

The Hawkesbury Crier

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PRICE INCREASE

Please note as of September 2004 there will be a price increase for the cost of the Hawkesbury Crier. It will now cost \$2.50.

This is to cover printing costs.



Windsor Post Office circa 1900

Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

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June 2004

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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

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THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY OF ARTICLES, OR ANY STATEMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

"Sum of us"



*We have a choice
In those who follow,
But those we follow, we have not.*

*They were rough
They were tough,
But times were .. too.*

*Though everything
They may have been,
Is not our lot.*

*The thread that binds
Turns back our minds,
To seek.. their times.*

*They and theirs ...
The times they've shared.
We .. cannot.*

*But share we do,
Their precious springs.
Our "Wells of Life".*

*As all they are.. and
You and I, now becomes
The "Sum of Us".*

By Janadele Ryman Stewart. Email : janadele@bigpond.net.au

Image also supplied by Janadele Ryman Stewart

A SNIPPET ABOUT SOLOMON WISEMAN

Contributed by Lesley Uebel

The following article about Solomon Wiseman and the need of a Magistrate in the vicinity of the area now known as Wisemans Ferry from the pages of the "*Sydney Herald*" August 22, 1831.

From a Hawkesbury Correspondent,

The want of a Magistrate in this district is daily becoming more glaring. Some sneaking rogue managed last week to pinch a bag of new silver coin, containing about £30 from the bar of Mr Solomon Wiseman, the loss was not immediately discovered, however the new shillings came pouring in, and the liquors, no doubt went pouring down, to the great gratification of the chucking sneaksman, and one would imagine, to the great mortification of the contractor - but Solomon in his respect, proves himself to be a 'wiseman', and when any new silver is tendered for liquors, he merely observes with a shrug of the shoulders, to his philosophical partner, who also bears the loss with great solecism "they are all coming home again mother". The sly rouge still remains undiscovered, though there's a strong 'down' on a certain party.

This information was supplied by Lesley Uebel

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FLAGSTAFF HOLLOW FARM ON THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

That well-known estate, the property of W. H. Eales, situate on the Hawkesbury River, known as Flagstaff Hollow Farm, and now in the occupation of the owner, better know by the name of Robert Earle. On the land is erected a snug homestead. There are 40 acres of land, nearly all swamp land, there are 12 acres fenced and well drained, out of which there is at present growing 5 acres of splendid maize crop, 2 acres of orchard, with 200 orange trees, all from pips, with 3 or 4 hundred cases - splendid sample of oranges, 3 large Windsor pear trees, bearing well, about 12 China peach and apricot trees, and 50 Royal George peach trees, in full bearing, also 16 acres of new ground, fit for the plough for next crop, with a splendid run for 20 or 30 head of cattle all year round, with a neverfailing supply of water. Also 2 first class working Mares, Harness, Ploughs and Harrows, and other farming implements. The whole to be sold for £600, with immediate possession. For further information for full particulars, apply to the owner on the land, or to Mr. J. T. Rowthorn, Auctioneer, Dight-street, Windsor.

Australian - Windsor, Richmond, & Hawkesbury Advertiser 7 April 1883

WALTER BLANCHARD 1806-1860

by Kenneth Price

Not much is known about the early life of Walter Blanchard, born in London on the 2nd of March 1806. So far, we have been unable to trace who his parents were or what happened in his early years.

We can only pick up his life story at the tender age of 16 years, when, in September 1822, he was convicted in the Old Bailey for breaking and entering. He was sentenced to be hung but this was commuted, after receiving the King's pardon, on the condition of transportation for life.

He was transported on the vessel "*Ocean*", built in Whitby in 1808. It sailed from Portsmouth on the 27th of April 1823 under the command of Capt. William Harrison. On board were a total of 172 convicts, half of these from the "*York*" Hulk - men of the most infamous character, who tried, unsuccessfully, to take over the ship. The other half were from the "*Leviathan*" Hulk – men of good conduct and fair character. The "*Ocean*" arrived in Sydney on the 27th of August 1823 after a passage of 123 days.

Walter Blanchard appears in the Census of 1828 : - Walter Blanchard aged 21, Government Servant (an assigned convict) – his religion is listed as Protestant – and he is recorded as the Assistant Overseer of No.26 Road Gang at Concord.

He received his Ticket of Leave on the 19th of November 1831. It was recommended by the Parramatta District bench. According to the Governor's Despatches, Walter had been granted a Ticket of Leave for apprehending a bushranger.

On the 30th of July 1832, Walter married Elizabeth Saunders at St. John's Church, Parramatta by the Reverend Samuel Marsden. They had 7 children – Walter born 1833, John 1835, Alfred 1838, Elizabeth 1840, Mary Ann 1841, George 1843 and Eliza in 1844.

Walter Blanchard was a member of Sir Thomas Mitchell's "Australia Felix" party which left from near Mount Canobolas (about 12 kms south west of present day Orange) in March 1836. The party comprised of 25 men, 11 horses, 52 bullocks, 100 sheep, 22 carts and a boat carriage with boat. They were also accompanied by an Aboriginal who called himself John Piper and spoke English. The party proceeded to the Darling, exploring extensively the river systems of what is now Southern NSW, traversing through Victoria, exploring the Grampians and met the Henty brothers in Portland. Walter was employed as in the exploring party as a Blacksmith and Measurer and was issued with a firearm. He is mentioned on page 198 of Major Mitchell's journal with regard to a fight with a party of Aborigines. The party returned through North Eastern Victoria to Sydney, arriving in October 1836. Mitchell said that :

"Walter Blanchard was employed with the chaining party usually entrusted with the tent containing the barometers and other instruments during my absence from the camp"

(Mitchell's list of the exploring party with such recommendations in favour of each "*as their conduct and service while with me appeared to deserve*")

Walter Blanchard received a Conditional Pardon in 1838. It had been ordered on the 28th of January 1837 by special expiation under the Surveyor General (Sir Thomas Mitchell) particulars furnished on the 17th of April 1837.

He was listed as the publican, with a Charles Beasley, of the White Hart Hotel in Windsor from 1840 to 1846 and a Blanchard was also publican of the Barraba Hotel in Windsor in June 1847.

Elizabeth died on the 25th of March 1852 and is buried in the grave yard at St. Matthew's Church of England at Windsor in NSW. Walter remarried in 1852 to Sarah Bootle. They had two children – Sarah born 1854 and Walter born in 1856.



St. Matthews Church of England Cemetery at Windsor
Courtesy Hawkesbury City Council Library (006247)

Walter Blanchard passed away on the 5th of June 1860 and is also buried in the St. Matthew's Church grave yard at Windsor.

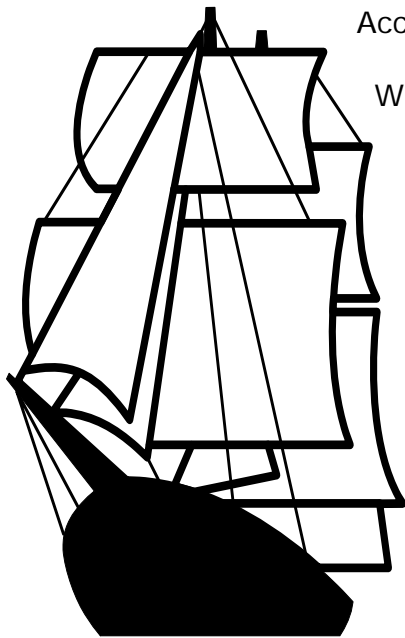
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SNAPSHOT OF FREDERICK & MARTHA WITHERS

Frederick Withers and Martha Herring were married on the 13th December 1853 in Somersetshire, England. They migrated to Australia in July 1854 onboard the "*City of Manchester*" and declared their address as Geelong. A daughter, Henrietta was born to Frederick & Martha at South Geelong in 1855.

Martha Withers with daughter Henrietta must have returned England, possibly due to her father's death. She returned to Australia on the 6th May 1857 aboard the "*John & Lucy*" declaring her husband Frederick living in the colony and in the employ of a baker, Mr Gawbury at Chippendale NSW. She also declared her father was deceased and her mother living at Bridgewater in England. A second female child was born on the vessel to Martha and she was apparently in Quarantine when the "John & Lucy" arrived in Sydney.

A female child was born to Frederick & Martha at Windsor NSW in 1858 and this child, Alice, died at Windsor on 16th October 1858¹. Her certificate states she was 2 months old and that Dr. Day attended her and she had "Inflammation of the lungs" for a period of a week. She was buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery, Windsor on the 18th October by the undertaker, Thomas Collison. Another child, also named Alice was born to Frederick and Martha at Richmond in 1860. Frederick's occupation was a baker and during the years 1858 to 1862 would have been employed in this calling at Windsor or Richmond.



According to the "Immigration Deposit Journals" Frederick Withers paid the Bounty in 1861 for his brother John Withers to migrate. John (my Great Grandfather) arrived in Sydney aboard the "*Hotspur*" in 1862. Additional children born to Frederick & Martha were Lucy born 1862 at Richmond & died at Forbes the same year. Charles Harrison Withers was born in 1864 at Forbes.

The rest of the story of Frederick & Martha Withers is possibly of no interest to the Hawkesbury district. In short, Fred and Martha returned to England sometime after December 1865. Frederick Withers returned to Australia in 1883 on the "*Samuel Plimsoll*" with a new wife, Mary and family. The couple settled and later died in Lismore NSW.

Information contributed by W. L. Thompson, 4 Moren Street, Blacktown 2148.

The Squatters' Hotel **cnr Wilberforce and Freeman's Reach roads**

"Probably there are few places in Australia which can boast so many antiquated buildings as the Hawkesbury district. The modern vandal, who cannot see any good in decayed and crumbling buildings, looks upon them as an eyesore. We give an illustration today of the ruins of "The Squatters' Hotel" standing at the corner of Wilberforce and Freeman's Reach roads, and as a relic of the olden days it may not be uninteresting, particularly to the older residents. In the "good old days" of its pride, money was plentiful. One would see in those days as many teams on the road in a week as he will see in twelve months now. Scores of boats plied up and down the river, and farmers, if they did live on frugal fare, had always a pound in their pockets to spend at holiday times, and were healthier and hardier than the generations that have followed. During the week a representative of the "Gazette" had an interview with two or three old residents, and as every brick in this crumbling building seems to have a tale of the past to tell, he offers no excuse for giving a few particulars concerning this, one of the oldest hostelrys in the Windsor District. One old hand, carrying his memory back some three score summers, says that the building was standing in his earliest recollections. Comparing the illustration with old Government House, the rude architecture is strikingly similar, but several persons say that the building was erected since old Government House - perhaps about 70 years ago. One of the earliest landlords was a man named Gardiner. After him came Suffolk, who dispensed refreshments there over 60 years ago. Suffolk was a distant relative of the Hon. W. Walker by marriage. Cunningham succeeded Suffolk about 1846. During Suffolk's occupancy he made additions to the Windsor side of the building. It was evidently in the first place a farm house. After Cunningham came John Ridge, followed by James Roots, both of whom hailed from "down the river". The last occupant was Tom Ryan, whose name is still inscribed over the doorway as a "retailer of fermented and spirituous liquors". Tom was a brother of Mr. John Ryan, who still lives near the old hostelry. Ryan conducted it until 1867. The big floods of 1864 and 1867 flooded the building. It has been unoccupied since 1867 - except as a stable for stock or a camping place for tramps. Prior to Tom Ryan's reign the old place was a dwelling, and for a short time was occupied by Mr. John Ryan. His brother Tom, was a small squatter on the Lachlan. Coming to the Hawkesbury he took the place from his brother and reopened it as an inn, calling it the "Squatters' Hotel". Tom Ryan did a good business, especially in the days of the punt, before Windsor bridge was in existence. It frequently happened that something went wrong with the punt - a fresh would cause it to overturn, or it would get stuck in the mud at low tide, and then team after team would line the two roads for a considerable distance. This of course brought grist for the mill of Tom Ryan. The present appearances of the place would lead one to question whether it could have been a decently conducted hostelry. From information supplied we learn that it was a very comfortable old place, containing 6 or 7 rooms, and was clean, well-furnished, and well-conducted. Visitors from Sydney came and stayed for a time for a quiet life after the turmoil of the town. In the early days, too, there was considerable boating traffic on the river, and small craft were always at the wharf. In the early regatta days the hotel side of the river was quite gay and lively. Booths were erected, people lined the river bank, and the hotel did a thriving business. Unfortunately for the several hosts it was a place where considerable credit had to be given, as the imbibor generally spent his money in Windsor, and "strapped up" a final drink at the "Squatters' when making his way home. During Tom Ryan's time his brother John, had charge of the punt. No doubt if the bricks could speak many queer stories could be told of the "Squatters' Hotel". Some 60 years ago there was a half-way house of call between Windsor and Wilberforce, known as the "George and Dragon", kept by Richard Cobcroft, the original member of the family of that name at Wilberforce. It stood on the farm now occupied by Mr. Cobcroft's grandson, where a tall poplar tree stands. The last license for this house was issued on June 30, 1847. It might be mentioned that there were two families of Suffolks in the district in the early days, and the one of that name who kept the old pub is no way related to the family of Suffolks who lived in Windsor, and after whom one of our streets are named.

Source : Windsor & Richmond Gazette newspaper 16th December 1899.

Courtesy of Rod & Wendy Gow from their
"Looking Back in Time extracts from old newspapers"
Website : <http://www3.turboweb.net.au/~rgow/index.html>

"Confronting Ex-convict Settler Stereotypes : Expectations and prospects at the Hawkesbury Frontier"

by Jan Barkley Jack

The following is an extract from the above thesis originally submitted as a thesis to UWS for BA(Hons) History 2001

David Brown, a Scot like fellow 'Pitt' transportee Thompson, had won a pardon from a life sentence by 1799 & lived at Wilberforce, where he had been speared in the throat by Aborigines when those new farms were being cleared. By 1802, having married Eleanor Flemming, he expanded his 30 acre grant by purchase². His investigations were so thorough that one resulted in sentences of seven years for the theft of a hog, a common problem at Hawkesbury³. Little is known of the policing of John Soare, another 1794 grantee who supported a wife & two children on his constable's wage & who like Brown, was active with Rickaby in investigating the murder of the Aboriginal youths in 1799⁴. Edward Powell, on the other hand, as a result of that investigation, was convicted of one of the murders & lost his position as a constable, but remained in the district with his family & wife who had arrived as an emigrant settler with him in 1793. Powell, an exseaman, was the only constable dismissed at Hawkesbury in this period⁵. One of the constable's main responsibilities was implementing the many civic Government & General Orders that Hunter issued. Several Orders, particularly those relating to settlers labouring on road construction & being required to carry certificates to travel, had a strong impact on Hawkesbury settlers, a great number of them being exconvicts who thought they had left such penal restrictions behind them⁶. When Hunter visited the Hawkesbury in early 1797 he found himself facing the unthinkable: a public protest by settlers. This was a new type of lawlessness for the colony & even though the protestors dispersed peacefully & humbly, Hunter described such behaviour as 'turbulent'⁷.

Most historians, like Hunter, have seen this behaviour as a problem arising from the settlers' background & their not being 'kept under proper regulations'⁸, rather than as evidence of protest. However, there was about it a group solidarity of the type identified in convict protest by Atkinson, making it a possible fledgling political activity relating to their exconvict rights, in this case pre-empting Jeremy Bentham's questioning of the governor's power⁹. Tantalisingly, the likely presence of exconvict John Harris adds the possibility of even greater radical political motivations, considering that the next year Harris had launched his own public protest as 'a Citizen of the World' using the catchphrase of British reactionaries sympathetic to the French Revolution & wider human rights¹⁰. This fact, together with at least one fellow sympathiser,

² B.Hardy, *Early Hawkesbury Settlers*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, 1985, p.76; Land Grant Register 2, LTO, p.252, 10.3.1798; J.Cobley, *Sydney Cove 1795-1800*, Vol.5, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1986, Vol.5, p.353, 12.9.1799.

³ Supreme Court: Criminal Jurisdiction Proceedings, SRNSW Reel 2651, p.277, evidence of David Brown. 29.8.1799.

⁴ Land Grants Register 1, LTO, no. 122(3), 19.11.1794; Baxter (ed.) *Musters 1800-1802*, p.13, List 1, AA368, 1800; The King against Edward Powell et al., Supreme Court: Criminal Jurisdiction Proceedings, SRNSW, Reel 2651, p.299, evidence of Thomas Rickaby, 15.10.1799.

⁵ King against Edward Powell et al., Supreme Court: Criminal Jurisdiction Proceedings, SRNSW, Reel 2651, p.320, Court verdict, 18.10.1799; M.Martin, *Settlers and Convicts of the Bellona 1793*, pp. 51-57

⁶ *HRNSW*, Vol.3, pp. 182-183, 188.

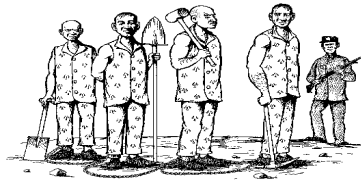
⁷ *HRNSW*, Vol.3, p.225.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ A. Atkinson, 'Four Patterns of Convict Protest', *Labour History*, Vol.37, 1979, pp. 30, 48; A. Atkinson, 'Jeremy Bentham and the Rum Rebellion' *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol.64, pt.1, June 1978, p.3.

¹⁰ John Harris against A.F. Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Court of Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings. May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.50. Statement of A.F. Kemp. 28.5.1799; See Chapter 4.

Joseph Smallsalts, residing in the district by 1799¹¹ & James Harold's comment about a number of dissatisfied Hawkesbury settlers¹², suggests the need to explore further the link between lawlessness & radical politics in a Hawkesbury settler as early as 1797, & to examine John Harris' influences in more detail.



CASE STUDY 2: JOHN HARRIS

Escape from the *Mercury* transport in 1794, after being sentenced in 1783 for a theft of eight silver spoons, led Jewish waxchandler John Harris to be transported to New South Wales in 1788. A year after his arrival, aged 30 years, John Harris initiated & was active in the Sydney night watch¹³. Harris had left London before the French Revolution & the agitation for constitutional reform that it caused among British tradespeople & others¹⁴. When news of the Revolution reached Australia, Harris was on Norfolk Island, where several officers including William Balmain were known to have liberal feelings, & among whom the French Revolution was a discussion topic¹⁵. All on Norfolk Island, including Harris, were aware of the civil rights Lieutenant-Governor King believed belonged to convicts & exconvicts, the enactment of which at Norfolk Island in 1794 stirred the wrath of the military & resulted in Lieutenant-Governor Grose illegally removing those rights. Many, like Balmain, continued to fight to restore civil equality¹⁶.

Any of these men could have been instrumental in developing Harris' radical persuasions but his phrase 'a Citizen of the World' links him most strongly with the Reverend Thomas Fyshe Palmer, one of the 'Scottish Martyrs' transported for radical activism. The 'martyrs' would have been to the fore of colonial conversation on Harris' return to Port Jackson, since Thomas Muir had just escaped & two other radicals died soon after¹⁷. Circumstantial evidence links Harris to Fyshe Palmer. Harris sailed back to Sydney on the same ship as a friend of Fyshe Palmer, surgeon George Bass¹⁸. By 1800, Governor King had become preoccupied with seditious plots involving Joseph Holt, William Cummings & others at Parramatta following the arrival of Irish political prisoners & the foiling of one plot already by Hunter¹⁹. In the light of Harris' confirmed radical views Governor King's purges make a compelling political explanation for the excessive punishment that he administered to inn-keeper

¹¹ The King against Edward Powell et al., Supreme Court: Criminal Jurisdiction Proceedings, SRNSW, Reel 2651, p.302, evidence of Lieutenant Thomas Hobby, 16.10.1799.

¹² *HRNSW*, Vol.4, p.120.

¹³ M.Gillen, *The Founders of Australia*, p.161.

¹⁴ E.P.Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, pp. 20, 23, 24.

¹⁵ J.Cobley, *Sydney Cove 1789-1790*, p.28; M.Barnard Eldershaw, *The Life & Times of Captain John Piper*, pp. 24, 25.

¹⁶ Lieutenant-Governor King to Lieutenant-Governor Grose, 30.1.1794; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, pp. 103-110; Lieutenant-Governor Grose to Lieutenant-Governor King, 25.2.1794; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, p.304 the Duke of Portland; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, p.131, Memorandum of Governor Hunter, n.d., *HRNSW*, Vol.3, pp. 20, 21, 22.

¹⁷ *HRNSW*, Vol.3, p.47; Collins, *Account of the English Colony*, p.381, February 1796; pp. 384, 390; Gillen, *The Founders of Australia*, p.161.

¹⁸ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol.1, p.312.

¹⁹ Cobley, *Sydney Cove 1795-1800*, Vol.5, p.384; *With Conviction...* pp. 16, 17, 21; *HRNSW*, Vol.4, pp. 119-130, p.131, *HRNSW*, Vol.4, p.131; *HRNSW*, Vol.4, pp. 234, 238.

Harris in Parramatta²⁰. For one instance of supposedly trading spirits for rations, a misdemeanour that Harris vehemently denied, Harris was imprisoned & had a wall of his house demolished so more than £400 (prime cost) worth of alcohol could be poured away. This punishment ruined Harris. That Harris was suspected in the plots seems evident from Harris' statement that '.... Dreading worse Persecutions, for worse were threatened. Your Memorialist fled in terror from the Colony ...'²¹. Through all this runs the link to Fyshe Palmer, for together in 1801 they left the colony as a private party, on Fyshe Palmer's own vessel, the only other passengers being Palmer's friends fellow radicals John Boston & his family & James Ellis, suggesting Harris had an ongoing rapport with the group²².

The phrase Harris used to Anthony Fenn Kemp the Hawkesbury Commandant, to defend his rights & which led to the court case of December 1798, that 'he conceived himself as free a man as I [Kemp] was & a Citizen of the World'²³, though known from Socrates' time had been enthusiastically adopted from the French 'citoyen' to become a revolutionary phrase of the 1790s²⁴. In Dundee, Fyshe Palmer with fellow 'Friends of Liberty' member George Mealmaker used the concept extensively in their pamphlets urging political reform for Britain. This sedition was the cause of Fyshe Palmer's transportation²⁵. Mealmaker's second pamphlet, of which Fyshe Palmer would have had a copy to circulate in the colony by 1798, was a dialogue between a British subject & a Citizen of the World about political freedom²⁶. Harris was well versed in his constitutional rights as he had returned to Port Jackson just as the colony was stirred by the arrival of the Duke of Portland's confirmation, following the 1794 Norfolk Island dispute, of convict civil rights even under military rule. However, by 1798 Harris had become quite prepared to make public his sentiments on the need to extend them²⁷.

Kemp recognised Harris' phrase as reactionary & felt it 'of a dangerous tendency'²⁸ but in the court case his assertions became submerged in the ongoing colonial civil-military antagonisms which may have been the reason for Balmain's aid in the case's preparation²⁹ & for the Reverend Samuel Marsden being a model defence witness for Harris. Marsden asserted that Harris had spoken not disrespectfully but 'as if he thought you [Kemp] had exceeded your authority'³⁰. Harris' good character remained intact in spite of Kemp's efforts to destroy it. However the comments of constable Rickaby & Lieutenant McKellar that viewing Harris was sometimes a 'troublesome litigious

²⁰ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.50, 28.5.1799.

²¹ *HRNSW*, Vol.4, p.131; The memorial of John Harris a settler of New South Wales to the Right Honorable Lord Hobart one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, Public Record Office, London, (hereafter PRO), Colonial Office, CO201/28, fo. 265r, 265d.

²² The Memorial of John Harris, PRO, Ref. CO201/28, fo. 265r, 265d; M.Gillen, *The Founders of Australia*, p.161.

²³ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.49, Defence Statement of A.F.Kemp 28.5.1799.

²⁴ J.Barlett, *Familiar Quotations*, 13th ed. 1957, pp. 61, 207, 371, 442, 517.

²⁵ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol.1, p.312; G.Mealmaker, 'Address to Fellow Citizens, read six weeks ago to Friends of Liberty at Berean Meeting-house, Dundee' [before 12/13 September 1793], National Library of Scotland, 1.4.156.

²⁶ Collection of 5 Pamphlets relating to Scottish Martyrs, 60, 71; G.Mealmaker, 'The Moral and Political Catechism of Man: or, a Dialogue between a Citizen of the World and an Inhabitant of Britain', PRO, HO102/16, fo. 28, p.3.

²⁷ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.48, evidence of Thomas Rickerby, 28.5.1799; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, pp. 103-110, Lieutenant-Governor Grose to Lieutenant-Governor King, 25.2.1794; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, pp. 130-131; *HRNSW*, Vol.2, p.304.

²⁸ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.49, Defence Statement of A.F.Kemp 28.5.1799.

²⁹ John Harris against A.F. Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, pp.49, 50, Defence Statement of A.F.Kemp, 28.5.1799; p.50: *HRNSW*, Vol.3, pp. 20, 21, 22.

³⁰ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, pp. 46, 47, evidence of the Reverend Samuel Marsden, 28.5.1799.

character³¹ show Harris was perceived officially as a person quite capable of inciting a peaceful protest like that at Hawkesbury against Governor Hunter. The court case proves definitive that by 1797-1798 the influence of the French Revolution had reached the Hawkesbury. Thus Hawkesbury lawlessness broached political dimensions beyond traditional interpretations. Demonstrably however, in all its facets – European, frontier & political – lawlessness by settlers at the Hawkesbury, whilst unacceptable to colonial gentlemen's mores, was limited, less than in other districts & peaceful in its political manifestations up to 1802.



....he has promised marriage....

The following notice appeared in the *The Australian - Windsor, Richmond, & Hawkesbury Advertiser* on the 30th December, 1876. It was placed in the newspaper by Jane Blundell of Lower Portland. The notice stated :

I Forbid all Ministers of Religion from Marrying Thomas Richard William Douglas, as he has promised marriage to me. If he contracts marriage with any one else I intend to take proceedings against him. (signed) Jane Blundell - Lower Portland.

This reference intrigued me and I checked the NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages online indexes at www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/search.htm but could find no marriage between the pair for the period 1870 to 1945.

However there is listed a marriage for a **Thomas Richard William Douglass** in 1885 (5343) at Windsor to a **Henrietta Watkins**. The following year **Jane E. Blundell** is recorded as marrying a **Reuben Thomas Brown** in 1886 at Windsor (5511) I have no idea if these are the exact same people but it does give food for thought that this woman was infuriated enough to publish the article in the first place.

³¹ John Harris against A.F.Kemp Esquire, Supreme Court: Civil Jurisdiction Proceedings, May-June 1799, SRNSW, CY 1093, p.48, evidence of Thomas Rickaby, 28.5.1799; p.49, evidence of Neil McKellar, 28.5.1799.

JOHN MAYO contributed by Laurel Legge

“.... THE FIRST FRUITGROWER.

The first fruitgrower on the Kurrajong was the late Mr. John Mayo, who was born on the banks of the Hawkesbury, opposite Belmont, in 1813, and who died in 1894, at the ripe old age of 81 years, after having been actively engaged in the fruitgrowing business for three-score years. The land, 60 acres, situated in South Kurrajong (now officially known as Grose Vale), was originally a grant from the Crown to his brother, the late George Mayo, from whom he bought it in its virgin state. There were about 25 other grantees on the Kurrajong at that time, but their inclinations led in other directions than fruitgrowing. The late Mr. John Mayo started with five acres, planting seedling oranges, and it is a noteworthy fact that the seeds were obtained from the first orange trees planted in Australia, and which were raised from seeds brought out by the chaplain of the First Fleet. He speedily cleared more land, and went in for wheatgrowing as well. His first crop of fruit, which was a good one, he sold in Sydney, conveying it thither by horse and dray, the journey there and back occupying a week. When the road was opened up to Bathurst, this pioneer of the Kurrajong took his fruit there in the old-fashioned way, viz. by horse and dray, and bringing loading back. He experienced no difficulty in getting 2s. 6d, and even 3s per dozen for his oranges at Bathurst.

In those good old times, when there were no pests and diseases to contend against, and there was rich virgin soil to deal with, there were enormous yields of fruit, and the trees grew to an immense height. There were two orange trees in particular on Mr. Mayo's orchard that attracted attention, both requiring the use of a 40ft ladder to pick the fruit, and each yielding as much as 34 gincases, or about a ton of fruit in the season.

The orchard, "Woodbine", is still a going concern, being now cultivated by Mr. A.A. McKinnan, who married the late Mr. Mayo's youngest daughter, and, remarkable as it may seem, several of the orange trees first planted there, though 65 years old, are still bearing fair average crops. They have, of course been cut back a lot since those days, and are showing a good deal of deadwood, while "the borer" has got into some of them. But one of the two trees that gave such enormous yields in the good old days looks as though it would continue bearing for some years to come.



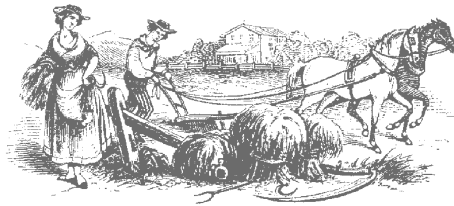
**Orchards from Bowen Mountain Road, Grose Vale circa 1910-1920s
Courtesy Hawkesbury City Council Library (002209)**

DRAWBACKS

Though pests and diseases were comparatively unknown in the forties, the late Mr. Mayo found there were other drawbacks to the business. When returning from Sydney after selling a load of fruit, he was stuck up by bushrangers in the vicinity of Parramatta, one securing his leading horse by the head, while the other climbed into the cart as a preliminary to "going Through" him. But the intrepid fruitgrower proved a hard nut to crack. He knocked the fellow who had climbed into the cart senseless with a trustworthy waddy, drove over the other one, and reported the incident in Parramatta. The police afterwards discovered the man who had been struck with the waddy lying still senseless on the road, and subsequently he was hanged, having been proved to have been concerned in other sticking up exploits. On another occasion, when returning from Bathurst, after selling a load of fruit, Mr. Mayo narrowly escaped a violent death. In the vicinity of Blackheath, owing to the existence of a weatherboard public house there, he met three fine horse teams, laden with kegs of blasting powder. He noticed a leakage of powder from one of the drays, and drew the driver's attention to the fact, but the warning was unheeded. He had got hardly a mile from the teams when there was a terrific explosion, due, as it afterwards transpired, to the ignition of the powder by one of the wheels striking a stone and producing a spark. The man driving the rear team escaped with a broken leg and other injuries, but the other two men and the horses were killed...."

In the above report there is three photographs 1. John Mayo, 2. The Orange Tree planted 65 years ago and reported to measure over 4ft round the barrel 3. A panoramic view from McKinnan's Hill, Grose Vale, typical of Kurrajong orchards and farm scenery.

"McKinnan" should be spelt as "McKinnon"



"....PEAS AND BEANS

Immense quantities of peas and beans are grown on the Kurrajong year in and year out. Of the former the Yorkshire Hero is the favorite (sic) species grown, and it is cultivated, not only between the fruit trees, but in areas all by itself.....As an instance of the profitableness of pea growing, it might be stated that off an area less than an acre, Mr. A.A. McKinnon, some time ago, marketed no less than 168 bushels of peas, and realised an average price of 6s per bushel for the crop. That, of course, was an exception. The average price for Kurrajong peas, in the summer is from 3s 6d to 4s a bushel, while in winter as much as 8s a bushel is obtained...."

Source : ***Town & Country Journal*** 29th June 1910

IS YOUR FAMILY OR LOCAL HISTORY HELD IN OUR POSTAL RECORDS?

Family and local history information can be found in all sorts of unexpected places – even post office records!

The National Archives of Australia holds postal records dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Responsibility for postal matters was transferred to the Commonwealth Government on Federation, along with many of the colonies' postal records. These records, now held in the National Archives, can be a valuable source of material for family and local history research.



Windsor Post Office circa 1900

Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

NAA ref: C4076, Control symbol HN768

In these records, you can find information on the people that carried the mail, people who lived on the delivery routes, and geographical and local history. There are files on staff appointments, accounts, telephone services, mail delivery routes and contracts. Photographs in the collection illustrate the difficulty of delivering mail to many outback regions.

The records on mail delivery routes and contracts include details about individuals and where they lived, making them of particular value to family and local history researchers. People who delivered the mail generally came from the local community. When tendering for mail runs, applicants filled in forms which record basic details such as their name, address and payments. The forms are sometimes accompanied by documents like Certificates of Nationality, which show the applicant's date and place of birth and their parents' birthplace.

Delivering mail to the outback was not always easy. Contractors faced hazards such as flooded creeks and bushfires, so reliable transport was important. In 1946 the only

tenderer for the Roma to Monclova run in south-west Queensland promised to upgrade his 'old Buick car in reasonably good order except for the tyres which are worn out' with a '30cwt. Diamond T Truck' if he was successful (NAA: BP8/1, F1950/540). This type of information can be found in official reports on the tenderers.



Motor vehicle heavily laden with mail on the Jundah - Stonehenge mail run, circa 1930-1931. Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

NAA ref: J2879, QTH138 - bc 1974570

The files also contain information about the families who received the mail. Petitions requesting alterations to the mail routes, or more frequent mail delivery, include the name, address and occupation of signatories. The official reviews of these requests provide lists of households and the number of adults in each. There is also much to be learned about the locality served by the postal service. Sketch maps show existing and proposed routes and include names of properties and residents, and the location of railways, stock routes and schools. Reports by District Inspectors on existing services often describe the local businesses in the area. The 1938 report on the Nambour to Bli Bli service on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, for example, describes *'a closely settled cane growing district from Nambour to the Maroochy River 6 miles away ... prosperous and well established ... supplemented by vegetable gardening and dairying on progressive lines'* (NAA: BP8/1, F1950/674).

To learn more about the National Archives' postal records held in your state, visit the website at www.naa.gov.au For assistance from our reference staff, please phone 1300 886 881 or email your query to ref@naa.gov.au The following table lists selected postal records and their location.

Creating agency	Date range	Series number	Location
General PO, Brisbane (CA 1031)	1891–1952	BP8/1	Brisbane
General PO, Brisbane (CA 1031)	1952–	J1622	
General PO, Sydney (CA 1030)	1890–1975	C2937	Sydney Sydney
General PO, Adelaide (CA 1032)	1915–77	D5080, D5081, D5082, D5109, D5114 These records include NT postal services.	
Post Office, Melbourne (CA 6004)	1842–1951	B4866	Melbourne
General PO, Melbourne (CA 1034)	1854–55	B4872	
General PO, Perth (CA 1035)	1921–74	K1205	Perth
General PO, Hobart (CA 1033)	1871–1947	P2610	Hobart



Samuel Hurst 1794-1886 : Kurrajong Pioneer

by Brian Hurst



Brian Hurst began researching the Hurst family with his cousin, Angela Edmonds and started with in the village of Leckhampstead in Buckinghamshire England. Since starting the project, he discovered that several other people were doing the same thing in various parts of the world including England, USA, Australia & Canada.

The name **Hurst** or **Hirst** was given to many families who lived in or beside a "hyrst", a small wood or wooded hill. One of the earliest recordings is **Thomas de Herst**, listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. The name is occasionally found conjoined with the type of trees it refers to, e.g. Elmhurst, Hazelhurst etc.

The early years

Little is known of the early life of Samuel Hurst prior to his trial in England during 1817 on a capital charge of Highway robbery. According to Parish Registers he was baptised at Whittlebury, Northamptonshire only a short walk away from Silverstone, on 23 February 1794. He was the son of Samuel Hurst and Ann nee Stones. Tragically his father died in Whittlebury on the 15 December 1793 and probably never saw his youngest son. Perhaps it was after this event that the family moved to Silverstone or that Samuel was fostered by a family there.

What we do know is that life at that time in rural England was very hard, particularly so for a family left destitute by the early death of the head of the family and the sole provider. The Napoleonic Wars had finished and the Army had been disbanded, flooding the countryside with unwanted labour. The family would have been forced to seek parish relief to survive as a unit and one can only imagine the miserable existence that was Samuel's lot. Little wonder then that he was to become involved in a life of crime later. We can only assume that young Samuel was sent from the father-less home at a very young age, to fend for himself as best he could. In the evidence given at Court, it was stated that he had been living at Charwelton, Northants, many hours walk from his home village. Perhaps he spent his life roaming the neighboring Counties as a servant or day labourer. There is no record of an apprenticeship. This unsettled life no doubt brought him to the path of crime which almost led to his downfall but which perversely took him to a new life, a new start and a fulfilled future.

The following report from the ***Warwick Advertiser*** 12 April 1817 gives an account of the Highway Robbery incident, for which Samuel was sent to Australia :

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

On Wednesday, Samuel Hurst, alias Hust, was capitally indicted for assaulting Thomas Hawtin, on the King's Highway, and putting him in bodily fear, and taking from his person three five pound notes, a purse containing 30 shillings in silver, and a variety of articles, his property. (Samuel Webb, an accomplice, by his own desire, had his trial put off till the next Assizes.)

Thomas Hawtin stated that he was a farmer and a seedsman, living at Honington. He was at Warwick Market on the 15th March last. He left Warwick about half past five in the evening and set off on foot to Lillington to visit some relations. About two miles from Warwick he saw two men at a little distance before him; and thinking they were people going from the market, he hurried on to catch them; when he came near them they turned round upon him, and one of them presented a pistol at him and demanded his money or his life. He told them he would give them his money if they would not use him ill. The tallest man held the pistol, while the other rifled his pockets of three five pound notes, one of Whitehead & Co's of Warwick, two of Beck & Adam's of Coventry and a one pound Stourbridge Bank Note and between 30 s and 40s in silver. They also took from him a pocket-book, a knife with an ivory ruler on the handle, a small jappaned box, containing a sample of white clover seed, a pair of spectacles, a silver pencil case and a pocket-handkerchief. The Prisoner (Hurst) was the man who presented the pistol at him, he was dressed in a great coat. Witness lost a Nankeen Purse with the initials T.H. on it, and two keys. He saw the two men in the gaol at Northampton, and was quite confident that the Prisoner at the bar was one of them.

Thomas Court, farmer, of Lillington, went to Warwick Market, on Saturday, the 15th of March. On his road there he saw the Prisoner and another man, of the name of Webb, going towards Lillington. It was then about half past eleven o'clock in the morning. They were both of them dressed in smock-frocks.

Michael Bromich said he lived at Milverton; he remembered the evening Mr Hawtin was robbed; he was in a hovel that stands in a close by the side of the road. He saw two men get over the gate; one of them came into the hovel with a bundle in his hand, and drew out a coat which was concealed under some stubble that lay in one corner of the hovel; he was the biggest man of the two who remained at the gate. Witness then saw them go towards Lillington; it was at the time about half-past six o'clock.

Hannah Clarke stated that her husband kept the Roebuck public house, at Prior's Marsten, about 15 miles from Warwick. The Prisoner and Webb came to their house about 9 o'clock in the morning of Sunday the 16th of March. They eat and drank together, and their reconning came to 5s. The Prisoner gave a

bill into Witness's hand and asked her for change. Witness, on coming out of the room, finding it to be a five pound bill, returned and asked the Prisoner if he had no other. Prisoner said he had not. Her husband then went out for change, and when he returned, she laid it upon the table before the Prisoner. It consisted of four one pound notes and one pound in silver. Prisoner paid his reckoning with a 5s piece. Geo. Clarke, husband to the last witness, deposed that he got the five pound bill he had received from his wife at Mr Coling's (changed).

Wm. Coling stated that he was a shopkeeper at Priors Marston. He changed the five pound bill for the last witness on the 16th March last, he afterwards delivered it to Mr Griffin the constable. He remembered noticing "I or T Handley" and the figures 88 written in red ink on the back of the bill. William Griffin stated that he had received the five pound bill from Coling, and had had it in his possession ever since the 16th of March.

Richard Pebody, lives at Charwelton, about two miles from Priors Marston; he saw the Prisoner and Webb there on Sunday 16th of March; he knew both of them very well. One of them lived with Clarke, at Charwelton, the last year, and the other a year or two before. He followed them into the Roebuck, at Priors Marston. He heard Mrs Clarke enquire of Hurst, if he had not a less bill. He saw Hurst bring in a basket with him into the house, he observed a coat in it. Hurst gave Thomas Checkley some white clover seed in his presence; he told him he had found it, but that he did not know what it was.

John Ward stated that he lived at Charwelton; he saw the Prisoner and Webb in custody at the Fox public house, there on Sunday the 16th March; Hurst sat next to him.. He found a powder flask in his pocket while he was there; he did not know it came there; he had no such thing in his pockets when he entered the house, he gave the flask afterwards to the constable. Richard Noon was at the Fox on the 16th of March and saw the Prisoner take the powder flask from his own pocket, and put it into that of the last witness.

Martha Gibbs who lives at Charwelton washed occasionally for the Prisoner. She knew him and Webb very well. They came to her house on Sunday the 16th March; they had both called on her the Tuesday before. They were taken into custody at her house. Hurst had a short smock-frock on, buttoned down before; Webb was dressed in an open frock. One of her sons brought her some money from the Prisoner, but she did not know the amount.

William Kench, son of the last witness, went down to the Fox when Hurst and Webb were in custody. They changed their dress there. He observed the Prisoner put a spoon into one of his shoes. They gave him two or three shirts a piece to take to his mother; Hurst put a little box into one of his shirt

sleeves; and gave witness a ruler in his hand. Webb gave him a purse with notes in it, and told him to tell his mother to take care of all the things. Hurst sent word by Witness soon after to return him the money; she sent it by a younger brother of his. Martha Gibbs corroborated the statement made by the last witness.

John Upton, constable of Charwelton, took charge of the Prisoner and Webb at the Fox, he remembered seeing Martha Gibb's son place something in Webb's hand; he asked what it was. Webb said it was money. Witness examined it and found that it was a purse within a purse. "Witness said there is seven pounds in it, a two pound note. Webb said that's right it's mine. I don't know what's in the other." Witness examined the other purse and said "Why Hurst, here's seven pounds in this, a five pound note and a two pound note, is it right?" The Prisoner said it was. Witness received the powder horn from Ward, and required of the Prisoner how he came by it. He told him he had found it. There were the letters T.H. on one of the purses. Prisoner was questioned before the magistrate concerning this purse. He told the Magistrate he had exchanged it with another servant the year before, by giving him two pence in exchange.

The purse and the ruler were then produced by the last witness which Mr Hawtin stated were both taken from him on the night of the robbery. Here three five pound notes and a Stourbridge one pound note, answering the description of those the Prosecutor had lost, were next produced, which Mr Hawtin said, although he could not swear to, he had not the least doubt were the same he had been robbed of. The Prisoner in his defence said that he had received the money off Webb, at Southam, on Shrove Tuesday, for a debt he owed him.

His Lordship then summed up the evidence, and the Jury almost immediately returned a verdict of - GUILTY.

Warwick, April 19, 1817

Warwick Assizes

Previous to Mr. Barron Richards leaving town, he was pleased to reprieve all the prisoners upon whom he had passed sentence of the law on Monday last; etc



Left : The Roebuck, Priors Marston
where Samuel was arrested
& mentioned in his trial.

(Is now a private residence)

Image courtesy of Brian Hurst

Life after 'Life'

After having spent some nine months in prison, possibly in a hulk, he was shipped to Australia from Spithead, situated on the eastern part of the English Channel, between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, aboard the convict transport "*Ocean II*" on 10 January 1818. It took 142 days to journey to Australia, carrying 180 male convicts. Surprisingly, unlike the early sailings, when the conditions were appalling, no deaths occurred at sea. By this time ship's Masters were earning a bonus for the safe delivery of their live cargo. The *Ocean* was a transport ship, built in Whitby, weighing 437 tons and was on her second trip to Australia. Her Master was Samuel Ramsay and the Surgeon and Superintendent, Mr Fairfowl. Her journey took her via St. Helena. Samuel Hurst listed as not married in 1817, was on a list of convicts disembarked from the *Ocean* on 16 January 1818 and transported to Parramatta for assessment and to be assigned to a free settler or emancipated convict.

Ultimately, he was sent to Windsor District and worked on a farm at North Richmond. In the 1828 Census for NSW, he is recorded as being age 31, a Protestant and employed by Robert Hill as a labourer at North Richmond. Either by accident or design, Samuel was never sure of his beginnings or his true age (and neither were the family historians researching his life) We must also bear in mind that Samuel was illiterate and had to rely solely on what he had been told by others, probably equally as illiterate. The only evidence that we have of his probable age is the baptism entry in the parish records of Whittlebury and that assumes that the custom of the time to baptize soon after birth, was followed.

Samuel must have made a very favourable impression with his overseers, see Ticket of Leave, because from entries drawn from early colonial papers it is known that from about 1823 he was filling the position of constable in the Windsor area of NSW. On the 5 July 1825 he was appointed District Constable at Lower Pitt Town and is listed on a Return of Constables in the town of Windsor and the Districts of the Hawkesbury. A classic example of poacher turned gamekeeper! No doubt Samuel, like many others covered his tracks as best as he could, playing down his past exploits. Family legend had it that he was transported for stealing rabbits belonging to the Lord of the Manor. No doubt his many children and grandchildren were happy to promulgate this story to sympathetic ears.

Samuel married Elizabeth Berwick on 1 May 1837 at St Peters, Church of England, Richmond, NSW. He was 41 and she, barely 16 years of age, some records show her as being under 15. He was listed as a farmer at the time of his marriage. It is not known why Samuel married so late in life by the standards of the day, or if there were previous de facto relationships. It is stated on the Marriage certificate that they were married by "consent of the Governor and parents of the woman." So despite Samuel's responsible position in the community, he had not been fully pardoned. He was also still not able to sign his name, making his mark instead.

Elizabeth's father John Barwick, was also a convict, given a life sentence for house breaking. He was granted a Conditional Pardon in 1816. Elizabeth's maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Rogers nee Celey was also a convict, given 7

years for stealing in 1795 and arrived in 1798. Samuel and Elizabeth, despite their age difference, produced twelve children. The first when she was 16 and the last when he was 67!

Samuel was obviously industrious and hard working, as he would need to be with a family that size and was granted his Ticket of Leave, in 1826. This allowed a convict to work freely within an area but not to leave that area without the permission of the authorities. No evidence has been forthcoming that Samuel was ever given a Conditional Pardon which would have been granted by the Governor, on condition that the convict remained in the Colony where he would have the status of a free man but would not be allowed to return to Britain. Despite this, it is known from entries drawn from early Colonial Papers, that from about 1823, he was filling the position of Constable in the Windsor area of NSW. In July 1825, he was appointed District Constable at Lower Pitt Town and is listed on a Return of Constables in the town of Windsor and the Districts of the Hawkesbury. Apparently less than 5' 6" in height, he couldn't have presented a very imposing figure.

Samuel appears to have prospered locally and has been recorded as being a farmer and fruit grower. No doubt he produced sufficient basic crop to provide for his ever-growing family and probably had some livestock for their daily needs. His Will states that he had 22 acres, not really large enough to be described as a farmer. Probably what we would describe as a smallholder today. An early listing shows him recorded as a timber and shingle cutter. The timber dwellings in those days were roofed with shingle tiles and were no match for the bush fires that ravaged the area from time to time. It is not known if Samuel obtained his land by grant or purchase but he died owning twenty two acres, the grower of fine fruit, with a well known dwelling in Kurrajong, named "Fernhurst" in Mill Road.

Samuel died on 24 September 1886, age 91 and is buried alongside his adored wife Elizabeth in a lovely well kept grave in St. Stephen's Church at Kurrajong, overlooking a valley so typical of the countryside around Kurrajong, Grose Vale and North Richmond on the Hawkesbury River, the home of so many early pioneering families. Some arrived in irons and some as freemen but most contributed to the development and future prosperity of New South Wales.

Author's note

In 2001, I received a letter from Margaret Barnas via Tom Wynne, that Samuel was in fact granted his Pardon but failed to collect it. Details of this and no doubt many others, can be found in "Uncollected Convict Pardons" compiled by Pamela Sheldon 1993. It was published in the Sydney Morning Herald, 22 June 1850.

~ For more information check out Brian Hurst's web page at
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/u/r/Brian-R-Hurst/?Welcome=1086072687>
or contact him on email BHurst98@aol.com

Mary Yeomans Grave Restoration

The family and friends of Mary Yeomans have set up a "Mary Yeomans Grave Restoration Appeal Trust" They are co-ordinating a project to raise funds to carry out restoration work on Mary Yeomans grave at Wilberforce Cemetery NSW. They have also produced a newsletter called "*My Granny*" The group are extremely proud of their efforts to date.

Headline News: Restoration nearing completion

Classic Memorials commenced work on the restoration of Mary and three of her children's grave on Saturday 28 February 2004 January in the presence of the group's Chairman of Trustees Arthur Copeland, Mrs Valerie Copeland and the Treasurer Trustee, Ms Jan Fitzhardinge. After making good the ground, the mason Mr P Houston and his assistant bored four two metre approx. holes at each corner of the grave, then formed up and poured a concrete columns in each.. The team then formed up and poured a concrete slab on top of the grave, thereby creating a new foundation (according to Australian Standards AS 2870 and 3600) Since then the other half of the Classic Memorials proprietorship, Mrs Judy Houston, has advised the Chairman that a side panel of the stone box which rested on top of the grave has been ordered. It is to be Hawkesbury sandstone to match the original. In the meantime the inscriptions on the gravestone and box will be re-incised and the whole re-erected. It is still to be decided what panel or attachment will be made to carry the particulars of the Trust and date of the restoration.

For further information about the Mary Yeomans family or the project contact the following Trustees: Arthur Copeland (Chairman) Jan Fitzhardinge, Nea F Yeomans & Athol Yeomans.

Hon Secretary of the Trust: Ms Christine Davis Tel: (02) 4754 2959. Email: chriscdvs@AOL.com



**Work on the renovated grave of Mary Yeomans
at Wilberforce Cemetery earlier this year.**

***Photo courtesy of the "Mary Yeomans Grave Restoration Appeal Trust"
and Athol Yeomans***

Enquiries - Can You Help?

SKINNER, REASON, ACTESON, ARNOLD, WILKINSON, McCARTHY, POWELL, MIDDLETON, PEARCE & SEYMOUR

Descendants sought from the following families who married at St. Matthew's Church of England in Windsor by Ian Brothers "Bridgewater" Grenfell 2810

SKINNER, Francis m. 1830 Ann REASON

ACTESON, Thomas Arthur m. 1843 Emma ARNOLD

WILKINSON, William m. 1846 to Mary McCARTHY

POWELL, John m. 1849 to Jane MIDDLETON

PEARCE, William Henry m. 1855 to Jane SEYMOUR

BRADFIELD PARK

Bradfield Park is in West Lindfield and in 1938 was the site of the First Australasian Scout Jamboree where 10000 scouts from all over the world attended for 10 days. During WW2 a RAAF Base took over the site and about 200000 people passed through the base. Following the war it became the site of a MIGRANT HOSTEL. Bradfield was named after Dr. John Job Crew BRADFIELD the engineer who designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge. A book is being compiled so anyone who has any information (including photographs & memorabilia) regarding Bradfield please contact author, Ian Brothers "Bridgewater" Grenfell 2810.

THOMAS LEIVER, RICHMOND 1837

According to the Convict Muster 1837, my convict gt.gt.grandfather, William EYRES was assigned to Thomas LEIVER of Richmond. Unable to find Thomas Leiver anywhere and would be grateful to hear from anyone with information about him. Pam Valentine, 3/150 Moore St, Liverpool 2170 or email: pamglen@rivernet.com.au

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

McCOOEY REUNION

Descendants of James & Sarah McCooey are invited to attend a Family Reunion at Penrith on the 15th & 16th January 2005. James arrived per Isabella in 1822 & Sarah with 3 children arrived per Thomas in 1826. They settled at Mulgoa Forest near Penrith. For more information contact Ms Patricia McCooey 'Penzance' 11 Sorrell Place, Queanbeyan 2620 (20) 62975265 email ausheritage@ozemail.com.au

JOHN NICHOLS FAMILY REUNION

The John Nichols Family Society is holding a reunion in Coffs Harbour on Sunday 19th September for First Fleeter John Nichols per Scarborough and his wife Ann nee Pugh. Admission is free. Contact Robyn Melise Condcliffe 28 Sandpiper Crescent, Boambee East 2452 (02) 66533615 or email condcliffe@smartchat.net.au

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