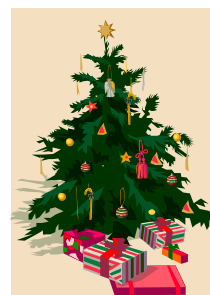


The Hawkesbury Crier



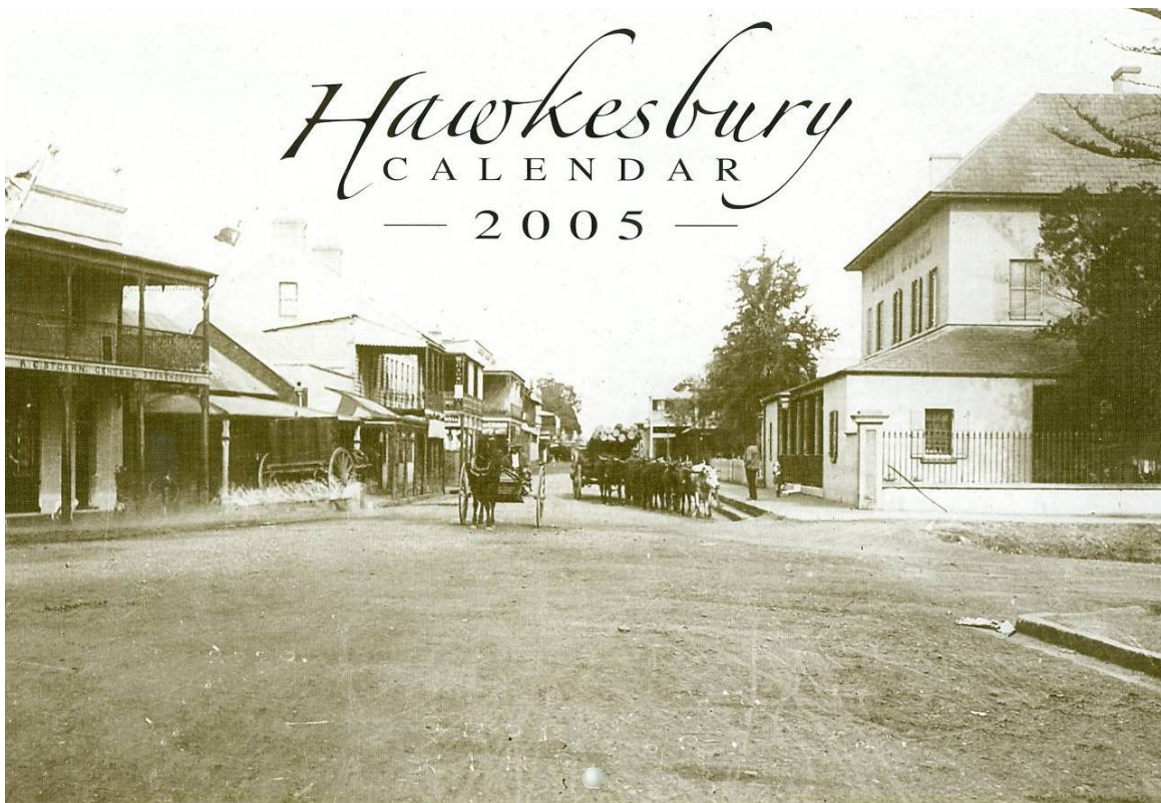
NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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Free Monthly News sheet can be accessed at <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/053.html>



Hawkesbury Calendar 2005

now available for sale - order form see p.2



December 2004



HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Hawkesbury Family History Group is available to people who have an interest in family history of the Hawkesbury area or live in the Hawkesbury and are researching their family history. There are no joining or membership fees. The group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January) at Windsor Central Library, Dight Street, Windsor commencing at 10am. The ***HAWKESBURY CRIER*** is the quarterly newsletter of the group & is available on application from the address below. The cost is \$16 per annum. **Articles, notices & enquiries are always welcome for the Hawkesbury Crier. Preferably typed although clear legible handwritten items are also acceptable.** Additional information regarding the group or the Local Studies Collection of Hawkesbury City Council Library Service is available from the Local Studies Librarian Michelle Nichols, c/- Hawkesbury City Council Library Service, Dight Street Windsor 2756 NSW Tel (02) 4560-4466 / Fax (02)4560-4472 or by email mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

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A ROADMAP FOR WRITING FAMILY HISTORY

Presentation by Noeline Kyle

NSW & ACT Family History Societies Annual conference, Blackheath, 18th September, 2004

Share the writing journey

Family history research to be successful is a shared activity. And from my experience this works for writing family history too. Get in touch with me to find out how to start a family history writing group within your family history society. Join a writing group, learn creative writing, go to writing workshops; all of these will provide inspiration for your writing.

Divide-and-be-conquered barrier

Don't separate your self out from your writing, the writing part of yourself is an integral part of who you are. Let it grow, and go on to meet and enjoy other writing challenges, other writing interests, write other family stories.

Research and writing go together

If you write early you will familiarise yourself with your characters, with your documents, with the events of your family stories – you will see the gaps sooner, and you will be able to determine much earlier whether you actually fill those gaps or you leave them and move on...

A Writing Roadmap

For any kind of history writing a roadmap is important. Otherwise you will not know where you are going, just like when you are driving the car. And you won't know how to select and interpret and best use all those documents and other information you have collected. A writing roadmap is a plan – you can begin with a simple list of proposed chapters, or perhaps start with origins, move on to arrival in Australia, perhaps occupations. A roadmap or plan will change as you become more knowledgeable but it will always be there to focus your writing and keep you on track.

Who are your readers? Will they dictate how you write?

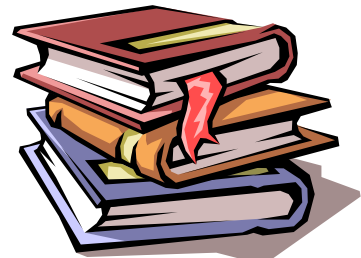
Who are your readers? Who are you writing for? Your answer to these questions will determine how you write and what you write. It will determine what other questions you will want to ask when doing the family history, it will determine everything about your writing. For most of us our readers are our family. And that's your market, if you decide you want to publish and sell your book.

From Belfast to Bellbrook! Origin, arrivals and barriers to writing about it

We travel back, either by the internet or in reality, to England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany ... And we feel connected somehow to that place....we see the castles, the cobbled streets, the lochs, the medieval architecture, the thatched roofs, the quaint pubs, and we fall in love... This is not such a bad thing, landscape, linking into distance and geography in the past, trying to come to grips with the different kinds of spaces and place our ancestors lived in....gives us more scope for our writing. But there is a limit to this – your writing about origins should have a level of critique about it, otherwise it becomes sentimental and unreal.

Characters – What would we do without them!

Most of us have a character we like a lot in our family history. One of the ways to begin the process of writing is to focus on that character and ask yourself why she or he is so compelling for you. Ask questions such as where did you meet her? (and I mean where in your research did you meet her). What does she mean to you as a character in your family history?



Historical context? Imagination? Interpretation? Assumptions?– are there too many things to think of? Are these the barriers to your writing?

What I mean by interpretation is that historical activity we do when we draw inferences and assumptions from our documents, and from what we know about broader historical trends and link these to family events. Interpretation sits alongside imagination as one of the key writing strategies to bring your family history to life. Interpretation is a practical task (it can be simply poring over your documents and taking from these themes and ideas and stories for your writing), or it can be more than this. It can be linking into the imaginative and creative task of assessing your family history, its events, its ups and downs, and linking to the bigger historical events at a national, or international level.

Nostalgia, sentiment and blazing sunsets!

For the professional historian the words nostalgia and sentiment are anathema, they are the scourge of good history. We are told we are simply too romantic about the past, that all we are doing family history is some kind of pop history that has no value. But in family history I think we should fight back. We need nostalgia and we need sentiment. Nostalgia lives in the same space as memory, and we can see that when we talk to our older relatives. We need that passion that drives us to research and write... While at the same time, we recognise that the sunsets and the characters that we do describe are not one-dimensional but complex, contradictory, compassionate and as historically accurate as we can make them.

Family History Writing made easy - some tips to get rid of the barriers:

- **Writing can begin at any time**
- **Write early, write quickly**
- **Research and writing go together**
- **Keep your words simple, short, active, vary length, tone and style**
- **Write about solving your research**
- **There is no ‘right’ way to write your family history**
- **Not too many sunsets, show don’t tell**
- **Get someone to read and edit your writing**
- **Fill in the gaps with interpretation, imagination, judicious assumptions**
- **Revise, re-write, revise, re-write – good writing = many drafts**
- **Write for your readers**
- **Share the writing journey, join a writing group, share your writing with other family historians**
- **Plan your writing**
- **Nostalgia and sentiment can provide the passion for writing**

- **Join a writing group, share in a workshop or a seminar**

Remember it's your writing and in the end you can write however, and about whatever you want? Good luck with the journey

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See story "The Last Straw: Floods, Death, Robbery & Insolvency" p. 5

THE LAST STRAW: FLOODS, DEATH, ROBBERY & INSOLVENCY

By Lillian Knight

The article “**Index to Insolvency records Hawkesbury insolvents 1842-1887**” appearing in the September, 2004 edition of *The Hawkesbury Crier*, led the path to unravelling a family story handed down over several generations, concerning my great-grandfather, Rudolph Kroehnert. The story goes that Rudolph, storekeeper, had become bankrupt following the devastation of the Hawkesbury floods. His customers were not able to pay him for goods they had received on credit. He had to load up his cart and try and sell his remaining goods around the countryside. Intertwined with this was the story that he had been robbed. This is all we knew. The only clue to when this supposedly happened was that the Kroehnert family had moved out of the area by the late 1860s.

The Sequestration Order file number (6935) found in the index equipped me with information to visit the State Records Office NSW at Kingswood & to peruse the insolvency papers. The *SR Archives' Brief No. 58* outlines the main sources for the research of bankruptcy & insolvency records, providing relevant definitions, administrative history on the subject, indexes & locations of the various jurisdiction records.

Rudolph Franz Hugo Kroehnert had arrived in the colony on 10th January 1854 on the *Earl of Selkirk*. Rudolph was born 7th January 1827 in Tilsit, East Prussia (now Sovetsk, Russia). He was the youngest of the six children of Johann Daniel Kroehnert and Charlotte Juliane Kroehnert (nee Trautmann). When he was almost 27 years old he journeyed to England and sailed to Australia. Joseph Lowe, also from East Prussia, sailed as a 2nd steward on the same vessel. The two compatriots opened a shop together in the Hawkesbury. (Alfred Smith's *Some Ups and Downs of an Old Richmondite*).

On 30th May 1855, at St. Peter's Church of England Church, Richmond, Rudolph married Matilda Davis, eldest child of Charles and Eliza (nee Pearce) Davis. Matilda's great-grandparents were Charles and Mary Ann Palmer of Yarramundi who were free settlers to the colony in 1802. It was a double wedding for Joseph Lowe married another local girl, Mary Ann Wilson, who was related to the Kirks of Agnes Banks. Rudolph became naturalised on 22nd January 1858 with his application stating the reason he had given that “he had agreed to purchase land in the colony which cannot at present be legally conveyed to him”.

The period from 1854 to 1864 would certainly have taken its toll on Rudolph's business. Flood levels over 30' at the Windsor bridge had been recorded for the preceding years from the time of Rudolph's arrival in Australia, and were as follows:

1857	July	37' 6"
1860	April	34' 9"
1860	July	34' 3"
1860	November	36'
1864	June	37' 6"
1869	July	36'

(Source : Michelle Nichols in *Disastrous Decade: Flood & Fire in Windsor 1864-1874*)

The young Kroehnert family had already endured tragedy. On 15th August 1863, their firstborn child, George, died from dysentery, aged almost seven years. My grandfather, Henry Reuben Kroehnert, had told me that his parents, Rudolph and Matilda, were so distressed that it was their doctor who chose the plot of ground at St. Peter's cemetery, Richmond for the burial. It was Dr John Selkirk of Windsor who attended the sick boy, as attested to on George's death certificate.

Amongst the Insolvency papers relating to this case was a lengthy statement by Rudolph Kroehnert. He had left home at Upper Richmond with two drays loaded up with his goods accompanied by a servant, William Cross. He states that he was away from home from July to December 1864, travelling to Dubbo, Mudgee, Coonamble and Walgett. On his return he stopped at Hartley. It was at Little Hartley that his wife's grandmother, Clara Hemptead, formerly Pearce and nee Palmer, now lived with her married daughter from her second marriage, Athelia Kirk. *I left Hartley the next day after Cross.* One might suppose that Rudolph visited his wife's relatives when passing through. He described his present occupation. *I have been engaged as a Hawker..... I used to travel about the country with goods for sale.* He described the robbery. *I got robbed after leaving Hartley three miles the other side of Springwood on the 9th December.* In this document he describes the manner of this incident in detail, even including the weather. Continuing, he tells the effect of his misfortune on his livelihood. *I am now earning a living by drawing water and doing little things for my neighbours.*

Rudolph's statement in the Insolvency papers mentions local identities, occupations and their abodes. *I sold the teams at Dubbo through Mr. Tebbutt by auction. I purchased a horse from Mr. Markwell at Hartley. Cross lives at Richmond.* He refers to family connections. *Mr. Chas Davis..... is my wife's father, and his bank - I kept an account with the Bank of New South Wales Windsor.* The wages paid to Cross and coach fares are stated.

Within the other documents contained in the bundle of Insolvency papers are invoices listing the items and prices of merchandise Rudolph had bought in order to sell, for instance, American brooms, sewing twine, best polished scissors, silk fishing lines, American axe handles, manila rope, ladies side saddle, clothes pegs and harnesses, etc. His creditors are listed with their abodes, occupations and the particulars of the debts.

Similarly, a glimpse of the administration of times is gleaned. *I first reported my loss at the tollbar at Springwood to the Tollkeeper. The next day I rode into Penrith and reported my loss to the police.....I met the up mail between Springwood and Lapstone Hill, nearer to Lapstone Hill.....It was at this side of the Blue Mountains Inn.*

Beginning in 1864 the procedures, accounts and statements are documented in the Insolvency papers concluding with the Sequestration being issued in 1874 on payment of the last balance of 9/- for court costs. During the intervening years Rudolph lost his land at Enfield (North Richmond), mortgaged to Mr. Rouse, for all of his assets were listed and seized, though finally his household furniture consisting of a sofa table, bedstead and bedding, nine chairs, wearing apparel and sundries, valued at £5, were left for the use of his wife. The Insolvency papers illustrate the legal processes undertaken in attempts to procure funds to satisfy Rudolph's creditors by realising his assets.

By 1866, the Kroehnerts had moved away from the Hawkesbury Valley to live in the Strathfield area, where Rudolph worked as a bushman and woodcarter. Rudolph died on

24th December 1895, at Enfield (South Strathfield) and was buried at Richmond with his little son, George, where succeeding generations of Kroehnerts are now buried. Although never financially well off again, the story of this first family of Kroehnerts in Australia shows how they battled on in the face of adversity.



Rudolph Kroehnert died on 24th December 1895, at Enfield (South Strathfield) and was buried at Richmond with his little son, George, along with other members of the Kroehnert's family.



ORIGINAL DOCUMENT - Transcribed

*In the Supreme Court of New South Wales
In Insolvency*

*In the Insolvent Estate of Rudolph Kroehnert
Monday, 20th February, 1865.
Before the Chief Commissioner –
Rudolph Kroehnert being duly sworn and examined by Mr. Driver, Solicitor states –*

I have been engaged as a Hawker for about 12 months. My family reside at Upper Richmond. I used to travel about the country with goods for sale. I ceased to do so on the 9th December last. I left home on the 25th July last. I proceeded to Mudgee and

across country to the Macquarie. I took general merchandise to the value of about £300 at invoice prices. A person named Wm Cross accompanied me, as servant. I had two horse teams to convey the goods. I sold the teams. I did not enter the process received for the goods or teams. I believe the sum I received for the goods was close upon £500. I was paid in different ways, - by cash cheques and orders. I sent my wife money twice while I was absent. The last time was in October last. £20 was the amount. I sent it in cheques. I don't remember whose cheques they were. I sent her £20 in the previous September or August. I did not send her any other money. I sold the teams at Dubbo through Mr. Tebbutt by auction. They realised £78. I purchased a horse from Mr. Markwell at Hartley. I paid him £5 at the time, and afterwards when I returned £16 more making £21. I sold it on the following Monday for £10 to Mr. Chas Davis. Davis is my wife's father. The horse is now in his possession. I did not offer it for sale to any other person. I gave him a receipt for the money. He paid me in two £5 notes. I don't know the Bank. I did not know when I sold the horse that Mr. Love had issued an execution against me. Cross accompanied me to Hartley. I travelled by coach. I left him at Hartley as he was booked right through to Penrith. I booked ourselves at Bathurst. Cross lives at Richmond. I left Hartley the next day after Cross. I had then about £460 in total. I counted my money at Bathurst and I then had £480 that was after paying coach fares. I got robbed after leaving Hartley three miles the other side of Springwood on the 9th December. It was about 9 o'clock at night. There were two persons who robbed me. The £460 consisted £195 notes £20 Walgett orders, and the remainder in cheques. The orders were drawn on Glass of Singleton by Glass & Corrigan. I didn't make any list of the cheques or orders. One cheque was drawn by McCubbin for £7.15.0, and another for £10 odd drawn by Smith & Matthews. I cannot remember the bank on which they were drawn. I very seldom counted the money. I kept no account whatever of my transactions while travelling. Before I left Bathurst I counted the money, excepting the silver. It was midnight of the day following the robbery that I arrived home. I first reported my loss at the tollbar at Springwood to the Tollkeeper. I arrived home at midnight the same night that I was robbed or a little after midnight. The next day I rode into Penrith and reported my loss to the police. I didn't report my loss at Penrith until the following day after the robbery. I don't know the numbers or amount of any of the cheques or orders nor can I say to what bank the notes were belonging. The robbers did not use any violence to me. My horse shyed (sic) with me when they came out from the bush and I was thrown. They ordered me to go to the side of the road and to strip. They left me 15/- to continue my journey home with. I should know the spot again. I met the up mail between Springwood and Lapstone Hill,

nearer to Lapstone Hill. It was at this side of the Blue Mountains Inn. I dare say it was about an hour after the robbery that I met the mail. It was a very dark and wet night. I am now earning a living by drawing water and doing little things for my neighbours. I again say I did not send any other money to my wife than the two sums of £20 for her. One was sent from Walgettown the other from Coonamble. I told Cross that I had sent money to my wife, but I didn't say the amount. I never told anyone that I had sent my wife £100. I knew when up the country that Mr. Love had taken out a summons against me. I knew it after I sent my wife the last £20, in the beginning of October. I cannot say how many cheques were comprised with £20. There might have been ten. I sold all my goods in the open air. I used to sleep in my cart, and Cross slept in the dray. I never slept in a house after I sold the goods and teams.

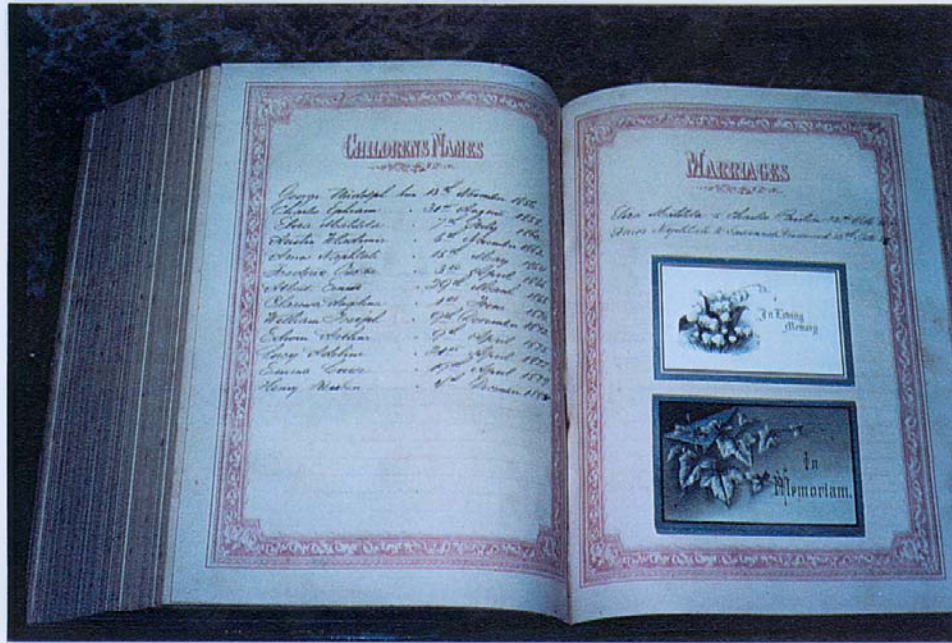
Chief Commissioner. I did not deposit the money in any bank because I didn't think I could do so. I kept an account with the Bank of New South Wales Windsor. I didn't mention my robbery to the mail driver whom I met after the occurrence, nor to any of the persons living on the road. I didn't report it at Penrith on passing through because it was past midnight and a very wet night.

The Official Assignee: I sold goods in November last. The sale of the drays by Tebbutts lasted from Saturday to Monday. I sold some goods at that sale. The book produced is my bank passport with the Bank of New South Wales Windsor. I did not send the money. I was robbed of, by bank draft to Windsor because I did not consider it safe to post. I have the invoices of the goods in my place at Windsor. I have not delivered them to you because you did not ask me for them but only for books. I did not give notice to the parties who drew the cheques whose names I have mentioned.

*Taken and sworn by
Deponent in the day
and year first above
written at Sydney.*

Rudolph Kroehnert

*Alfred McFarland
Chief Commissioner.*



The Kroehnert Family Bible



*Rudolph & Matilda Kroehnert's graves
at St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond
Their twin granddaughters –
Jessie & Violet Kroehnert (1978)*

The wealth of information contained within the Insolvency documents enabled the verification of an unfortunate family story about Rudolph Kroehnert, placing it in the context of life in the Hawkesbury during the 1860s, adding colour and dimension to the times of our forebears that we as family historians seek.

Subsequently, I would highly recommend to fellow researchers the benefits of following up the Insolvency/Bankruptcy records. The Insolvency Records 1842-1887 index is available to search on the State Records website at www.records.nsw.gov.au.

I would welcome any other references to my great-grandfather that readers may have come across.

Lillian Knight

PO Box 412, Blacktown 2148 ~ lillianknight@yahoo.com.au ~ Tel: (02) 9831 6024

N^o 6935

In the Supreme Court
of New South Wales
In Insolvency } Report and Account
September 1st 1874

In the Estate of
Rudolph Kroehnert

This Estate was sequestrated on 21st
December 1864. There were no Assets available to
realise any funds.

The Insolvent applied for a Certificate
on 13th September 1865 which was granted to issue after
three months suspension and payment of Charges and
Court Fees.

The Insolvent has yet to pay a balance
of Nine shillings short paid by him.
Robert Hamilton, Solicitor.

Account by the Applicant.

To Incidentals Expenses	£ 9.6	May 1 1865	By Cash from Insolvent	£ 2.11.6
Compensation to Off ^r Ass ^r		Dec 30 1864	do do	2.15.0
assessed 20 Aug 1867	5.5.0	Aug 27 1874	do do	3.19.0
Court Fees			Balance due by do	9.0
(made up 29 Aug 1874)	4.0.0			
	<u>£ 9.14.6</u>			<u>£ 9.14.6</u>

Received
2nd September 1874
At

I Affirmed, 3/9/74, as true
Jury Kithen D. Offell

Filed in Court
3rd September 1874
C.B.

Page from Sequestration Order file number (6935) State Records NSW

When Henry met Mary!!

Henry GIBBS and Mary Anne QUIGLEY met on the Bell Farm owned by Mr. I. BELL and which was situated on Bells Line of Road. He worked as a labourer and she as a servant. Mary Anne was 25 and Henry aged 45 when they married on the 28 July 1840 and they lived in a slab cottage in Charles Street, Enfield. They had their nine children there and both Henry and Mary Anne died in the cottage, Henry in 1883 and Mary Anne in 1863.

Enfield was a private village which was a portion of Richard ROUSE's estate on the north side of Bell's Line of Road and a portion of William BELL's 200 hundred acres on the south. Enfield started on the eastern end from the corner of the cross roads leading to Grose Vale and Wilberforce and terminated west at Redbank Creek. The northern side was bounded by Mrs. STEVENSON's farm and the south by Mr Pitt BUTT's paddock (where Kurrajong Race Club held regular meetings having moved from Wheeny Creek). It was much later called North Richmond, which originally was only farms along the river from Belmont to The Terrace. [1]

Henry was a convict, having arrived in the Colony on the Royal Admiral in 1830. He had been assigned to several places before the Bell Farm and his Ticket of Leave was finally granted in February 1839 and his Conditional Pardon in January 1847. According to records in England, Henry was married with six children and didn't always seem to be a good provider, although once in the new Colony he appeared to keep to the straight and narrow (or perhaps he just didn't get caught by North Richmond's first Constable, Edward MERRICK [Meyrick] who, incidentally became daughters, Martha Louise and Jane Mary's father-in-law).

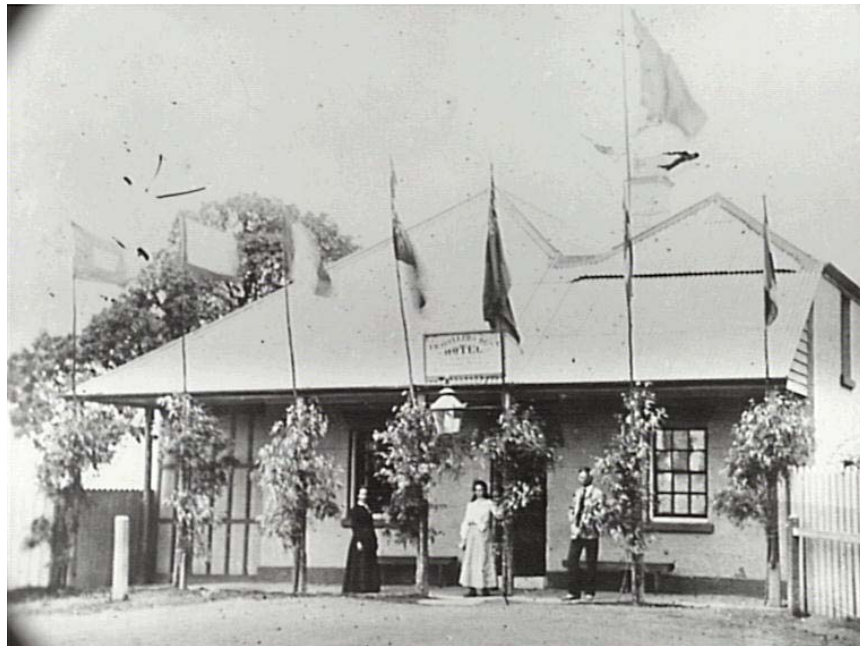
Mary Anne, on the other hand, was a free settler who arrived in the Colony from Ireland with her mother, Mary, sisters Bridget and Catherine and brother Patrick in 1838 on the Diamond. They followed her father, Patrick QUIGLEY who was transported from Ireland in 1829 on the Sophia.

Henry and Mary Anne's children were Harriet (1839), Mary Anne (1843), Martha Louise (1846), Henry (1848), Thomas (1851), Jane Mary (1853), Richard Patrick (1856) and Bridget (1858-1868). They married into local families of CONLAN, SMITH, MERRICK and STONE before spreading further afield to Wellington, Singleton, Howes Valley, Kyogle, Adamstown, Freeman's Reach and Coonamble. Other associated families were HARTLEY, GRONO and MEDHURST.

The boys may have gone to the North Richmond Public School (though not sure when it opened) who's first headmaster was a Mr. SAUNDERS and which was built on land donated by John BOWMAN. Or perhaps to the school in North Richmond, run by Mr. SULLIVAN in the 1830s or with Mr. MILLS at PHIPP's Farm. [1] The girls education would probably have been at home being more domestic than the 3 R's thought necessary only for the males of the family.

It's not known if Henry was a drinking man, but if he were he had a selection of inns to frequent. To name a few, there was "The Woolpack" run by Charles EATHER, who later transferred the "Woolpack" sign to what was "The Union" in Richmond. "The Woolpack" now became the "Traveller's Rest". licensee, John TOWN from Goulburn River. One of the

oldest hotels in the Colony it was used as a court by the Police Magistrate, Samuel NORTH. Also used as a post office and was the terminus for Kurrajong mail. [1]



The Traveller's Rest Hotel at North Richmond at the turn of the century.
(Hawkesbury City Council Library Service - Image no. 004996)

Then there was the "Enfield" up the hill from Redbank Creek, proprietor, John MOORE. "The Exchange" (about 200 yards west of the present Post Office), built in the 1840s by Daniel DICKENS and was first known as "The Bee Hive." And up the river near Belmont was "The Waggon and Horses, licensee, William FARLOW. A small inn consisting of only two rooms with a roof of thatched straw it was sometimes frequented by the bushrangers DONOHUE, WALMSLEY and ARMSTRONG. [1]

If Henry wanted to go across the river he would have had to take a punt which by the 1830s was Government owned and he would have been charged 2d. as a foot passenger. Although there was a punt running earlier and was owned by Archibald BELL. People attending a church service across the river were not charged and funerals were always well attended, but there was a time limit on the return from funerals and attendees were expected to return by a reasonable time. Ladies were known to do some shopping during this time and secrete their purchases under their steel hooped skirts. If "caught out" there was a penalty of £5 fine. One of the punt operators was Alf SMITH. A bridge was built in the late 1850s, although a toll was still the order of the day for about 40 years [1]

And so the journey was probably not very far for Henry and Mary Anne. They most likely would not have ventured far and would have spent a great deal of time in their home or in their working environment, unlike their descendants of today who can, and do, move about so freely. What would they think of our fast-paced world?

Descendants

One of Henry and Mary Anne's sons, Henry, married Emma Jane SMITH (daughter of Margaret HARTLEY and Robert SMITH) in April 1869 in Richmond and they settled in Coonamble for some time before moving to Wellington. My grandfather, George Albert GIBBS was born in Coonamble on Christmas Day 1874 and he married a local lass Grace Christina VASS in 1903. My father, Cecil John GIBBS was born in 1904 and he married a Sydney girl, Eileen Canice COSGROVE in 1937.

Compiled by Maureen GIBBS

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[1] [*Reminiscences of Richmond* - S Boughton]



NAMING CULTURAL FACILITIES

"With work on the new Library, Gallery and commercial complex in Windsor well underway, and construction to start soon on the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Council recently resolved to seek submissions on names for facilities and rooms within the Cultural Precinct," said Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett. Members of the community are invited to suggest names by the end of 2004 for the following facilities and rooms:

Former Hospital Building.
Library/Gallery/commercial complex
Library - Study Room 1
Library - Study Room 2
Library - Tutorial Room
Community Studio
Seminar Room
Meeting Room
Hawkesbury Regional Museum - Main Pavilion

The closing date for nominations is **Friday 31 December 2004**

"Nominations will be considered by a Committee comprising the Cultural Infrastructure Works Project Team and two additional Councillors. A suggested shortlist of names will be referred to Council for decision early in the New Year," said the Mayor.

Nomination forms are available Council or phone **4560 4422**, email sporter@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or to download the nomination form go to www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/news/pages/12295.html

WHEN WE WERE BOYS TOGETHER

by J.C.L. Fitzpatrick
Article by Cathy McHardy

John Charles Lucas Fitzpatrick was an author and newspaper proprietor who commenced publication of the Windsor & Richmond Gazette in 1888. His work *When we were boys together* which was reprinted from the columns of the Gazette in 1909 gives the reader a fascinating insight into the people and times of Windsor in the late 19th century.

There are numerous references to natural disasters such as 'The Great Fire of Windsor' which he described as a 'Demon of Destruction'. Many Windsor residents are mentioned in the text and there was a noticeable trend for people to be called by aliases and nicknames. Intriguing titles such as: 'Archie the Oysterman'; 'Pegleg Hobbs'; 'Billy the Bell O'Rourke'; 'Ned the Nailer' and 'Red Flag Rogers' bring life to the narrative.

Windsor was fortunate to have a Waxworks Exhibition which was operated by a Mrs Jarley. Fitzpatrick writes that the local boys suffered a serious 'shock to the system' when they were left alone for ten minutes in the 'Chamber of Horrors'. A wide cross section of society was represented in the exhibition, from philanthropists and benefactors to villainous looking murderers and bushrangers 'with ragged beards and gore-stained weapons'.

The text also includes details of the other entertainments and amusements enjoyed by the citizens of Windsor. Variety artists were frequent visitors to the area. Haselmayer brought along his famous trained birds, Professor Barker had a conjuring act and a tightrope walker advertised his forthcoming performance by walking a rope stretched across South Creek near the Fitzroy Bridge. Regattas and sports gatherings, dances and visits by theatrical companies such as 'Stray Leaves Company' also served to occupy the residents of the 'Oxberry'.

Government institutions such as the Post and Telegraph Office, Windsor Gaol and Police Barracks and Windsor Public School were all deemed to be worthy of mention by the author. Many private schools operated in the district last century and Fitzpatrick includes details of several institutions. Mr Thornton operated such a school in Bridge Street, Windsor. Although he was a very capable scholar, Thornton 'was much given to the consumption of stimulants' and eventually left the district. Information is included on the commercial and industrial sectors of the district such as Hoskisson's Mill, the brickfields, tanneries, taxidermist shops, lolly and fruit shops and furniture stores.

Fitzpatrick had written these few words ***'for the benefit of those who display an interest in old-time reminiscences'***. His work still fires our imagination so many years later.

When we were boys together by Fitzpatrick has been reprinted with additional material and an index compiled by Cathy McHardy and will be available in December. Contact Cathy by email on cathy@nisch.org or write to PO Box 258, Kurrajong NSW 2758 to order a copy.



St Gregory's Catholic Church, Kurrajong

By Cathy McHardy

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH OLD BELL'S LINE OF ROAD, KURRAJONG, NSW

*This article was compiled by Cathy McHardy
from research by Rita Crane, November 2004.*

St Gregory's Catholic Church, Kurrajong will be celebrating the centenary of the present building in December this year, but the history of a Catholic Church on that site goes back to a much earlier period. Researcher Rita Crane has been investigating the fascinating story behind the history of this Kurrajong landmark which is affectionately known as St Greg's to the local Catholic community.

The Land

The land occupied by St Gregory's Catholic Church and Cemetery, Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong was part of land first granted to John Howe on 8 October 1810¹. The grant comprised 360 acres and was known as Howe's Farm. Howe arrived from Lincolnshire, England as a free settler on the *Coromandel* in 1802 and by 1815 had established himself in the Green Hills as Chief Constable, farmer and entrepreneur².

By 1828 when the land was sold to Richard Fitzgerald, Howe's property at Kurrajong encompassed Howe's Farm as well as Gandry's farm of 200 acres and Dargen's Farm of 120 acres. In the Memorial dated 23 May 1832, title was transferred to Fitzgerald for the sum of £255³. Fitzgerald quickly rose above his convict origins having arrived in the colony on the *William and Ann* in 1791 and was well respected by men of influence including Governor Lachlan Macquarie⁴. Richard Fitzgerald died on 25 May 1840 aged 68 years and left his extensive land holdings to his only surviving son Robert. No mention of the Catholic Church at Kurrajong was made in Fitzgerald's will signed in 1839.

No title deeds seem to have been issued to the Catholic Church in respect of the land on which the church was erected until the 20th century. The Parish of Kurrajong, County of Cook map dated 1914 included the notation 'RC' on the land occupied by the church⁵. This land was included in portions earmarked by the New South Wales Government for Soldier Settlement purposes after World War I. The next edition of the Parish Map (1923)⁶ noted that the portion of land adjoining the church (named as Portion 288) was part of the 'area applied for by the R C Church' and therefore could not be included in the Soldier Settlement scheme.

The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Sydney were granted title to the land occupied by the church building (named Portion 301 in Torrens Title Register Volume 6561 Folio 24) when a 'Grant of Land Upon Special Purchase' was made on 1 September 1952. The two acre block was transferred to the church for the sum of one pound sterling⁷.

The adjoining portion (named 288 in Torrens Title Register Volume 4409 Folio 51) consisting of 4 acres and 25 perches was 'deemed unsuitable' for Soldier Settlement Purchase and was sold by tender under the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act (1909) to the Most Reverend Michael Kelly, Archbishop of Sydney and four others for the sum of sixty-six pounds ten shillings on 28 March 1930. Title was then transferred to the Trustees of the Archdiocese of Sydney in December 1942 and to the Trustees for the Diocese of Parramatta in 1989⁸.

The First Church

The New South Wales Calendar and General Post Office Directory (1832) described the Kurrajong as 'mostly brush land' made up of 'some hundreds of small grants' which were under extensive cultivation, with a 'numerous' population. The directory noted that no church or school had yet been established there ⁹. The local community recognised the lack of religious and secular education in the district and sought to remedy the situation as soon as possible.

A public meeting was held in Kurrajong at the home of Mr James Walsh on 15 September 1839 to discuss the building of a Catholic Church and schoolhouse in the township. Prior to the building of St Gregory's, Catholic services had been conducted in Kurrajong by the voluntary efforts of Rev J Brady of Windsor and were held in the open air 'beneath the wide canopy of Heaven'. Richard Fitzgerald of Windsor was thanked by the meeting for 'his benevolent gift of one acre of land' and a committee was formed comprising nine men from the local community including James Duffy, James Maguire and James Walsh. James Duffy was elected Chairman, James Maguire as Secretary and Mr Thomas J Hyland was appointed Treasurer. Hyland was directed by the meeting to receive subscriptions from the local community and 'whatever aid Government will allow' ¹⁰.

The *Australasian Chronicle* ¹¹ of December 1839 reported that the laying by the Bishop of the first stone of the new church at Kurrajong had taken place on the previous Sunday. Following this ceremony work commenced on the building of a timber structure by the Kurrajong community to serve the purpose of both church and school. Consecration of the new church was performed by Bishop Bede Polding on Thursday 22 October 1840 the day after the opening of St Matthew's Catholic Church in Windsor. The *Chronicle* ¹² of October 1840 reported that the church had been constructed on 'a most desirable site, and is very conspicuous over a large district of country', much of the land in the vicinity of Kurrajong having been cleared for farming purposes prior to this time. Three to four hundred 'well-dressed persons' awaited the arrival of the official party which also included the Rev J Platt, Deacon J Grant and Rev John Lynch. Afternoon tea was taken at three o'clock and the assembled throng were entertained by a band playing 'several animated military pieces'. In the evening of the same day, the blessing of the burial ground took place and the Bishop then returned to Windsor.

Kurrajong was part of the Parish of Windsor at this time ¹³ (the Parish of Richmond dating from 1859) and the *Australian Catholic Directory 1841* ¹⁴ noted that Mass was celebrated every second Sunday of the month with Catechism being conducted at 4.00pm on the same day. It also reported that the church was 'built of iron bark, and is capable of accommodating 400 persons' which may perhaps have been an exaggeration.

The church was named in honour of St Gregory who was born in the year 540, the son of a wealthy Roman Senator. Gregory sold his properties, built Benedictine monasteries in Sicily and in Rome and embarked on a life of poverty and charitable works. He later became Pope and was called 'great' because of the many books he authored on the subject of Catholic liturgy. He is also honoured as a Doctor of the Church because of his learning and good governance during his time as Pope. He died in 604 ¹⁵.

In 1854 the Parish Priest of Windsor, Rev P Hallinan wrote to the Very Rev I McEnroe at St Mary's, Sydney requesting information on the whereabouts of the title deeds for the portion of land occupied by St Gregory's at Kurrajong. As noted previously, title deeds for the blocks were not issued until the 20th century). Rev Hallinan wished to fence the church boundary and was unsure of the extent and area of the property ¹⁶. The fence was duly erected (despite the lack of deeds) and the *Freemans Journal* ¹⁷ reported that the sum of £21-10-0 had been paid to the contractor plus £3-1-0 for a gate. A sum of £6-0-0 was also expended on forms for use by the congregation. Of the total expenditure over £25 was paid for by public subscription with the balance being contributed by the Parish Priest.

Funds for the support and maintenance of the church were also raised by holding tea meetings and dances in the church building. *The Australian: Windsor and Richmond Advertiser* ¹⁸ reported that the grand tea meeting and dance held on Wednesday 4 April 1883 was a great success. The newspaper commented that 'even the shop girls of our town' attended the dance and that some 'Kurrajongers' did not like the look of things. The correspondent made the sarcastic comment that some elements in the community 'were of the idea that it was always to be used as a dancing saloon'.

The first mention of a cottage associated with the church at Kurrajong appeared in a letter sent by Fr Sheehy (Parish Priest of Windsor) to the Archbishop of Sydney dated 23 July 1880. This letter was written subsequent to the closing of the school and stated that the teacher, Mr Plunkett was still living in the house at the time. The letter also raised the question of the missing deeds for the site and suggested that one of the descendants of Richard Fitzgerald may be able to 'give a title' to the Catholic Church. It was stated that 'many of the people who collected money to build the house' were still living in Kurrajong but unfortunately provides no other information such as date of construction ¹⁹.

The cottage is also mentioned in a report by the Parish Priest of the Parish of Richmond, Rev D I O'Riordan to the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Moran dated 20 June 1887 ²⁰. The report stated that the cottage was occupied by Mr Butcher who 'at present pays £8 per year in rent' and that 'a teacher formerly lived there'. The late Mrs Jean McMahon remembered that the house was a timber cottage and was occupied by the Hawkins family for many years. It used to stand on the site of the present car park ²¹.

The last mention of the house to be located in Diocesan records may be found in the Episcopal Visitation Reports. The Balance Sheet for the year ending 1947 lists rent received for the building to be £5 ²².

The New Church

By the late 1800s the timber church building was in poor repair and in need of replacement. The *Catholic Press* of 25 November 1899 reported that over £20 had been cleared at a sports meeting held at North Richmond and a further sum of £17-10-0 was 'netted over the moonlight concert held at Comleroy Road' ²³. The newspaper added that 'It is the intention of Rev Father O'Brien to have a new church erected at Kurrajong'. In July 1901, Fr O'Brien sought permission from the Archbishop to hold a bazaar to clear the current church debt of £75 and to boost the building fund for the new church which stood at £225 ²⁴.

By December 1902 sufficient funds had been raised to enable the building of the new church to commence. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* ²⁵ announced that the foundation stone had been laid by Archbishop Michael Kelly the previous Saturday. The *Gazette* described a colourful scene with a 'cavalcade' of buggies, sulkies, horsemen and cyclists accompanying the official party to Kurrajong. Outside the old church 'the flags were gaily flying; a large arch of greenery stood over the gate, spanned by the greeting "Welcome to all", worked in green leaves'. The festivities were organised by the committee: Messrs M McMahon (Honorary Treasurer), T McMahon, R Hennessy and H Edmunds. Prayers were said in the old church then the stone was blessed, being lifted into position by Messrs H J Wholohan and W R McMahon. Mr A Quinn spread the cement. An exhaustive search of the site has failed to locate any sign of this foundation stone. It could be assumed that either the stone was for ceremonial purposes only and did not form part of the structure of the new building or the stone was not inscribed in any way to distinguish it from other stonework used in the construction process.

There had been some discussion as to the siting of the new building. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* noted that there was 'a probability of a better site being procured' for the new church on a piece of adjoining land ²⁶. Another option was to purchase a piece of land from Dr Lamrock of Kogarah. Dr Lamrock would not sell less than of five acres at £40 per acre and as the church committee was only prepared to purchase one acre from Dr Lamrock, the sale did not eventuate ²⁷. A position in close proximity to the old church was finally chosen and Fr O'Brien (Parish Priest of Richmond) remarked in his welcoming address at the opening ceremony that the new building had been constructed on the site recommended by Archbishop Kelly two years previously ²⁸.

The building contractor was Mr Chambers and the bricks were being made at John Riley's kiln in the East Kurrajong area. According to the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* ²⁹, the erection of the new church commenced in January 1904, with the demolition of the old structure to take place within the next month. However, the

old building was still in existence at the opening of the new church and the old building material was sold off at an auction sale conducted by Mr H Scuthorpe at the end of January 1905 ³⁰.

Several social functions were held in the new building before it was consecrated with the aim of augmenting the building fund for the new church. 'A grand social' was held on 27 July 1904 which was attended by about 140 persons of all denominations. Refreshments were served in the old church and the music was played by Miss Norris of Windsor. Dancing commenced at 7.30pm and tickets were 3/- for a single and 5/- per double ³¹. Other fund raising efforts included a concert held on the 24 September ³² and a bazaar which ran for a week from 11 November 1904, netting a profit of £50 for the fund ³³.

Almost two years later the completed church building was opened and blessed by the Archbishop of Sydney, Rev Michael Kelly on 11 December 1904. Cardinal Moran was prevented from presiding over the ceremony himself due to illness. Archbishop Kelly arrived in Richmond the previous day and on the following afternoon 'a great procession' proceeded up the hill to Kurrajong. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* ³⁴ reported that the new church had been built in front of the old building and was capable of seating a couple of hundred people. Mr H R S Dyer was named in the article as photographer for the occasion but these images have not been located by researchers.

The church was described as a 'substantial structure of brick with an iron roof' and 'over the high altar is a beautiful triple coloured window'. The total cost of the building was £705/18/6. Of this amount only £134/13/- was owed 'by the good people of Kurrajong' on their 'fine new church'. The church was paid for by subscriptions from the Kurrajong community and had been 'helped in a most handsome way by generous-hearted, kind and cordial neighbours'.

Over the years many functions have been held to raise funds for the renovation and maintenance of the church and grounds. The building has been re-roofed on several occasions and repairs and painting of the exterior of the structure have also been necessary. In 1996 the statues were restored and in 1997 it was decided to renovate the interior of the church. New altar furniture was designed and made by local craftsman and parishioner Peter Humphrey from Australian native timbers with the assistance of Ron Crane of Kurrajong. A new stained glass window was designed by Steve Mullen in memory of deceased relatives and friends and new carpet was laid. The pews were also painstakingly stripped and revarnished ³⁵.

Many items have been donated to the church in memory of deceased clergy, parishioners, relatives and friends. Some of these items include: Stations of the Cross which were given in 1908 by the McMahon family in memory of Michael McMahon; the Baptismal Font which was donated in 1913 in memory of Miss Elizabeth Hyland, daughter of the first teacher at the school Thomas J Hyland and the statue of the Sacred Heart which was donated in 1915 in memory of the Parish Priest of Richmond, Fr O'Brien.

The School

The government school system in New South Wales dates from the establishment of the National System of Education by Governor Fitzroy in 1848 ³⁶. Prior to this time education of the population was undertaken by denominational schools supported by local communities with the assistance of government subsidies.

The Catholic school at Kurrajong operated from 1840 until the opening of Comleroy Road Public School in 1880. The school was attended by all denominations from the Kurrajong district and was conducted in the church building. At the time of establishment government subsidies for the establishment of denominational schools were on a pound for pound basis however many communities found such schools difficult to maintain and struggled to provide the necessary teaching materials and wages for staff.

In addition to being nominated Treasurer by the committee appointed to oversee the construction and establishment of the Catholic Church, Thomas Hyland was also selected as the first teacher at the school. Records show that Hyland conducted the school from its inception until 1845 when John Stapleton was appointed teacher. Hyland's salary for the first year is not recorded but the Government contributed £40/2/- to expenses that year. This subsidy increased to £52/5/6 the following year but fell to only £10 by 1842. Thirty-two children of whom thirteen were female were enrolled in the opening year. By 1846 John Stapleton was conducting a large class of some sixty-six pupils of whom thirty-five were female. Thomas Lovatt is listed as the teacher at Kurrajong from 1850 until 1852. In 1850 his salary amounted to £30 per annum with the government contributing £35/3/4 to the expenses of the school ³⁷.

In 1841 the *Australasian Chronicle* reported that an inspection had been made of Mr Hyland's school at Kurrajong. The newspaper described the school in glowing terms praising 'the rapid progress of the pupils in spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, English, grammar, history and geography' ³⁸.

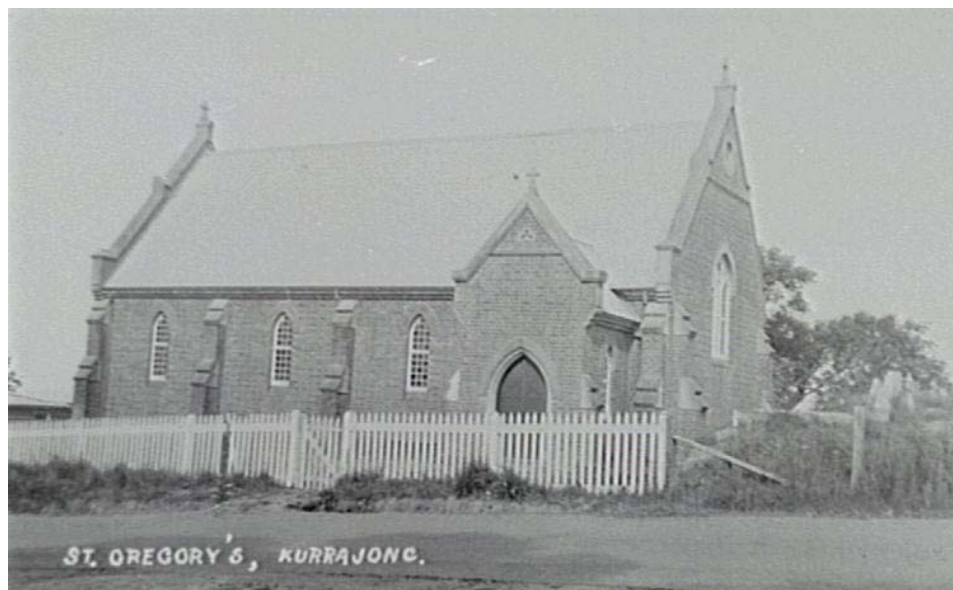
Inspector's Reports ³⁹ dating from the period 1860 to 1880 when George Plunkett was teacher exemplify the difficulties experienced by teachers of the period including severe shortages of teaching materials and equipment. The report dated 24 May 1861 stated that the school 'is very badly organised' and 'the teacher is incompetent'. The report also remarked upon the lack of maps at the school.

By 1863 the school had sufficient books for the number of pupils but was 'sadly in need of furniture and apparatus' ⁴⁰. Conditions at the school had improved by 1866 and the inspector remarked that the school now had sufficient furniture and apparatus and 'a good supply of books' and 'two maps'. The teacher's wife occasionally taught needlework to the female pupils but parents were unco-operative when asked to send needlework from home. The premises were reported to be in a 'good state of repair; clean and well ventilated' and that the playground was enclosed. On the whole the standard of the school was reported to be 'only moderate' ⁴¹.

In 1873, the *Australasian Catholic Directory* estimated the Catholic population of the Kurrajong to be about 950 persons. The *Directory* also noted that of a total attendance of twenty-seven pupils twenty children were Catholics and that the school was supported by subscriptions and school fees ⁴².

The denominational school at Kurrajong closed in June 1880 due to the opening of a public school at Comleroy Road in July of the same year. The residents of Comleroy Road had successfully petitioned the government for the provision of a school in closer proximity to their residences which were reported to be about five or six miles from the Catholic school. The Inspector, Mr Johnson considered that the district would not be disadvantaged by the closure of the Catholic School despite the fact that the children from Kurrajong would now be required to walk the five or six miles from their homes to the new school on Comleroy Road.

Upon closure of the Catholic school the furniture and materials were transferred to the Wesleyan Church on Comleroy Road which housed the public school until buildings were completed at the new site in 1885 ⁴³.



St. Gregory's Church, Kurrajong
Image : Hawkesbury City Council Library Service (014509)

St Gregory's Cemetery

The blessing of the Burial Ground adjacent to St Gregory's took place in the evening of the 22 October 1840 following the consecration of the church by Bishop Bede Polding. Records of burials at St Gregory's may be found in the burial registers of St Matthew's Catholic Church, Windsor up until the creation of the Parish of Richmond in 1859. Kurrajong burials were subsequently recorded in the registers of St Monica's Catholic Church, Richmond. The Windsor burial registers for the period 1873 to 1915 have not been located but microfilm copies of surviving registers for both Windsor and Richmond Catholic churches may be viewed on microfilm at Hawkesbury City Council Library, Windsor.

The earliest marked grave is that of Phillip Butcher who died on the 21 January 1845 aged 14 years. A search of the registers of St Matthew's Catholic Church, Windsor revealed several entries which gave the abode of the deceased as Kurrajong⁴⁴. The exact place of burial is not recorded however the earliest entry is for the death of Sophie Madden of Kurrajong aged 17 on 20 January 1837.

There are many unmarked graves at St Gregory's. A survey of unmarked burials for the period 1915 to 1969 revealed that sixty burials have no marker of any kind. In 1869 a Cemetery Trust was formed consisting of Des Upton, Vince McMahon, Rowley McMahon and his wife Jean McMahon. The Trust was established by order of the Parish Priest (of Richmond) Fr N J Murphy with the consent of His Eminence N T Cardinal Gilroy, August 1969. Burials were restricted to parishioners of St Gregory's and were at the discretion of the Trustees. The grounds were cleared of undergrowth and the broken headstones were removed from their original locations and set in neat rows adjacent to entrance to the church. Due to the difficulty of locating unused plots, it was decided to close the old section of the cemetery and to establish a new lawn cemetery by terracing the land to the rear of the church building. The old section includes graves from the front alignment with Old Bell's Line of Road down to the columbarium wall.

The lawn section of the cemetery is laid out according to modern designs with name plates being set into the ground to provide ease of maintenance. A retaining wall was completed in July 2001 providing an additional eighty-four plots. The Cemetery Committee continues to care for the maintenance of the cemetery and the sale of burial plots at St Gregory's.

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A book on the history of the church which includes research by Rita Crane has been published by the Parish of Richmond and is available for \$20.00 per copy (postage extra) from the :

**Parish of Richmond Office
1a Bourke Street
Richmond NSW 2753**

or by phoning Rita Crane (02) 4573 1354.

WRIGHT – GOTT REUNION

On Sunday 28th November 2004, a reunion was held for the descendants of convicts Joseph Wright (*Scarborough* 1788) and Ellen Gott (*Neptune* 1790) at Maraylya Community Hall.

Joseph Wright was born c1765, probably in London. He was indicted at the Old Bailey on Wednesday 26th May for *feloniously stealing on the 6th May, two hundred and eighteen pounds weight of lead, value 40s belonging to William Rothwell, fixed to a certain building there situate, against the statute*. He was found guilty and sentenced to be transported to Africa for 7 years. On the 6th September, Joseph, aged 19 years, was received on the hulk “Censor”, moored at Woolwich. He sailed with the First Fleet on 13th May 1787 on board the *Scarborough*.

Ellen Gott was born on 26th October 1765, daughter of John, in Liverpool, Lancashire, England and baptised in St Peter’s Liverpool on 17th November the same year. In March 1788, Ellen Gott was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment in the Preston House of Correction for the theft of a gown and cloak. On 3 August 1789, she was sentenced at Liverpool Quarter Sessions to 3 years transportation after pleading guilty on a charge of stealing sundry articles the property of Charles Norris. She arrived on the *Neptune* on 28th June 1790.

On the 13th December 1790, slightly less than six months after Ellen’s arrival in the Colony, she married Joseph Wright at St Philip’s Sydney, in the presence of Edward Field and Martha Proud.

Their marriage produced seven children: Joseph (b.1792), Robert (b.1794), Mary (b.1797), John (b.1800), Sarah (b.1802), Samuel (b.1805) and Thomas (b.1809). These children married into the Griggs, Holland, Allen, Maher, Huggins, Hobbs, Carr and Harcourt families.

Joseph Wright died in August 1811. Ellen Wright, nee Gott, married convict Daniel Buckridge (*Pitt* 1792) on 31st March 1812 at St Matthew’s Church of England, Windsor. Daniel died on 18th June 1834, aged 66, at Pitt Town. Ellen Buckridge, formerly Wright, nee Gott, died on 26th April 1843 at Pitt Town.

In their lifetimes Joseph and Ellen saw the population of New South Wales grow from about 1,030 people who landed with the First Fleet to about 169,135. By then other colonies in Australia were also established. They saw floods and droughts and other hardships – but their family survived and still thrives today.

The 2004 reunion was attended by about 55 people who braved the very warm conditions. It was an informal day, with tables set up and labelled with the names of the 7 children of Joseph and Ellen. This was done in an effort to make it easier for those who did not know others on their line of descent to make contact. Certificates were given for the longest distance travelled to attend – this went to a lady who travelled from Auckland and was a descendant of Mary; the oldest descendant present – to an 85 year old “86 next year”, also descended from Mary; and one to the youngest descendant attending – this went to a descendant of John and was less than a year old.



It is hoped to have another gathering in 2007 and contact from any connections of this large pioneering family would be very welcome. Please contact Robynne Winley, 36 Millers Road Cattai NSW 2756 or email wfamil2004@yahoo.com

THE RIVERSTONE MEATWORKS

The Riverstone Meatworks



Rosemary Phillis

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News ... Events, books for sale, websites, Reunions

CROSS - FLOOD Reunion 26 June 2005 at Ebenezer church & Cemetery

The next Cross-Flood reunion date has been set. It will take place on Sunday 26th June 2005. The date has always been the last Sunday of June - to coincide with the arrival of Charles CROSS and Rose FLOOD on the NEPTUNE 1790". The next reunion was planned for 2005 - five years after the last one. However, the venue has been changed to the Ebenezer Church.

This date is close to the 200th birthday. Well, the anniversary of her reported birthday, anyway. Now, I think it is a great idea, because according to the baptism certificate in 1827 of Elizabeth CROSS (youngest daughter of Charles and Rose), she was born 11 July 1805. And Elizabeth and her husband Richard HAYES are buried at Ebenezer, as are many descendants of Charles and Rose. On the way to Ebenezer, stop at Wilberforce to inspect the graves of Charles and Rose and other descendants. For further details, please contact:

Mary Ann (DOUGLASS)	Lois	mrnewman@pacific.net.au
Susannah (ROSE)	Marjorie	fxmcd@acay.com.au
Edward CROSS	Geoff & Roz	geoffk@acay.com.au
Christopher CROSS	Hazel	malford@ozemail.com.au
Elizabeth (HAYES)	Lorrae	TAJ@uq.net.au

Would anyone with stories, photos, details of the descendants of Elizabeth and Richard HAYES please contact me, so we can organise a 'special' celebration for Elizabeth. I would also like to hear from all descendants just to confirm I have the latest details for your family.

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=helmrch>

GILL FAMILY OF UPPER COLO

A group has been established for the descendants of Laurence Gill, born Dublin abt 1797/1801 and Emily Amelia Thornton aka Emma Truman born England 1810. The couple were married in 1828 at Sackville Reach NSW and both were convicts. The family lived most of their lives in the Upper Colo District. If any descendants of Laurence & Emily are interested in joining the group the site is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/terrygill> or they can contact Terry Gill on email terrygill@dodo.com.au or 1/381 Bourbong Street, BUNDABERG QLD 4670

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- *Riverstone Meatworks* by Rosemary Phillis ~ see p. 25
- *Hawkesbury Pictorial history* by Michelle Nichols ~ see p. 27

"Good Wards of Windsor" by Olive Lawson

The Ward family made major contributions to the social, civic and business life of Windsor for almost a century. Their honesty, trustworthiness, integrity and care for less fortunate members of the community were acknowledged by everyone: they were good people. The patriarch of the family, Joseph, rose from humble beginnings. **Cost \$14.00. Published Deerubbin Press, 2004. PO Box 158, Berowra Heights 2082 NSW. Ph 02 9456-3169.**
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Notices & enquiries are always welcome for the Hawkesbury Crier. Contact the Local Studies Librarian, Michelle Nichols, c/- Hawkesbury City Council Library Service, Dight Street Windsor 2756 NSW
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