



As well as making buildings, Joseph Rub became an **alderman** on the Drayton Municipal Council and in 1873 he became the last Mayor of Drayton. He died in 1888, aged 60, and was buried in Drayton cemetery. His life in Australia had been successful and his contributions to the development of the region had been many

Alderman: a local councillor

brought with them a good knowledge of how to manage the land as well as traditional German building techniques. The wagon in the photograph on the right is built in the traditional German style. They also brought with them a strong cultural heritage expressed through music, food, language and **folklore**. You can visit the website germanydownunder.com to hear some traditional German music played on the accordion. Many descendants of the early German settlers still live in the Toowoomba region. See if you can discover if someone in your class has German heritage.

Folklore: traditional customs, stories and beliefs passed down through generations by word of mouth



A traditional German wagon, c. 1907. (John Oxley Library)