

The Hawkesbury Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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**Violet & Margaret Slingsby on washing day under grass tree
below "Fernleigh" Bilpin about 1910**

Courtesy Bilpin Collection, Hawkesbury City Library - 001381

September 2008

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 Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George 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 \$20 per annum posted or \$5x1 year / \$10x2 years, electronically. **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, 300 George Windsor 2756 NSW Tel (02) 4560-4466 / Fax (02) 4560-4472 or by email mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

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A VISIT TO THE HAWKESBURY IN THE 1830s

Contributed by Michelle Nichols

James Backhouse 1794-1869 was a naturalist and Quaker missionary. Born in Durham, England to a Quaker business family in Durham, England. He was employed at a Norwich nursery, working with some Australian plants and became interested in the penal colony, prison reform and transportation. With an increasing interest in social conscience Backhouse met up with George Washington Walker 1800-1859. George was a Quaker, businessman and humanitarian, was born on the 19th March 1800 in London. From his employees he learnt integrity and honesty of the Quakers and he joined the Society of Friends as a result. In 1828 he established the Temperance Society in Newcastle.

In 1831 the two men departed England as missionaries, to observe the colonies. The trip was financed by the London Yearly Meeting. The pair arrived in Hobart in 1832 where Lieutenant-Governor Arthur was keen to co-operate with the two men. They provided Arthur with reports of their findings and suggestions for improvements as they were given limitless access to the penal settlements. They visited New South Wales in 1835 and spent two years touring Norfolk Island, Moreton Bay, Port Macquarie penal settlements as well as the Aboriginal Station at Wellington. Backhouse and Walker gave Governor Bourke detailed reports of these which were also sent back to the various authorities in England. These reports contributed to improvements and development of penal reform. They promoted the development of charitable organisations including the Temperance Society and British and Foreign Bible Society. They also promoted temperance and Aboriginal protection committees.

Whilst travelling around, James Backhouse kept a diary. In 1834 they returned from Wellington and were making the journey from Penrith to the Hawkesbury. His diary records in a manner "*which 'preachifying', 'botany', and 'moral reflections' are mixed up with the itinerary in a purely Quaker fashion.* The following is a transcription of some of their reflections of the district.

21st October 1834

We walked by way of the little village of Castlereagh to Windsor, a town of about 1500 inhabitants, beautifully situated on the Hawkesbury, and of very English appearance, where we found pretty good accommodation at an inn.

22nd October 1834

We called upon some of the inhabitants, and made arrangements for holding some meetings, in which we were assisted by the Wesleyan Minister.

23rd October 1834

We went to Richmond, another little town on the Hawkesbury, 4 miles distant from Windsor. The country here is very fine and productive, with extensive grassy flats along the sides of the river. On these, people continue to build and reside, notwithstanding that there have been floods at intervals of a few years that have risen far above the tops of their houses.

A respectable Wesleyan at Richmond told us that he had heard of our visit to Wellington Valley several days ago from a Native, who had had the particulars detailed to him by a Black from the country. Our persons costume, and many other particulars, including our manner of communicating religious instruction, had been minutely described. And on our Wesleyan friend enquiring what the Black supposed all this meant he replied, "God Almighty come and sit down at Wellington," implying that the Most High would be worshipped there. The scattered natives of Australia communicate information rapidly, messengers being often sent from tribe to tribe for great distances. In the evening we returned to Windsor.

24th October 1834

Accompanied by a thoughtful military officer, we walked to the villages of Pitt Town and Wilberforce. At Pitt Town we were helped in obtaining a place to hold our meetings by the Episcopal Minister.

25th October 1834

We had meetings at Richmond to the forenoon, and at Windsor in the afternoon. There was a painful feeling in both meetings on behalf of such as profess to be awakened, but do not maintain an inward exercise of the soul ... who try to feed upon external excitement, instead of upon the 'True Bread' which cometh down from Heaven, etc

26th October 1834

Had a temperance meeting in Government School-room at Windsor, ninety members being present.

27th October 1834

Visited the jail, and addressed the prisoners. Afterward walked to Wilberforce, and had a meeting in the school house with a congregation consisting chiefly of Australians of European extension with whom I had an open time in preaching the Gospel, to which as regards its powers, the auditors seemed much of strangers, etc

28th October 1834

At 6 this morning had a religious interview with a party of 24 employed in replacing a wooden bridge over South Creek, close to Windsor. In the afternoon visited the hospital and had a meeting of about 40 patients assembled in one of the 4 wards. In the evening met 120 persons in the school-room at Pitt Town. The district of Pitt town contains about seven hundred inhabitants, many of whom have been prisoners and are notorious for their drunkenness, profligacy and neglect of public worship.

29th October 1834

We returned to Richmond and made call upon several persons for the purpose of furnishing them with tracts. In the afternoon we held a meeting at Currajong, a scattered settlement on the ascent of the mountains near the confluence of the Nepean and Grose Rivers, which uniting, form the Hawkesbury.

The land here has been cleared and numerous cottages erected, but the inhabitants, who are chiefly Anglo-Australians, seem very uncultivated. In the evening we returned again to Windsor. The country in this neighbourhood was settled at an early period of the colony. Some of the alluvial flats on the Hawkesbury, which is navigable to Windsor for small craft, are very rich, and the people are now busy planting maize or Indian corn. Crops of this useful grain are often obtained after wheat has failed from frost, drought, or hot winds.

30th October 1834

At 6 o'clock in the morning we mounted a 4 horse coach which stopped for breakfast at Parramatta and arrived at Sydney in 4 hours and a-half, the distance being 38 miles. Between Windsor and Parramatta there are a few large orange orchards, which are said to yield very profitable produce to their owners.¹

Quakers traditionally encouraged education and Backhouse & Walker were optimistic about the British and Foreign School Society distributing material and text books on their journey. "Many schools in the colonies followed its curriculum and it became the official system in the early public education of some colonies. They encouraged savings banks, benevolent societies, and ladies' committees for prison visiting on Elizabeth Fry's model. They inspected hospitals and recommended humane treatment for the insane and asylums."² They also travelled interstate visiting Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide and returned home via Mauritius and South Africa where they travelled almost 10,000 kms spreading the word and recording their observations. Throughout their journey of the colonies, Backhouse collected and recorded botanical specimens which were sent back to Kew Gardens. The genus of a myrtaceous shrub was named *Backhousia* in his honour.

Walker returned to Hobart in 1840 and married. He retained his concern for those less fortunate. In 1848 Lieutenant-Governor Denison noted that Walker was "the very personification of a mild, benevolent, and excellent Quaker. Even here, where sectarian and religious party feeling run higher than anywhere I have ever known, men of all denominations unite in speaking well of George Washington Walker"³ George passed away on the 2nd February 1859 in Tasmania.

Whilst Walker returned to the colonies, Backhouse returned to England in 1841. He kept up with his nursery business whilst travelling extensively around the British Isles collecting botanical specimens. He continued his interest and concern in the places he had visited and also published the stories of his travels. These contained important material relating to conditions of both the penal settlement and the Aborigines of the time. Backhouse passed away in York on the 20th January 1869. These two men had Evangelical concerns for humankind and resolved to bring about change by practical means.

Sources

- Mary Bartram Trott, 'Backhouse, James (1794-1869)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 1, Melbourne University Press 1966, pp 45-46
- Mary Bartram Trott, 'Walker, George Washington (1800-1859)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 2, Melbourne University Press 1967, pp 562-563.
- *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 10 November 1900

¹ *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 10 November 1900

² *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 1, pp 45-46

³ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 2, pp 562-3

Lost Threlkeld Manuscript Online

Contributed by Gionni Di Gravio

**Archivist, Auchmuty Library
University of Newcastle**

An original manuscript Journal belonging to the late Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld, missionary to the Aborigines in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas in the 1820s onward has been digitised and uploaded to the University of Newcastle's [Virtual Sourcebook for Aboriginal Studies in the Hunter Region](#).

Mrs Marjorie Raven, great grand daughter of the late Reverend Threlkeld gave her permission to publish this important Journal. The original Journal which covers the period from December 1828 to around February 1846 is now lost, and presumably formed part of a series of Journal diaries. It originally was in the possession of an owner in Cattai. Prior to his death, the manuscript was lent to Mrs Raven, who then lent it to the Mitchell Library who digitised the full manuscript including additional papers belonging to Mrs Raven. The Journal was then returned to the owner, and following his death, subsequently lost.

Every avenue of locating it pursued by Mrs Raven has come to no avail causing great concern for the fate of such an important historical document to Hunter Region and the Australian nation. Its importance to local indigenous & non indigenous researchers at the University and wider regional community is inestimable. It is vitally important and urgent that the original is tracked down, to ensure that it is preserved and stored in a proper archival temperature and humidity controlled environment. Therefore it would be greatly appreciated if anyone knowing the present whereabouts of the original could contact the University Archives on 02 49215819 or archives@newcastle.edu.au

The full digitised copy of this treasure can be downloaded at www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/aboriginalstudies/pdf/Threlkeld-Journal.pdf and is well worth a look.

LANCELOT EDWARD THREKELD (1788-1859)

Lancelot Edward Threkeld (1788-1859) was a missionary and a Congregational minister. He was born in 1788 in London and in 1816 left England with his family to pursue the life of a missionary in the South Seas eventually arriving in Sydney and then onto the Society Islands. His wife died in 1824 and he returned to Sydney.

Later that year Threlkeld married Sarah Arndell, the daughter of Dr Thomas Arndell (1753-1821) of Cattai. Arndell was a surgeon, magistrate and landholder, belonging to the well-known Hawkesbury family. Threkeld and his wife established a mission for the Aborigines at Lake Macquarie.

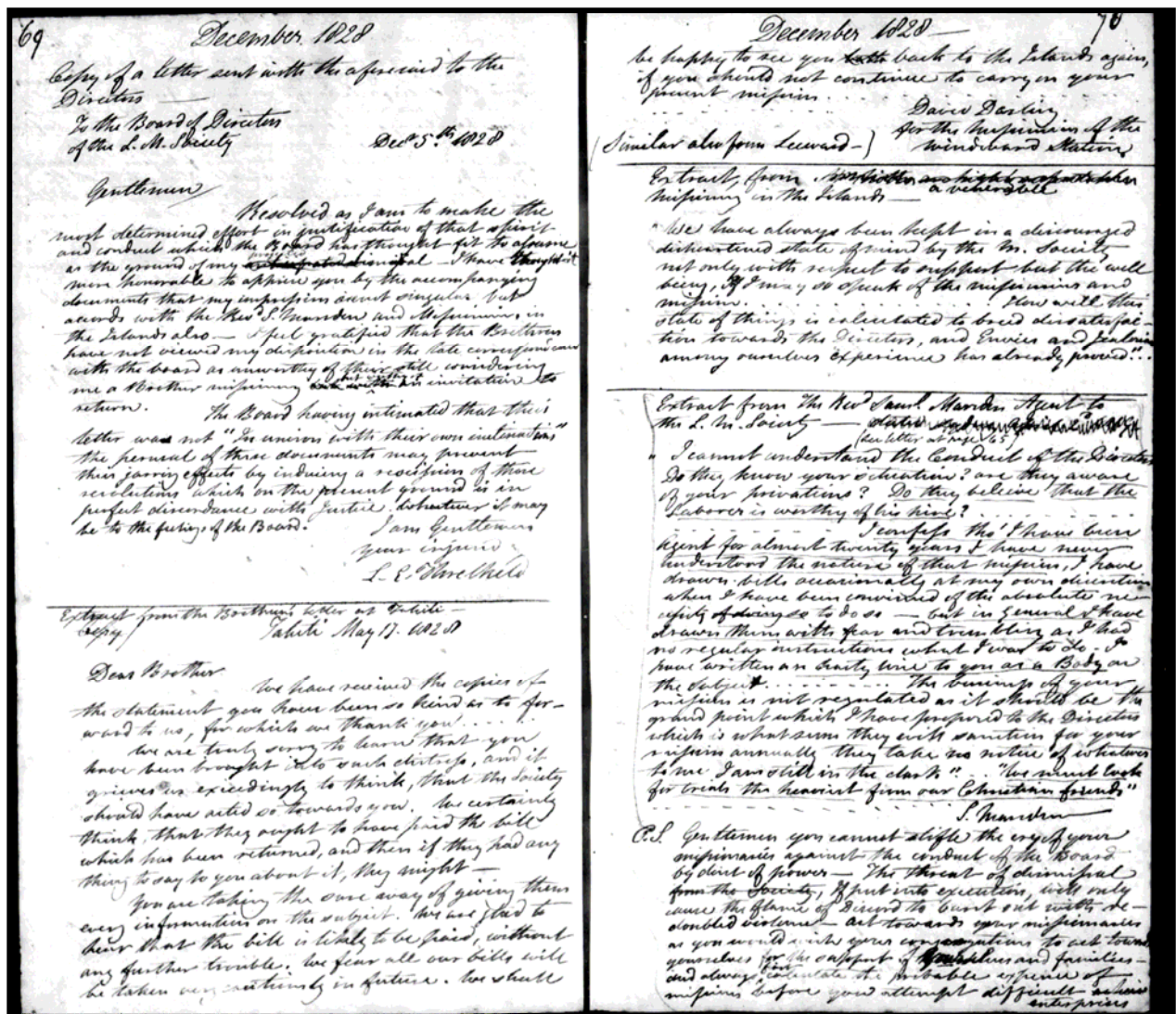
A dispute arose with Rev. Samuel Marsden over finances & the mission was abandoned. Threkeld eventually acquired a grant called "Ebenezer" near Toronto from Governor Darling in 1829.

He learnt the local dialect and published his studies of the Aboriginal language. More disputes arose with officials and the mission was eventually closed in 1841.

Sarah Threlkeld died in 1853 whilst Threlkeld died suddenly in 1859. He is remembered for his work on recording the aboriginal language.

Source :

Niel Gunson, 'Threlkeld, Lancelot Edward (1788 - 1859)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2, Melbourne Uni Press 1967, pp 528-530.



Above : An image from the manuscript
 See www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/aboriginalstudies/index.html

CLEANING MOTHER'S HOUSE

by Michael John Neill & *passed on by Bruce Fairhall*

It has been nearly a year since fictional genealogist Barbara passed away. Her daughter, Charlene reflects upon that year in a letter to her friend Karen. Charlene truly has been busy. Barbara is probably rolling over in her grave.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Karen, As usual, my cards are late. It has been a busy year. We spent much of the year settling up Mother's estate. The house sold well, but cleaning it took longer than we expected.

You are probably the only person who did not know Mother was a genealogy buff. She told practically every human she encountered. I'm convinced that genealogy 'nut' was the most accurate phrase. The stuff was all over the house. The inheritance would have been enough to pay for my new Mercedes had she not insisted on spending money on that blasted hobby. I don't know why she couldn't be more like Tom's mother, Nadine spends her day doing needlepoint and watching reruns of 50s television shows. Tom just does not realise how lucky he is, but men never do.

My mother had to run off to cemeteries and courthouses! She even went to a conference in Devonport, Tasmania, last year! Can you imagine? Devonport, Tasmania! After she got back, she was so excited about all that she had learned and all the fun she had. She was planning on going to another one in Victoria this year. Well, the grim reaper took care of that.

Because of my promotion to head of knick-knack sales at Garbageforless.com, I had not been home for several years. I was appalled to learn that Mother had converted my old bedroom into her family history "headquarters." My shelves of Teen Beat and other magazines documenting my adolescence had been replaced with old family photographs, copies of old documents, and something called family group sheets. She even got rid of the pants I wore to my first junior high dance. I cried at the thought.

I could not bear to go in the room and be reminded that my childhood had been stripped from me and replaced with an obsession with the past. I told the children that if they would clean the room and prepare the items for the garage (should I say 'garbage'?) sale they could have the proceeds. I learned what true entrepreneurs they are.

Kenny stripped Mother's hard drive in under ten minutes. I kept hearing him say "GedCom is GedGone....GedCom is GedGone...." I have no idea what it meant, but the computer fetched a good price. Before he unplugged the computer, he erased all Mom's floppy disks and downloaded public domain games. He sold these at a nominal price.

Susan took the old photographs to a flea market and was able to sell many of them. Some special labels had to be taken off and we had to take them out of protective envelopes. Mother had written the names on the back of many of them. At least none of those pictures of depressing old dead people had our last name written on them. I don't want to be associated with such sour people.

Mother had some type of old plat book -- whatever that is. Kenny tore out the pages individually and sold them separately on eBay. It was so clever. His dad said he got much more than if he had left the book in one piece.

Susan didn't tear the bibles apart though. I thought that showed a tremendously good sense. She's learning that not everything can be marketed in the same way. The 1790 bible brought her a good penny, but she couldn't get the one from 1900 to bring more than fifty cents. She donated it to a local church, and here is where I am so proud of her. We can

write it off as a charitable deduction. Someone had written what they had paid for the bible on the back cover. Susan converted that to 2001 dollars and will use that for our tax deduction amount. I've already enrolled Susan in tax lawyer summer camp this coming August.

There was some old large certificate written on heavy paper. The silly thing wasn't even in English, so why would Mother keep it? Kenny used the other side to keep track of the things he had sold. Waste not, want not.

When we were finished we put the paper in the recycling bin. The kids put an old wedding dress from the 1870s in the washer to get the stains out. It was terribly filthy. The worthless thing didn't even survive the extra long cycle and the half-gallon of bleach. It's doubtful we can even use it for cleaning rags.

The dress was in some kind of old trunk. I'm not certain what it was for, but it had a name stencilled on the front in huge letters along with the name of a town. Susan gave it a good coating of red paint and sold it as a toy box.

The filing cabinets were emptied of their contents, as were the three shelves of binders. Kenny got the bright idea to shred the paper and sell it in bags as New Year's confetti. The file folders were too heavy to shred.

The baby did not react well to any of this. She cried and fussed almost the entire time. Kenny thought she wanted tea, which made no sense to me at all. As she cried, it sounded like she was saying "family tee." She can't even talk yet and I think Kenny was hearing things. The baby does not look exactly like my mother though, it's the oddest thing. The fussing didn't stop until she spit up an entire bottle of strained prunes on my junior high jeans, which we did find in the basement. They were ruined --- it was the one real loss.

Now my past has really been taken from me --- magazines and all.

Whether you have a child like this one or not, have you thought about what might happen to your genealogy collection upon your demise? It is important to make arrangements of how to dispose of your effects following your death, whether it is making a bequest in your will or adding a codicil. The following codicil is from <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kymadiso/research/tools/codicil.htm> (and also on various other locations on the internet) Also check out the one created for the Hawkesbury Family History Group and available to print out on www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au under forms.

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Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known]

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organisations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. [List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local groups, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state/national contact information and addresses]

Please remember that my genealogical endeavours consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavours be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature _____ Date _____
Witness _____ Date _____
Witness _____ Date _____

ROBERT DALGLISH WALKER 1844-1881

Robert Dalglish Walker was the son of George and Elizabeth Walker of Windsor making their home in Windsor. George & Elizabeth Walker had migrated from Scotland in 1837. George taught at the Presbyterian School in Windsor for a period of 21 years.

Robert was born on the 22nd June 1844. He was also the brother of the well-known solicitor and Member of Parliament, William Walker 1828-1908, Matthew Adam Walker and John S. Alexander Walker. Robert died at a relatively young age (36 years) as a result of consumption on the 1st January 1881.

John S. Alexander Walker died 9th May 1875 near Mudgee whilst Matthew died a few years after Robert on the 20th February 1883 in Windsor. Matthew was aged 42 years. Matthew & Robert are buried in the Presbyterian cemetery at Windsor along with other members of the Walker family. The monument is pictured right [photo J. Auld 2005]



The following obituary appeared in the local press following the death of Robert Walker.

THE LATE ROBERT DALGLISH WALKER

Our readers will have heard with unfeigned sorrow of the death of our townsman, Robert Dalglish Walker, which sad event took place on the 1st instant, at New-street, where he resided with his aged father, and under whose paternal roof he had lived all his lifetime. That was an unhappy New Year's Day to his bereaved relatives, and we believe we speak the language of truth when we say that many a tearful eye gave expression to its feelings when the news of his death was spread amongst his numerous friends and acquaintances, and embittered a day with them which is usually associated with joy. Mr. Walker was a native of Windsor. He was born at the Peninsula Cottage 22nd June, 1844. He was consequently in his 37th year. He received the elements of his education from his father, and had the finishing strokes in classics from the Rev. G. K. Garnsey, under whom he qualified himself for articles with his brother, Mr. William Walker.

He was possessed of good ability, and having completed his term might have been admitted to the honourable profession of the law ; but there was always an inertia about him and an indifference to worldly honors which kept him back. Un like the great Caesar he was not ambitious—but rather like "modest merit sought the shade" Had he been more persevering he might have taken a high social and public position in the community. As it was he made himself useful in many ways. He was an invaluable assistant to his brother ; he acted Secretary of the Windsor School of Arts for a number of years; also as Secretary to the Windsor Flood Brigade, and he was correspondent for Windsor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* for a long time previous to his death. He knew the art of composition well, and when he spoke in public, which was, rarely, he was not devoid of considerable eloquence. How sad then to think that this comparatively young and useful life should have been cut off so soon. His social and generous qualities made him many friends—in fact we do not think he had a real enemy in the world and the deepest sympathy was felt for him during his long illness by all classes of the community. But pulmonary consumption had seized his weak frame, and although he had the able attendance of Dr. Fiaschi, and all the Kindness possible of his friends, after 11 weeks confinement to bed he succumbed to fate and passed away to his rest. We can only hope that his spirit has gone to a happier and better sphere of existence, where sickness and trouble shall be felt no more. Although the notice was short his funeral on Sunday evening to the Presbyterian Cemetery was must numerous and respectably attended, all the leading residents of the town being present to pay the last tribute of respect to their departed young friend and it was a most singular coincidence that immediately following his was another funeral, of a Mr. William Armour, who was about the same age and who went to school with him at his father's. They had been happy in their lives, and in death they were not divided.

The Australian 8 January 1881

MURDER AT THE HAWKESBURY

THE TRIAL OF CHARLES BUTLER

By Bill Reidy

It is Sunday the 30th of July 1826 and Charles Butler stands gazing at the sky above this Great Southern Land through the bars of his cell in the Supreme Court. He had arrived in the Colony some nine years earlier aboard the "Morley" after having been sentenced to death at the Old Bailey on the 29th of May 1816 for the crimes of "Theft & Burglary at the dwelling house of Henry Whiting, Bellevue Terrace, Bell's Pond, London."⁴ The sentence was commuted to Transportation for Life.

He realises that he will never see the stars again as he is to be executed on the morrow for the murder of Catherine Collins, also known as Kitty Carman at the Hawkesbury on or about 13th May 1826. Charles had been tried on Friday 28th July and was to die on the following Monday. That meant just two days between sentence and execution. No defence lawyer as he stated in his plea to the Court at the conclusion of his trial. "As my present circumstances do not admit of my employing a lawyer"⁵ and no chance of an appeal.

One of my wife Hazel's, ancestors Elizabeth (known as Betsy) Everingham was married to Charles. Betsy was the daughter of Matthew James Everingham ("Scarborough" from the First Fleet) & Elizabeth Rymes ("Neptune" from the Second Fleet). Matthew James and Elizabeth were married on 13th March 1791 and Betsy was born on 10th June 1805.⁶

Betsy and Charles were married at St. Matthew's, Windsor on 24th August 1822 after having applied for permission to marry on 30th of April and 6th May of that year.⁷ Betsy later married John Harman on 4th May 1827, Joseph Ladd on 29th August 1837 and George Bowd on 24th July 1856. She died on 18th September 1879 and, I think, is buried at Sackville Reach.

Charles was committed for trial on 11th July 1826 for the murder of Catherine Collins, also known as Kitty Carman. The indictment reads as follows:-

Rex v James Clarke and Charles Butler

"For the murder of Catherine Collins alias Carman found on 23rd May 1826 murder supposed to have been on 13th in the Hawkesbury with a stone tied to the back of petticoat 1 wound with a sharp instrument on left side of face on the jaw near the ear 1 on the left side of the neck 2 on the left arm before and one behind".

Robert Summers

Geo St Sydney

11th July 1826⁸

Subpoenas were issued to Archibald Bell, Magistrate of Police, Windsor to be served on the following witnesses:-

Robert Summers - his servant

Andrew Doyle

James Clarke

David Bawdier

Geo Evans

Geo Henty

J B Allen junior

⁴ *Transcripts of Old Bailey Trials*

⁵ *Trial Documents (State Records)*

⁶ *NSW Births Deaths & Marriages registers*

⁷ *NSW Births Deaths & Marriages registers & Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825 (State Records)*

⁸ *Trial Documents (State Records)*

Griffith Parry
Doyle's Servant - prove no barking of Dog
Mrs Butler - if not married to the prisoner

On 3rd July 1826 Archibald Bell, Magistrate of Police, wrote to the Attorney-General listing 11 features in support of the decision of the Bench of Magistrates and these formed the basis of the case presented by the Attorney-General. They are:-

To Saxe Bannister, Esquire
HM Attorney General

1. *Charles Butler is the last person under whose protection she placed herself - (Kitty Collins)*
2. *Charles Butler can afford no proof that he landed her at Andrew Doyle's*
3. *That had she gone towards Doyle's house, she must have been worried by the dogs, or discovered by the family; That she knew how very vicious Doyle's dogs were and that even a stranger cannot approach in day time, without calling out for security*
4. *That the distance from the spot where Butler said he landed her on Andrew Doyle's farm, is about 6 miles and that the body must have been conveyed there in a boat; as from the density of the bush, the obscurity of the night, the rugged rocks, and in addition to the impracticability of Attaining Cyrus Doyle's farm without halting at a short distance from Mr. Andrew Doyle's house, she could not reach the spot or neighbourhood where the body was found.*
5. *The spot where she was found, is situated between the Spot where he states he landed her and his (Butler's) own residence*
6. *That it appears that Butler did not communicate to his wife that he had taken Kitty Collins from Summers' house, or that he had landed her at Andrew Doyle's farm, neither did he state this until he saw Clarke on Monday, and then it was elicited from him by Clarke's question; and to the surprise of his Wife*
7. *That Butler left Summers' about 7 or 8 o'clock at night, that he had only 8 or 9 miles to go; and that he did not arrive home, till 2 hours before Sun Rise (Vide - Summers and Bowdler's evidence)*
8. *Had Butler actually landed Kitty Collins at Andrew Doyle's farm, the murder could not have been premeditated, as no-one knew of his intention to be landed there at*
9. *That on the morning the boat arrived, Butler's wife and Bowdler unladed the boat, and Bowdler found a pair of scissors and Key, which Kitty Collins had usually suspended to her side -from which it is presumed that some violence must have been offered to her in the boat*
10. *That from the peculiar manner in which the Killock was tied, it is likely only to have been effected by a seafaring man; and that it is worthy of remark that the tie of the rope to the Killock, is what is called a bowline knot; and that Butler was a seafaring man*
11. *That it also appears, that notwithstanding Butler had stated that he had left Kitty at Doyle's yet he passed the house (in company with Clarke) and proceeded to Summers' and enquired after a "Stray Woman" - (Kitty Collins) without making any enquiry at Doyle's where he stated he had landed her, which was on the Tuesday.*

In concluding these suggestions I beg leave most respectfully to subscribe myself
Your most obedient Servant,
Arch Bell J.P
Magistrate of Police⁹

The case for the prosecution was based on the foregoing eleven paragraphs and each witness's statement seemed to confirm his contention. One of them as submitted by Robert Summers states:- "*Robert Summers of Lower Portland Head, Cordwainer, duly sworn states that he knew the deceased Catherine Collins, that she was commonly called 'Kitty Carman', that James Clark and the said Kitty had formerly lived at the Deponent's*

⁹ *Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825 (State Records)*

house after the manner of man and wife, that just before the time of the aforesaid Kitty being missing from her home the said James Clarke was working a few acres of the same farm whereon the Deponent resides and lived in the Deponent's house –

That on the Saturday 13th May, being the day before Whitsunday, Charles Butler came to the Deponent's house in a boat, for the purpose of conveying away some corn belonging to James Clarke, and as the said Clarke had made up his mind to leave the said farm, and indeed that part of the country altogether, which resolution of Clarke Deponent was fully acquainted with and with Clarke's reasons also, viz- that Clarke was involved in debt beyond the means of paying and he had determined to go to the Five Islands, or some other great distance.

Butler came to the Deponents house some time in the forenoon of the day aforesaid, and the aforesaid Kitty Collins came with him; Kitty said she had come to see Clarke as she had heard he had hurt his collarbone.

Deponent said Kitty Collins had resided lately at Butler's and that what little property she had was at Butler's house at her home; and that she had merely come with Butler to see Clarke out of goodwill knowing that Butler was going thither; and that the said Kitty returned home with Butler the same night,- that they left the farm together with that intention, as they stated.-Clarke and Butler loaded the boat with corn for which purpose Butler had come to the Deponent's farm. Deponent says that at this visit of Kitty Collins Clarke and Kitty appeared as friendly as ever; Clarke even tried to prevail on Kitty not to depart but she would go and before she went he said, in Deponent's presence and also in the presence of Charles Butler 'here my Girl, here's the dollars' at that time taking some dollars from his pocket; Clarke handed Kitty some dollars but did not see exactly how many but he heard Kitty say addressing herself to Clark 'I've got four'.

Charles Butler and Kitty Collins left Deponent's house about 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening of the same day Saturday the 13th of May last.- Deponent says there was no conversation took place in his presence wherein Kitty Collins said she should be landed at Doyle's house, she had said she would get Mr. Andrew Doyle to write her a petition addressed to Mrs. Campbell of Sydney for Relief but Kitty did not say when She would go to Mr. Doyle to write the intended petition, neither did she say at any time in Deponent's presence when she thought of going to Sydney with it - Mr. Andrew Doyle's farm is situate on the opposite of the water to Deponent's residence and is about two miles higher up the river being towards Charles Butler's house; Mr. Cyrus Doyle's is about the distance of six miles from Deponent's house and in the direction of Butler's house; and Butler's house is about a mile and a half from Mr. Cyrus Doyle's farm whereat the body of Kitty Collins was found, taking the direction of the river in all their calculations.-James Clarke remained in Deponent's house after the departure of Charles Butler and Kitty Collins, the whole of the night, Saturday 13th May 1826 and breakfasted with Deponent the following morning when the said Clarke, about 10 or 11 o'clock, Deponent has no watch and cannot be positive as to time, left the house of the Deponent and said he'd go to Butler's, it was Whitsunday and Deponent conceived in his own mind that Clarke was merely going to spend the day with his friend Kitty.

Deponent now informs the Court that Clarke left his house and went the usual road by land, the only road by land leading from Deponent's towards Butler's house. On this road the farm of George Evans is situate and lying before a traveller comes up to Butler's farm and Deponent adds that if Clarke had went to Mr. Andrew Doyle's farm whereat Butler says he landed Kitty Collins he must have crossed the water as Doyle's farm is not on the same side of the river either as the Deponent's, Evans' or Butler'; but that Clarke passing by land might have called at Evans' without a boat as Evans' farm is situate on the said road as aforesaid.

Deponent says that from the Whitsunday, being the day Clarke left his house, he does not now recollect having heard Kitty Collins' name mentioned until James Clarke and Charles Butler came there in a day or two, or three perhaps, afterwards, at which time James Clarke and Charles Butler came to Deponent's house by land, is not positive as to the day of the week on which occasion Clarke took his final departure from Deponent and the neighbourhood and moved his little all.

On this occasion, as soon as they had sat down, one or both of them (Clarke and Butler) enquired of Deponent had he seen a strayed woman! It was mentioned Jocularly and Deponent asked them What do you mean?'. One or both answered 'Why, Kitty!'. Butler said he had landed her at Doyle's farm (Andrew Doyle's Point as he called it)

and that he had not seen her since. *Nothing further occurred to Doyle's knowledge or memory and having taken final leave of Clarke they shook hands and parted*".

Robert Summers

All of the witnesses' statements are couched in these ponderous terms and it must have been extremely difficult to make any sense whatever of the proceedings! Charles Butler's rebuttal to the evidence was presented in the form of a letter to the Chief Justice and the jury as previously mentioned. It reads as follows:-

*"To His Honor Chief Justice Forbes and the Gentlemen of the Jury upon the Trial of Charles Butler.
My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury*

As my present circumstances do not admit of my employing a Lawyer nevertheless I am quite satisfied that the Justice that British Courts of Law are renowned for, will be shown to me I beg to take up a few of your moments to lay before you a statement of the facts that occurred with the poor Woman. From the Period she came under my roof till she was found drowned the unfortunate woman about three months before her death was quite destitute of friends and had nowhere to shelter herself from the Clemency of the Weather, when I thro' pure motives of Charity took her into my family where she continued living as myself and family did and receiving clothing from me when required till the morning of the 13th May last, when I had occasion to borrow a boat for the purpose of going to a Mr. Pike's Farm for some Corn, and on the woman hearing I was going down the River she expressed a wish to accompany me in the boat as far as a Mr. Doyle's where she said she wanted to get a Petition drawn out to a Mr. Campbell of Sydney, for to have something done for her, as, as she said I could not constantly maintain her for nothing.

I accordingly consented and took her in the boat with me, and when we arrived opposite Mr. Doyle's Farm, I asked her if she would then go on shore, and she said as she was so far she would go with me to Mr. Pike's as there was a shoemaker there named Summers, in order to get her shoes mended (as they were very bad). During the time I was taking the corn in, we arrived and landed at Mr. Pike's farm and found the shoemaker and a man named Clarke there, and the poor woman got her shoes mended. Now the shoemaker had an order to make a pair of shoes for my wife, and at the same time I ordered him to make a pair for this woman and I would pay him for both pairs when brought home, and for which he took her measure.

That I rec'd the corn in husk and put it on Board, after which we drank some wine together in the shoemaker's Place, and when I found it getting late in the day I asked her if she would return or else stop in that house till morning and come home with Clark as he was coming up to my house. She told me she would not stop on account of the man Clark being there, she then called me outside the house and asked to come away, we then went into the boat and I pulled away and the current running strong against us and wind being very high I said coming opposite the lower end of Mr. Doyle's farm that I could go no farther till the tide answered. I advised her to put off calling Mr. Doyle till the ensuing week and I would come with her on purpose but she begged me so hard to be put on shore where we were that I consented and accordingly landed her there.

Making the boat fast I lay down to sleep and upon awaking I found the tide answered and I pulled home. Upon reaching my own ground I made the boat fast and went to my house and was let in by a Stockman of my Brothers' who stopped in my house. It then wanted about an hour and a half of daylight. I then went to bed and when I got up being extremely tired I asked the man to go and unload the boat and I would give him a glass or two of gin for his trouble. He accordingly did so in the presence of my wife. On the morning following I took the boat home to its owner and on my returning home I found Clark in the house before me, he immediately asked where Kitty was and I answered that I expected her every minute but had not seen her since I put her on shore at Mr. Doyle's farm. Upon which Clark said he expected to see her as she had four dollars of his and wanted to go.

However he complained of having hurt his collarbone and being very ill he stopped in my house for two or three days till he recovered and went away. Now I never heard anything of the woman till about eleven days after I landed her at the place before mentioned when a report was in circulation that a woman was found drowned opposite Mr. Doyle's

Point, and I along with many more neighbours went in a boat to see who it was. Upon reaching the place we heard that it was old Kitty Collins and upon finding the truth out I ordered a carpenter to make her a coffin at my expense.

I was present at the Coroner's Inquest and when they enquired who she lived with lately I stepped forward and answered - with me -. Now my Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury does it appear likely that any man living would under the circumstances that I supported her would take her life. She was an old woman, she was kept by me through Charity, she had no money and is it possible I should be that monster to take the life of an unoffending poor woman. My Lord and Gentlemen it would be useless for me to dictate to people of your wisdom and therefore I shall leave myself to your discretion for a merciful trial. Solemnly declaring in the sight of God and man that I know nothing whatever of the Transaction. I have my Lord and Gentlemen been nine years in this country and this is the first time I was brought even before the smallest Court of Justice in the Colony.

I have one thing more to add that as the corn was in husk if anything occurred to the woman in the boat it would have left some marks and the corn was minutely examined by several Persons and no traces whatever could be found. Charles BUTLER (MOSTYN) - Murder - Guilty - Sentence of Death passed and execution awarded on 31st July 1826 — Executed ¹⁰

After a thorough perusal of the Trial documents it seems that Charles was very unfortunate to have been found guilty on the evidence submitted. For example there was mention in the trial of a special kind of knot being used to tie the rope around Kitty's body and that Charles would have tied such a knot as he was a 'sea-faring' man. There did not seem to be any evidence to support this contention. In fact in his "Convict Indents" he is referred to as a Groom. On the whole it seems to be a pretty flimsy case to present when charging a person with murder.



Inundation at the Hawkesbury 1811

Government House, Sydney

"The providential subsiding of the late flood in the Hawkesbury and South Creek which has now taken place without any very serious consequences, when compared with the destruction of the grain and property of every kind which has of late years been attendant on the frequent inundations of those rivers, and of the Nepean, induces His Excellency, the Governor, to admonish the settlers contiguous to those rivers in the most earnest manner, to beware of the recurrence of those calamities which have for many years exposed the country at large to the imminent risque of a total destruction of grain and animal food. As the only effectual way of guarding against those risques is the removing the stock-yards and residences of the settlers from their present insecure situations, His Excellency most strongly recommends to the settlers on the banks of those rivers, to remove from thence to the high grounds in the several townships lately marked out for respective districts, under the influence of those floods. Those settlers who will avail themselves immediately of this salutary admonition, by removing their residences, stock and farm yards to the allotted townships, may depend on His Excellency's extending to them every reasonable assistance and indulgence in his power, whilst on the contrary, such persons as will obstinately persevere in exposing themselves, their families, and their property to the destruction necessarily attendant on their residing within the influence of the inundations of those rivers, having themselves totally to blame for any misfortune of that nature which may attend them, need not to look to Government for relief, after being thus called upon to adopt the necessary means of guarding against them. As the reason for sowing wheat for the next harvest will be over in the course of the month of June, the settlers will then have leisure from their farming avocations, to employ themselves in the erection of suitable buildings for their future residences in the new townships, and His Excellency trusts and expects, that they will avail themselves of that opportunity to place themselves and their families in those situations of comfort and security, which it has been His Excellency's most anxious wish to provide for them, and to which they are now for the last time required to repair with all convenient expedition."

Lachlan Macquarie
By command of His Excellency
J. T. Campbell, Secretary

Source : *The Sydney Gazette* 30 March 1811 pp.2-3

¹⁰ *Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825 (State Records)*

The Story of George Armstrong Bushranger of the Kurrajong By John Irving

One might conjecture that the sheep 'borrowed' by young John Loughnan (pronounced Luffnan) from a member of the Irish landed gentry was destined for the family dinner table, but the law saw so merit in his action. He found himself in the Kilkenny Court on the 17 March 1831 and was to pay for his misdeed with transportation for seven years to the colony of New South Wales. This small transgression was to lead to tragic events in a few short years.

Described as a farm labourer from Kilkenny and a Catholic able to both read and write, he measured five foot eight and three quarter inches in height with light brown hair, hazel eyes and a fair to ruddy complexion. On the transport *Norfolk* under the captaincy of William Henniker he arrived in the colony on the 9 February 1832 and was assigned to one Francis Reynolds. Obligated to spend nights confined to Hyde Park Barracks he managed to abscond and 'went bush' to live off his wits on 27 January 1834. Being on the run, like many escapees he risked flogging or worse if captured, but many settlers themselves ex-convicts and many fellow Irishmen had scant regard for the British authorities so few questions were asked despite severe penalties for harbouring runaways. With a fake ticket of leave he became George Armstrong, a drifter in and around the Hawkesbury. Taking what work he could, he may have pushed the bounds of honesty on convenient occasions.

A free settler like John Ezzy saw things differently. Married to the daughter of Henry Lamb of the Marine Corps he was harassed and threatened with arson because of his police contacts. It is said that a bullet hole found in his shed was from a bushranger's gun.

The authorities had their suspicions but the local constable, George James, an ex-convict himself turned a blind eye in cases of absconded convicts such as Armstrong. While travelling unarmed and off duty to his brother-in-law William James Stinson's property in his gig accompanied by his adopted son, Alf Smith. James became stuck over the crossing near Yarramundi. His mare refusing to go onwards, he became aware of Armstrong and his mate among the trees nearby, probably enjoying his discomfiture. Calling to Armstrong after some hesitation, the man putting down his gun removed his boots and led the horse over. James rewarded Armstrong with half a crown urging him to make himself scarce.

Armstrong had made acquaintance of this local farmer, Mr Stinson, an ex-convict and fellow Irishman. He had worked for him bringing in the harvest and may have courted his pretty daughter, Mary Ann. At this stage Armstrong may have been considered a delinquent vagabond and like many in the colony not averse to the odd grog.

To cater for the clientele of convict government men and others of a more questionable character, a grog shanty over the river from Belmont run by 'Tom the Bosun' was well patronised and would have been known to Armstrong. Maybe while on a visit he had heard sung a ditty popular at the time, of bold Jack Donohue, the 'Wild Colonial Boy', portrayed as a folk hero and maybe a role model for the likes of Armstrong.

The real life Donohue arrived from Dublin in 1825 courtesy of the *Ann and Amelia*, aged 22 years. He was assigned to John Pagan at Parramatta. He also spent time in a chain gang at Vinegar Hill (now Rouse Hill) and was later pigman to Major West at Quaker's Hill. After absconding from custody he staged a daring robbery with accomplices, Kilroy and Smith on the Richmond Road. He managed to escape. The others were hanged for their crime. Later after gathering together a gang of eight men he executed robberies in the Bathurst district. Returning to his hideout on the Nepean with accomplices Will Underwood, Walmsley and Webber the gang worked the local roads exacting 'tolls' from such local identities as Samuel Marsden and Messrs McQuade, Bowman and Faithfull. The gang evaded several police sorties early in 1830 and by July, Donohue had a price of twenty pounds on his head. A further search by troopers came

across the gang near Bringelly and in the shootout which followed on 1 September 1830 Donohue was killed. The other members of the gang escaped but were later caught.

Why did Armstrong not see a similar fate staring him in the face? The temptation of easy money must have been too strong. In a report to the Colonial Secretary, Samuel North Magistrate of Windsor asked for a reward to be posted and cited 'several daring robberies' committed in the districts of the Kurrajong and Penrith. The report included: 1 December 1836 - burglary and robbery at the home of William Craggs at North Richmond; 9 January 1837 - burglary and robbery at Hobby's near Penrith; 26 January 1837 - deliberately firing at and wounding Mrs Hobby's man; 28 January 1837 - robbery of Mr Greenfield at the Kurrajong.

North remarked that the man must be the same John Loughnan who had absconded from Hyde Park Barracks. His accomplice in the burglary, Thomas McDaniel had been captured and subsequently went to trial.

McDaniel, a sixteen year old lad from Dublin who arrived in the colony via the *Waterloo* and formerly known as Thomas Barnes was described as an errand boy and pickpocket and was assigned to Henry Bayley of Penrith. A pathetic petition from his stepmother to the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland stated that the real criminal who actually stole the handkerchief passed to Barnes received only six months in prison. She petitioned that Thomas spend his seven year sentence in an Irish goal. This was denied and Barnes was transported to the colony on New South Wales.

After absconding from his employer and calling himself Thomas McDaniel later testified that he met Armstrong at Mittagong while travelling from working in the Yass district. They had travelled together through Piper's Flat (Lithgow) via Captain Town's property at Mt Tomah to North Richmond in late 1836. They were reputedly seen at Stinson's farm prior to the robbery at William Cragg's on 1 December of the same year. The Cragg's were an elderly couple living on the eastern end of the Bell property and Mrs Cragg was Archibald Bell's sister. They lived alone with one convict manservant. The report noted that Mr Cragg was awakened about nine in the evening by masked intruders demanding money or 'I will blow your brains out'. Mrs Cragg, roused from her sleep gave them seven or eight pounds, Mr Cragg had been hit on the head. The servant meanwhile had gone for the constable but the robbers were not caught. Later McDaniel was caught at Penrith.

The subsequent trial of Barnes/McDaniel and Stinson, who was accused of supplying arms to Armstrong may be better considered in a Stinson family history but suffice to say that Stinson was pardoned due to his accuser being convicted of perjury. Barnes/McDaniel received a seven year sentence on Norfolk Island.

Father James Corcoran came to New South Wales with Archbishop Polding in 1835 and was appointed to the Windsor district. In the following year on 28 December 1836 the foundation stone for the new Catholic church was laid. Becoming aware of Armstrong as a wayward member of his flock, he resolved to ensure his salvation and to mend his ways. This was despite his earlier brush with bushrangers on the Sydney Road.

Meanwhile the requested reward of fifty pounds for the capture of Armstrong was announced in the Government Gazette on 7 February 1837. A pardon was also offered for convicts who proffered information leading to his arrest. Samuel North asked for handbills to be distributed in the Kurrajong and Penrith areas. On 9 February 1837, William Harrington of Kurrajong was burgled. Harrington was alone in his house as his wife was in Sydney and he was rumoured to have a sum of money from the sale of his horse. He was brutally murdered and the identity of the killer was not known, however Armstrong's involvement was assumed by the authorities.

The evening of Good Friday 24 March 1837 followed a clear fine day with light south-westerly winds and a noon temperature of eighty degrees Fahrenheit tempered by six o'clock by a light breeze. Fr Corcoran, at Armstrong's request had paid a visit to his hideout and elicited a solemn promise by him to attend a service the following Wednesday. However, Corcoran had been

followed by a group of mounted police from Windsor including troopers Joe Levers and John Moore with another troop from Parramatta led by Captain Henry Ellis. Obligated to divulge Armstrong's whereabouts, Corcoran was promised that no harm would come to Armstrong.

At sunset they came across Armstrong near Stinson's place and when attempting to escape despite being called upon to surrender, Trooper Levers fired hitting him in the small of the back. He was armed at the time but failed to use his gun. Mortally wounded he was lifted onto Stinson's cart for the trip to Windsor via Yarramundi crossing. He swore that he did not kill Harrington and called in vain for Corcoran. He was dead in three quarters of an hour, long before the cart arrived at the Windsor lockup...

On page 222 of the St Matthew's Catholic Church Burial Register, Windsor entry number 66 reads:

'George Armstrong alias John Loughnan, shot by police at Kurrajong, aged 30, buried 26 March 1837 being outlaw denied X'n burial'. In an unmarked grave in unconsecrated ground so ended the story of John Loughnan.

Epilogue

Captain Ellis and troopers Levers and Moore were nominated to share the reward in a request by Samuel North on 27 March 1837.

A letter from Dublin dated 12 March 1844 by Michael Barnes asked why his letters to Thomas had remained unanswered. In reply on 15 August, Samuel North stated that Thomas after Norfolk Island had been in Berrima but had now lost contact.

Stinson continued at his farm for many years raising a large family, descendants still live in the Hawkesbury area. His 'pretty daughter' married Matthias Maloney of Wilberforce.

Father Corcoran did not live to see the new Catholic church completed. While travelling to Sydney in a gig with Edward Ryan of Galong, they approached the Sydney tollgate when a wheel hit a large rut in the road. Fr Corcoran was thrown out, one wheel passing over his head. He died a short time later and a large funeral service was held at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on 5 September 1837.



Armstrong's hideout cave still remains as it was left and may be seen by those in the know. **[pictured above]** A lonely memorial to a wasted life.

Sources:

- State Records of NSW – Convict Records, Colonial Secretary Correspondence, Court Records.
- State Library of NSW – *Reminiscences of Richmond* by Sam Boughton.
- St Matthew's Catholic Church Burial Register.
- NSW Government Gazettes.
- Dublin Castle Records.
- Ups and Downs of an old Richmondite* by Alfred Smith.
- Benedictine Pioneers in Australia* by H N Birt.
- The wild colonial boy: The life and times of Jack Donohoe* by John Meredith.
- Windsor and Richmond Gazette*.
- Sydney Morning Herald*.
- Sydney Gazette*.

INQUEST OF SUSAN WYLIE

Susan Wylie, the wife of Henry Wylie died on the 7 July 1883. She was aged 64 years and there was an inquest held into the cause of her death, as it was sudden. The enquiry was held in Windsor into the death of Susan Wylie on Saturday 7 July 1883 before the District Coroner Mr J. B. Johnston Esq J. P. The details of the inquest were published in the local newspaper the "*The Australian*" 14 July 1883 and are transcribed below:

"Henry Wylie deposed that his wife was in usual health on the previous evening, and sat working at needlework until 11 o'clock and then went to bed; that morning he got about 7 o'clock; she usually got up first; he and his wife slept in the same room but in separate beds; he said to her it is past 7 o'clock are you going to get up; she made no reply: he then went to her bed and turned the bedclothes off her face, and put his hand upon her forehead and found it as cold as ice. She was lying on her left side; he took one of her hands to feel her pulse, and found no pulsation; he then put his hand on her heart, but could find no beating, he then came to the conclusion that she was dead, although, from her neck downwards, her body was warm. He called Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Rowthorn who said his wife was dead, and advised him to send for a doctor, which he did; the doctor came about 8 o'clock, and pronounced his wife dead.

Dr. O'Farrell deposed that he was called to visit the deceased, but on his arrival he found that she was dead; he was of the opinion that the cause of death was a fit of apoplexy.

The jury found a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence."

Henry Wylie had married Susan nee Miller in 1849 at St James in Sydney. They had at least two children including Henry baptised in 1850 and Rhoda baptised in 1854. Henry Wylie junior died on 2 December 1855, aged 5 years & 4 months. They were living in the Hawkesbury by the 1850s. They were recorded as living in Bridge Street in Windsor. Henry Wylie signed a Petition along with 248 residents, in 1863 relating to the Municipalities Act.¹¹

Henry Wylie died on the 22 April 1884 and was aged 75 years and is buried with his wife Susan, and son Henry. The grave is located in St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery in Windsor.



¹¹ NSW Government Gazette 19 Nov 1863 (no. 229) pp. 2511-2513.

Currency Creek & Glossodia ~ History & Development

By Cathy McHardy

Exploration of the Hawkesbury district by Europeans commenced in June 1789 when Governor Arthur Phillip made several journeys into the region. His party camped at the foot of Richmond Hill on 5 July 1789(1) and notice was taken of the potential of the area for settlement. In January 1794 the first twenty-two settlers were granted fertile land on the banks of the Hawkesbury River near the present town of Windsor (2). By 1796 Governor Hunter reported to King that there was 'a chain of farms [stretching] for twenty miles along the banks of the Hawkesbury [River]' (3) with about 1,000 acres under cultivation (4).

Farmers on the Hawkesbury produced vital food supplies for the colony, but settlers soon found that the river was prone to frequent and severe flooding. Crops and houses were swept away and lives were lost. The then governor, Lachlan Macquarie realised the need for settlements to be made on higher ground out of reach of all but major flooding and promised that suitable land would be made available to settlers (5).

In December 1810 the townships of Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and Castlereagh were proclaimed at a dinner given by the Governor. The town of Wilberforce was named in honour of William Wilberforce, an English politician and humanitarian whom Macquarie admired. Five weeks later the surveyor James Meehan marked out the principal streets, town square and burial ground for Wilberforce. The name of the town was painted on a large board and nailed to a post in the centre of the proposed settlement (6).

Land was taken up by settlers firstly along rivers and creeks in proximity to plentiful supplies of water, then along ridges spreading away from the established towns. Tracks joining pockets of settlement emerged which were to form the routes of roads and highways in the district. Before the 1870s, there were very few settlers in the vicinity of Currency Creek as land in this area had not been released for settlement and was still Crown Land.

The area was part of Wilberforce Common which was one of three Commons set aside in the District of Mulgrave Place by Governor King on 11 August 1804, the others being Nelson (Pitt Town Common), and Richmond Hill (Ham Common)(7). Following the English model, land in New South Wales was set aside for the rearing and grazing of sheep and cattle as it was neither practical nor desirable for all settlers to hold large tracts of land in their own right suitable for maintaining large herds. Wilberforce Common once covered 2,491 hectares (over 6,000 acres) and was situated north of the village area of the town of Wilberforce and stretching from the Hawkesbury River in the east to the present day Boundary Road, Glossodia in the west and to the boundary with the Parish of Meehan in the north (8).

The name Currency Creek was certainly in use by the 1840s as it appears on a map entitled 'Map of Kurryjong (sic) in the County of Cook' held by the National Library of Australia dated between 1840 and 1849 (Map f461) (9). It is not clear how or when the creek came by this name but it is known that the word 'currency' was used during the nineteenth century to refer to colonial born children usually of emancipated convict parents.

The area around Currency Creek remained Crown Land and part of Wilberforce Common until the New South Wales Government resolved to set up labour settlement areas under the Labour Settlement Act (1893) in various parts of New South Wales including Bega, Bungendore, Pitt Town and Wilberforce for the resettlement of disadvantaged families. One such scheme was Wilberforce Labour Settlement Area which was notified on 3 October 1894 (10). This area was part of the Wilberforce Common and was bounded by the Singleton Road (then named the road from Howes Creek to Wilberforce), Kurmond Road (then named the Wilberforce to Richmond Road) and the Old East Kurrajong and Creek Ridge Roads (then called the road from Bull Ridge to Windsor) (11). The Australian Town and Country Journal had been sceptical about the success of such schemes citing problems such as unfair competition between settlers who have benefited from government assistance and those who had not (12). The newspaper reported on 12 August 1893 that 'the first contingent' for Wilberforce had left in July and consisted of

fifteen men, three women and sixteen children and that the new settlers had been hard at work clearing their land. The new settlers had reportedly been well treated in the district (13).

The labour settlement scheme was short lived and the act was repealed in 1902, no further families being settled at Currency Creek under this scheme. In 1909 the Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia reported that there were ten families living on the Wilberforce Settlement (14) then known as the Copeland Village Settlement. Henry Copeland was the Secretary for Lands from 1891-1894 and he introduced and promoted the labour settlement scheme to parliament. He firmly believed in the need to create legislation to enable every man to have access to freehold land in New South Wales (15).

The Crown Lands Acts of 1895 established several new types of land tenure including homestead selection. As a result of this act much of the land set aside for the Wilberforce Labour Settlement was designated as a homestead selection area. Under the terms of the act, homestead selection portions could be occupied by paying an annual rental of 1.24% of the capital value of the block which increased to 2.5% after the first six years of occupation (16).

In 1917 legislation was passed by the New South Wales Government to enable those occupying land under the former Labour Settlement Scheme to convert the tenure to homestead selection and then into conditional purchases and therefore freehold under the new Crowns Lands Act (17). The map of the Parish of Wilberforce County of Cook published in 1926 shows about 30 portions in the Currency Creek/Glossodia area which had been settled under the Homestead Selection system. From the 1890s Crown Land was also released for sale by auction in the area. For example, on 14 August 1895 about twenty portions with an average area of thirty acres were offered for sale at Wilberforce with prices varying from £1 to £3 per acre (18). Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act of 1901 and subsequent acts, land in New South Wales was made available under several different schemes.

According to the Crown lands Act (1895), homestead portions were to be no larger than 1,280 acres. However, most of those in the Currency Creek area averaged 40 acres which was designed to be sufficient to support one family carrying out orcharding and mixed farming. Married women were also allowed to acquire a homestead portion with permission of the minister. The selector was required to commence residency on the block within three months and to erect a dwelling with a value of not less than £20 within eighteen months of the date of confirmation of the application by the department (19). According to the 1901 Census there were 647 persons were living in the Wilberforce Common Collection District with approximately 220 residing in the Currency creek area.

The spread of settlement in the area caused a steady increase in population mostly families with young children. A school had been established at Buttsworth Swamp on Howes Creek in 1878 which was subsequently moved up onto the Bull Ridge in 1891 (20). Settlers at Currency Creek successfully petitioned in 1896 for the construction of a school in proximity to their settlement. A supporting diagram was drawn showing locations of residents and the numbers of children who would be eligible to attend the school if it was provided. The school building was ready for occupation in March 1898 and was designed to accommodate thirty-five pupils. After only eighteen months an extension to the building was necessary. A new timber building was provided by the Department in 1926 in response to growing enrolments and residence for the teacher was built adjacent to the school property in Creek Ridge Road the same year (21).

The second school building was destroyed by fire in 1961 and was replaced by a modern brick veneer structure opened in 1962. After the destruction of this third school building by fire in 1988 the Department of Education decided to relocate the school on a new site closer to the centre of population which was by now the Golden Valley area opening in October 1990 (22). There were now many more residents in the newer settlement than there had ever been around the Currency Creek.

Communications were always important for people living in outlying areas and in 1922 residents of Currency Creek petitioned for the establishment of a post office in the district. Prior to the opening of the post office at the home of Jim Gregory who lived on the old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road), residents travelled to the nearest post town to collect their mail, either Wilberforce or Freemans Reach. The Registrar General's Department granted permission for the establishment of the post office provided that the district change its name so there would be no confusion with a place of the same name in South Australia. The

official ceremony took place on Boxing Day 1922 in Mr W C Wilson's paddock on Boundary Road (23). *See transcript in full at end of this article.* The post office closed in February 1972 then reopened in 1984 due to public demand.

From the 1900s to the 1970s most families in the Glossodia/Currency Creek area earned a living from orchards and mixed farming. Other industries included selling rabbit and possum skins and sawmilling. During World War Two, many local men found work as part of the road gangs which constructed the Singleton Road (Putty Road) which was known at that time as the Military Road (24).

The 1960s and 1970s saw the subdivision of large land holdings in the Golden Valley area so named for the glorious golden wattle blooms each Spring (25). The subdivisions in this area were registered during 1963 but due to the slow processing of applications by the Minister for Local Government at the time, most blocks were not available for sale until the early 1970s (26). The holdings comprised Portion 7, Parish of Currency County of Cook of 500 acres first granted to Henry Buttsworth in 1837, Portion 3, Parish of Currency County of Cook comprising 1,000 acres also granted to Henry Buttsworth in 1837 and Portion 2, Parish of Currency County of Cook comprising 500 acres granted to the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society between 1822 and 1826.

This portion was locally known as the 'poor ground' by its association with the Benevolent Society which sought to alleviate the suffering of the poor and destitute of the district. The acreage was used for the grazing of stock, the sale of which contributed considerable sums to the Society and when added together with money subscriptions and donations in kind, enabled much charitable work including the building of an asylum to be executed [27]. The combined area bounded by East Kurrajong Road to the North, the modern Spinks Road to the South, Boundary Road to the East and Tennyson Road to the West was subdivided into a total of 876 portions and then in the following years these portions were further subdivided into areas as small as less than one eighth of an acre (28). The later Spinks Road subdivision was named the El Rancho Estate.

There was a lack of basic infrastructure and services provided for residents in the new Glossodia. There was no town water, reticulated sewerage system, neighbourhood shops, school or post office and no public transport. The Glossodia Community and Neighbourhood Centre was constructed by Colo Shire Council on Golden Valley Drive in 1981 and opened on 12 September of that year. A shopping centre consisting of four businesses was constructed during 1983 on an adjacent block and was subsequently extended by a further four premises. The Glossodia Public School was relocated to an adjoining portion of land in 1990. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics the population of the area in 2006 had grown to 2,426 persons. Services now include a pre-school, doctor, chemist, and the area is serviced by Westbus. Town water was connected in 1982 but residents are still waiting for the 'Three Towns Sewerage Scheme' which will include the towns of Glossodia, Freemans Reach and Wilberforce to be constructed.

The basic structure of land subdivision in the old Glossodia/Currency Creek area which was created by the various types of land tenure in New South Wales including conditional purchase and homestead selection is still very much evident.

GLOSSODIA : RE-NAMING CEREMONY

The old settlement of Currency Creek, a few miles from Freeman's Reach, will no longer be known by that name. It has been changed to Glossodia, and the official re-naming took place on Boxing Day, when a sports meeting was held in Mr W C Wilson's paddock, "Woodside." The ceremony of re-naming the place was performed by Mr R B Walker, M L A, who was supported by Cr C A Jeffery and Cr A Buckland. The function was held under the auspices of Glossodia Progress Association, and we understand that a sum of about £25 was cleared. This will form the nucleus of a fund to build a School of Arts. Some little time ago the Postal Department established a receiving office at old Currency Creek, but as there is a place of similar name in another part of the Commonwealth the Department made it a condition that the name of the local place be changed. The name Glossodia was suggested and accepted by the Department. The selection of the name came about this way. One of the school children took a little blue flower to school one day and asked the teacher its name. Mr Southwell identified it as "Glossodia" and it grows plentifully around old Currency. It struck Mr Southwell that this would be an appropriate name for the place, and on his suggestion the name was adopted.

Despite the heat of the day and the prevalent bush fires on Boxing Day, there was a good gathering in "Woodside" paddock. Invited guests were taken to luncheon soon after midday, where they were briefly welcomed by Cr Jeffery, President of the

Glossodia Progress Association. After lunch the renaming ceremony took place, the crowd assembling around a flag-pole. Cr Jeffery, in introducing Mr Walker, said they had selected Boxing Day to avoid clashing with their friends at East Kurrajong, who were holding sports on Anniversary Day. The Glossodia Progress Association had only been in existence about two months, and had a membership of about 40. Everything considered, a scattered community like that had reason to be proud of its Progress Association and its achievements. It proved they were progressive, and he was pleased to say that the people pulled together for the benefit of the whole district. He then called on Mr Bruce Walker to re-name Currency Creek. (Applause)

Mr Walker, M L A, thanked the Progress Association for inviting him to perform that important ceremony. He was sorry that the old name of Currency Creek had to go, because it was a link connecting the place with the early history of the Hawkesbury. However, they would still have the Parish of Currency, which would always serve to remind them of early associations. When their receiving office was established it was imperative that the name be changed to prevent confusion, and they had selected "Glossodia". Mr Walker explained how the name came to be chosen, and said it was a pretty and euphonious name. A lot of old districts were passing away. Some few years ago Forrester was changed to Maraylya, and only recently Bullridge had been re-named East Kurrajong. He congratulated them on the strength of their Progress Association, and the good work it was doing. He suggested that a Parents and Citizens' Association be formed to work in conjunction with the Progress Association. He found that such associations were very helpful to him, and they would be very helpful to the shire councillors. The parents had a right to have a say in the conduct of their school, to see that they got everything necessary for the education of their children. Their district appeared to be growing, and they were fortunate having residing in their midst such an enterprising resident as Cr Jeffery, with Cr Buckland living handily to help him. Now they ought to be able to get good roads in their district. He trusted that they would be successful in raising a substantial sum towards their proposed School of Arts, where they would be able to hold entertainments, and where, above all else, he hoped they would establish a library for the improvement of the minds of young people.

Mr Walker then officially re-named Currency Creek and gave it the name of Glossodia.

Mr Frank Dick hoisted the flags, the Union Jack on top, "Glossodia" in the centre and the Scottish flag below, amidst applause. Cr Buckland was very pleased to be present to congratulate the people of Glossodia on the progress the district had made, and on the change of name. As a rule it was only the ladies who changed their names, and he suspected that the ladies must be in the majority at "Glossodia". He had many friends in that district, for he resided there for some years before going higher up, and wished Glossodia continued progress. He would be pleased to support Cr Jeffery in every progressive movement in the shire council. (Applause)

Mr Joe Greentree (invited delegate from Freeman's Reach P A) while congratulating the people of the district on the progress made in recent years, said he agreed with Mr Walker, and did not like parting with old historic names. He felt a close association with the people of Glossodia, for he had a son with a family residing among them. As a representative of the Freeman's Reach P A, he was proud to say it was the oldest association of the kind in the district, if not in the whole State. He had been a member of it for the 24 years of its existence, and it was as strong to-day as it was 10 or 15 years ago. It now had a membership of 36. Only for the Progress Association Freeman's Reach would not have a nice hall there, as the committee of management fought hard to have it built. He wished the people of Glossodia every success in their endeavour to build a public hall. (Applause)

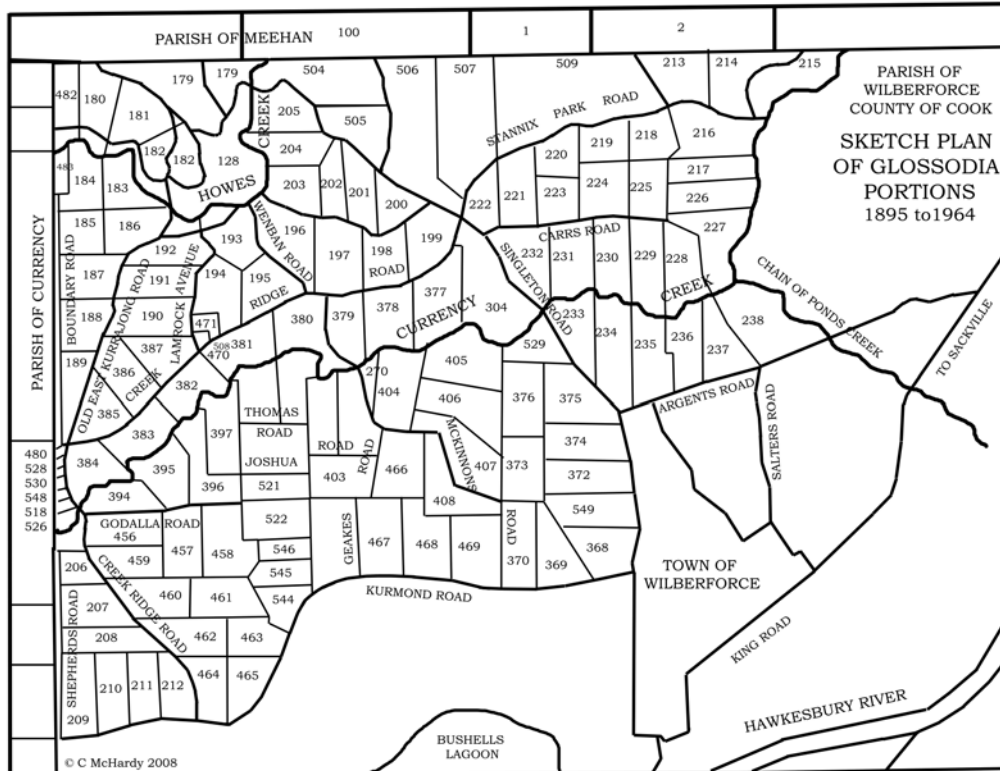
Mr Beard (invited delegate from East Kurrajong P A) said that would be a day to be remembered. After Bullridge had been changed to East Kurrajong the place progressed wonderfully, and he was sure that Glossodia P A would make their locality progress. (Applause) Cr Jeffery proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Bruce Walker, M L A, for coming out to Glossodia to perform the re-naming ceremony; and to the other speakers.

The vote was carried by hearty acclamation. Mr Walker said he regarded it as a duty to be present and a pleasure and privilege to perform that important ceremony. Their mutual interests were bound up in the progress of the whole of the Hawkesbury district and by unity they obtained strength. He wished the whole of the gathering a prosperous new year and hoped their little community would continue to progress. (Applause) The worker's for the days sports, and in making the preliminary arrangements were: Cr C A Jeffery, Messrs B Jeffery, A McLennan, F Dick, R Jeffery, G Hayes, Clive Jeffery, W C Wilson, J Gregory senr, T Gregory, G Dingan, F Gregory, W McCullough, J Gregory junr, T Smith, A Packer (deputy hon secretary), Mr C E Brooks-Southwell also did good work, but was away on his Xmas vacation on the day of the sports. The ladies who did good work were: Mrs Wilson, Mrs H Smith, Mrs B Smith, Mrs G Hayes, Mrs Greentree, Mrs Jeffery, Miss Jeffery, Miss R McLennan, Mrs Duigan, Mrs T Gregory, Miss E Gregory.

The sporting events resulted as follows: 50 yards boys' race, 12 and under: N Ryan 1, H Smith 2, 50 yards girls' race 12 and under: Clara Smith 1, May Smith 2, 50 yards boys' race 12 to 15 years: N Ryan 1, N Jones 2, 50 yards girls' race 12 to 15 years: Nellie Carr 1, Jessie Walker 2, 100 yards boys' race 15 to 18 years: Ford 1, Martin 2, 50 yards girls' race 15 to 18 years: Miss R McLennan 1, 100 yards all comers' handicap: Ford 1, W Walker 2, 50 yards single ladies' race: Miss R McLennan 1, married ladies' race: Mrs Salter 1, Mrs Lavender 2, 100 yards old buffers' race: J Salter 1, A Case 2, Flag race: Ryan, Throwing at wicket: T Green, Stepping 100 yards: J Simpson, Three legged race: Ford and Martin. Guessing competitions - Number of peas in bottle: A Packer, Weight of sheep: (presented by Mr W Carey, Windsor): Mr McCullough, Age of doll: R Buttsworth, Pillow fight: W Cartwright.

Source : *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, Friday 5 January 1922

Glossodia portions from Parish of Wilberforce



GLOSSODIA PORTIONS FROM PARISH OF WILBERFORCE COUNTY OF COOK MAP 13 JUNE 1925 (6 TH EDN)				
Portion	Applicant	Location	Date and/or Torrens Title Volume & Folio	Type of Tenure
1	Buckland, John	Royerdale - Adjacent to Stannix Park	14 Sep 1837	G
2	Hall, William	Portland Valley - Stannix Park property	24 Apr 1837	G
100	Buckland, John	Royerdale - Adjacent to Stannix Park	No details	G
128	Packman, Elizabeth	Howes Creek	1143-139	P
179	Ainsworth, W B	Howes Creek	18 Sep 1918 (2)	HF
180	Green, A H B	Howes Creek	27 Jun 1907 (11)	HS
181	Butler, M J	Howes Creek	27 Jun 1907 (12),	HS
182	Edwards, Samuel	Howes Creek	16 Jan 1908 (2)	HS
183	Murphy, Joseph	Howes Creek	3451-113	P
184	Murphy, Joseph	Howes Creek	3451-113	P
185	Murphy, Joseph	Boundary Road	3451-113	P
186	Murphy, Joseph	Old East Kurrajong Road to Boundary Road	3451-113	P
187	Izzard, H G	Old East Kurrajong Road to Boundary Road	2997-40	P
188	Izzard, Raymond	Old East Kurrajong Road to Boundary Road	26 Aug 1909 (30)	CP
189	Lines, John	Old East Kurrajong Road and Boundary Road	2363-238	P
190	Gregory, Thomas	Lamrock Avenue to Old East Kurrajong Road	2 May 1921 (10)	PrCP
191	Primmer, C J	Lamrock Avenue to Old East Kurrajong Road	14 Feb 1895 (5)	HS
192	Primmer, C J	Lamrock Avenue to Old East Kurrajong Road	14 Feb 1895 (5)	HS
193	Packman, Walter	Howes Creek	14 Feb 1895 (4)	HS
194	Gregory, Thomas	Creek Ridge Road and Lamrock Avenue	4 May 1904 ?	CP
195	Crane, E H	Hayes Road (now closed) and Creek Ridge Road	9 Sep 1911 (14)	HS
196	Wilkinson, N E	Hayes Road (now closed) and Wenban Road	31 Oct 1907 (13)	HS
197	Hayes, Lily	Hayes Road (now closed) and Creek Ridge Road	3533-159	P
198	Smith, Bathia	Hayes Road (now closed) and Creek Ridge Road	3404-224	P
199	Smith, H C	Hayes Road (now closed), Singleton and Creek Ridge Road	3 Dec 1914 (24)	CP
200	Smith, William	Singleton Road and Hayes Road (now closed)	11 Jul 1912 (23)	CP
201	Smith, William	Singleton Road and Hayes Road (now closed)	11 Jul 1912 (23)	CP
202	Wilkinson, Joseph	Singleton Road and Hayes Road (now closed)	17 Sep 1923 (1)	HF
203	Wilkinson, Joseph	Howes Creek and Hayes Road (now closed)	17 Sep 1923 (1)	HF
204	Schmidlin, Frederick	Moles Road and Howes Creek	18 April 1925 (3)	CP
205	Schmidlin, Frederick	Moles Road and Howes Creek	18 April 1925 (3)	CP
206	Hayes, Margaret	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	3620-76	P

**GLOSSODIA PORTIONS FROM PARISH OF WILBERFORCE
COUNTY OF COOK MAP 13 JUNE 1925 (6TH EDN)**

Portion	Applicant	Location	Date and/or Torrens Title Volume & Folio	Type of Tenure
207	Hayes, Margaret	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	3620-76	P
208	Shepherd, Henry	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	28 Jan 1911 (4)	CP
209	Shepherd, Henry	Kurmond Road and Shepherds Road	28 Jan 1911 (4)	CP
210	Rutter, Joseph	Kurmond Road	13 Feb 1911 (5)	CP
211	Broome, G R	Kurmond Road	3222-134	P
212	Broome, G R	Kurmond Rd & Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Rd)	3222-134	P
213	Croft, A H	Stannix Park Road	5 Nov 1923 (2)	HF
214	No details	Stannix Park Road		
215	Rissler, Peter Henry	Chain of Ponds Creek	20 Jun 1901 (7)	HS
215	Rissler, Peter Henry	Chain of Ponds Creek	3417-150 (?)	P
216	Tuckerman, J E	Stannix Park Road	30 Nov 1910 (21)	CP
217	Tuckerman, J E	Closed Road	14 Sep 1910 (12)	CP
218		Stannix Park Road		RFS & L
219	Carr, A J	Carrs Road	18 Jun 1919 (23)	CP
220	Martin, R H	Stannix Park Road	3457-19	P
221	Atkins, A H	Stannix Park Road	2637-86	P
222	Atkins, A H	Stannix Park Road	2637-86	P
223	Martin, R H	Carrs Road	3457-19	P
224	Carr, A J	Carrs Road	18 Jun 1919 (23)	CP
225		Carrs Road		RFS & L
226	Tuckerman, J E	Closed Road	14 Sep 1910 (12)	CP
227	Castle, A	Carrs Road, Bee Point Hill	26 Aug 1910 (10)	CP
228	Castle, A	Carrs Road, Bee Point Hill	26 Aug 1910 (10)	CP
229	Carr, Arthur Joseph	Carrs Road	3 Nov 1919 (38)	CP
230	Becker, C A	Carrs Road	3343-67	P
231	Martin, R H	Carrs Road	3457-19	P
232	Palmer, F J	Carrs Road	26 Sep 1923 (22)	CP
233	Argent, A E	Currency Creek and Singleton Road	12 May 1898 (9)	HS
234	Salt, Edwin	Currency Creek and Singleton Road	28 Nov 1910 (19)	CP
235	Argent, E	Currency Creek and Argents Road	31 Jul 1909 (23)	CP
236	Becroft, C C	Currency Creek and Argents Road	2588-97	P
237	Becroft, E V	Currency Creek and Argents Road	19 Jan 1920 (1)	HS
238	Rissler, P H	Chain of Ponds Creek	4 Feb 1909 (3)	HS
238	Rissler, P H	Chain of Ponds Creek	3417-181	P
270	Water Supply Reserve	Geakes Road and Currency Creek	26 October 1917	RFS & L
304	Salt, Arthur	Singleton Road	20 May 1911 (13)	CP
368	Griffiths, John	Kurmond Road and Singleton Road	17 Oct 1910 (15)	CP
369	Marantelli, C A	Kurmond Road	3052-188	P
370	Marantelli, C A	Kurmond Road and McKinnons Road	3052-188	P
371	Wilson, G H	Singleton Road	4 May 1922 (6)	SP
372	Wilson, G H	Singleton Road	4 May 1920 (13)	SP
373	Marantelli, Andrea	Krahe Road	2939-37	P
374	Becroft, Charles C	Singleton Road	2092-111	P
375	Salt, E	Singleton Road	28 Nov 1910 (19)	CP
376	Popplewell, A	Krahe Road	2 Dec 1919 (45)	CP
377	Morsland, William	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	18 Nov 1919 (41)	CP
378	Gordon, Henry	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	16 Apr 1903 (1)	HS
379	Smith, Roland	Creek Ridge Road and Geakes Road	7 Jun 1915 (6)	CL
380	Cullen, J P	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	31 Mar 1921 (6)	CP
381	McLennan, J K	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	19 Dec 1919 (48)	CP
382	Tredoux, M M	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	7 May 1919 (3)	HF
383	Pysden, T D	Creek Ridge Road and Currency Creek	3376-91	P
384	Gregory, James (Jnr)	Creek Ridge Rd & Old East Kurrajong Rd (now part of Creek Ridge Rd)	27 May 1920 (20)	CP
385	Farrell, James	Old East Kurrajong Road and Creek Ridge Road	29 March 1911 (10)	CP
386	Fry, S J	Old East Kurrajong Road and Creek Ridge Road	4 Jun 1903 (5)	CP
387	Fry, S J	Creek Ridge Road	4 Jun 1903 (5)	CP
394	Gregory, Eliza	Currency Creek and Godalla Road	10 Jun 1920 (24)	CP
395	Clarke, H R	Currency Creek and Godalla Road	3440-177	P
396	Hayes, A H	Currency Creek and Godalla Road	23 Apr 1903 (2) 2346-135(?)	HS
397	Izzard, C H	Currency Creek	1 Apr 1924 (11)	CP
398	Greentree, S K	Currency Creek and Thomas Road	31 Aug 1905 (11)	HS
399	Becroft, L C	Currency Creek and Thomas Road	1909 (4)	CP

GLOSSODIA PORTIONS FROM PARISH OF WILBERFORCE COUNTY OF COOK MAP 13 JUNE 1925 (6 TH EDN)				
Portion	Applicant	Location	Date and/or Torrens Title Volume & Folio	Type of Tenure
400	Greentree, H R	Thomas Road	7 Jan 1909 (1)	HS
401	Hartley, T F	Currency Creek and Thomas Road	28 May 1919 (5)	HF
402	Geake, E G R	Geakes Road	4 Feb 1920 (3)	CP
403	Voller, W T	Joshua Road	12 May 1910 (2)	HS
404	Hutchison, P C K	Currency Creek and Geakes Road	29 May 1919 (6)	HF
405	Derrick, William	Currency Creek	15 Feb 1915 (3)	CP
406	Rhodes, Lavinia	Geakes Road	19 Feb 1919 (2)	HF
407	Rhodes, C L	McKinnons Road	18 Jun 1908 (9)	CP
408	Rhodes, S E	McKinnons Road	30 Apr 1924 (13)	CP
456	Hayes, George	Godalla & Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Rd)	25 Jan 1900 (1)	HS
457	Fotheringham, George	Godalla Road	28 Dec 1905 (18)	HG
457	Fotheringham, George	Godalla Road	2194-7	P
458	Smith, Alexander	Reserve Road and Godalla Road	16 Oct 1909 (39)	CP
459	Hayes, George	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	25 Jan 1900 (1)	HS
460	Greentree, H J	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	2073-30	P
461	Smith, Alexander	Reserve Road	16 Oct 1909 (39)	CP
462	Harley, R H	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	2892-201	P
463	Smith, Roland	Kurmond Road and Reserve Road	8 Aug 1910 (9)	CP
464 & 465	Smith, Alexander (jnr)	Kurmond Road and Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	2637-79	P
466	Graham, Robert	McKinnons Road and Geakes Road	1 Jun 1914 (9)	CP
467	Vernon, P W	Kurmond Road and Geakes Road	28 July 1898 (17)	HS
467	Vernon, P W	Kurmond Road and Geakes Road	1650-59	HG
468	Brown, R J	Kurmond Road	6 Aug 1908 (15)	HS
468	Brown, R J	Kurmond Road	2983-82	HG
469	Kent, C H G	Kurmond Road and McKinnons Road	17 Aug 1911 (18)	CP
470	Public School Site	Creek Ridge Road and Lamrock Avenue	24 Dec 1897	R
471	Public School Paddock	Creek Ridge Road and Lamrock Avenue	R27200 29 Jan 1898	R
480	Kingham, E S P, Lines, J, Fry, R W	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road) Reserved for Salvation Army Hall	2482-214	P
482	Scotts, A E	Boundary Road	22 Jan 1915 (1)	CL
483	Scotts, A E	Boundary Road	22 Jan 1915 (1)	CL
485	No details	Kurmond Road and McKinnons Road	No details	
486	Kent, C H G	Kurmond Road and McKinnons Road	17 Aug 1911 (18)	CP
504	No details	Singleton Road and Moles Road		
505	Mole, J R W	Moles Road and Singleton Road	17 Nov 1924 (24)	CP
506	Atkins, Jack	Singleton Road	17 Nov 1924 (25)	CP
507	Gordon, Alfred	Stannix Park Road	18 Nov 1924 (26)	CP
508	Public School Residence	Creek Ridge Road	Gazetted 5 Nov 1926	
509	Set apart for additional holdings	Stannix Park Road £1 per acre	26 Sep 1924	
529	No details	Singleton Road and Currency Creek		

ADDITIONAL PORTIONS FROM 7 JANUARY 1964 (8 TH EDN)					
518	Glossodia Park	Old East Kurrajong Road (now part of Creek Ridge Road)	R72621 6 Feb 1948	R	7 Jan 1964
521	Jabour, G J	Joshua Road	5587-73	P	8 - 7 Jan 1964
522	Williams, Creighton	Reserve Road	5933-228	P	8 - 7 Jan 1964
523	No details	Kurmond Road and Geakes Road	5791-13	P	8 - 7 Jan 1964
530	Reserved for Public Hall	Old East Kurrajong Rd (now part of Creek Ridge Rd)	R68428 23 Jun 1939	R	7 Jan 1964
544	Fisher, G E	Reserve Road and Kurmond Road	1952 (44)	SpL	8 - 7 Jan 1964
545	Hobbins, R K	Reserve Road	No details		8 - 7 Jan 1964
546	Rubie, Noel	Reserve Road	1952 (45)	SpL	8 - 7 Jan 1964

Abbreviations

CL	Conditional Lease	P	Purchase (Torrens Title - Volume and Folio))
CP	Conditional Purchase	PrCP	Provisional Conditional Purchase
ACP	Additional Conditional Purchase	PtCP	Part of Conditional Purchase
G	Grant (Old Systems Title)	R	Reserve
HF	Homestead Farm	RFS & L	Reserved from Sale and Lease
HG	Homestead Grant	SpL	Special Lease
HS	Homestead Selection	SP	Settlement Purchase
?	Illegible	Numbers in brackets	Number of application lodged at Lands Office, Windsor

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TRAVELLING IN THE OLD COACHING DAYS

Continued from p. 27

We determined on staying at Parramatta that night, the mails having arrived there from Sydney; and having by good chance secured a horse on hire from mine host of the Australian Arms, we were ready next morning after an early breakfast for an equestrian return. The mail boy accompanied us, for the mails only arrived that morning (Thursday) from Sydney by the first train, and they could only be conveyed on horseback. Having tolerably good steeds we pursued our way pretty well considering – having, strange to say, found the roads no worse, but rather better – the heavy downpour of the elements had the effect of washing a considerable quantity of the mud away, particularly off the hills. At Box Hill Hollow we found the mail coach, with a dray, firmly embedded in the mud. A team of six horses having come up, these were attached to the coach, and after a great effort it was, in its empty state drawn out. No attempt, however, could be made to move the dray. It was a decided fixture, past the axel trees, and could only be moved by unloading and digging out.

We proceeded on our journey homewards. As we approached McGrath's Hill, we met some carts, the drivers of which gave us the discouraging information that we would not be able to get across the flats between the hill and the entrance to the town without swimming our horses, as the road was flooded. However, nothing daunted, we pushed on, and found it was barely fordable, if we had courage enough to try it. Not liking to be balked after having striven so far to get home through it we went. The water was of considerable width in two places, and reached in depth nearly over the saddle, leaving us just enough room to take a kneeling position like the riders at a circus. Now we were safely through it, and trotted thankfully and gladly into the town, announcing the approach of the mail behind us, and bringing up two of the papers of that morning, being the only two in town. One such journey as this is enough in a lifetime, and it is scarcely credible that a traveller has had to undergo such hardships within so short a distance of Sydney, and with the wealth of the district and the County of Cumberland in existence'.

Source "*Hawkesbury Chronicle & Farmer's Advocate*"
17 November 1883 p. 3

TRAVELLING IN THE OLD COACHING DAYS

By W.W.

Contributed by Rita Crane



People in the present luxurious times are apt to grumble at the comparative slowness of the train from Blacktown to Windsor; but if they had travelled in the old coaching days they would thank their stars for even the present pace of railway communication. Imagine a person, on making a visit to the metropolis, being compelled to get up at three o'clock of perhaps a bitterly cold frosty morning; then cooped up in a miserable stage coach; the roads in places up to the horse's knees in mud; a probable breakdown; when within four or five miles of Parramatta – about Baulkham Hills – and a walk into the town, carrying one's luggage as best you could. The trip to Parramatta took from three to four hours, and although it had its discomforts in wet weather, was, at times, pleasant enough if you were not in a hurry to get to your destination. The stories and jokes of old Harry Martineer, the coachman, were often amusing enough, and he had a habit when he approached a bad piece of road of assuring the passengers that there was 'no fear, only a little danger!'. It was a great relief to stop for a few minutes at the half-way house, changing horses, stretching legs, and getting a refresher. At night a good tea was always prepared and on the table, but before anyone could thoroughly satisfy himself, the coachman would call out 'Time's up gentlemen!' and the unfortunate passenger was obliged to mount leaving, probably, most of the nice boiled fowl behind him. The mail coach was frequently stopped in olden times by robbers, a sensation that was anything but agreeable to travellers.

The following is an account of a trip to Sydney and back, which the writer made in June, 1857, and which was published at the time in a Sydney paper: - 'We had the misfortune to be compelled to leave Windsor per the afternoon coach, on Tuesday. As we were on the point of starting the rain commenced, and we had just time to secure the loan of an umbrella from the worthy coach proprietor, Mr Ridge, where proved ere long extremely serviceable. We had not got far on the road ere we encountered the most appalling difficulties, and the mettle of the poor horses was tried to the utmost – deep ruts and almost interminable sloughs; hills of soft yellow clay, ploughed by the

narrow wheels, and hollows of the veriest mud. Jolt and jostle violently we went every now and then; and as it were by special providence escaping the horrible turnover. We passed several teams on the road struggling for existence, and illustrating completely the idea of 'progress under difficulties'. About mid-way a large load of hay was capsized in the centre of the road, and by the side of a hill a dray full of grain had also upset.

The unfortunate driver seemed in a terrible plight, scarcely knowing what to do. At several other places we saw the marks of over-balancing and road-side embraces, while some teams had attained to a 'fixity of tenure', and an 'interest in the soil' anything but desirable. How we succeeded in getting just in time for the last train from Parramatta was surprising, and nothing but the most extraordinary efforts on the part of the driver and poor brutes of horses could have managed it. Then when we got to Sydney how refreshing, what a watery reception! The Royal Hotel was nearly flooded, and our bedroom during the night was the seat of our inundation. Serious thought o'ertook us as to how we would get home again. We made an effort. Accidently we went to the half-past four train, instead of as usual the last train which carries the mails. Just in time! Learnt with amazement that the line had been partially washed away, and that no more trains, except that one, would run either up or down for a time. So far so good for us. Off we set, and with the exercise of some extra care and caution on the part of the conductor, we reached Parramatta. No farther, however, could we go that night. A flood had taken place at the Hawkesbury. No coach had come from Windsor that day. The mail carriage, under the experienced and skilful driver Harry Martineer, had got into a deep hole at the foot of Box Hill, and four horses were unable to drag it out again. Two of the coach horses had broken away and could not be found, while with one Harry rode to the 'White Hart' where he succeeded in getting a gig, and so brought on the morning mails, arriving in Parramatta late in the afternoon. In these circumstances how were we to get home, there being no prospect of coaching it.

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

Can You Help?

If you have an enquiry about a family or a local history question relating to the Hawkesbury, please send details to Hawkesbury Family History Group, as per below. Enquiries are free.

Reunions

John Nichols Family Society 5-6 October 2008

Descendants, families and friends are invited to a John Nichols Family Society Reunion in honour of our ancestors John Nichols, First Fleeter and Ann Pugh, his wife on Sunday 5 October 2008 10am – 4pm & Monday 6 October 2008 10am – 1pm at Blazes Function Room, West Tamworth League Club, Phillip Street, West Tamworth NSW. For more information : Cheryl Ianson (JNFS Convenor) Ph 02 63414822 E/jnfsconvenor@hotmail.com OR Anne Ware (Reunion Co-ordinator) Ph 02 67656372 E/baware@bigpond.com Website : <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~johnnichols/> Accommodation see Tourism Tamworth, PO Box 552, Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 67675312 E/tourism@tamworth.nsw.gov.au or web www.visittamworth.com

Joseph Wright and Ellen Gott reunion 26 October 2008

The Descendants of First Fleet Convict Joseph Wright and Second Fleet Convict Ellen Gott, are invited to attend the 3rd Tri-ennial Family Reunion, Picnic and BBQ day on Sunday October 26th 2008. Where - In the Pitt Town area (most likely the Maraylya Hall, the venue we have used previously.) To be confirmed closer to the day. Please contact Stephen Wright on 45879393 or email - tejmwright@bigpond.com to register your interest or for further information.

Books for sale

New book on the Kable family

Damned rascals? A chronicle of Henry & Susannah Kable 1764-1846 by Paul Kable & June Whittaker is now available on the well known couple Henry & Susannah Kable. Copies of book now available for sale for \$40 + \$11 P&H. Contact G. P. Kable, PO Box 7503, Sutton 2620 or by jmfairview@bordnet.com.au

News....

Alexander Henderson Award

This award is presented by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc (AIGS) in memory of Alexander Henderson 1883-1968 & is presented annually to the best family history published in Australia, submitted for the prize and selected in the opinion of the AIGS. Entries for the 2008 award are currently being sought and must be submitted by the 30 November 2008. There are a number of conditions including items do not need to be published the previous year, only never submitted for consideration, unless a new edition. Entries submitted become the property of the AIGS. Author can submit more than 1 entry. Decision of the judging panel is final. For an application form & information AIGS www.aigs.com.au T (03) 9877-3789 E info@aigs.org.au PO Box 339 Blackburn 313. 2007 award were 1st "From Brecon to Broken Hill" by David Wilkins; 2nd "The Withers whose forebears in Ancient Britain walked" by Robert Ashley & 3rd "Banbury Barley & Beer" by Donal Jackson.

Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program

The National Library of Australia along with the various Australian State & Territory libraries, have been working on a program to digitise newspapers. This is called the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program. You can find out more about the program and newspaper titles at www.nla.gov.au/ndp/ At present newspapers for NSW include "Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser" as well as the "Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser" recently launched, it contains 70,000 newspaper pages from 1803 onwards with additional pages being added weekly. This is a work in progress and the Library welcomes feedback on the service. Development of the Beta service over the next few months. To search the database go to www.nla.gov.au/ndp/search/ & follow the links.

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor. All welcome - no charge.

8 October – 10am	<i>Hawkesbury : a peep at the past - from photographs</i> ~ MICHELLE NICHOLS
12 November – 10am	<i>World War records</i> ~ CHERYL MONGAN
10 December – 10am	SHOW & TELL Plus Christmas Party

Notices & enquiries are always welcome for the *Hawkesbury Crier*. Contact the Local Studies Librarian, Michelle Nichols, c/- Hawkesbury City Library Service, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor 2756 NSW
Tel (02) 4560 4466 / Fax (02) 4560 4472 - Email michelle.nichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au