

JOANNES “JOHN”  
THEODORUS JOSEPHUS  
BRÜNING  
1836 ~ 1908

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Joannes Brüning & his wife Jospheha, with their two eldest children, Emily & Bernard.

Joannes "John" Theodorus Josephus Brüning was born on Sunday, 22 May 1836 in Amsterdam, in the province of Noord-Holland, Netherlands. He was the youngest son of Dutch parents, Cornelia Joanna Vlaming and Joannes Josephus Brüning.

The family lived at 15 Sint Annendwarsstraat, in the heart of Amsterdam, just around the corner from the Royal Palace and the Oude Kerk (the Old Church), Amsterdam's oldest building.

The Amsterdam Population Register 1851-1853 records Joannes as living with his mother and father and two older siblings, Bernardus Joannes Brüning and Geertruda Cornelia Brüning. The family's religion was recorded as Roman Catholic. Joannes' father's occupation was recorded as a workman (werkman) while his older brother was recorded as a carpenter (timmerman).

At the age of 18, Joannes was conscripted for compulsory military service in the Dutch Army. Recruits typically served 14 or 16 months, during which time they received basic training before being placed on active duty. On the conscription record, Joannes' occupation was recorded as a ????? merchant (B????? koopvaardij) and his father's occupation as ??? hand (???? knecht).

On 22 July 1858, Joannes married a widow by the name of Elizabeth Kraan in Amsterdam. Joannes was 22 years old and Elisabeth was 27. On the marriage certificate, Joannes was recorded as a sailor (zeeman) while his father was recorded as a warehouse clerk (pakhuisbediende).

Elisabeth had previously married Willem Otto Bloijs van Treslong on 20 September 1855. The pair had given birth to a son, Wilhelmus Gerardus Hubertus Cornelis Bloijs van Treslong, on 21 April 1856. Elisabeth's husband died the following year on 23 February 1857.

Joannes and Elisabeth spent their first month of marriage living at Haarlemmerdijk in the northern part of Amsterdam's canal-belt. Joannes' infant step-son, Wilhelmus, also lived with the couple.

Between August and November 1858, Joannes was living with his wife and step-son at Botermarkt, meaning "buttermarket", where Joannes worked as a tavern owner (tapper). In 1876 the former buttermarket was renamed Rembrandtplein, when a statue of Rembrandt by sculptor Louis Royer was moved from the perimeter of the square to the centre of the square.

Joannes, Elisabeth and Wilhemus next moved to Sint Jacobsstraat where they lived from November 1858 to May 1859. Both Joannes and Elisabeth were recorded as having no occupation at the time.

In May 1859, Joannes wife Elisabeth became sick or possibly pregnant, and the couple moved back in with Joannes' parents at Sint Annendwarsstraat. Joannes was recorded on the population register as a sailor (zeeman).

Joannes' wife Elisabeth died on 3 April 1859, at the age of 28. Following Elisabeth's death, her son Wilhelmus was sent to live with his paternal grandparents.

On 11 August 1859, Joannes' older brother, Bernardus Joannes Brüning, married Hendrica Adriana van der Wal in Amsterdam. On the marriage certificate, Joannes' father was recorded as a warehouse worker (pakhuisknecht).

On 17 November 1859, Joannes' older sister, Geertruda Cornelia Brüning, married Hendricus Franken in Amsterdam. On the marriage certificate, Joannes' father was recorded as an office worker (kantoorbediende).

In early 1860, Joannes enlisted as a crewman aboard the 434 ton Dutch barque, *Amazone*. The ship was owned by *George A. Lloyd & Co.* and was chartered to carry 5900 cases of geneva (Dutch gin), 200 cases of wine, general cargo, and two passengers for Sydney, Australia.

The *Amazone* departed the port of Amsterdam on 11 January 1860, under the command of Captain Abbink. During its voyage, the *Amazone* experienced very heavy weather and did not sight any other vessels whilst at sea.



'Dam Square in Amsterdam' lithograph by Jules Gaildrau, circa 1845-1850.  
This artwork shows the Dam square in Amsterdam, with a view of the Royal Palace, Oude Kerk and Stock Exchange.

The *Amazon* arrived in Sydney on 29 May 1860 where it docked at Botts' wharf. Whilst in port, Joannes and the rest of the *Amazon*'s crew were given one month's shore leave. Captain Abbink routinely advertised in the *Empire* newspaper, warning that he would not be responsible for any debts which his crew may contract while in port.

On 11 June 1860, Joannes was brought before the Water Police Court, charged with having deserted his ship. Joannes was found guilty and was sentenced to 14 days in Darlinghurst gaol. In the gaol entrance description, Joannes was recorded as a sailor, age 20, born in Holland, ex the "Amason".

Joannes' desertion prompted three other men from the *Amazon* to jump ship, Hans A. Jacobson, John Mellik and Charles C. Brown. The men fronted Police Court on 25 June 1860, but were liberated following Captain Abbink's decision not to prosecute.

The *Amazon* departed outwards from Sydney on 29 June for Batavia, the capital of the Dutch East Indies (known today as Jakarta, Indonesia). Joannes was not aboard the vessel upon its departure.

After being released from gaol, Joannes proceeded to the Kiandra diggings, in the NSW Snowy Mountains. Word had spread of large nuggets of gold being discovered in river deposits around Kiandra and people from all over Victoria and NSW rushed to the area to stake their claim. Kiandra post office opened on 1 June 1860 and it is estimated that the area at its peak accommodated around 15,000 people, served by 25 stores, 13 bakers, 16 butchers, 14 pubs, several banks and four blacksmiths.

On 18 November 1860, Joannes' older brother, Bernardus, tragically died in Amsterdam at the age of 30, leaving behind a pregnant widow. Bernardus' son was born one month later on 24 December 1860. The child was named Bernardus Joannes Maria Brüning, in memory of his father.

Whilst working in the goldfields, Joannes achieved but a qualified measure of success. By March 1861, the *Sydney Morning Herald* had reported a "mass exodus" from Kiandra, with the vast majority of miners leaving for Lambing Flat. With the easy pickings exhausted and a bitter winter on its way the population of the town dropped to a mere 250.

On 10 January 1866, the Department of Public Works posted an advert in the New South Wales Government Gazette, seeking tenders for repairs to Queanbeyan Bridge. The bridge was an elegant structure consisting of five arches, first opened on 19 August 1858. It measured 345 feet without the approaches, by a width of 20 feet and sat at a height of 25 feet from the centre of the river. The piers were embedded in the solid rock, and were retained in place by lead which was poured into the apertures around the beams.

Contractors, W. Hall and Albert Muller, secured the tender and repairs for the bridge began in March 1866. It was around this time, that Joannes left the diggings in favour of contracting and proceeded to Queanbeyan where he gained work on the bridge repairs.



The village of Kiandra in the Snowy Mountains.



'The Snowy River Diggings, from Kiandra Township, 1860.'



The Queanbeyan Bridge which Joannes helped to repair in 1866.

Whilst in the Queanbeyan district Joannes met his future wife, Josepha Emily Dixon. Josepha was the eldest daughter of Sarah Alice Purnell and George Frederick Dixon, a farmer and woolclasser residing in Canberra Plains.

Joannes married Josepha on 18 January 1868 at the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Canberra. The marriage was performed by Reverend Pierce Galliard Smith and was witnessed by James Allen and Josepha's younger sister, Eleanor Dixon. Josepha's father gave his consent to the marriage as was required by law if under the age of 21. Joannes was 35-years-old and Josepha 18. On the marriage certificate Joannes lessened his age by six years and gave his place of birth as Brussels, Belgium, despite being born in Amsterdam.

The most likely reason for this dates back to 1830, when Belgium seceded from Noord-Holland. The revolution was due to a combination of factors, the main one being the difference of religion, Belgium being Catholic and the Netherlands being Protestant. As Joannes was raised Roman Catholic it is likely that the Brüning name originated in Belgium. From his wedding day onwards, Joannes declared himself to be Belgium on every official document.

Following their marriage, the newlyweds leased land in Canberra Plains, near to where Josepha's father farmed.

On 7 March 1868, Joannes was presented with his Certificate of Naturalisation. This granted Joannes all the rights of a natural born British subject. On the certificate Joannes was recorded as a farmer residing in Canberra, having arrived per the ship *Amazon*. Joannes again gave his place of birth as Brussels, Belgium and his age as 29.

Joannes and Josepha's first child, Emily Josepha Brüning was born on 30 December 1868 in Canberra Plains. Emily was baptised by Reverend J. McAuliffe on 18 January 1869 at Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Yass. The sponsor of the baptism was Bridget Shumack. A sponsor (also known as a godparent) within the Roman Catholic faith, was someone who stood witness to a child's baptism and who took on the role of a spiritual parent.

On 3 February 1870, Joannes posted a notice in the Queanbeyan Age informing the owner of a bay horse with black points to come and claim it, stating that the horse had been running in his Canberra Plains paddock for a number of days. Joannes posted another notice two days later, informing the owner that if the horse was not claimed it would be sold to pay expenses.

The *Robertson Land Acts of 1861* enabled smaller settlers to purchase land and establish homes. As per conditions, selectors were required to live on their land for three years and to make improvements worth £1 per acre.

And so, on 9 February 1871, Joannes purchased Portion 34 in the Parish of Weetangera, County of Murray. The land was a conditional purchase and measured an area of 40 acres, located on the main road from Canberra to Uriarra. Joannes took up farming on the property, and set about building the family's home.

The homestead and property became simply known as *Brüning's Farm*. It sat in the shadows of Black Mountain, bounded on one side by *Emu Bank* estate, occupied by Pemberton Palmer, and Frederick Davis and family, and on the other side the Shumacks of *Springvale*.

Joannes and Josepha's second child, Bernard Dixon Brüning, was born on 18 August 1872 on their farm in Weetangera. The child was named 'Bernard' after Joannes' deceased older brother, and 'Dixon' after Josepha's maiden name. On the birth certificate, Joannes was recorded as living at Black Hill in the parish of Weetangera. Bernard was baptised by Reverend Gallagher on 4 October 1872 at Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Yass. The sponsors of the baptism were Florence McAuliffe and Kate McCarthy.

On 5 February 1874, Joannes made an additional purchase of 40 acres, Portion 72 in the Parish of Weetangera. The portion adjoined Joannes' existing farm on the west and grew his holdings to a total of 80 acres.





'Saint John's Church & across to Duntroon' circa 1857-1888 by H. Grant Lloyd.  
The church was where Joannes & Josepha married in 1868.

No. 6877

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACTS OF THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,  
XI VICTORIA, No. 39, AND XVII VICTORIA, No. 8.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales, passed in the Eleventh year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to amend the laws relating to Aliens within the Colony of New South Wales," and of another Act of the said Governor and Legislative Council, passed in the Seventeenth year of the Reign of Her said Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Act relating to the Naturalization of Aliens," Joannes Theodorus Joepus Prinsing has presented to me a Memorial, in the form and manner prescribed by the said first recited Act, praying that he may be naturalized: And whereas I have inquired into the truth of the circumstances set forth in the said Memorial: Now, I, the Governor as aforesaid, do hereby certify, that it has been established to my satisfaction, that Joannes Theodorus Joepus Prinsing is a native of Brussels Belgium—is Twenty-two years of age, and is a Farmer— and that having arrived by the Ship Amagor— in the year 1850— he is now residing in Canberra Queensland— and wishing to become a freeholder in the said Colony— he desires to obtain the advantages of the said Act: And I do therefore grant unto the said Joannes Theodorus Joepus Prinsing (upon his taking before one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or before a Police Magistrate, or Bench of Magistrates in Petty Sessions assembled, or before a person deputed by a Judge of the said Court for the purpose, the Oath prescribed by the said last recited Act), all the rights and capacities within the said Colony of New South Wales, of a natural born British Subject.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES, aforesaid,  
this Seventh— day of March— One thousand eight  
hundred and sixty-eight—

Belmore

By His Excellency's Command,

Henry H. Hall

Joannes and Josepha's third child, Frederick "Fred" William Brüning, was born on 30 January 1874 on their farm in Weetangera. Frederick was baptised by Reverend Dwyer on 27 March 1874 at Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Yass. The sponsors of the baptism were Jane Grace and Martha Grace.

On 18 June 1874, Joannes' father, Joannes Josephus Brüning, passed away in Amsterdam, Netherland, at the age of 71. Joannes Snr was buried 4 days later in the Roman Catholic churchyard of De Liefde.

On 25 April 1875, Joannes made another two additional purchases, each of 40 acres, Portion 93 in the Parish of Weetangera and Portion 86 in the Parish of Canberra. Both purchases were made in his daughter Emily's name, who at the time was only 6 years-of-age. The portions were located opposite Joannes previous two purchases, on the northern side of the road from Canberra to Uriarra. This grew the family's holdings to a total of 160 acres.

Two months later on 29 July 1875, Joannes made a fifth purchase of 40 acres, Portion 89 of the Parish of Weetangera. The portion adjoined Joannes' existing farm on the south-east and grew the family's holdings to a total of 200 acres.

Joannes and Josepha's fourth child, Vida Sarah Gertrude Brüning, was born on 11 October 1875 on their farm in Weetangera. Josepha's mother Sarah acted as midwife to the birth. Vida was baptised by Reverend J. McAuliffe on 13 November 1875 at Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Yass. The sponsors of the baptism were Mathew Quinlan and Sarah Logue.

In 1876, Joannes was issued a timber license for the quarter ending 31 March. The license incurred a fee of 5 shillings and allowed Joannes to cut hardwood on crown land in the district of Queanbeyan.

On 25 May 1876, Joannes made an additional purchase of 40 acres, Portion 95 in the Parish of Canberra. The portion adjoined Joannes' farm on the east despite it being in the adjoining Parish.

This was quickly followed by another purchase of 40 acres on 20 July 1876, Portion 110 of the Parish of Weetangera. These two additional purchases grew the family's holdings to a total of 280 acres.

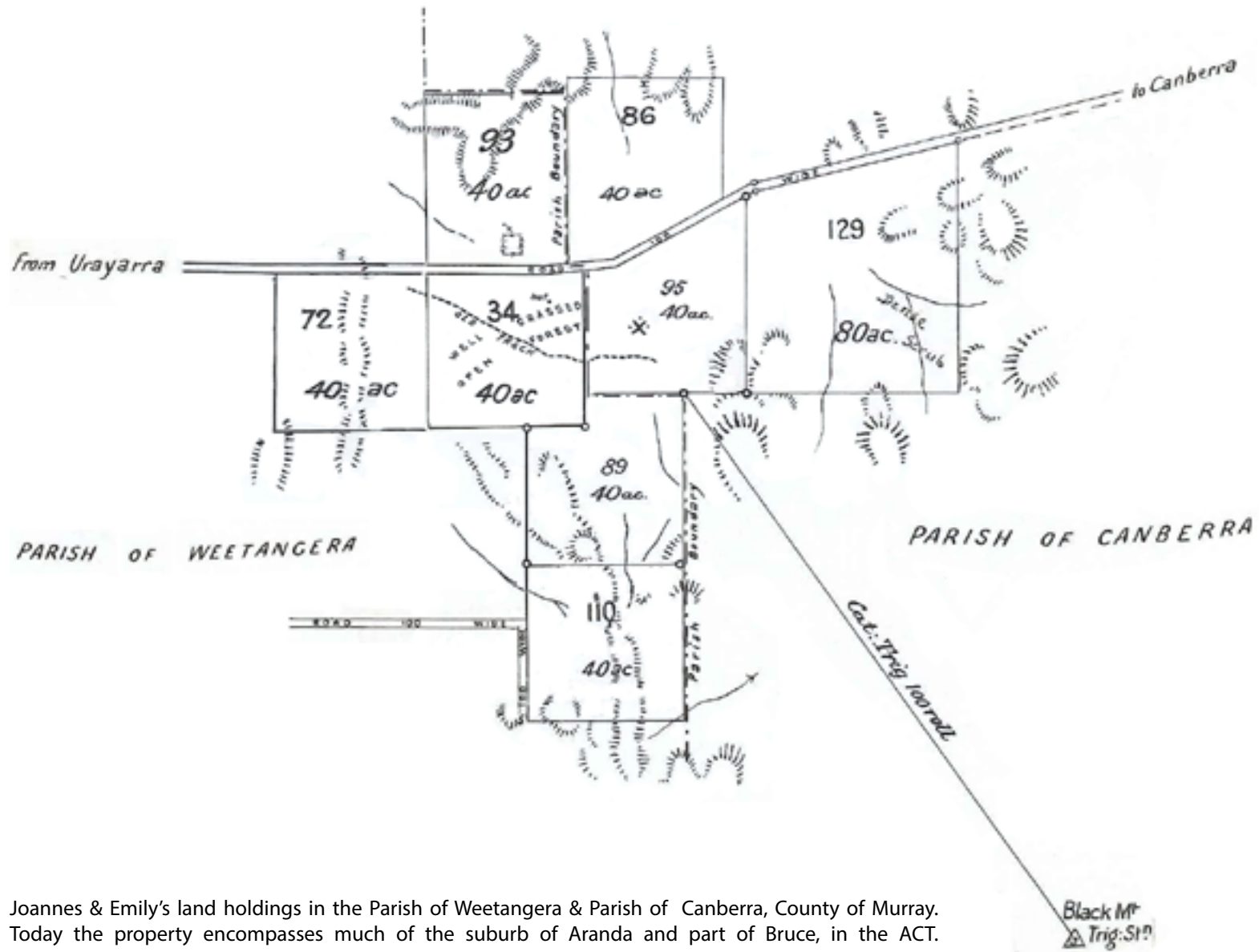
Joannes and Josepha's fifth child, John Theodore Stephen Brüning, was born on 27 November 1876 on their farm in Weetangera. John was baptised by Reverend J. McAuliffe on 31 December 1876 at Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Yass. The sponsors of the baptism were Josepha's parents, George Frederick Dixon and Sarah Alice Purnell.

Joannes and Josepha's sixth child, Joseph Holt Dixon Brüning, was born on 5 April 1878 on their farm in Weetangera. Josepha's mother Sarah acted as midwife to the birth. The child was named after Josepha's uncle, Joseph Hout Dixon of Sheffield.

On 14 November 1878, Joannes made an additional purchase of 80 acres, Portion 129 of the Parish of Canberra. This was the final portion to be added to Joannes' farm, bringing the total area of the holdings to 360 acres.

By this time, Joannes had become an accomplished farmer and had adapted himself to doing everything on the farm, but shoeing the horses. He made and mended boots and strap riding breeches, did all his own fencing, and raised crops and good stock. After his crops were in, with saddle and pack horse he would make his way to the nearest station for shearing time. Among many of these stations were Narrandera, Billabong and Tubbo. Between sheds, he would return home to clip his flock of 400-500 sheep before heading off again, returning in time to harvest the crops. He was considered one of the best shearers on the Murrumbidgee. His average clip per day was from 240 to 250, and his cut was clean and safe for the sheep.

During the winter months Joannes modelled a schooner, two feet in length, fully rigged and called it the *Warrior*. He mounted it in a cedar case, and took a prize in Sydney. He later remodelled it, and made a clipper out of it, which he named the *Atlas*.



Joannes & Emily's land holdings in the Parish of Weetangera & Parish of Canberra, County of Murray. Today the property encompasses much of the suburb of Aranda and part of Bruce, in the ACT.

On 12 February 1879, Joannes posted a notice in the *Queanbeyan Age* cautioning that any owner of sheep and cattle trespassing on his land at Weetangera, would be prosecuted according to the law.

On his property, Joannes placed fifty gold and silver carp in a large waterhole. In September 1879 a flood hit the district cleaning out the waterhole. Some years later an abundance of large carp were caught for miles down Ginninderra Creek.

In December 1880, Joannes leased out his farm and moved with his family to Sydney. The property was advertised as 360 acres all enclosed and sub-divided into sheep proof paddocks, with a comfortable house, garden, out houses and sheds, plenty of good water and grass, also 16 acres of a nice, clean crop of wheat and white oats to be sold as it stands.

Upon leaving Canberra, Joannes and his family resided for a short time in Syndhurst near Sydney where Joannes worked as a horse and cab proprietor.

In 1881, Joannes purchased Lot 28 of the John William Woods estate, in the Parish of Petersham, County of Cumberland. The property was later allotted as 2 Wood Street in the suburb of Forest Lodge.

On 29 April 1881, Joannes mortgaged his Forest Lodge property to the *Equitable Permanent Benefit Building Land & Savings Institute*, of which Joannes was a member and shareholder. The property stood as security on an advance of £150 pounds taken from the Institute's funds, equivalent to the value of Joannes' three shares in the Institute.

Joannes used the borrowed money to build the family's home on Wood Street. At the rear of the property Joannes constructed a brick stables to house his horse and cab.

Joannes and Josepha's seventh child, Maud Elizabeth Clair Brüning, was born on 14 October 1881 at their home on Wood Street, Forest Lodge. On the birth certificate Joannes was recorded as a cab proprietor.

On 28 October 1881, Joannes took a further advance of £25 pounds from the *Equitable Permanent Benefit Building Land & Savings Institute*, on an additional half share owned by Joannes.

Sometime between 1882-85, Joannes and his family leased out their Wood Street property and moved to 30 Hordern Street in Newtown.

On 1 September 1885, Joannes sold his portions of the Weetangera farm to farmer, John Southwell of *Rosehill*, for the amount of £70. The portions included in the sale were portions 34, 72, 89, 95 and 110 in the Parish of Weetangera and portion 129 in the Parish of Canberra.

Joannes and Josepha's eighth child, Mary Emma Pearl Brüning, was born on 1 Nov 1885 at their home on Hordern Street, Newtown. On the birth certificate Joannes was recorded as a butcher.

In the 1887 Sands Directory of NSW, Joannes was recorded as a watchman living at 4 Young Street, Redfern. The family again moved to Burren Street in Macdonaldtown.

Joannes and Josepha's ninth child, Henry Vincent Brüning, was born on 20 May 1888 at their home on Burren Street, Macdonaldtown. On the birth certificate Joannes was recorded as a watchman.

In 1889, Joannes and his family moved back to Wood Street, Forest Lodge, as is evident by unclaimed letters at Macdonaldtown and the 1890 Sands Directory of NSW.

On 21 January 1890, Joannes' daughter Emily sold her 2 portions of the Weetangera farm to John Southwell, for the amount of £50. The portions included in the sale were portions 93 in the Parish of Weetangera and portion 86 in the Parish of Canberra.



Joannes' Wood Street property - Lot 28 of Woods Estate, Forest Lodge.

On 12 November 1890, Joannes daughter, Vida, ran away from their Wood Street home. A missing persons notice was posted in the *NSW Police Gazette* along with the description "Vida Brüning, 15 years of age, looks older, tall and stout, fair complexion and hair; dressed in dark-gray dress trimmed with black velvet, and small black velvet hat with pink flowers. Information to her mother at 2 Wood-street, Forest Lodge". Vida was seemingly found safe although it is not sure if she returned home of her own volition.

Around 1891, the shearing machine was first introduced to the Australian wool trade. Joannes competed with this machine in its first test, at Mort's Wool Store in Circular Quay. The machine won by 1 minute and 2 seconds, however the sheep was badly cut compared to those that had been clipped with hand shears.

On 28 July 1891, Joannes' eldest daughter, Emily Josepha Brüning, married Samuel Goodall Farrar at Saint Stephen's Church in Newtown. On the marriage certificate Joannes was recorded as a farmer, despite having sold his farm 5 years earlier.

Later that year on 25 October 1891, Joannes' mother, Cornelia Johanna Brüning (née Vlaming) passed away in Amsterdam, at the age of 85. Cornelia was buried four days later alongside her husband in the Roman Catholic churchyard of De Liefde.

Joannes and his family next moved to 28 Norton Street in Glebe. It was here on 27 May 1892, that Joannes and Josepha's tenth and final child, Leonard Albert Brüning, was born. On the birth certificate Joannes was recorded as a carpenter.

In the 1892 Sands Directory of NSW, Joannes was recorded as living at 54 Shepherd Street, Darlington.

On 18 November 1893, Joannes' daughter, Vida Sarah Gertrude Brüning, married James Wesley Filewood at Saint David's Church in Surry Hills. On the marriage certificate Joannes was recorded as a painter. Prior to the wedding, Vida was living independently in Goulburn Street, Sydney, where she worked as a general servant.

Joannes and his family next moved to Edgeware Street in Newtown and later to John Street, Newtown, located just around the corner. These residences were recorded in the Sands Directories of NSW 1894 and 1895.

On 8 February 1895, Joannes sold his Forest Lodge property to Henry Goodwin for the sum of £310. On the Certificate of Title Joannes was recorded as living in Minto, New South Wales. Whereas, in the Sands Directory of 1897 and 1898, the Brünings were still recorded as living in John Street, Newtown, indicating that Joannes and his wife may have been living separately.

In 1897, Joannes' eldest son, Bernard, relocated to Western Australia aboard the steamship *SS Marloo*. The *Marloo* departed Sydney on 13 July 1897 under the command of Captain Thomas M. Allen. The ship travelled via Melbourne, Adelaide and Albany before arriving in Fremantle on 27 July 1897. Bernard, an engineer, set up business at 197 James Street, Perth, where he built and sold office machinery.

On 22 June 1898, Joannes' son, Frederick William Brüning, married Undine Muriel Roberts at *Wodonga* in Petersham. The wedding was officiated by Reverend Dr. Porter and was held at the residence of the bride's mother.

In 1899, Joannes' eldest son, Bernard Dixon Brüning, married Catherine McPherson in Busselton, Western Australia.

In May 1899, it appeared likely that war was soon to break out between the British Empire and the Boer republics of South Africa. The Boers were the descendants of the original Dutch settlers of South Africa. During the Napoleonic wars in 1806, Britain took possession of the Dutch Cape colony, sparking resistance from the independence-minded Boers, who resented the Anglicisation of South Africa and Britain's anti-slavery policies. In 1833, the Boers began an exodus into African tribal territory, where they founded the republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The two new republics lived peaceably with their British neighbours until 1867, when the discovery of diamonds and gold in the region made conflict between the Boer states and Britain inevitable.

On 2 June 1899, Joannes departed Sydney aboard the ship *SS Aberdeen* under the command of Captain Robb. The steamship set out for London, via Melbourne, Albany, Natal and Capetown. On the passenger list Joannes was recorded as 53 and had contracted to land in London. Joannes instead jumped ship in South Africa where he proceeded to the seat of hostilities. It is not certain what Joannes' intentions were for going to South Africa, however due to his Dutch heritage, it is likely that he held sympathies for the Boer cause and wanted to lend his support.

Unbeknown to Joannes, his son, Joseph Holt Dixon Brüning, made his own way to South Africa where he enlisted into the 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Light Horse, a unit of the South African Army fighting on the side of the British, raised in Johannesburg on 21 September 1899.

On 11 October 1899, full-scale war broke out in South Africa between the British Empire and the Boers of the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

Joannes was one of the few British people who remained in the Transvaal after war was declared. The name "Joannes Bruijn" exists on a list of foreign volunteers fighting for the Boers. It is possible this may have been an alias used by Joannes and that he secretly waged war against the British Empire.

In February 1900, Joannes' son Joseph took part in the battle of Tugela Heights and helped to relieve the town of Ladysmith, which had been under seige from three months. Joannes had the unusual experience of witnessing a battle, in which, without his knowledge, his son Joseph was engaged.

On 29 January 1900, another of Joannes' sons, John Theodore Stephen Brüning, a stock rider by trade, enlisted to fight in the South African War. John was allotment to 'A' Squadron of the *NSW Citizens' Bushmen*. A month later on 28 February 1900, the men of the Bushmen's contingent boarded the *SS Atlantian* from Cowper Wharf. The next day on 1 March 1900, the ship departed Sydney Heads for South Africa.

Joannes ventured to Johannesburg where he was bet £100 that the British would not enter the Transvaal for another three months. Joannes knew then that Lieutenant General Robert Baden-Powell had crossed the border, but he dared not say so. Joannes was in Johannesburg on May 31 1900 when British troops led by Baden-Powell entered the town.

Following the fall of the town, the Boers were made to surrender their arms. Many of the Boers however had two or three rifles each, and only gave up one to the British authorities. On one occasion Joannes saw a great wagon-load of rifles being taken out of a churchyard, where they had been secreted.

In Johannesburg, Joannes met a member of the Australian Horse, who had been presented with a Union Jack by Mr. Quong Tart, and which he had promised to carry through the war if he survived. The flag was covered with the names of the battles in which the trooper had fought.

By mid-June 1900, British forces had captured most major Boer cities and formally annexed their territories. The Boers however, launched a mobile guerrilla war that continued to frustrate the British occupiers.

With the war appearing all but over, and with the risk of treason hanging about, Joannes decided to return home to Australia. Joannes departed Capetown, South Africa on 12 July 1900, aboard the same ship in which he arrived, the *SS Aberdeen*.

The *Aberdeen* arrived back in Sydney on 6 August 1900. Upon arriving home, Joannes was astonished to discover that his two sons had gone to fight at the front, and that the war was still being stubbornly fought by the Boers.

Around the same time that Joannes arrived home, his son, John, was taking part in the Battle of Elands River, under the command of General Frederick Carrington.





Boer soldiers surrender their arms to the British, 1900.

Oddly, Joannes didn't stay in Australia long before returning to South Africa. Joannes set out again aboard the *SS Nineveh* chartered for London, via Melbourne, Albany, Natal and Capetown. The *Nineveh* departed Sydney on 5 October 1900, under the command of Captain N. Allan. On the passenger list Joannes was recorded as 45 and had contracted to land in Natal, South Africa.

By 1902, the British had finally crushed the Boer resistance, and on 31 May of that year the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging was signed, ending hostilities. With the war over Joannes stayed in South Africa while his two sons returned home to Australia.

In May 1903, whilst still in South Africa, Joannes' daughter Emily emigrated with her family to America. Emily and her husband became *Dowieites*, a religious organization chiefly centered in Zion City, Illinois. The *Dowieites* were formed in 1896 by John Alexander Dowie and devoted themselves to the practice of a religious communal life, faith healing, and abstinence.

On 30 April 1904, Joannes' son, Joseph Holt Dixon Brüning, married Amy Eleanor Marsh at Saint Peter's Church in the suburb of St. Peters, Sydney. On the marriage certificate Joannes was recorded as a gardener living in South Africa.

On 3 September 1904, Joannes' daughter, Maud Elizabeth Clair Brüning, married John "Jack" Thomas Davis in Redfern, New South Wales.

Sometime around 1905, Joannes finally returned home to Sydney after five years in South Africa. Joannes resumed living with his wife Josepha and three of their unmarried children, Pearl, Henry and Leonard.

On Easter Monday 20 April 1908, Joannes' son, John Theodore Stephen Brüning married Catherine "Kate" Murray at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The ceremony was officiated by Reverend Monsignor O'Haran with John's brother Joseph acting as best man. John was living independent in Erskinville prior to his marriage.

Joannes Theodorus Josephus Brüning passed away on 29 September 1908, at his home *Canberra Cottage* on Fitzroy Street, Campsie. Joannes was 72 years old. The cause of death was attributed as heart failure and a malignant growth of stomach and liver.

Joannes' funeral arrangements were carried out by *Coffill and Co.* with the procession leaving his Fitzroy Street home at 1:30pm on 1 October 1908. Joannes' coffin was transported to the necropolis via the Rookwood Cemetery railway line, stopping at Burwood station in order to pick up mourners.

Joannes was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Rookwood Cemetery. The funeral was officiated by Reverend M. Kirby and was witnessed by Joannes' son, Joseph, and the undertaker, Thomas Caples. Amongst those who attended were his widow, Josepha, seven of his ten children, Frederick, Vida, John, Joseph, Maud, Mary and Leonard, together with their partners and friends.



Joannes & Josepha's grave and headstone.

## INWARD.

A LIST of the Crew and Passengers, arrived in the Ship *Amazone* of *Amsterdam* *Abbrink* Master,  
 Burthen, *411* Tons, from the Port of *Amsterdam* to *Sydney*, New South Wales, *30 May* 1860.

Individual Name	Rank	Age	Of what Nation	Status of Passenger	Description	Remarks
<i>J. H. Alandtschick</i>	<i>Master</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Holland</i>		<i>Mr. Jacobus Geisman</i>	
<i>J. A. Van Esen</i>	<i>2<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>25</i>	"		<i>Lieut. Antrode</i>	
<i>J. Rof</i>	<i>Watersman</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>English</i>			
<i>J. W. Freyer</i>	<i>Companion</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Holland</i>			
<i>W. Middel</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>39</i>	"			
<i>Van Houten</i>	<i>Barkeeper</i>	<i>21</i>	"			
<i>W. H. Freij</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>26</i>	"			
<i>H. A. Joubert</i>	"	<i>23</i>	<i>Norway</i>			
<i>J. J. Proumny</i>	"	<i>24</i>	<i>Holland</i>			
<i>C. C. Munnus</i>	"	<i>24</i>	"			
<i>A. G. Koenig</i>	"	<i>23</i>	"			
<i>J. Kelleke</i>	"	<i>22</i>	"			
<i>H. Van Orden</i>	"	<i>20</i>	<i>Holland</i>			
<i>A. de Vries</i>	<i>0-1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Holland</i>			
<i>J. W. de Pousman</i>	"	<i>20</i>	"			
<i>C. Colter</i>	"	<i>17</i>	"			
<i>J. J. Schudler</i>	"	<i>19</i>	"			

*Subst.*

The crew listing for the Amazone.

**SHIP AMAZONE, FROM AMSTERDAM.**

**CAPTAIN ABBINK** will not be responsible for any DEBTS which his CREW may contract while in this port.

**GEORGE A. LLOYD and CO., Agents.**  
Lloyd's-Chambers, George-street.

*Empire, Wednesday 30 May 1860*

**Notice.**

**OWNERS** of Castle and Sheep found **TRESPASSING** on the purchased land or pre-emptive lease of **J. T. BRUNING**, at Weetangara, will be prosecuted according to law.  
**T. J. BRUNING.**

*Queanbeyan Age, Wed 12 February 1879*

**WATER POLICE COURT,—Monday.**

**BEFORE** the Water Police Magistrate, and Messrs. Hopkins and Shoobert.

**John T. Benning**, a deserter from the Amazon, was sentenced to fourteen days' gaol.

*Empire, Wednesday 30 May 1860*

**For Sale or To Let.**

**A FARM**, consisting of 300 acres all enclosed and sub-divided into sheep proof paddocks, with comfortable House, Garden, out houses and sheds, plenty of Good Water and Grass, also 16 acres of a nice clean crop of Wheat and White Oats to be sold as it stands.




**TERMS EASY.** Apply on or before the 1st of January to

**J. T. J. BRUNING,**  
Weetangara.

457

*Queanbeyan Age, Sat 4 December 1880*

**Notice.**

**A BAY HORSE**, black points, branded  over  near shoulder,  off shoulder, is now running in my paddock. The owner can have him by paying expenses.

**JOHN BRUNNING.**

Canberra Plain, Queanbeyan.

*Queanbeyan Age, Thur 3 February 1870*



2 Wood Street, Forrest Lodge. The Brüning family home.



The home in 2010 prior to renovations.



The rear of the house.



The backyard and the brick stables.

## A MAN FROM JOHANNESBURG,

A former resident of Sydney, Mr. J. T. Brunning, who has lived in Johannesburg for the past 14 months, returned here by the Aberdeen.

He was one of the few British people who remained in the Transvaal after war was declared. The Dutch, he says, treated him all right, but he had to keep a silent tongue. He gives an instance of this. A Boer wanted to bet him £100 that the British would not enter the Transvaal for another three months. He knew then that Lord Roberts had crossed the border, but he dare not say so. Mr. Brunning was in Johannesburg when Lord Roberts entered the town. The Boers did not mind their reverses at first as they felt confident that they would win in the end. Referring to the surrender of arms by the Dutch, he says that numbers of the Boers have two or three rifles each, and they are only giving up one to the authorities. On one occasion he saw a great waggon-load of rifles being taken out of a churchyard, where they had been secreted. Mr. Brunning left South Africa for the purpose of visiting his family here, and he was astonished on his arrival in Sydney to find that his two sons had gone to the front with the Bushmen—one is with General Baden-Powell and the other with General Carrington. While in Johannesburg Mr. Brunning met a member of the Australian Horse, who had been presented with a Union Jack by Mr. Quong Tart, and which he had promised to carry through the war if he survived. The flag was covered with the names of the battles in which the trooper had fought. Mr. Brunning intends to return to Johannesburg, as he is quite certain that things will settle down there very soon after the war is over.

**Mr. J. T. Bruning.**

On the 29th ult. there passed away, at his residence, Fitzroy-street, Campsie, the late Mr. John Theodore Bruning, one of the earlier settlers of this State, and one who had led an eventful and strenuous life. Born in Brussels, Belgium, he arrived in Port Jackson as mate of the ship Albatross, in 1851. The gold fever being then at its height, he left his ship, as did most others, and proceeded to the Kinandra diggings. Achieving but a qualified measure of success, he discarded digging in favour of contracting; and, proceeding to Queanbeyan, erected the first bridge there, remaining in the district to farm for some years. He then migrated to Sydney, where he remained till the outbreak of the South African War. Proceeding to the seat of hostilities, he enjoyed the unusual experience of witnessing a battle, in which, without his knowledge, his eldest son was engaged. Returning to Sydney, he journeyed to West Australia, and later again to South Africa, from which he finally returned, when 70 years of age, three years since. He was attended in his last illness by the Rev. Father Dalton. The interment was made in Rookwood Cemetery, and amongst those who attended were his widow (Mrs. Josepha Emily Bruning), his sons and daughters (Messrs. Fred, John, Joseph and Leonard Bruning; Mrs. Felwood, Mrs. Davis and Miss Bruning), together with Messrs. Felwood, Davis, Hamer, Hardy, Morgan, Owen, Mrs. Wallace and Miss Howell, and others. Messrs. Coffill and Co. carried out the funeral arrangements.—R.I.P.