



NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

ISSN 0811-9031

March 2020

PRICE \$2.50



Ebenezer School circa 1904

Photo: State Archives (NSW)

March 2020

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



The Hawkesbury Family History Group (HFHG) is for people who have an interest in family history in the Hawkesbury area or live in the Hawkesbury and are conducting research. 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.

W: www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au

The **HAWKESBURY CRIER** is the quarterly newsletter of the HFHG and is edited by Michelle Nichols. The cost is \$5 x 1 year / \$10 x 2 years, sent electronically as a PDF. Download order form from www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au

Articles, notices and enquiries are always welcome for the Hawkesbury Crier. Preferably typed and can be sent by email to history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Contact details:

Michelle Nichols, Local History Librarian
Hawkesbury Library Service
300 George Street Windsor 2756 NSW
Phone (02) 4560-4466 / Fax (02) 4560-4472 Email history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG

Find the Library on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Mary Ann Clarke.....	3
Isabel May Cupitt.....	5
Side by side at Sackville Cemetery.....	7
Some Hawkesbury headstones.....	10
Fatal accident at Wisemans Ferry.....	11
More local newspapers online.....	15
Trove update.....	16
Lawrence May.....	17
Newspaper clippings.....	26
With intent to ravish.....	27
Events, Websites & Reunions.....	28



Monument of James Alexander Paxton at Rookwood Cemetery

Photo: M. Nichols

SEE ARTICLE P.11

Celebrating women - MARY ANN CLARKE

By Carol Roberts

Mary Ann Clarke was one of fourteen children of Robert Smith (*John*) and his wife, Margaret (Hartley). Convicted of horse stealing at Bristol Assizes, Smith arrived in the colony in 1827, aged 21. In the 1828 Census he is listed as labouring for the shipbuilder, John Grono, and in 1835 married Margaret, the daughter of David and Elizabeth Hartley and grand-daughter of Grono.



Mary Ann Clarke nee Smith (1851-1919)

Courtesy the author

In 1869, their daughter Mary Ann Smith, born in 1851 in Pitt Town, married Charles Hitchen Clarke and her brothers, Lawson and Samuel Smith, married Sarah Ellen Clarke and Isabella Martha Clarke (both sisters of Charles Clarke). To confuse family historians further, Mary Ann's sisters Jane, Emma and Charlotte all married into the Gibbs family from the Wellington district.

Mary Ann and Charles Hitchen Clarke farmed at Freemans Reach for most of their lives, apart from several years at Cooyal, near Mudgee, from about 1871 to 1879. Their first child, Robert Hilton, was born at Freemans Reach, then four children were born at Cooyal: Samuel Alfred, Elizabeth Margaret, Charlotte Isabella and Alice May. They had gone to the Mudgee district to make a new life for themselves and to be near Mary Ann's elder sister, Elizabeth, who had moved to the area after her marriage to Joseph Pitt in 1854.

An unfortunate accident occurred in 1879 when Mary Ann and Charles' daughter, Charlotte (aged two years), was severely burnt when her clothes caught fire. The skin damage from the burns required extensive treatment and, as her parents had heard of the excellent skin graft treatments being carried out by Dr Thomas Fiaschi in Windsor, they packed up and moved back to the Hawkesbury where Charlotte could receive ongoing treatment. Five more children were born at Freemans Reach: Annie Florence, Ethel Jane, Hilda(h) Amelia (died aged one year), Charles Henry and Colin Edward. They married into the Collison, Cupitt, Hornery, Gardiner, Butler, Davis, Gibbs and Lamond families, thereby establishing a long line of descendants who shook off the convict stain and contributed greatly to agricultural, community, sporting and business life in the Hawkesbury, Mudgee and Wellington districts.

Mary Ann Clarke died at the home of her daughter, Charlotte, at 92-98 George Street, Windsor, in 1919 and Charles Hitchen Clarke died in Richmond in 1930. Although their parents are buried at St John's Anglican Cemetery in Wilberforce, Mary Ann and Charles made a decision early on that St Matthew's Anglican Church in Windsor would be their family church and they are both buried in St Matthew's cemetery. Rev. Norman Jenkyn conducted each service and spoke of the *'esteem in which the late Mrs Clarke was held throughout the town and district...she was a good Christian woman' who 'loved her children, lived and worked for them, and was a true helpmeet to her husband'*. It was said of Charles Clarke that 'the Hawkesbury district has lost one of its oldest and most respected residents'.

References:

- Family genealogical information from Carol Roberts, great-granddaughter of Mary Ann and Charles Hitchen Clarke.
- NSW Death Certificate - Mary Ann Clarke, registration number 1919/008222
- NSW Death Certificate - Charles Hitchen Clarke, registration number 1930/006241
- 'Obituary' Windsor & Richmond Gazette 23 May 1919 p. 9. National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers. Accessed 8 March 2020 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86149468>

'Obituary' Windsor & Richmond Gazette 23 May 1919

Mrs. Mary Ann Clarke, wife of Mr. Charles Clarke, senr., of Freeman's Reach, was 69 years of age at the time of her death, which occurred in Windsor, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Hornery, on the 10th inst. A daughter of Robert Smith, she was one of 14 children, and the second youngest of the girls. She was born at Richmond in the year 1850, and in her girlhood her parents went to Freeman's Reach to reside. She married there, and with the exception of a seven years' absence at Mudgee, she and her husband lived all their lives at Freeman's Reach. Three of the late Mrs. Clarke's brothers and three sisters survive her. The brothers are the well-known and highly respected Hawkesbury residents, Messrs. Alex. Lawson and Samuel Smith, all residents of Freeman's Reach. Her three surviving sisters married three brothers. They are: Mrs. Thomas Gibbs, Mrs. Harry Gibbs (both of Wellington, N.S.W.), and Mrs. Richard Gibbs, of Casino. Her husband survives her, and her family consisted of four sons and five daughters. They are: Messrs. Hil-ton Clarke, the well-known manager of the A.M.P. factory, Windsor; Samuel (deceased), Mrs. Albert Cupitt, of Cornwallis; Mrs. Hornery, Windsor; Mrs. Arthur Butler, of Kurrajong; Mrs. Fred. Gardiner, Wilber-force-road; Mrs. Davis, Windsor; and Messrs. Charles and Colin Clarke, Windsor. All the sons and daughters are esteemed residents of the Hawkesbury. The late Mrs. Clarke had been in indifferent health for three or four months, and had resided alternately with her daughters, Mrs. Hornery and Mrs. Davis, who nursed her tenderly when her illness was acute. She was a woman of quiet and gentle nature and pored by a very large circle of friends. The esteem in which she and her family were held was amply testified to by the very large concourse of people that attended the funeral, despite a wet afternoon, on the 11th inst. The pall-bearers were Messrs. R. B. Walker, M.L.A., B. Hall, C. Norris, J. J. Paine, T. Lobb and Jas. Gosper. The remains were interred in St. Matthew's C.E. cemetery, the service being conducted by Rev. N. Jenkyn. The choir sang the hymns "Jesu, lover of my soul," and "Abide with me," and the Dead March in Saul was played by the organist.

Article compiled by Carol Roberts E: advancehistory@gmail.com

Celebrating women - ISABEL MAY CUPITT

By Carol Roberts

Known as 'Belle' to close family members, Isabel May Cupitt was the second child born on the farm at Cornwallis near Windsor, to Albert John and Elizabeth Margaret Cupitt (Clarke). The first child, Pearl, was born in July 1892 but died two months later. Belle Cupitt was born on 10 September 1893 and was baptised five days later at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor. Over the next few years, Albert and Elizabeth Cupitt went on to have four more children: Leslie (born 1895), Ivy (born 1897), Myrtle (born 1900) and Edith (born 1904).



Brilliant scholar and keen sportswoman: Isabel May Cupitt

Courtesy the author

Belle was described as a brilliant scholar during her school days and won many prizes for her beautiful needlework. A keen sportswoman, she was an excellent tennis player and won several cups and trophies in tournaments. An active worker at church and sporting functions, Belle sang with the choir at St Matthew's until her marriage to Cecil Carl Daley at the church in 1914. Cecil was the eldest son of William Albert and Emily Louisa Daley (Farlow). The bride and groom each had strong links to early pioneer families in the Hawkesbury. Belle was the granddaughter of Charles Hitchen and Mary Ann Clarke (Smith) of Freemans Reach and Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Cupitt (Upton) of Cornwallis and Cecil was the grandson of Charles Homer and Mary Ann Martin (Forrester) and James Robert and Martha Farlow (Cross).

For her wedding, Belle Cupitt wore 'a dress of ivory paillette silk, of silk shadow lace, with ninon train lined with shell pink, with a coronet of orange blossoms, and veil'. As usual, the Windsor and Richmond Gazette reported on the wedding, listing an assortment of presents received from many family members and friends.

In 1918, the couple moved to Mummulgum on the North Coast of NSW to take up farming and Cecil Daley took up a position with the local shire council. Belle continued to take an active part in the community and was a member of several sporting and local organisations, being described as '*an indefatigable worker*'. However, there were increasing problems in the marriage and in 1932 Belle moved back to the Hawkesbury. She never returned to the farm and divorce proceedings began in 1936, after which Cecil Daley married Myrtle Irene Dobbin in 1939.

After more than fifty years working the farm at Cornwallis, the Cupitt family moved to Terrey Hills in 1940 where Belle helped her parents establish a large cut-flower garden for their retirement. Tragically, Belle's mother died soon after the move and Belle herself died only three years later, on 6 March 1944. Isabel Cupitt's obituary states, '*she leaves a wide circle of friends to mourn the loss of a beautiful personality, whom to know was to admire and love*'.

Albert died a month after his daughter. All are remembered on the family grave in St Matthew's Anglican Cemetery in Windsor.

OBITUARY
MRS. ISABEL DALEY

A correspondent writes:—
The news of the sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Isabel May Daley, on March 6, at Royal North Shore Hospital, came as a severe shock to her relatives and many friends. She was born at Windsor, and her early life was spent. A brilliant scholar during her school days, she was also a member of his-
toric St. Matthew's Church of Eng-
land choir, until her marriage, and an active participant in the work of her Church all her life.
An expert needlewoman, her col-
lection of beautiful handiwork—
many exhibits having won prizes—
was the admiration of all who had
the pleasure of viewing it. Interes-
ted in sport in her younger days,
she excelled in tennis, and had sev-
eral silver cups and trophies she had
won in various tournaments.
For several years deceased lived
on the North Coast, at Afterlee, Ky-
ogle, Casino and Mummulgum, and
was an indefatigable worker at the
many sporting and church functions
held in those centres. Her mother
predeceased her three years ago, and
the patience, forbearance, and gentle-
kindness that characterised deces-
ed's whole lifetime were tendered
unremittingly to her mother during
her latter years of failing health.
Brave and uncomplaining in her
own troubles, deceased yet had a
wonderfully understanding and sym-
pathetic mind for others less fortu-
nate, and no request for help came
to her but met with instant and wil-
ling response. She leaves a wide
circle of friends to mourn the loss of
a beautiful personality, whom to
know was to admire and love.
There was a large attendance of
relatives from Windsor, and friends
from Terrey Hills and Sydney, du-
ring the service at the chapel, and
wreaths from the Parents and Citi-
zens Association and the Progress
Association, of both of which she was
a member, were included amongst
the floral tributes which covered the
casket.
The late Mrs. Daley is survived
by her father, Mr. Albert Cupitt
(Terrey Hills), her brother, Mr. L.
Cupitt (Windsor), and three sisters,
Mrs. C. Smith (Eureka), Mrs. A.
Teale (Dorrigo), and Mrs. L. Vidiei.

'Obituary' Windsor & Richmond Gazette 29 Mar 1944

References:

- Louise Wilson, Robert Forrester, First Fleeter, Louise Wilson, Melbourne, 2009. NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Indexes, <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au> accessed 19 August 2019. Ancestry Australia, <https://www.ancestry.com.au> accessed 17 August 2019.
- 'Social', Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Friday, 13 November 1914, National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85859665> accessed 17 August 2019.
- 'Two Divorce Suits, Casino Court', Tweed Daily, Thursday, 7 May 1936, National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article192426199> accessed 19 August 2019.
- 'Obituary, Mrs Isabel Daley', Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Wednesday, 29 March 1944, National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86031366> accessed 17 August 2019.

Article compiled by Carol Roberts E: advancehistory@gmail.com

Side by side at Sackville Cemetery

By Michelle Nichols



The Stephen & King headstones at Sackville Cemetery

Photo: M. Nichols, 2017

The Stephens and King families, two well-known surnames in the Ebenezer/Sackville district, share a plot at the Anglican Cemetery at Sackville. The two families were connected by marriage, when Walter King married Elizabeth Stephens in 1874.

Walter was born in Glebe in 1849, the son of James Kelsey King, a tailor, his wife Mary nee Baker. James and Mary along with their three daughters, arrived in Sydney in 1838. The couple had an additional six children after arriving, including Walter. The family settled in Sydney and appeared to prosper in their new surrounds.

In the 1860s, a Provisional School consisting of a slab building with a single room and earth floor was established at the junction of the Colo and Hawkesbury. Walter was appointed as a teacher and taught at the Lower Portland School from 1869 until 1872. The teacher was given a boat to row pupils to & fro across the riverways. He was noted as “an upright and a very conscientious teacher.”

A school was also established at Portland Head, but became known as Ebenezer Public School in 1887. King taught at Ebenezer from 1872 and was appointed as the Schoolmaster at Ebenezer in the mid-1880s. Classes were originally held in the Ebenezer Church until a new weatherboard building was constructed on Coromandel Road. This building was destroyed by a bushfire in 1901 and the site was eventually relocated to its present site on Sackville Road with new buildings constructed, opening in 1902. Walter

King married Elizabeth, the daughter of the stonemason John, and Elizabeth Stephens in 1874. King retired in 1912.

John Stephens was born in England in about 1806 and by his mid-20s was recorded as a Mason and Master Builder. He had lived in the Cornwall area for many years and was noted as building a number of houses in that locality. He was sentenced to Life in 1833 after being caught forging a bill, and arrived in Sydney on the 'Neva' and first assigned to Port Macquarie. John married Elizabeth Brown in 1843, whilst living in Maitland, and shortly after they moved to Windsor. John and Elizabeth had six children including Elizabeth. They also raised Elizabeth's niece from birth.



Ebenezer School circa 1904
Photo: State Archives (NSW)

John Stephens senior is attributed as building Buttsworth's Mill at Wilberforce. Built in the late 1840s for Henry Buttsworth, it was used to process grain, a popular crop in the district. John and Elizabeth's sons, James Brown (1849) and John Gross (1850) were also well-known stonemasons and worked alongside their father, eventually taking over the business. Rough blocks of sandstone were cut, usually on the building site to avoid transporting the heavy stones.

The stonemasons then perfected the blocks using their chisels and mallets. The substantial blocks were lifted into place with double and triple pulleys. All back-breaking work. Some of the structures built in Ebenezer and Sackville include Rockleigh ca 1870; Coromandel ca 1890; Girrawa Park (now Pickwick Park); Stonehill; Ebenezer Villa; St Thomas Anglican Church, Sackville completed in 1871; Sackville North School built in 1878, now known as Brewongle Field Study centre. They also built Tizzana Winery in 1887, the Sackville Methodist parsonage and the St Albans Court House which was completed in 1892. These surviving properties, built by remarkable craftsmen, are important examples of sandstone construction, and contain outstanding heritage features.

John Stephens senior died in 1890 aged 84 and is buried at Sackville cemetery, with his wife Elizabeth who passed away twelve months earlier. Son John died in 1922 aged 71 and James died a few months later, aged 73. Both are buried at Sackville Cemetery.



The Stephen home on Tizzana Road Ebenezer

Photo: M. Nichols, 2018

Walter and Elizabeth King built their own residence on Sackville Road, towards the ferry, called 'Twyfordville'. Walter was a popular teacher, well-liked by the students and the local community. In 1912, after a career spanning over thirty years, he retired from teaching and the locals provided a farewell celebration.

Walter King passed away near Gosford, aged 86 years, in 1934 and was buried at Sackville Cemetery. As a mark of respect, the local school children stood and saluted as the cortege passed Ebenezer School. Elizabeth died two years later and their headstone is side by side John and Elizabeth Stephens, in the Anglican Cemetery at Sackville.

Report of Walter's death in
Windsor & Richmond Gazette 26/10/1934 p. 3
Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85796429>

There passed away at Matcham, near Gosford, on Tuesday of last week, a well-known and much respected identity in the person of the late Mr. Walter King, at the age of 86 years. Mr. King was for many years prior to retirement the teacher of the local public school. The burial took place at the Sackville Church of England cemetery in the presence of a large concourse of mourning friends, among whom were a number of ex-pupils. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. S. Howard, assisted by the Rev. A. J. Carter. As a mark of respect to his memory, the local school children stood at the salute as the cortege passed the school premises. Mr. King was the father of Mr. Herbert King, Mrs. Alma Tuckerman, Mrs. J. McKenzie and Mrs. Ada Brown, all of this district.

Some Hawkesbury headstones

COMLERDY ROAD KURRAJONG

**Headstone of Albert W.
L. Mitchell died 2 April
1948. Aged 69 Years.
Also Mary Ann Mitchell
died 16 August 1970.
Aged 87 Years.**



LOWER PORTLAND GENERAL CEMETERY

**Headstone of
Oswald Burnett Herps
who died 13 October
1934**

**Aged 18 years
"Safe in the arms of
Jesus
Safe on his gentle
breast"**

McGRATHS HILL

**In Memory of
John Galloway
Died July 24 1894
In his 84th Year**



Fatal accident at Wisemans Ferry

By Michelle Nichols

In 1872 a group of students from Sydney Grammar School (SGS) arrived at Wisemans Ferry. Unfortunately one of the boys, fifteen year old James Paxton, drowned in the Hawkesbury River.



Monument of James Alexander Paxton at Rookwood Cemetery

Photo: M. Nichols

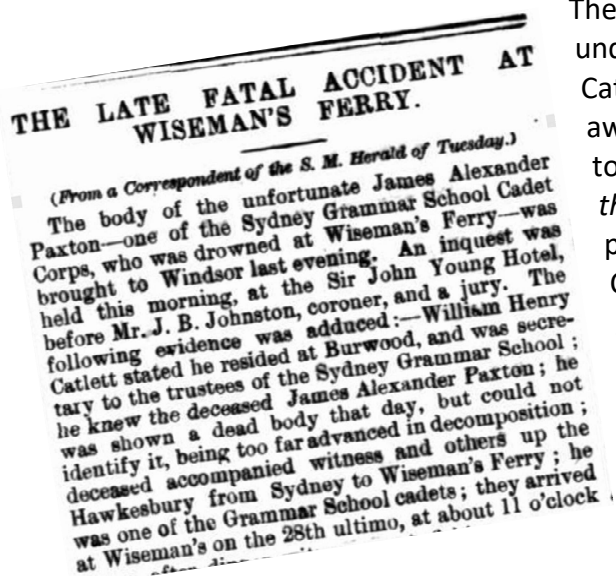
James Alexander Paxton was the only son of Joseph and Elizabeth Paxton. Joseph was born in Scotland and was a brass founder. He was also skilled a singer and musician, teaching music. In 1854, with wife Elizabeth nee Bennett, he migrated to Sydney. In the beginning he made a living from his music but then moved to Tambaroora, now known as Hill End where Joseph purchased a miner's license. While living in the gold fields, the couple had two surviving children, James Alexander born 1856 and Elizabeth Bennett born 1860.

While in the goldfields, Paxton made his fortune around Turon River and Hill End. By the 1860s he was in partnership with several others and in 1870s they were producing around £16,000 of gold.

He became very rich but also used his money to do good deeds including his funding of the construction of a Presbyterian Church at Hill End and later a church in Glebe.

With the growth in his earnings the Paxton's moved to Sydney, residing at 235 Macquarie Street, but retained his interest in mining. His son James Alexander Paxton was fifteen years old, with an interest in "training for the ministry"¹ and attended Sydney Grammar School (SGS).

On Thursday 28 March 1872 a group of students from the Grammar School arrived at Wisemans Ferry. Accompanying the students, known as cadets, was a secretary to the trustees of the school, William Henry Catlett.



The group arrived Wisemans Ferry about 11am, and were under the Captain of the corps, Mr. Weigall. Following lunch, Catlett went fishing while Paxton was swimming about 30m away. James was swimming closer to "his lines" and Catlett told the boy "to be careful that he didn't get entangled with them". Paxton then swam into the shallow water and pulled up one of the lines to see if anything was attached. Catlett believed Paxton could swim, he didn't ask him to go in the water, the boy just went in, under his own accord. He then heard him cry out 'help help' and he saw "Paxton's face, and the moment after he called the second time he sank; witness could not swim but ran to the top of the bank and called for assistance."

Mr Hodge, the drill instructor, was down in less than a minute, when witness told him what had occurred, and they two beckoned a boat in which were Messrs. Ebsworth, Barton, McCulloch, and Reid; they came to them as quickly as possible, and three of them immediately jumped in where witness pointed out, and dived for the body, but did not succeed in getting it; drags were then made, and the body searched for; after he heard Paxton cry the second time, witness never saw any more of him - he sank like a stone; where deceased sank was about twenty yards from the shore, in deep water.²

On Tuesday 2 April 1872, an inquest was held at the Sir John Young Hotel in Windsor before the coroner, James Bligh Johnston and a jury. Evidence was given by one of the trustees of SGS, William Henry Catlett from Burwood. He said despite being showing a body, it was far too composed and he couldn't identify it as James Paxton.

Constable William Goodman, was employed at Windsor Police station and being notified of the accident, arrived at Wisemans Ferry on at 10am on the Friday morning. He was shown where the Paxton was last seen. The search recommenced and drags were used to search the river and continued the day after. Paxton's body was discovered at 1pm on the Saturday and identified by "William King, of Sydney, as the body of James Alexander Paxton".

¹ Paul F Cooper. Joseph Paxton (1828-1882) Miner, Musician, Philanthropist and Churchman. Philanthropy and Philanthropists in Australian Colonial History, July 9, 2015. Available at <https://phinaucohi.wordpress.com/2015/07/09/joseph-paxton-1828-1882-2/>

² LATE FATAL ACCIDENT AT WISEMAN'S FERRY. (1872, April 4). The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18762476>

Albert Bythesea Weigall was a schoolmaster, who arrived in Victoria in 1863 and became headmaster of Sydney Grammar School in 1867, and formed the Sydney Grammar School Cadet Corps. At that time he was appointed, there were only about 50 students but by the turn of the century he had increased students numbers by almost twelve-fold. He was called as a witness and stated:

The Company arrived at Wisemans Ferry on Thursday morning, by the steamer *Alchymist*; he ordered no one to go on shore, or leave the steamer, till he selected a place to camp, and placed a sentry at the gangway to prevent anyone coming ashore; after settling on a spot they disembarked, and pitched the tents; witness then went round to the different messes, and gave orders that anyone who wished to bathe should do so, before dinner was served; he was present during the bathing nearly the whole time; there were many big boys bathing who could swim well, and there was a boat in attendance...³

After lunch the roll was called, and it was planned to be called again at 4pm for drill. He *"lay down to have a sleep, telling the sergeant to call him at a quarter to 4 o'clock"* but it was around this time *"that the accident happened."* Apparently, Paxton went to bathe in the river but without telling anyone.

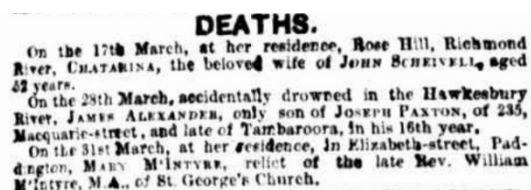
Following the presentation of evidence, the jury retired for about fifteen minutes and then responded with the following verdict:

That the death of James Alexander Paxton was accidentally caused by drowning whilst bathing in the Hawkesbury River. They added, as a rider, *"that some blame is to be attached to the officer in charge of the corps at the time for not keeping a more careful watch over the boys."* The body of deceased will be removed to Sydney by his friends by this afternoon's train for interment.

There was much conjecture whether Paxton could swim. Many thought he could, or assumed he could, and from the inquest it appeared he could not. However, the following postscript also appeared in the newspaper after the details of the inquest:

As it was stated at the inquest, upon the authority of Mr Paxton, supported by that of Mr Turville, that poor Paxton could not swim a stroke, and as this statement was made a great point by the jury, and appears to have affected the verdict, we have been requested to state that Mr Weigall and Mr Catlett have, since the inquest, seen two schoolfellows of Paxton at Bathurst. Both these boys have stated most positively, in the presence of Mr Weigall and Mr Catlett, that Paxton was able to swim well.⁴

His death was listed in *The Sydney Morning Herald* 2 April 1872, p. 1, pictured below:

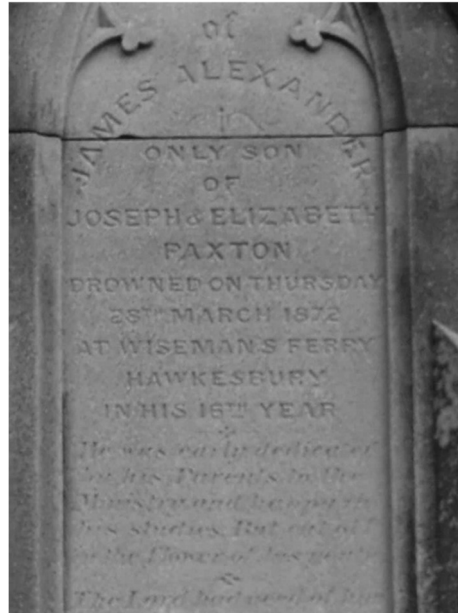


³ Ibid.

⁴ THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENT AT WISEMAN'S FERRY. (1872, April 4). The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18762476>

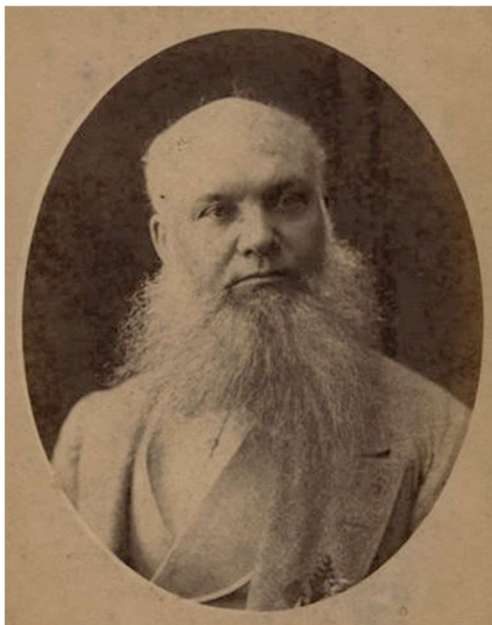
His family were bereft at the loss of James. *"The father was afflicted by this bereavement to an inconceivable degree, and never wholly recovered from the shock. He henceforth devoted himself entirely to the various religious and philanthropic movements which lay within his reach..."*⁵

James Alexander was buried at Rookwood Cemetery. An impressive monument was constructed in his memory.



Close-up of monument of James Alexander Paxton at Rookwood Cemetery

Photo: M. Nichols



Joseph Paxton's wealth meant he supported many charities as well as the Presbyterian church. His wealth also allowed him to be actively engaged in a variety of social reform. He *"was interested in some important social issues of the time and sought to build better social and community structures and address issues of justice through his philanthropy of civic engagement and reform."*⁶

Joseph Paxton died in 1882, ten years after his son untimely death. Apparently, *"on the morning of his death he casually remarked that he thought he was going to see his son James that day."*⁷

Joseph Paxton

Courtesy Auld Photograph Collection apc-000108-s1

⁵ Late Joseph Paxton, (1882, June 3). Australian Town & Country Journal, p. 17. Retrieved <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70969656>

⁶ Paul F Cooper. Joseph Paxton (1828-1882) Miner, Musician, Philanthropist and Churchman. Philanthropy and Philanthropists in Australian Colonial History, July 9, 2015. Available at <https://phinaucohi.wordpress.com/2015/07/09/joseph-paxton-1828-1882-2/>

⁷ Ibid.



More Local Newspapers online

More local Hawkesbury newspapers were recently added to Trove newspapers, an extensive collection of digitised historical Australian newspapers. Information located from newspapers is often unique and not found anywhere else. They are an important source for both local and family history research.

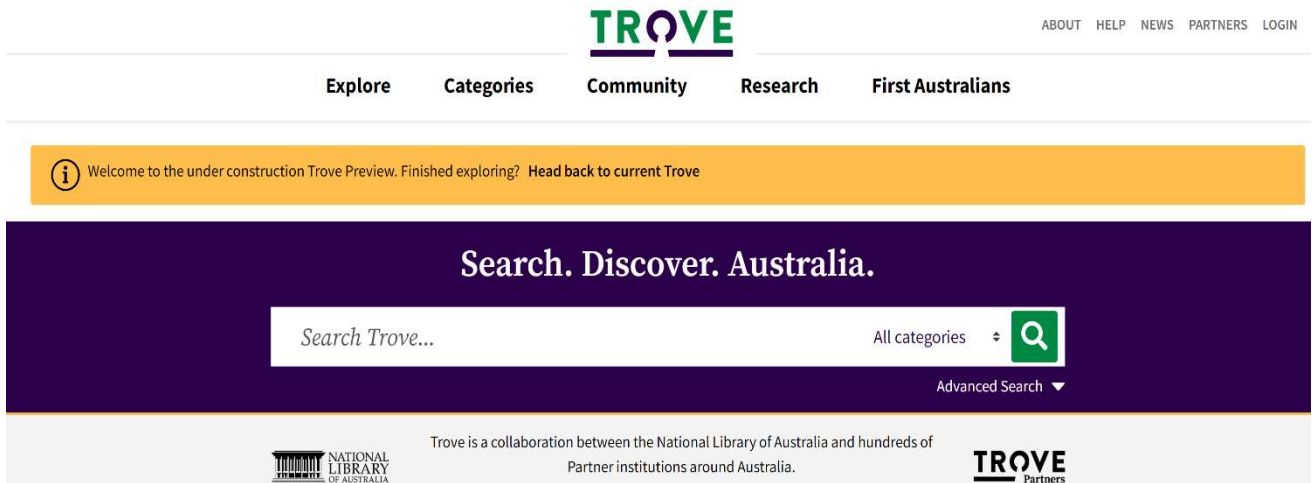
Collaborating with the National Library of Australia, Hawkesbury Library Service scanned and digitised further issues of the Windsor & Richmond Gazette as part of the Trove newspaper project. The dates originally covered 1888 to 1955 and have now been extended to 1961 and cover events within 'living memory'. The Windsor & Richmond Gazette, now known as Hawkesbury Gazette, was established in 1888 and is the longest running newspaper in the district.

Trove provides access to over 18.5 million pages from more than 1000 Australian newspapers and is freely accessible online at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> The latest additions complement existing holdings of local Hawkesbury newspapers on Trove, as follows:

- *Australian: Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser 1873 - 1899*
- *Hawkesbury Advocate 1899 - 1900*
- *Hawkesbury Chronicle 1881 - 1888*
- *Hawkesbury Courier 1844 - 1846*
- *Hawkesbury Herald 1902-1945 (Incomplete)*
- *Windsor Express 1843 - 1844*

TROVE UPDATE

Did you know Trove is being upgraded? During late January and February, users were invited to preview Trove and explore some of the upgraded site. The site is still under construction, ahead of the launch in June 2020. So according to the team at Trove, here's what to look forward to, plus how to get help if you need it.



Search page for Trove from the preview landing page

Here's an overview of what's remained the same and what's changed in the upgraded Trove.

Stayed the same:

- Newspapers & Gazettes. Our digitised newspapers and Government Gazettes look very similar to current Trove. Search, browse, view, download and text correct to your heart's content. Some colours have changed, but it works much the same way.
- Text correcting also works in the same way, with a few colour changes. New guide information will help more *Voluntroves* get started with this fun and addictive activity.
- Viewers for online digitised Maps, Images, Journals and Sheet Music are functionally the same as current Trove, besides the colour changes common to each page. We've moved some navigation tools to make it easier for you to find and explore this content.
- All the content you know and love in Trove are still there, plus new material added every day!
- Partners are the heart of Trove's success. Our hundreds of Trove Partner organisations, all across Australia, continue to share their items and collections with our community.

What is Changing:

- Trove logo, colours and the overall design have been refreshed across all Trove pages.
- The homepage is still where you begin searches. But you'll also find information about how to get started in Trove, as well as the latest news, events, blogs and trivia.
- Categories is the new name for zones in Trove. Some categories will be familiar, such as Newspapers & Gazettes, and others like Magazines & Newsletters are new. Categories group different types of material by their format and the names are a result of testing activities with the Trove community.
- Search results have a new look. Basic searches across all categories return the top 3 results for each category. You can then choose a category to search further.
- Advanced Search now requires you to choose a category before choosing keywords and more filters. This will save you having to select a category later in the search process.
- Filters have sometimes been called facets in Trove. They are used for narrowing down search results both in advanced search and searches within categories. Filters include title, date range, location and more.
- Records for individual items have been redesigned to highlight actions you can take – such as Read, Borrow, Cite and Buy. These records still contain all the usual information you'd expect to find in a library catalogue.
- Trove Accounts are now more customisable. This includes options for changing privacy settings, adding profile information and ways to view and sort the contributions you make to Trove.
- Comments are now called Notes, but are otherwise the same.
- Lists are now able to be filtered, reordered and downloaded in your Trove Account.

Lawrence May

More than just the Father of Irrigation in Australia

By Michael Edwards

PITT TOWNERS will be familiar with many names such as Johnston, Stubbs, Hall and Bootles, largely because they are recognised as local street names, memorialising in fact some of the long-standing families in the Pitt Town district. There are however, many unsung names equally deserving of recognition – names of pioneers who forged for themselves a way of life in the Hawkesbury, from the earliest of European settlement in 1794 long before the establishment of Pitt Town in 1810, and those who were instrumental in the formative years of the fledgling township.

Lawrence May is one such pioneer deserving of recognition.

Arguably the father of agricultural irrigation in Australia, Lawrence was instrumental in his early farming practices in the Hawkesbury and one of the first and more substantial land owners in the Pitt Town area.

Born in 1772 and originating from Ireland¹, at 18 years old, Lawrence had been tried and sentenced to death at Dublin in September 1790 for breaking into a house². With his sentence converted to transportation to New South Wales, he arrived in the Colony on the *Queen* in 1791. By 1796, he had married convict woman Ann Baker, going on to have three children together, the first of whom (Martha) was born in 1796, followed by Lawrence Jnr in 1799. Sadly, Martha would not survive and died in her infant years.

By 1800, May and his young family were living in Windsor (then known as Green Hills), where he established himself as a Miller, holding 18 acres of cultivated land with 10 pigs. Governor Hunter granted Lawrence a further 30 acres of land in May of that year, which was quickly put to use and so family life was looking good for the May's, with a baby girl born to them in 1803, which they named Sarah.

Tragedy however, was just around the corner, when in mid-January 1804, Lawrence's wife Ann died suddenly. Malicious rumours were quickly circulating around Sydney as to the cause of death, suggesting that Ann had succumbed to physical injuries sustained from her husband.

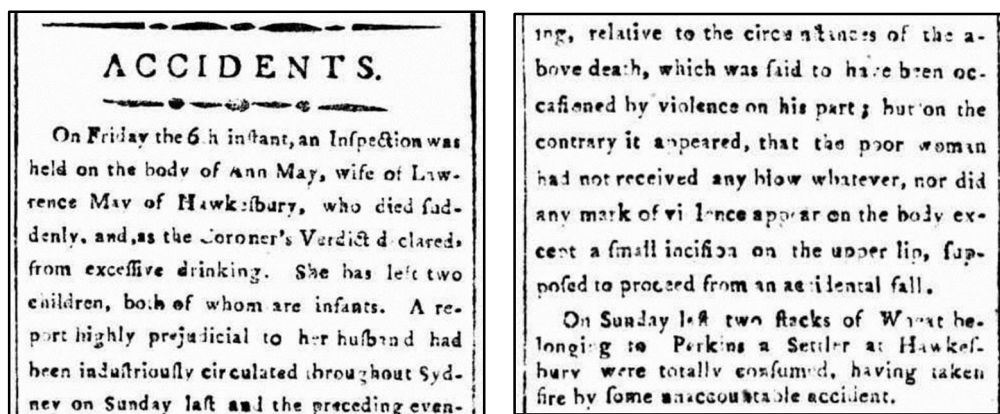


Figure 1: Report of Ann May's accidental death.
[Source: Sydney Gazette, Sunday 15 January 1804]

No sign of any physical blow to her body could be found when her body was examined by the Coroner, save for a small incision on her upper lip, which was attributed to a fall. Ann May, the Coroner recorded, had died from excessive drinking.³

With Lawrence cleared of any ill-doing and involvement, the death of his wife would leave a devastating loss to the young family – not only had Lawrence lost his sweetheart, but their two children Lawrence Jnr and Sarah were now without their mother.

Perhaps able to cope with the new reality of having to manage domestic life of running the farm and the family home alone, Lawrence quickly came to the realisation that he would not be physically capable of looking after his infant daughter without any assistance. Immediately calling in help, Lawrence advertised two days after his wife's death in the Sydney Gazette for a wet nurse. Running over a period of some weeks, the advertisement offered liberal terms for a '*Wet Nurse to an Infant the Mother of which is lately deceased*'. The only selection criteria: the candidate had to be a 'healthy motherly woman' and women fitting such a description were encouraged to apply by sending a line directly to Lawrence⁴.

Responding to May's advertisement for a wet nurse, was a young lass named Elizabeth (Eliza) Dowling.

Eliza had been transported for life to the Colony, having been tried at Naas in Kildare in the summer of 1801. Along with her sister Winifred and their mother Mary, the three women were found guilty of the May 1798 murder of a Mrs Deane⁵. Mary was hanged in August 1801, just before her daughters set sail for New South Wales, arriving on the *Atlas* in 1802. No sooner had Eliza arrived in the Colony when Governor King granted her indulgence of a Ticket of Leave. With no attachment through marriage or employment though, Eliza found it necessary to seek employment as a means of survival.

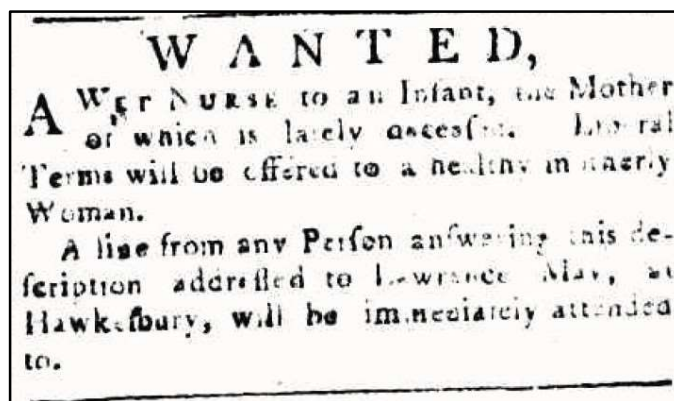


Figure 2: The notice placed in the Sydney Gazette by Lawrence May advertising for a wet nurse.
[Source: Sydney Gazette, Sunday 15 January 1804]

Whether out of desperation, sympathy, or just simply believing that she fit the criteria of being a '*healthy motherly woman*', Eliza responded to Lawrence May's advertisement for a wet nurse. The relationship of master and employee soon developed romantically and in late 1804, Christopher May was born. It is likely that Lawrence and Eliza married soon afterwards as it was still a time when childbirth out of wedlock was socially frowned upon. Though no records have been found to validate their marriage, by 1810, Eliza stated in a petition that she was married to Lawrence May 'shortly after her arrival in the colony'. And

so, with the children from Lawrence May's first marriage to Ann still very young, they would be raised by Eliza Dowling as their mother.

In mid-November 1805, Lawrence was busy assisting Eliza's sister Winifred Durenault, now a single mother after the departure of her French husband, to sell a 30-acre Prospect farm she had purchased from a Mr Fenton⁶. The sale would be long and protracted, occupying May's time until at least February 1807⁷, essentially beginning what would become a long career in property transactions.

When the Muster of 1806 occurred, it was recorded that May had '*one woman off stores*' (his wife Eliza) and three children (the two eldest from Ann Baker and Christopher, then aged two by Eliza). By now, Lawrence had amassed a considerable and impressive 150 acres of land in the Hawkesbury, with numerous convicts assigned to him for labour. Certainly, Lawrence must have felt that circumstances were looking positive for his family. Once again, they were about to change and change dramatically.

On Friday 4 November 1808, an intense storm cell ripped through Green Hills (Windsor). Described as a '*dreadful hurricane felt in the Hawkesbury, which raged for about 20 minutes with uncommon fury and was productive of consequences*'⁸, it was followed by a significant deluge of rain which continued for several hours after the storm had passed. A path of destruction was left in its wake, wiping out not only many ready-to-harvest crops of wheat along the banks of the river, but also taking out some of the crude little settlers huts and buildings in Green Hills. An '*unfinished house, the property of Mr Lawrence May at Bardo Narang was blown down and some of the materials scattered a considerable distance*'⁹.

Bardo Narang (or Bardenarang) is the Aboriginal name for the area which is known today as Pitt Town and Pitt Town Bottoms, with Bardenarang Creek extending from the present Pitt Town Lagoon, running northwards towards the Hawkesbury River beneath Friendship Bridge. This is also first time that May is mentioned as occupying land in what would become Pitt Town. Thankfully, May and his family were still residing in Green Hills at the time that the new house was destroyed.

An uncharacteristic period of continual rain fell over much of November of 1808, causing the Hawkesbury River to rise some 20 feet (nearly 7m) higher than usual and fall just as drastically almost overnight. Much of the surrounding land remained submerged by flood despite momentary reprieve from the rain and this would have devastating consequences for the May family, with Lawrence and Eliza's now 4-year-old, son falling into a saw-pit that had filled with water and drowning¹⁰.

Still grieving the loss of their son and emotions no doubt very raw, Lawrence and Eliza continued on with managing their affairs. Eliza and her sister Winifred, petitioned Colonel Paterson (who was by now in charge of the Colony of NSW, having successfully arrested and deposed of Governor William Bligh in January 1808) in early 1809 for a remission of their sentence. Paterson obliged, and gave them both an absolute pardon. But when Governor Lachlan Macquarie was instated as Governor from the beginning of January 1810, he declared void all pardons issued by Paterson during the period known as the 'Rum Rebellion'. Eliza would later petition Governor Macquarie in 1810 to have her absolute pardon reinstated.

Eliza and her sister appear to have shared a continuing close bond, as did their respective husbands, who collaboratively worked together in the sale and lease of many properties, including a '*capital thirty-acre farm at Hawkesbury, well known by name of McDonald's*

*Farm*¹¹. In mid-March 1809, Lawrence was selling yet another farm by private contract, this time, situated at Parramatta¹² and twelve months later, he was advertising for lease *'some excellent land down the river at Hawkesbury'*¹³.

May's interests were not only limited to real estate. He had successful pursuits in both horse breeding and racing, attending one of Australia's earliest horse race meetings at Sydney in 1810, where he ran a horse which he named 'Tickle Toby'¹⁴ against the renowned fast-running horse belonging to fellow land-owner in Bardo-Narang, John Benn¹⁵.

It's quite possible that Lawrence also had another though more discreet interest – the sale of illicit alcohol or 'sly- grog' as it was termed, where rum or other spirits were mixed with molasses, tobacco and even vitriol (sulphuric acid). When Lawrence received his Spirit Licence in February 1811, it's likely that he already had some experience in producing alcohol. The only difference however was that he was now lawfully permitted to produce wine and spirits as well as brew beer for sale¹⁶.

Unbeknownst to May, trouble was rising at home with Lawrence's assigned convict workers. There is no evidence to suggest that May was a harsh master or did not provide suitable lodgings and provisions for his convict servants. Whatever the circumstances, during the second half of 1811, two of his convict workers absconded from the farm without consent. Infuriated, Lawrence advertised in the Sydney Gazette, alerting the public of the situation, but also cautioning against the further employment of his workers *'on pain of prosecution'*¹⁷. The first to abscond was James Parks, a carpenter bound to May under 'Articles of Agreement', who left abruptly in late August, followed by Agnes Wardrope in October.

Still actively pursuing dealings in real estate, by June 1812, Lawrence was in the process of acquiring additional land, applying for the *'Letters of Administration to the Estate and Effects of John Martin, late of Windsor'*¹⁸. At the same time, Lawrence was in the midst of a legal battle against Daniel Fane. The result was that Lawrence had obtained possession of a mare, soon to be heavily in foal. The horse was left in the custody of the Provost Marshal William Gore at Windsor, but under the cover of darkness in late September 1812, the stable was broken into and the horse was stolen¹⁹. A substantial reward was offered by William Gore, though there is no recorded mention of the return or recovery of the horse.

With successes in not only real estate, agriculture, horse racing and the sale of spirits, it's likely that Lawrence was in a sound financial position to provide assistance to others. However, at the end of February 1813, he placed an advertisement in the Sydney Gazette, calling for all those who were indebted to him to *'settle their respective accounts forthwith, to prevent legal measures being resorted to at the next Civic Court'*²⁰.

During the year of 1813, a son would be born to Lawrence and Eliza, whom they would name Christopher Watkins May, in memoriam of the son they lost to drowning some five years earlier. The family were by now living in Pitt Town and on land fronting the Hawkesbury River with Lawrence also farming nearby or adjoining land that he was leasing from James Williamson. The Sydney Gazette reported in late January 1814 that *'much injury has been done to Lawrence May of Pitt Town, by stock trespassing on his own lands, as well as the lands in his possession, rented from James Williamson, Esq, comprising the whole of the standing timber from Bardo Narang to the front of the River Hawkesbury'*. The advertisement effectively put the culprits on notice, for if the stock were found wandering on May's land again, they would be impounded for damages and trespass and those responsible persecuted according to the law²¹. May certainly was one to settle disputes in the Courts.

From a very early date, the Hawkesbury was the centre of New South Wales wheat growing and milling industries, lasting until about 1873, when the local growers were later compelled to pass the wheat growing out to the west and south-west, on account of the rust in the crops. One of the earliest windmills was built on a river bank opposite the Ebenezer Church. By 1815, Lawrence had established the Windsor Horse Mill, which was a powerful mechanism for grinding flour, providing complimentary cartage for grain from the wharf in Windsor to his mill²².

Although it is quite clear that Lawrence was already in possession of an impressive area of land in the Hawkesbury, a grant of 60-acres was formalised by Governor Macquarie on 16 January 1816 at a rent of 1 shilling per annum, though the seemingly very attractive terms of repayment would not commence until the beginning of January 1827²³, some 11 years later.

Back at home, Eliza had given birth to another son John May in 1816, which would have been a great time of joy for the family. Surviving his infant years, sadly, John would die soon after his 21st birthday after a short illness in September 1838²⁴.

With May embroiled once again in legal proceedings at the beginning of August 1818, the Provost Marshal gave notice that unless the legal matters were resolved, the necessary actions would be taken to sell at public auction various land in Windsor, together with, and quite curiously, *'two dwelling houses and premises, situate at Windsor, the property and present residence of the Defendant Lawrence May'*. Was May now residing in Windsor or Pitt Town? Did he spend his time between properties? Or were the two dwellings in question yet more of Lawrence's impressive property portfolio? There is no clear answer.

Not a stranger to tragedy, in mid-March 1819, Lawrence was out horse riding when his leg got caught. The friction on his leg caused such severe damage that when he was transported to Sydney by caravan, his leg was said to have been in *'a state of mortification'*, leading to amputation²⁵. Surely the loss of a leg would be a major drawback to Lawrence's mobility and livelihood. Lawrence must now manage his affairs on one leg.

There is little mention of May in the press over much of the next three years, suggesting that he was likely keeping a low-profile learning to cope in his new circumstances. In December 1820, a son was born to Lawrence and Eliza, which they named James May. This was followed by the marriage of Lawrence's daughter Sarah, now about 19 years of age) at the end of January 1822 to Robert Cooper, a widowed wealthy distiller from Sydney²⁶.

Trouble was on the horizon yet again, when in March 1822, Lawrence May Jnr (now aged about 23) shot at his neighbour John Smith. The two men had got into an altercation on Lawrence May Jnr's land in Pitt Town over the allocation of some of the land between them, with May Jnr taking a shot at Smith as he reaped his wheat on the disputed land. This must have been a shocking incident to the family and the community. May was sentenced to life transportation to the then newly established penal settlement at Port Macquarie, leaving in May 1822.

Meanwhile, Lawrence was once again embroiled in a legal battle in the Supreme Court with the Court advertising in the Sydney Gazette in late March 1822 that it would be selling a *'thirty-acre farm at Pitt Town, fronting the river, occupied by Mr Garrigan, known by the name of May's Farm; the interest in the Farm occupied by the Defendant at Pitt Town being a*

*long lease at a very low rent and known by the name of Williamson's Farm...'*²⁷. By the following month, Robert Fitz of Windsor was advertising farms for lease in Pitt Town which had been up until then, leased by Lawrence from James Williamson. The farm was said to be so well known that no commendation was required²⁸.

A serious quarrel had broken out between Lawrence and his neighbour John Davis in early April 1828. The cause of the quarrel unknown, it was serious enough that May could well have prosecuted and given his track record of previous bouts of law suits against others, it is likely he did in this instance too. John Davis took out a carefully worded public apology in the Sydney Gazette, which suggests that this was either a 'condition' of May not further prosecuting, or it was a genuine expression of remorse and gratitude that May had decided to forego such further prosecution.

The apology was printed over April and May of 1828 and read:

*Whereas I John Davis, of Pitt Town, farmer, have had a serious quarrel and dispute with my neighbour, Mr Lawrence May of Pitt Town and in the heat of passion I made use of threats of evil and malign tendency as one without the fear of God before his eyes, which expressions I most sincerely regret to have uttered and abhor the thought of while in possession of sober reflection and sound reason. I therefore most humbly beg Mr Lawrence May to accept this publication of my contrition in proof thereof, and Mr L. May having kindly offered to forego any further prosecution I hereby most sincerely return him my grateful acknowledgement and humbly beg his pardon. Given under my hand, at Windsor, the 2nd day of April 1828.*²⁹

It was around this time that Eliza May died, leaving Lawrence twice widowed now. As was maliciously speculated when Lawrence's first wife Ann died, that she did so at the hand of violence from her husband, was the death of Eliza the cause of libellous remarks of evil and malign tendency as suggested in the public apology? Or was it simply a dispute over land similar to that of Lawrence May Jnr? The fact that Davis regrets having made such threats in the 'heat of passion', suggests that Davis was himself quite upset and had cause to act.

When the 1828 Census took place later that year, Lawrence was recorded as a farmer, living in Pitt Town with Rosetta May (nee Kite) and having amassed ninety-six acres of land, most of which was situated along the Hawkesbury River in what is today known as Pitt Town Bottoms, but also holding smaller town lots situated within the Pitt Town village itself.

Having such an expanse of land fronting the Hawkesbury River, Lawrence had most certainly experienced the devastating effects of too much rain, with the river rising and breaking its banks multiple times, having lost crops, his house while under construction, and most tragic of all, his son. But in the late 1820s, the Hawkesbury was experiencing long spells of drought, with crops now suffering from too little rain.

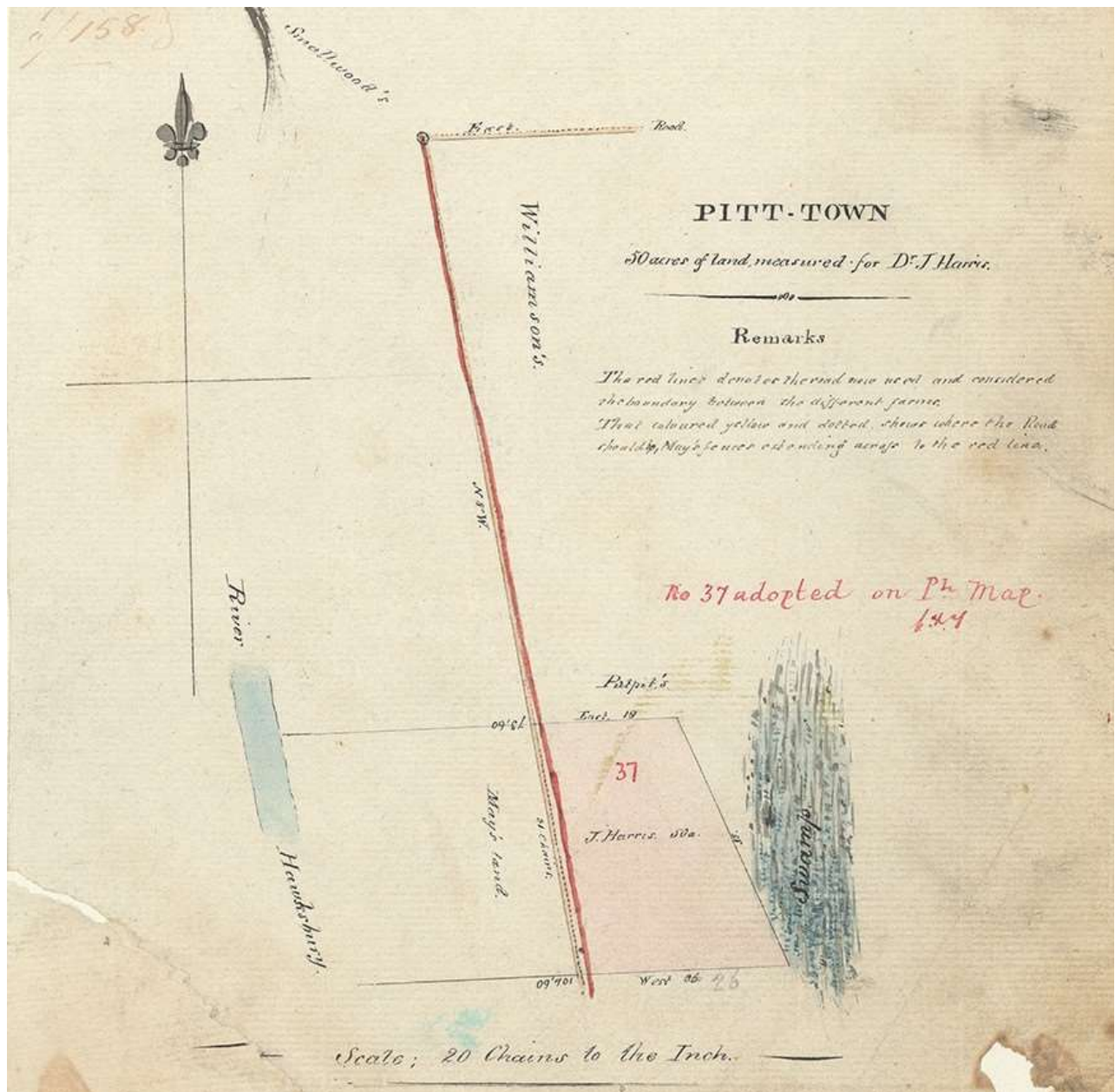


Figure 3: Plan showing part of May's farm fronting the Hawkesbury River at Pitt Town Bottoms.
[Source: State Archives of NSW, 2019]

Realising the resource that ran straight past his land, Lawrence began to experiment with ways of drawing water up from the Hawkesbury River to irrigate his crops. He built a pump which he placed on the edge of the river, which was connected to a series of lead pipes, conveying water drawn up from the river to a series of ditches or trenches from where he could use it as necessary to irrigate any part of his farm. May's experiment caused something of a sensation in the Sydney Gazette, claiming that it was '*perfectly novel and unprecedented in the Colony*', with the pump being capable of '*discharging 20 tons of water an hour, requiring only two men to operate it*'³⁰.

An official trial of the experiment was scheduled for the following week, where it was expected that a '*considerable number of respectable gentlemen intend to be present at so interesting*'
HAWKESBURY CRIER (MARCH 2020) PAGE 23

*a scene'... 'the most sanguine hopes are entertained, that it will prove completely successful in rescuing the growing wheat from the destruction which, it is apprehended, would be otherwise inevitable'*³¹.

Strangely however, there is no known further mention of May's irrigation experiment and one questions what became of the official trial. Did the trial work and did May impress those 'respectable gentlemen' in attendance? Either way, Lawrence's experiment essentially heralded the birth of agricultural irrigation in Australia. The simplicity of the design and technology has changed little since, though pumps are now electric and have the capacity of drawing a far greater volume to irrigate crops by spray. Clay, steel and even PVC piping have replaced the leaden pipes of May's time, but still, the simple practice of drawing water from a river or dam, is no longer unique or isolated to Pitt Town or the Hawkesbury, but a prevalent feature of agricultural practice nation-wide.

One therefore would conclude that May's experiment was highly successful, leaving his mark in Australia's agricultural history.

Lawrence and his neighbour John Davis appear to have settled their differences and ended their relationship positively, for when Davis died in early 1831, he appointed May as the Executor of his estate³². In April and September 1834, May acquired more land, including *'29 roods of land promised to John Booth'*³³ in Windsor and 60 acres at the Macdonald River³⁴.

By 1835, Lawrence had erected a horse-power flour mill on his land in Pitt Town³⁵, continuing in his long-established profession as a miller, but his health was by now declining. It is almost excusable for one to forget that tragic horse-riding accident of March 1819 where Lawrence lost his leg, in turn, painting a picture of a man of sheer determination to keep going despite the hardship at whatever the odds. Hobbling around on one leg, Lawrence would have had assistance from his assigned convict workers – despite the continued reporting of them absconding without consent.

In June 1837, Lawrence knew he was not long for the world. He appointed his son-in-law, Robert Cooper as Trustee of all his affairs and in whom all future business was to be addressed³⁶. That same month, agents Mansfield & Prout were instructed to sell by public auction a number of horses, mares and foals belonging to May. The animals were considered of such superior quality and breed, having great strength owing largely to their *'Diet of the Hawkesbury'*. Amongst them was a *'splendid roadster...well-known as the fastest Trotter in the Colony'*³⁷, demonstrating May's great successes in horse breeding and racing.

Leaving Pitt Town in July 1837, Lawrence May travelled to Ormond House (also known as Juniper Hall) in Paddington, which was the home of his daughter Sarah and son-in-law, Robert Cooper. May would never return to Pitt Town or the Hawkesbury, for he succumbed to his *'long and painful illness'*³⁸, dying at Ormond House on 24 July 1837 at the age of 65.

Like many pioneers, forging their way and establishing themselves with aspirations of prospering, Lawrence May was no exception, but he was exceptional. Enduring many hardships and setbacks, he also pioneered many great achievements. Despite the 'convict stain' of his past, he tried his hand at many enterprises in property, milling, agriculture, horse breeding, racing and irrigation.

Lawrence May had forged for himself a place in Australian history.

Remarkably, May's Farm fronting the Hawkesbury River at Pitt Town Bottoms, remains in the ownership of the May family to the present day. Though no longer producing wheat or crushing grain in the horse-powered mill, since 1987, the farm has been home to Dad and Dave's Turf Supplies, producing some of the most superior quality turf in Sydney for golf courses, major stadiums, cricket ovals, sports fields, and racetracks in Australia.

Compiled by Michael Edwards E: michael@edwardsplanning.com.au

References

- 1 Binney, K. 'Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and The Serpents Legacy'.
- 2 Reece, B. 'Exiles from Erin – Convict Lives in Ireland and Australia'.
- 3 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. 'Accidents'. Sunday 15 January 1804.
- 4 Ibid. 'Wanted'. Sunday 15 January 1804 and Sunday 22 January 1804.
- 5 'Finns Leinster Journal'. Wednesday 19 August 1801.
- 6 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Sunday 17 November 1805.
- 7 Ibid. 'To Let'. Sunday 1 February 1807.
- 8 Ibid. Sunday 6 November 1808.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Sunday 20 November 1808.
- 11 Ibid. Sunday 26 February 1809.
- 12 Ibid. Sunday 12 March 1809.
- 13 Ibid. Saturday 3 March 1810.
- 14 Reece, B. 'Exiles from Erin – Convict Lives in Ireland and Australia'.
- 15 Binney, K. 'Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and The Serpents Legacy'.
- 16 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Saturday 16 March 1811.
- 17 Ibid. Saturday 31 August 1811.
- 18 Ibid. Saturday 20 June 1812.
- 19 Ibid. 'Reward'. Saturday 26 September 1812.
- 20 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Saturday 27 February 1813.
- 21 Ibid. 'Notice'. Saturday 22 January 1814.
- 22 Hardy, B. 1985. 'Early Hawkesbury Settlers'.
- 23 Ibid. Tuesday 20 September 1831.
- 24 Ibid. Tuesday 18 September 1838.
- 25 Ibid. Saturday 27 March 1819.
- 26 Ibid. Friday 1 February 1822.
- 27 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. 'In the Supreme Court'. Friday 22 March 1822.
- 28 Ibid. Friday 5 April 1822.
- 29 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Friday 25 April 1828 and Friday 2 May 1828.
- 30 Ibid. 'Irrigation on the Hawkesbury'. Monday 1 September 1828.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. Tuesday 21 June 1831.
- 33 Ibid. Saturday 26 April 1834.
- 34 Ibid. Saturday 13 September 1834.
- 35 Steele, J. 1916. 'Early Days of Windsor'. Chapter 26 – Industries.
- 36 Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser. 'Notice' Thursday 8 June 1837.
- 37 Ibid. 'Superior Draught Horses, Mares and Foals, being part of the well-known Stud of Mr. Lawrence May, of Pitt Town'. Tuesday 13 June 1837.
- 38 Ibid. Saturday 29 July 1837.

Selection of newspaper clippings from local Hawkesbury newspapers

Newspapers can help us find additional information about our ancestors.

They help to put our families into context. Check Trove

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> often as new papers are added regularly.

HAWKESBURY MAIL CONTRACTS

Following tenders have been accepted for mail contracts: From Railway Station to Post Office, Windsor, 4 times a day, from Post Office to Station 5 times a day, the clearance of the letter receiver in Bridge-street 3 times a day, and conveyance of the contents to the Post Office – W. F. Linsley (Windsor), 4 wheeled coach, 2 horses, for 3 years, £15 per annum. Windsor and Freemans Reach, 6 times a week, Bartholomew C. Kirwan, Clarendon, horseback, 1 year, £25/15/- Sackville Reach and Lower Portland, 3 times a week - Edward Mitchell (Lower Portland) horseback, 3 years, £17 per annum. Lower Portland and Central Colo, once a week - Thomas Everingham (Colo), horseback, 3 years, £16 per annum. Kurrajong and Comleroy Road, 6 times a week - Henry Wholohan (Comleroy Road), horseback and horse an sulky, 3 years £29/6/9 per annum. Comleroy Road and Upper Colo, via Blaxlands Ridge and Moran's twice a week - Thomas Caterson, horseback and sulky, 3 years, £30 per annum. Upper Colo, Putty and Howes Valley, once a week - Henry W. Turnbull, 3 years, £44 per annum. Wisemans Ferry, Central McDonald, St. Albans and Upper McDonald, twice a week, and Wisemans Ferry, Central McDonald and St. Albans once a week - John J. Walker, 3 years, horseback, £37 per annum, or between Wisemans Ferry and Upper McDonald by licensed 2 horse waggonette, and between Wisemans Ferry and St Albans on horseback, £42 per annum. Lower Mangrove and Mangrove Creek, twice a week - Patrick E. Donovan, horseback, 2 years, £15 per annum.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette 30 October 1897

OBITUARY WILLIAM INGRAM

Exactly a month ago on Sunday last William Ingram, son of Mr & Mrs Ingram was thrown out of a sulky in George Street Windsor. He fell heavily on his shoulders and received a fracture of the base of the skull. He was rendered unconscious and was immediately taken to the Windsor Hospital. He lingered in an unconscious condition until Sunday evening when he passed away. The late William Ingram was 37 years of age and was born in Windsor. He learnt the grocery trade in Windsor, and for some years was employed as a grocer's assistant in Sydney. About 3 years ago he returned to Windsor, and had been doing laboring work on Mr John May's farm up until the time of the accident. The remains were taken to deceased's parents residence on Monday afternoon from whence the funeral started on Tuesday afternoon for the Methodist cemetery at Magraths Hill where the internment took place. Rev D. A. Gilsenan conducted the service at the grave, and Mr J. W. Chandler had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette 31 July 1914

LOST CHILDREN OF BULLRIDGE

On 21st November, two children strayed from their home, situate on the Bullridge in the Hawkesbury district. The eldest, nine years old, was the daughter of Mrs McCabe, and the youngest, an infant of fifteen months, was the child of Mrs Charlotte Mitchell. It appears that the mothers left the children at home, giving them strict orders not to leave the house, yet they disobeyed and went to look for their parents, lost their way and strayed as far as Nixons Swamps, about three miles away. They were out all night in that fearful storm of Friday, and were not found until about 7 o'clock on Saturday morning. They sat under a wattle, so the eldest child said, she nursing the younger one. She wanted to go to sleep but was prevented by the crying of her companion in misfortune. and when they were discovered, were very much exhausted. The neighbours were very kind in assisting in the search, and were very well rewarded in restoring the little wanderers to their sorrowing parents.

The Australian - Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser 29 November 1873

With intent to ravish. . .

In November 1859, **Joseph Elliott** had a hankering after **Mrs Matilda Langton** of Windsor. He visited her house on Sunday morning the 20 November whilst her husband was in church and assaulted her. Mrs Langton reported the episode to the authorities and Elliott was placed in custody.

Details of the incident were reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* following the court hearing. On Tuesday 22nd November at the Police Office in Windsor the hearing was heard by the following Justice of Police, Messrs **Ascough, Day, Johnston and Powell**.

“Joseph Elliott, brickmaker Windsor was brought up in custody of the police, having been taken on a warrant, issued at the instance of Mrs Matilda Langton, wife of **Henry Langton**, brickmaker, charged with having on Sunday forenoon last. Assaulted Mrs Langton, with intent to ravish her. **Mr Coley** and **Mr Walker** appeared in defence of the prisoner.



The evidence of Mrs Langton went to shew that whilst her husband was at church on Sunday forenoon last, the prisoner with his son (a young man) walked into her house, put his arms round her neck, kissed her, and attempted improper liberties with her, she took up a stick and beat him; he wrestled the stick out of her hand, and struck her over the arm severely with it, calling her at the same time very opprobrious names.

The prisoner's son, who was present, being sworn, stated that he saw no improper liberties taken further than the kissing; his father was tipsy at the time. The Bench after deliberation declined to commit, but found the defendant guilty of an aggravated assault and sentenced him to three months imprisonment with hard labour in the gaol at Windsor.

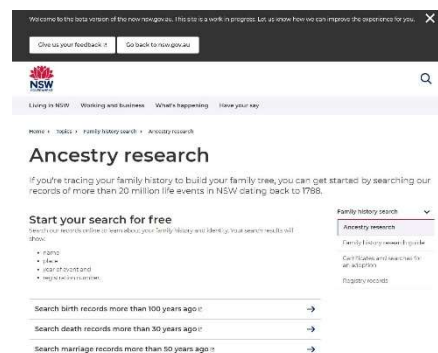
Compiled by Michelle Nichols
Source : *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 November 1859

Information

NSW Registry of BDM trial website

The NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages have announced their website is undergoing changes. A new site, which is a work in progress. They are currently asking for feedback, so try it out and let them know how they can improve it. (Access the feedback form on the top black strip of the site)

It is now available to access at <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/topics/family-history-search/ancestry-research>



Events

Discover Your Family History with Google

Tuesday 5 May 6.30-8.30pm

Want to learn strategies to discover more about your family history? This session will focus on special techniques using Google.

Cost \$10 – bookings essential <http://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com/> or phone 4560-4460.

Tour 2 Richmond Cemeteries

Wednesday 6 May 2020 9:30-11:15am

Take a journey around two historic Richmond cemeteries and join our guided tour of the Presbyterian Cemetery and the old Catholic and Methodist sections. Find out about some of the interesting people buried there.

Cost \$10 bookings essential, book via Eventbrite essential <http://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com/>



HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor. All welcome - no charge (10am start)

11 March 2020	The Industrious Ex-Convict - James Gough / Marian Starr
8 April 2020	A sense of Place / Michelle Nichols
13 May 2020	NSW Railways personnel records / Bill Phippen
Check http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/hfhg/meetings.html for the full calendar	

Find the Hawkesbury Family History Group on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG

Find the Library on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary



Notices & enquiries are always welcome for the *Hawkesbury Crier*.

Contact the Local History Librarian,

c/- Hawkesbury Library Service 300 George Street Windsor 2756 NSW

Phone (02) 4560 4466 ~ Email history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au