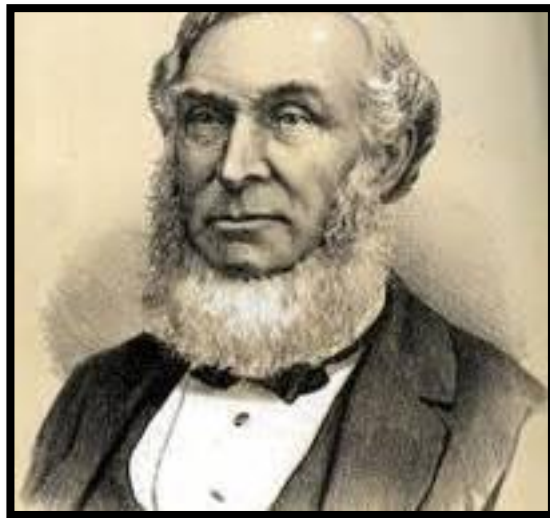


Captain Samuel Charles MLC
1st January 1818 – 23rd September 1909
Foundation Member of the League
Member for Kiama 18/12/1874 – 17/06/1880
Member of NSW Legislative Council 08/09/1885 – 23/09/1909



Captain Samuel Charles was born at Ballyronan in County Londonderry to Sergeant-Major Richard Charles [of the 5th Dragoons] and Margaret Hull. He worked as Shipwright in Belfast before going to sea, becoming the Captain of a steamer with Ulster Canal & Railway Company and manager of their dockyard in the early 1840's.

He arrived in Sydney in 1844 and worked in the coastal trade until 1846, when he entered the Pacific trade with his own brigantine. Establishing a coal export trade to United States of America in 1849 and visited the Californian goldfields. He also travelled to Great Britain to obtain a steamer for the Kiama Steam Navigation Company.

He settled on a farm in Kiama where he organised the first shipment of butter to London in 1864. He speculated in land and had extensive interests in quarrying, which for some years returned 1000 Pounds per annum.

He visited Europe and the Americas in 1880.

Samuel married Sarah Ann Gray on 30th May 1855 at Gerringong NSW and had 6 sons and 2 daughters.

Samuel served as Alderman on Kiama Council from 1868 until 1870, Member for Kiama in the Legislative Assembly from 1874 to 1880 and Member of Legislative Council from 1885 until his death in 1909.

Information from the NSW Parliament. Additional information can be found Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Charles, Samuel (1818–1909)

from *Sydney Morning Herald*

Captain Samuel Charles, M.L.C., the oldest identity of the shipping circles of the Commonwealth, and one of the pioneers of the agricultural industry in this State, crossed the bar last evening at the advanced age of 91 years. He was born in the year 1817, and in early life chose a seafaring career. He commanded many of the finest ships of more than half a century ago, and was able to relate many stirring incidents connected with the early history of New South Wales.

Upon relinquishing the sea very many years ago, the deceased master mariner engaged in our primary industries, and it was largely owing to his foresight and enterprise that the butter export trade, which has now assumed stupendous proportions, was inaugurated and developed. The late Captain Charles in the early days of our agricultural efforts became convinced that a large demand for Australian dairy products was awaiting us on the other side of the world, and he forwarded to England the first consignment of butter from New South Wales.

About 35 years ago Captain Charles entered political life, and was first elected in 1874 as the representative of Kiama. In the Legislative Assembly of this State, he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council in August, 1885, and retained his seat up to the time of his death.

Captain Charles was one of the foundation members of the League of Ancient Mariners, in the proceedings of which he evinced great interest. On the occasion of the last annual outing, however, he was too feeble to participate; but the steamer chartered by the league hove to off his waterside residence at Point Piper, and three lusty cheers were given by his comrades from the deck of the vessel. Captain Charles, who was on the verandah of his house at the time, was much moved by this demonstration, and waved response. Only a few weeks ago, on the occasion of the first annual smoke concert of the League of Ancient Mariners, a letter was read amid cheering from the nonagenarian mariner, apologising for his inability to attend on account of his advanced age.

The deceased, who retained his faculties almost to the end, died at his residence, Cliff Towers, Point Piper, Woollahra, in the presence of some of the members of his family. In order that his relatives from all parts of the Commonwealth may have an opportunity of being present at the funeral, the interment has been arranged for Monday. The body will be conveyed by train to North Kiama, where the family vault is situated.