

## **John Stewart MRCVS 1810-1896**

The first qualified veterinary surgeon to come to Australia was John Stewart, who arrived at Sydney Cove in May 1841 and set up practice in Sydney. Stewart had graduated in veterinary science from the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, in 1827, and then practised in Glasgow. Between 1834-1840, he was Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the Andersonian University, Glasgow. In 1831 he published *Advice to Purchasers of Horses...* and in 1838 *Stable Economy*. Both ran to many editions in England and America and the latter was described a century later as "one of the few veterinary classics".

Stewart combined a horse bazaar with his practice in Sydney where he married Sarah Pringle, a native of Aberdeen. In 1852, they moved to Kiera Vale near Wollongong to bring up their three sons and a daughter in the country. He now took an active interest in civic affairs and was appointed a magistrate, chairman of the local municipal council and leader-writer for the local newspaper. In 1866, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, and was a member of that house intermittently until 1874. He had moved back to Sydney in 1866 and in 1877-1882 practised as a veterinary surgeon in Darlinghurst Road. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1879 and remained a member of the Upper House until a year before his death in 1896.

### References

Lyons M. John Stewart. *Australian Dictionary of Biography 1851-1890*. 6:198-199.

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