

Vacy Hall Guest House Toowoomba

Vacy Hall – Home to Gilbert Gostwyck Cory for over 50 years

Born at Vacy in the Paterson district of New South Wales (about 27km north of Maitland) in 1839, Gilbert Cory rode overland on horseback to Toowoomba at the age of 19 in 1858. He took up service at the Cecil Plains Station of James Taylor, a successful pastoralist, landowner and aspiring politician.

After successfully managing the station for a number of years, Gilbert Cory married Taylor's daughter Ann Sophy and moved to Toowoomba where he took an active part in civic affairs.

"Vacy Hall", in Russell Street, was built for him and his wife in 1873 as a wedding present by James Taylor who lived across the road in Clifford House.



In addition to his political and community activities, Cory went on to be involved in a number of other pastoral ventures in Queensland.

The original Vacy Hall was destroyed by fire in 1898 and replaced by the current brick and masonry building shortly afterwards.

Three streets on the western side of Toowoomba – Gilbert, Gostwyck and Cory streets – are among the monuments directly named in honour of the city's 19th Mayor.

Gilbert Gostwyck Cory, was elected Mayor of Toowoomba in 1891, and is probably best remembered for his "pioneering" work with the Toowoomba Turf Club and the Royal Agricultural Society. However, he was also associated with the Jondaryan Shire Council and was its chairman in 1894 and 1895.

One of Cory's chief interests was the Royal Agricultural Society. He was a member of the Society for 52 years from 1872 until his death in 1924. He was elected a committee-man of the society in 1878, vice-president in 1894 and president from 1912 until 1924.

He was also one of the founders of the Toowoomba Turf Club of which he was a trustee from its inception. Other monuments to his memory include the Cory stand at the old Show Grounds and a ward in the now

Vacy Hall Guest House Toowoomba

demolished original block of Toowoomba General Hospital.

In addition to his term as Mayor of Toowoomba, Gilbert Cory was a Toowoomba City Council alderman from 1889 to 1894 and a member of Jondaryan Shire Council from 1883 until 1919.



He died on August 8, 1924 at the ripe old age of 84 after living at Vacy Hall for over 50 years. Shortly after his death the new owners subdivided much of the grounds and gardens around Vacy Hall in 1926 when over 18 blocks were carved off to create the Vacy Estate.