

The Hawkesbury Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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Windsor Library has
moved...it is now located
at 300 George Street,
Windsor
See p. 2 for more info.....



NEW LIBRARY NOW OPENED

View of the new Hawkesbury Central Library (left) at 300 George Street, Windsor. Re-opened at the new premises on Monday 6th June 2005. Some members of the Hawkesbury Family History Group **(below)**



that participated in the "Human Chain" event. Approximately 420 members of the community passed books from the old library to the new. The official opening of the Deerubbin Centre is on Saturday 25th June 2005 at 11am. Everyone welcome to join in the celebrations. **For more information about the Library & the new "Agri-Culture" Exhibition opening at the Gallery see p. 2**

June 2005

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 the Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor commencing at 10am. The **HAWKESBURY CRIER** is the quarterly newsletter of the group & is available on application from the address below. The cost is \$18 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 Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor 2756 NSW Tel (02) 4560-4466 / Fax (02)4560-4472 or by email mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au Details about the Hawkesbury Family History Group plus access to the Free Monthly News sheet is located at <http://www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au/>

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NEW HAWKESBURY CENTRAL LIBRARY & GALLERY NOW OPENED

The new Hawkesbury Central Library at 300 George Street, Windsor, re-opened at the new premises on 6th June 2005 with a Human Chain. The community participated in the symbolic gesture of passing books from the old library in Dight Street to the new premises at 300 George Street. The official opening of the Deerubbin Centre (encompassing the Gallery & Library) is on Saturday 25th June 2005 at 11am. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations. For more information about the new library phone 4560-4460.

The inaugural exhibition at the new Hawkesbury Regional Gallery is "**Agri/Culture: Recreating the Living Landscape**" & is the culmination of many months of work. The Exhibition covers the period after World War 2 to the present, looking at the combination of Agriculture and culture. It will be open from the 25th June until 4th September 2005 on weekdays 10am-4pm. Sat & Sun 10am-3pm. Closed Tuesdays. For details about the Gallery contact 4560-4434.

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



**CATHERINE ANNE FIASCHI NEE REYNOLDS
AKA SISTER MARY REGIS (1850 – 1913)**

COMPILED BY JONATHAN AULD

Name: Catherine (Katherine / Kate) Anne Fiaschi nee Reynolds
Born: 11th July 1850 in DrumKeeren, Leitrim, Ireland
Father: James William REYNOLDS (Civil Servant)
Mother: Sarah REYNOLDS nee BREEN

Arrived: Sydney NSW onboard the “*HIMALAYA*” (as an assisted immigrant) in 1865 at the aged of 14.

Alias: Sister Mary Regis

Married: Thomas Henry FIASCHI on 17th February 1876 at Bethel House, George Street North, Sydney and also on 11th July 1878 by Civil Ceremony in Italy

Issue: Ludovico (male) b. 7th October 1877 in Florence, Tuscany, Italy
Piero Francisco Bruno (male) b. 5th March 1879 in Thompson Square, Windsor
Carlo Ferruccio (male) b. 4th March 1880 in Thompson Square, Windsor
Thomas Henry Attilius (male) b. 6th February 1884 in 39 Phillip Street, Sydney
Clarissa Louisa (female) b. 4th November 1885 in 39 Phillip Street, Sydney
unnamed (male) b. between 1886 and 1893
Eleonora Elisa (female) b. 19th December 1893 in 39 Phillip Street, Sydney

Died: 10th August 1913 at 149 Macquarie Street, Sydney at the age of 63

Buried: 11th August 1913 at Church of England section, Waverley Cemetery, Waverley

SUMMARY

- Catherine was born in Leitrim, Ireland. Her parents were James William REYNOLDS a Civil Servant) & Sarah nee BREEN
- A devout Catholic and committed to the nuns in Ireland
- Came to Australia with her brother(s) after her parents had died when she was only 14 years old.
- Stayed with her Aunt Annie, who had a millinery business in Sydney
- Aunt Annie sent her to the Sister's of Charity
- Catherine became a nun with the Sister's of Charity at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst and was known as Sister Mary Regis
- Met Dr Fiaschi through her nursing work at the hospital. They fell in love, eloped & got married. Catherine is apparently the only nun to have left the Sister's of Charity.
- As newlyweds they came to Windsor to escape the controversy surrounding their marriage in Sydney. The couple honeymooned at the Macquarie Arms Hotel where Dr Fiaschi commenced his practice.
- Catherine & Thomas both excommunicated from the Catholic Church
- Moved down into a house further down Thompson Square in October of 1876. This residence would later become affectionately known as "The Doctors House"
- Set out for Italy so that Dr Fiaschi could obtain his final medical degrees
- Underwent a second marriage by Civil Ceremony on July 11th 1878
- Arrived back in Australia on 26th February 1879 on board the "*Garonne*" & returned to Windsor
- Fiaschi purchased land at Sackville naming it "Tizzana" and planted vineyard
- Tizzana established in 1882 & Catherine took an active & major role the operation of the Vineyards & Winery over the pursuing years especially when Thomas was overseas in the Abyssinian & Boer Wars
- 1884 Dr Fiaschi moved his practice first to 41 Phillip Street and then to 39 Phillip Street, Sydney later that same year
- They moved between the Winery at Sackville & Sydney
- Catherine died on the 10th August 1913 in Sydney at the age of 63 years
- "Grey Nun" ghost at St. Vincent's Hospital is believed to be Sister Mary Regis

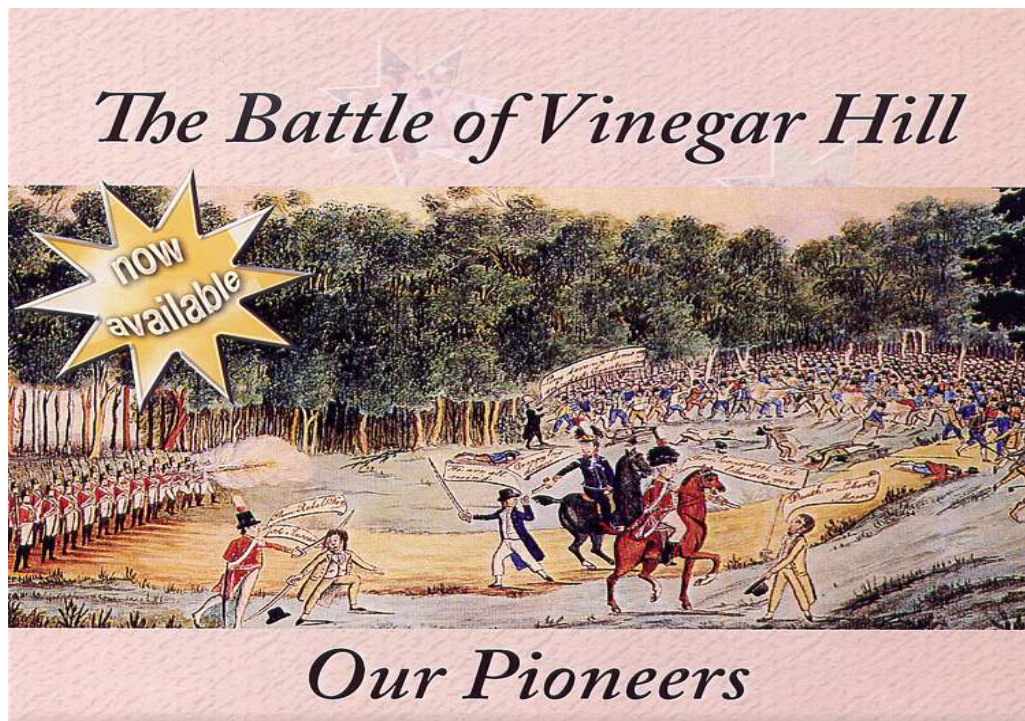
Inscription on the beautifully carved monument at Waverly reads:

Sacred to the Memory Of
KATE REYNOLDS FIASCHI
BORN IN IRELAND 11TH JULY 1850
DIED IN SYDNEY 10TH AUGUST 1913
A LOVING WIFE AND A DEVOTED MOTHER.
“Rest in Peace”



Images above:
(Left) Catherine Reynolds as a young woman.
Photograph taken in Ireland before she came to Australia.
(Centre) Catherine with husband Thomas Henry Fiaschi.
Photograph taken by T. Boston of Windsor.
(Right) Catherine’s monument at Waverley Cemetery, Waverley.

This article was presented by Jonathan Auld at the
Hawkesbury Family History group meeting
on the 9th March 2005
as part of Women’s History Month.



**THE BATTLE OF VINEGAR HILL – OUR PIONEERS
NEW PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE**

In March 2004 The Bicentenary of the Castle Hill Uprising and the Battle of Vinegar Hill was held.

During the lead up to these celebrations I commenced a major undertaking to research as much information as could be obtained on the participants in the Original Battlie in 1804, Rebels, Redcoats and civilian Militia. Some eighteen months after beginning the mammoth task I have now completed a book recording the details of this research. Much of the information has come from the direct descendants of the original participants and is a more detailed compilation than has previously been available.

This book differs from Lynette Ramsay Silver's book – The Battle of Vinegar Hill Australia's Irish Rebellion, 1804 which lists the names of the men plus details of the Battle. This book is a biography of each of the men who took part. ***The Battle of Vinegar Hill – Our Pioneers*** is now available. The cost is \$25.00 plus \$5.00 postage and packaging and can be obtained directly from the Author.

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News from Cindy in Chicago....

CONTRIBUTED BY CINDY KUO

Cindy Kuo nee Simmons was raised in the Hawkesbury District, NSW but now calls Chicago IL USA her home. Although living overseas, Cindy still manages to research her family tree with the assistance of family members. She is a descendant of SIMMONS, HETERICK, MALES, BRYANT, SHEPPARD, CAVANOUGH, EVERINGHAM, FLEGG, IRELAND, LOVETT/FEENEY, CHASELING, COLLINS, LIDSTONE, FORBES, DRING. She has her own website which is worth a visit at <http://biddykuo.home.comcast.net/> or you can contact her by email.

FAMILY HISTORY QUILT

Cindy Kuo recently added a new dimension to her family history research. She made three quilts and bought two of them to Australia on a recent visit for her father and another relative.

The quilt is of the Simmons/Males family members who lived in the Windsor & Colo area. Each of the quilts were different. Cindy reported that : *"It was wonderful for the Aunts & Uncles to actually see a visual of the family research I have been doing."*

Cindy's quilt is pictured below, it can also be viewed on her website at : <http://www.CynthiaKuo.com> This is an innovative approach to family history providing family members with a handcrafted gift, reminding them of their ancestry.



Family tree quilt

81 members of Cindy's father's family, December 2004

Computer images printed onto fabric. Hand-dyed fabrics as border

With permission from Cindy Kuo

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OBITUARY FOR RICHARD SIMMONS 1900

The following obituary for Richard Simmons is taken from the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, Saturday 17th February 1900. It has been contributed by Cindy Kuo. Cindy said she located the obituary of her Great-Great Grandfather in the Gazette. She said that the obituary gave her so much more family information than she had had, previously. She "*was thrilled to find it.*" She was hoping that the obituary would have supplied information about his first wife, **Bridget Cribb**, who had died of throat cancer. He then married his second wife, **Elizabeth McClutchey**. Richard then had three children, Thomas, James & Jessie. Jessie married **Lewis Stuart** who is believed at one time to be involved in Local Government in Windsor. James first married Louisa Blundell. She died shortly after giving birth. He then married **Celia Everingham**. Thomas married **Eva Hayman**. All of these families that the Simmons children married into were familiar names around the Hawkesbury.

OBITUARY

On Wednesday night last, 7th inst., there passed away, at Central Colo, one of the oldest identities of the Hawkesbury, in the person of Richard Simmons, at the ripe old of 78 years. Deceased had been residing in the district for upwards of 60 years, and had been living at his late abode for nearly 20 years. His numerous friends have spent many a pleasant hour in hearing him relate anecdotes of the stirring times of long ago, eh! and many a good tale he could unfold. Although deceased had passed life's "allotted span" by 17 years, he was still vigorous, and retained full use of his mental faculties right up to the last. He took deep interest in passing events, and longed to hear on mail nights, how his "boys" (the British) were doing in South Africa. It is particularly sad to relate, that although he had attained this grand old age, his end was brought about by an accident. It appears that on Tuesday evening last he had drawn a cask of water from the river, and after unharnessing the horse, playfully hit him with the winkers. The horse kicked out and struck deceased in the stomach. At first it did not appear as though he was injured seriously, as he ate his evening meal as usual, but shortly after grave symptoms set in, and he succumbed to his injuries next evening at 8 p.m., having suffered great pain in the meanwhile. Dr. Watson, of Richmond was sent for, but unfortunately arrived too late to be of material assistance. Deep sympathy is felt for his widow and family in their sad bereavement. Of his family there are two sons, Thomas and James (both married) and one daughter (Mrs. Jonathan Gosper) who survive him, also 22 grandchildren; the late Mrs. L. Stewart who died some 12 months ago was his youngest daughter. A large gathering of friends from all parts of the district, followed the remains, on Thursday morning, to their last resting place.

Grand old eighty seven,
Both long and hard toiled he;
God bade him to the Rest in Heaven
That waits for you and me.
Requiescat in Pace
Central Colo, 14th February, 1900

Richmond Common

Transcribed by Michelle Nichols

On the 11th August 1804, Governor King stated that "... such lands to be held and used by the inhabitants of the respective district as common lands¹" therefore large pieces of land were set aside to be used by settlers to graze stock. Commons located in the Hawkesbury district included Pitt Town Common, Wilberforce Common, Ham Common & St. Albans Common. These areas have an interesting story, and even though the original purpose has changed, some of these areas are still in use as public lands today. St. Albans, known as Wallambine Common, is as it is still used for its original purpose, to graze stock.

The following is taken from an item from the Richmond Council archives, "*Commoner's Roll Book*" titled "*Commons Regulation Act, 1898 ~ Commoner's Roll for the Richmond Permanent Common for Year 1902*"

Commoner's Roll Book ~ Richmond Council Commons Regulation Act, 1898 ~ Commoner's Roll for the Richmond Permanent Common for Year 1902						
Roll No.	Date of Enrolment	Surname	Name	Address	Ground of claim for enrolment	Remarks
34	Dec. ^r 1901	Allen	George L.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
35	Dec. ^r 1901	Allen	Richard	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
5	Dec. ^r 1901	Allen	Thos. G.	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	
30	Dec. ^r 1901	Allingworth	John	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
28	Dec. ^r 1901	Ashton	Frederick J.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
29	Dec. ^r 1901	Ashton	John	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
4	Dec. ^r 1901	Ausburn	C. H.	Hawk. Agri. College	Trustee	
6	Dec. ^r 1901	Bailey	George	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	<i>Not now a trustee</i>
52	Dec. ^r 1901	Baldwin	Charles	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
50	Dec. ^r 1901	Bennett	Arthur	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
48	Dec. ^r 1901	Benson	Alexander (Junior)	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
12	Dec. ^r 1901	Biddle	Thos.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
51	Dec. ^r 1901	Buckton	James	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
1	Dec. ^r 1901	Campbell	Edward	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	

¹ *HRNSW* vol. 5 p. 415

53	Dec. ^r 1901	Carter	Daniel	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
2	Dec. ^r 1901	Carter Watson	W.	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	<i>Removed from district</i>
69	Dec. ^r 1901	Chivers	David	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
22	Dec. ^r 1901	Clough	Samuel	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
3	Dec. ^r 1901	Cobcroft	George	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	
23	Dec. ^r 1901	Coleman	Anthony	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	<i>Removed from District</i>
20	Dec. ^r 1901	Collins	Henry	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
36	Dec. ^r 1901	Cornwell	Amos	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
26	Dec. ^r 1901	Cornwell	John	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
55	Dec. ^r 1901	Daley	Mrs F. G.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
27	Dec. ^r 1901	Dalton	Alfred Ernest	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
13	Dec. ^r 1901	Donohoe	James	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
54	Dec. ^r 1901	Drayton	John	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
24	Dec. ^r 1901	Dunston	Stephen Francis	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
56	Dec. ^r 1901	Eggleton	Robert	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
58	Dec. ^r 1901	Gosper	David	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
57	Dec. ^r 1901	Guest	C. S.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
61	Dec. ^r 1901	Hanchett	William	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
60	Dec. ^r 1901	Handley	Denis	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
25	Dec. ^r 1901	Hanigan	James	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
44	Dec. ^r 1901	Helsham	William M.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
43	Dec. ^r 1901	Hill	Herbert R.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
21	Dec. ^r 1901	Hough	Alexander	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
38	Dec. ^r 1901	Hough	George	c/o Moray & March Streets	Resident of prescribed area	<i>Now resident of Richmond</i>
59	Dec. ^r 1901	Hyslop	Amelia	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
62	Dec. ^r 1901	Johnson	Thomas	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	

63	Dec. ^r 1901	Johnston	Acheson	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
7	Dec. ^r 1901	Kelly	William John	Agnes Banks	Trustee	
19	Dec. ^r 1901	Kilduff	George N.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
37	Dec. ^r 1901	Lawson	Clarence John	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
64	Dec. ^r 1901	Lewis	William	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
67	Dec. ^r 1901	Madden	John M.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
46	Dec. ^r 1901	Magick	Hannah	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
47	Dec. ^r 1901	Magick	William J.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
65	Dec. ^r 1901	Marlin	Ernest	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
66	Dec. ^r 1901	Marlin	William	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
71	Dec. ^r 1901	McGrath	J.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
8	Dec. ^r 1901	Miles	Thos.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
10	Dec. ^r 1901	Mitchell	James Roy	East Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	
14	Dec. ^r 1901	Mitchell	William	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
70	Dec. ^r 1901	Moran	Thomas	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
33	Dec. ^r 1901	Newman	Frederick A.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
39	Dec. ^r 1901	Paull	Edward	Railway Line	Resident of prescribed area	
31	Dec. ^r 1901	Pearson	Albert	Richmond Lowlands	Resident of prescribed area	
49	Dec. ^r 1901	Perry	Alfred	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
15	Dec. ^r 1901	Phipps	Hilton	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
16	Dec. ^r 1901	Phipps	William	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
9	Dec. ^r 1901	Price	Arthur	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
68	Dec. ^r 1901	Price	John Howell	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
11	Dec. ^r 1901	Skuthorp	Henry	North Richmond	Trustee	
32	Dec. ^r 1901	Sly	Henry Francis	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
41	Dec. ^r 1901	Smith	Alfred Junior	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
40	Dec. ^r 1901	Smith	Alfred Senior	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	

42	Dec. ^r 1901	Smith	Frank J.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
45	Dec. ^r 1901	Stewart	Andrew F.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
18	Dec. ^r 1901	Tierney	R. E.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
17	Dec. ^r 1901	Warren	R. E.	Richmond	Resident of prescribed area	
2	Dec. ^r 1901	Watson	W. Carter	Richmond	Trustee & resident of prescribed area	<i>Removed from district</i>
<i>These 71 names confirmed at Trustee meeting of 19/12/1901. A. Price (Secretary)</i>						

LANDS TITLES OFFICE NEWS

Most researchers recognise the value of Land Records in both local & family history research. Recently Peter Chadwick, the very helpful Historical Officer stationed at the Lands Titles Office in Macquarie Street, Sydney, passed away. Since then the position has not been filled and it is not easy for researchers to find their way around the myriad of records without assistance.

A local researcher has forwarded the following information from Peter Slowik, Manager, Searching Services. He states that :

"...the position of Historical Officer has not been filled since the sad passing of Peter Chadwick. I'm not sure that his position will be filled in the near future although I understand that the Department is still considering this. My operation here in Searching Services is that of searching of our Office records on a fee for service basis and as a commercial operation. I cannot and do not have the capacity to offer the additional services that were offered by Peter Chadwick where in many instances he was able to lead people to locate Office records from sources outside of this Office. This Office has always offered assistance to the searching public should they visit the premises and continues to do so. Any searching that is performed by the officers in my section is done on a fee for service basis which is currently \$110 for the first half hour and \$55 for each quarter hour thereafter. Copies that are a necessary part of a search are charged at \$10 each after the first free copy."

It is understood that researchers can have searches undertaken by the staff at the LTO for a fee however there is little assistance for researchers who want to undertake the research themselves.

To further discuss this matter, contact :

Peter Slowik,
Manager, Searching Services,
Lands Titles Office,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney 2000 NSW
phone 92286802
fax: 92210612

Amy & Annie

Compiled by Michelle Nichols

Two favourite people on my family tree are my great grandmother, “Annie” and her sister, who is affectionately known in the family as “Aunty Amy”. They were born in England and migrated to Australia in the early 20th century. When I was quite small I was not aware that there was any connection to the Hawkesbury district. Or so I thought. As I took a stronger interest in the great grandmother & great aunt I had never met, I found there was a little more to the story. Here is some of Amy & Annie’s tale:

Amy & Annie’s father was William Richardson, who was born 1832 in Newcastle on Tyne, England. William’s occupation is recorded as Decorator. A story passed through the family notes he worked on decorating the interior of churches but this has not been confirmed. William Richardson met Mary Potts, he was 10 years her senior whilst they were both living in Chester, England & they married in 1862² in the Parish Church at Poynton, Chester and sometime following their marriage moved to London. Their union produced eight known daughters, the eldest Mary born in 1863 & the last in the mid 1880s. This story concerns Amy born in 1878 and her sister Annie 1882 both born in Acton MDX.

WILLIAM RICHARDSON				MARY POTTS			
m. 1862 Poynton, Chester ENG							
MARY b. 1863	ROSE b. 1869	AMY 1878 - 1956	ANNIE 1882 - 1958	HELENA	KATHLEEN	ELEANOR	UNKNOWN
m I. 1908 John James PORTER 1882-1918 m II. 1925 Edward W. SHEERAN 188?- 1952			m. 1902 Ernest NICHOLS 1875 - 1967				

Following the birth of Annie in 1882, Mary was warned not to have any further pregnancies due to ill health. However she had two more daughters, Helena and Kathleen and eventually succumbed to her illness and died. There was talk about several miscarriages but again, this has not been confirmed. Many years later, Annie told members of her family that when her mother died, her father was left with a large family of young daughters to rear. Apparently William met a lady who promised to care for his daughters, “like her own”. This woman had 2-3 daughters of her own. As soon as she had married William she sent his daughters off to various relatives. Some of the girls were not happy in the homes they were sent to.



Amy was brought up by unknown relatives and when she completed her schooling, entered the workforce as a Domestic Servant. In 1901 she was employed by Percy Livingstone Parker a journalist/author and his wife at Muswell Hill. This couple became life-long friends of Amy and treated her as family and Amy was left a large bequest when Percy passed away.

Several years later Amy is recorded as a Draper. She met John James Porter, who was known as Jack, he was four years younger than Amy. He was a schoolteacher and by 1908 was an Assistant schoolmaster in Muswell Hill North. They married at Muswell Hill North in 1908. Long time friend Percy Livingstone Parker, sister Helena Richardson and W. H. Tindall, witnessed the marriage. The couple *[pictured left]* were obviously devoted and Amy fondly refers to her husband as "My Jack".

² Marriage certificate William Richardson & Mary Potts 1862
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Amy & Annie's sister, Rose Richardson also married into the Porter family. She married Edwin (known as Ted) Porter in 1922 at Corby in Lincoln. Edwin was the brother of John James Porter and carried on the family business as a Boot & Shoe Dealer in Grantham. Some of the family still live in the area and the family business was only sold in the late 1980s, after operating for some 150 years.



From 1911 Jack was the Headmaster at Gosberton Clough School at Spalding, Lincoln. When hostilities in Europe resulted in World War 1 in 1914 many single young men joined up. Jack enlisted in the London-Scottish in 1915 and departed for France following his brief training. His number was 511051 in "B" Coy, 2nd/14th Battalion. **[Image on right, shows Jack marked with an 'X']** He was appointed to the rank of Sgt-Major and miraculously managed to survive the horrendous circumstances of the war to the final stages but was unfortunately "Killed in Action" in Belgium on the 21 August 1918 aged 36 years.

He is buried in the War Cemetery at Locre Cemetery at Heuvelland, West-Vlaandereb in Belgium. ³ **[see image below]** Following his death Amy is listed as living Watford. Amy was heartbroken with the death of her husband. She records in her diary on several months later "*left home for business, alone and sad.*"



Following her mourning for her beloved husband Amy made a decision to travel to Australia and visit her younger sister Annie & her nephew "Will". Amy had not seen Annie & her family since they had migrated over a decade earlier. She travelled by ship and arrived in Sydney. Whilst onboard she made friends with people from New Zealand, including a chap called Edward Sheeran, who was known as Ted. On her arrival in Sydney, Amy stayed with her sister Annie & brother in law, Ern. Shortly after, on the 18 November 1925, Edward William Sheeran, storekeeper of Huntly in New Zealand married Amy Porter, draper at the Methodist Church in Windsor. The marriage was witnessed by sister Annie & nephew William Nichols. Until a marriage certificate was purchased for this marriage, I was unaware that the service actually took place in the Hawkesbury district. Ted was a widower with a grown up family in New Zealand. Amy & Ted travelled overseas several times as there are photographs of Amy with various relatives in England after their marriage. Amy also visited Jack's grave in Belgium in 1929.

³ Site A.8, Locre No. 10 Cemetery at Heuvelland, West-Vlaandereb. Source : Commonwealth War Graves Commission website www.ccta.gov.uk



“Ted” & Amy Sheeran following their marriage at Windsor in 1925

Following their marriage they lived for a while in New Zealand and then moved back to Australia & lived in Parramatta and then moved to 26 Gosport Street in Cronulla. The family remember that they had a very fine home with a lovely garden and were members of Cronulla Methodist Church congregation and worshiped regularly. Ted and Amy often visited their relations in Riverstone and travelled up by train for the day. Amy showered her nephew Bill & great nieces and nephews with thoughtful gifts.

Ted died in 1952 whilst Amy continued on at Cronulla. Following his death, she remained a faithful parishioner at Cronulla Methodist Church where she had many friends. Amy died in 1956 and was cremated & interred at Woronora Gardens.

Like her sister Annie, Amy was remembered by her family as a kind & generous soul. She had a certain “sadness” about her and even though her life had dealt her several tragedies, she had an inner peace that let her get on with life. At the time of her death, Amy had a reasonably large estate, which was handled by Paine & Co. of Windsor. She left her furniture, jewellery and personal effects to her sister Annie and £250 to her sister Helena who was still alive in London. Her nephew William Robert Nichols was the executor of her estate and she also left him £500. She left £100 to the Cronulla Methodist Church. Her house was sold and the proceeds were divided between her surviving stepchildren in New Zealand. No further information is known of the Sheeran family in New Zealand.

Annie’s part of the story follows :

Annie also left a tangible link for her descendants. As well as numerous beautiful artefacts that adorn our homes, her Birthday Book, Address Book, scrapbooks and photographs are treasured possessions. Without these, putting all the pieces together would have been much more difficult.

Annie Richardson was born in 1882 & she was the 6th daughter of William & Mary Richardson. Following the death of her mother Mary Richardson, and her father’s remarriage, Annie was sent to live with some elderly relatives, Robert Nicholas & Helena Faircloth.



***Annie Richardson born 1882 in London, possibly with her Aunt, that reared her.
Taken about 1888.***

Both stern looking in photographs, they provided a home for their young charge. Annie met Ernest Nichols a baker and after a period of time, and they decided to marry. Ernest Nichols was born in 1875 at Islington the son of William Nichols (1848-1926) a Police Sergeant & Jane Eliza nee Tucker (1843-1914) the couple married in Dalton in 1902. Following their marriage they lived in North Finchley, possibly with Ern's parents. Ern was employed as a baker from the late 1890s by Henry Purvis who ran the "North Finchley Hygienic Bakery". Purvis was a "high class cook and confectioner"

The only surviving child of Ernest & Annie was William Robert, born in 1903 in London. Sadly for Ernest & Annie they were destined to only have one child although Annie suffered numerous miscarriages. Ern and Annie obviously had a close relationship although did not openly show their affection. Once Annie and son Bill went on a trip to Brighton and in a postcard, Annie wrote,;

*".....shall be so glad to be back with you dear!
Love and kisses from sonny and myself, your loving wife, Annie."*

Following a decade of marriage Ern & Annie made the decision that would change both of their lives irrevocably. They resolved to migrate to Australia. There are several family stories passed down on the reason behind this choice; firstly to put as much distance as possible between Ern and his interfering mother; secondly the warmer climate would better suit Ern's asthma. Whether there is any truth behind these rumours, is not known, but tickets were purchased and trunks packed. It would have been a difficult decision, to leave all that was familiar, friends, family, birthplace to travel half way around the world to the strange and exotic destination of Australia. The Manager of the Purvis Company supplied Ern with an excellent Reference. The Manager stated that Ern was leaving us entirely of his own accord, to try his fortune in a new country and they were very sorry and very reluctant to lose his services. They had no hesitation in recommending him for any position suited to his abilities and capacity. They considered him absolutely trustworthy and hard working and found him to take an intelligent interest in anything he had in hand.⁴ Ern's handwritten **Recipe Book** has survived and in it, is recorded 7 varieties of Yeast, recipes for Queen cakes, Madeira Cake, Cornflour Cream Buns, Coconut Mac's, Cheese Curd etc. made as part of his work.

⁴ Reference for Ernest Nichols from H. Purvis business, North Finchley 22.10.1912
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Apparently Ern could not purchase tickets for the family on the same ship, so he went on his own, the plan being for him to establish a starting place. This would have been a big decision to not only migrate but to travel to the other side of the world by ship. The *Titanic* disaster was still news, it had happened only 6 months previously. He departed in 1912 from London on the *Zieten*. The ticket cost £17 and was for an Open berth, for males only. Ern was listed on the Passenger List as Ernest **Nicholos** (sic) and his occupation was "butcher", to the clerk recording these details, the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, probably did not concern him a great deal. *Never realising that years later people would be researching their family history and be sent into a quandary about conflicting information!* Ern possibly did not know anyone when he arrived in Sydney and would have been most definitely missing his family, particular as it was the festive season of Christmas. It must have come as a shock celebrating Christmas in the heat of summer instead of what he was used to the cold winter season. Annie and William travelled later on the *Scharnhorst*.



Will & Annie Nichols [pictured above on the Scharnhorst]

Will & Annie left England two months later, on the 22 December 1912 and 47 days later arrived in Sydney. The *Scharnhorst* carried a total 211 crew and 478 passengers on the journey⁵ they travelled with the Reverend Ellis and family. Annie was very appreciative of the family's concern and always spoke kindly of this family. Annie's grandson Warren Ellis was named after the Reverend Ellis.

The family originally settled at Tilba on the South Coast of NSW and their young son Bill attended school there for a period of time. They then moved north to Tweed Heads and Ern did a bakery run between Tweed Heads and Coolangatta. While they were in Tweed Heads the family explored the surrounding district and visited the Glass House Mountains, Buderim, and Caloundra.

Shortly after Ern, Annie & Bill settled in Australia, Ern's younger brother Wilfred and his family, decided to also make Australia their home. They arrived the following year onboard the *Roon* and the two families enjoyed a close relationship throughout their lives. Wilf and his family also made their home in Richmond.

⁵ Inwards Passengers List 28 Jan-15 Mar 1913, SR Reel 2070

Both families eventually settled in Richmond. Ern ran the Nichols Bakery and General Store located in Windsor Street, Richmond **[pictured below]** from around 1918 and lived in a cottage in Lennox Street.



Ern and Annie eventually left Richmond in the 1920s and tried their luck at poultry farming at the Cowflats in Schofields. This venture did not last long and they then moved to Riverstone and lived at 20 Castlereagh Street for some years. Ern was employed again in the bakery business working for Charlie Fisher, working at the Bakery on the night shift and at his son Bill's Service Station which was established in 1926. Although Ern was not a big man, he was small of stature but wirey, he was strong especially from lifting the large sacks of flour at the bakery.

Ern & Annie's son Bill established a Service Station in Riverstone in the 1920s and whilst Bill was away during World War II, his father Ern managed the business. Ern was affectionately known around Riverstone as "Pop" This was mammoth task for a man of his age, he was seventy years of age and he looked after the business single-handed. He performed tyre repairs for cars & bikes, charged batteries and did general handyman work for a lot of people in the town on broken equipment.

Following Bill's discharge from the war Ern gave up work. It was around this time his asthma disappeared. He had suffered dreadfully throughout his life with asthma, often wheezing for hours on end. For a long period of time he took cold baths, winter and summer. The doctors were uncertain whether he had "outlived" it or not working with the flour dust in the bakeries was the reason.

Pop Nichols had a great sense of humour and grandson Geoff recalls how Pop often joked about the man who had the same axe for 40 years. It only needed 3 new heads and 6 new handles!!

Annie was a very easygoing person and she cared deeply for those that she loved. Even though she was quiet she was known to be strong, persistent and very determined. Ern & Annie like to holiday at Manly (a seaside resort near Sydney) much as people had gone to Brighton.

Annie passed on many stories to her son & daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Stories that have assisted in pulling together the strands of the family tree. She also kept mementoes such as the shipping tickets & brochures, and photographs, albeit smaller versions. *As a result of the war (WWII) there was a paper shortage and people were advised to save paper and to supply any unwanted paper for the war effort. Annie dutifully cut the corners off her photographs leaving only the main subject. Today most of her surviving photographs have bits cut off them, including important clues on the back! I hope the war office appreciated her effort!!!*

She was always busy with her hands, making crafts and goodies for local church fetes. She was very generous and made a point of giving her grandsons a penny each for pocket money and the lucky ones who did her chores got 1 shilling, which was considerable in those days. Ern and Annie celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary in 1952 and Annie kept some of the cards in her Scrapbook. She attended the weddings of her two eldest grandsons, and was also around for the births of some of her great grandchildren. Regrettably for Ern & Annie they had to deal with the death of their beloved only child. Bill passed away in 1958, following a short illness, as a result of heart problems. He was only 54 years of age at the time of his death. Sadly Annie passed away only 9 months later on the 21 December 1958 aged 76 years. After living a long and fulfilling life, Annie's husband Ern died in 1967, aged 92 years, after a short illness. Although I never met my great grandmother Annie, & her sister Amy they died several years before I was born, I did know my Great Grandfather. I am eternally grateful to these two women and their descendants for caring so much about their heritage and I am very proud of this branch of my family tree.



Above : Ern, son Will and wife Annie Nichols, circa 1915

**Compiled by Michelle Nichols
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~Donations at Windsor Court House ~ 6th December 1819~

At a meeting of the Committees of the Windsor Charitable Institution held this day at the Stock-yards belonging to the Said Charity, at the new township of Windsor, the undermentioned Subscribers delivered the several Head of Cattle affixed against their respective Names, which were taken Possession of branded for the Benefit of the Poor of the Hawkesbury Districts.

Surname	Name	Residence	Number
Baldwin	Henry	Wilberforce	2
Bell	Archibald	Belmont	2
Brabyn	Captain	Clifton Hill	1
Browne	David	Wilberforce	2
Cartwright	Rev. Robert	Sutton Cottage	1 and a Calf
Cox	Edward	Clarendon	1
Cox	George	Mulgoa	1
Cox	Henry	Mulgoa	1
Cox	William, Esq	Clarendon	3
Cox	William, jun. Esq.	Hobart Ville	1
Cullen	Patrick	Pitt Town	1
Dargon	Thomas	Windsor	1
Davidson	James	Portland Head	1
Davis	John	Pitt Town	1
Faithful	William	Richmond	1
Gosport	Thomas	Wilberforce	1
Hall	George	Pitt Town	2
Johnston	Andrew	Portland Head	1
Kennedy	Mrs. Eliza	Windsor	1
King	James	Clarendon	2
Lewis	Richard	Bathurst	2
Lock	Matthew	Wilberforce	1
McDonald	John	Pitt Town	2
McKenna	Thomas	Wilberforce	1
Mein	James	Portland Head	1
Mileham	James Esq.	Windsor	1
Oness	Joseph	Richmond	1
Pitt	Thomas	Richmond	1
Rose	Joshua	Wilberforce	1
Rouse	Richard	Parramatta	1
Sherrard	James, Esq.	London	1
Singleton	James	Wilberforce	1
Smallwood	Daniel	Pitt Town	1
Thorley	Samuel	Richmond	2
Total			45

The Subscribers, who have not yet sent their Cattle, are requested to deliver the same at the Stock-yard, Windsor, on Monday the 27th Instant, at 8 o'clock in the Morning, when proper Persons will attend to receive and brand them.

The Committee request the Subscribers to the said Institution to attend at the Court House, at Windsor, on Saturday the 1st Day of January next, agreeably to the Standing Order of the Institution, to elect new Trustees in the Place of those going out by Rotation.

By Order of the Committee,
Robert Fitz, Sec. and Treasurer

Source : *Sydney Gazette* 11 December 1819 p. 2

WHY TELL YOUR STORY? WHY YOUR HISTORY MATTERS? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECORD MEMORIES?

Compiled by Michelle Nichols

From the beginning & throughout time, we have handed down stories, generation to generation. A good example of this is the Bible. In years gone by families & friends gathered together and related family stories and words of wisdom. Some family members were gifted storytellers and could tell a great yarn! The term used to describe **remembering** is **reminiscences**. However in the hectic pace & pressure of our modern world, families do not seem to make (or have) the time to sit around and communicate and talk as they once did.

Every life has a story, and what a story! Each of our lives are unique in many & varied ways. Sadly, when we pass on, so do our memories. Unless we do something with these priceless treasures, they will be lost forever. Each memory that fades with time is a piece of history lost forever! An old Indian Proverb says, **"Tell me a story, & you will live in my heart forever."** But we have to go further than telling our reminiscences, we need to write them down or record them as well as telling them.

Local historian Philip Geeves wrote in the 1970s: *Family memories are the most perishable of inheritances*. When people take up family history research as a hobby, one of the most common complaints are: **I wish I'd started this earlier** or **I wish I knew my grandfather better**. As part of family history research, we start with ourselves and trace back through our parents, grandparents, & great grandparents, recording names, dates & events and ferreting out bits of information about lives long past. Often these are just that names, dates & places but what about the **real** family, how they felt, what they did etc. Once a person dies, usually the memories go with them to the grave, unless they.

WHY TELL YOUR STORY?

*"All of us have a story to tell. Many would think that unless you are a famous individual who has contributed to scientific discoveries of importance, or participated in world changing decisions and events, that our stories are uninteresting, unimportant, and perhaps even useless. The fact is that every individual contributes something to the overall picture. Our society is intertwined with lives and human fabric; the emotions, the struggles and the successes and failures of our loved ones. No historical movement, no major historical event can take place without affecting all the little pieces of the puzzle that are joined together to make the whole. Like a domino effect, one life connects to another, to another and another. Ultimately, one family connects to another, one generation to another and on and on."*⁶



⁶ *Timeless Legacies* website at <http://www.timelesslegacies.com/Timeless%20Legacies.htm>
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So it is important to transfer some of our memories, into a format that can be left behind, especially for family. This can be written or recorded. As members of a family this helps to understand our pass on our traditions & family values, why we do things a particular way, certain sayings etc etc, the sense of family. In Aboriginal culture "Kinship" is a vital part of their tradition and although lost for a time, is now making a strong comeback.

"Memories are priceless. They illuminate the past of a person's life and help to bring meaning to the experiences we have. They are what connect you to your family and your heritage. They are what provide a timeless legacy for your children, and their children to enjoy for generations. But they fade with time, and leave this earth when you do unless properly recorded for preservation.

Your life and your family history are part of a unique legend that lives and breathes each day that passes: a dynamic collection of traditions, stories, experiences both good and bad, that make you and make your family what it is today.

*If we were to lose our memories today, who would we be? Our memories make us who we are. They are culled from a lifetime of thinking, of love, pain, sorrow, anger, happiness, joy and pleasure. All the information that is valued and treasured by family members and that make up our memory, are what make us unique in this world. Without our memories we are robots, programmed to function, but not remember. This is why passing on our memories is so important--no one else can know what is in our thoughts unless we tell them."*⁷

WHY YOUR HISTORY MATTERS?

Telling your story enables you to express who you are and how you came to be the person you are today. It enables others to know you just a little better..... by revealing parts of our lives in the printed or spoken word can be a powerful experience, it can also provide an insight and understanding of your life. Perhaps you haven't thought about it before, but your memories are a precious legacy that future generations will appreciate it. For those of us connected by the ties of blood, these memories are not inconsequential. They are inspiring. Imagine what your teenaged grand daughter would think if you enlightened her about meeting your husband for the first time, how you feel in love....she would be probably be delighted to think her grandmother had similar feelings.....

Telling your story enables it to be preserved, perhaps for further generations, and is a contribution to our descendants, and to the history of our country as well. Most of us like to tell stories & when they relate to our lives, all the better.....our memories can give real meaning to our experiences and life's labours and help in accepting certain situations. At times memories can be unpleasant, something that may have happened in the past, but by talking about these times, sharing the feelings, may help promote healing. Along with the good recollections, memories make up who we are.

Talking about our past can validate our existence & fill us with optimism. It allows us to pass on hard earned lessons, beliefs, values, knowledge and wisdom and also provide a

⁷ *Timeless Legacies* website at <http://www.timelesslegacies.com/Timeless%20Legacies.htm>
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feeling of value, because what we are passing on will hopefully be cherished by others that come after us.

Many of us have recorded our family history. However we also need to tell the story behind the names and dates on family trees charts. Would you like your descendants to know more about you, possibly more than family tree charts can tell? Your memories can provide your descendants, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, a sense of who you are/were following your death. It may assist future generations to know and understand you as an identity, rather than just a face in a photograph.

You may wish to combine your personal reminiscences with particular historical events. Issues that show the importance of history and the role that you may have played. Pick an event and think about what you were doing on that day, your feelings & thoughts, your images of that event? It is possibly, a more important asset to leave your family than money or property. There are many reasons why you should record some of your memories, **don't procrastinate, make a concerted effort, start today!!!!**

Most of us do not treat our memories as the treasures they are. We all say we will put pen to paper one day.....we will write down our thoughts...our stories but few of us do. You cannot go back to the past however you can ensure the past is kept for the future. You can encourage and relate stories in your immediate family, amongst your children/grandchildren, siblings, your spouse. Make it a habit.

There are several practical things you can do. You may want to start a journal, it does not have to be elaborate it can be handwritten in an exercise book or done on a computer if you have the skills....pick a time.....somewhere in your life, when you were happy, sometime that you recall.....and jot down some notes.....then go back and add a bit more, create the backdrop, the smells and the feelings.....You may like to do a biography on your life, write about a particular period such as your childhood, marriage or later life. You can write it privately so that people can read it after your death or you may want to share it with your family. They make great presents..... Encourage other family members to do the same, especially children. Encourage children to collect mementoes to keep, and perhaps to keep a journal. Scrapbooking is a popular pastime now. You can use your creative side to create pages for a scrapbook about particular events in your life, using copies of images, ephemera and memories. Grab a photograph out of a photograph album and write about that event. It may be when you were the bridesmaid at your sister's wedding.....surely there is a little story to tell.....



This is a picture of my grandparents, Bill Leach when he was courting Florrie Belshaw. At the time he owned a motorbike & Flo would've been in terrible trouble if her father knew she was out & about with a boy who owned a bike. This was my Pop's favourite picture & he carried it around in his wallet for many, many years. It was taken in Sydney about 1928. My grandparents told me all about this & many other family stories when I was growing up.

M. Nichols 2005

HOW TO RECORD YOUR MEMORIES WITH ORAL HISTORY

Then there is **Oral History**. Oral history are interviews about the past or reminiscences with people, recorded in some form of medium. Basically oral history is collected and can be incorporated into both local & family history as a source. *The objective is not to analyse or interpret the information gathered but rather to collect factual evidence and thereby create primary documents from which historians will be able to reconstruct the past of this particular individual.*" ⁸

You may decide to get someone to interview you. It could be a family member or friend. They may interview you, asking certain questions whilst recording the interview by audio, video or some other medium. The interviewer usually asks particular questions about a certain topic. The interviewer can help clarify statements as well as moving from one subject to the next. Interviewers do not dominate an interview, they stay in the background. Another method is to sit around with some family members and get someone to record you with a cassette player or video. Get out some old photographs and talk about the events, the family involved.....by having someone with you, to talk with, can prompt other memories. Make sure there are not too many people and not too much background noise so that it is difficult to record. Make sure you always state at the beginning of the interview, who is participating, and the date and write this on the tapes. Ensure you make several copies as well.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECORD MEMORIES?

Recording your memories is a means of preserving your stories for your family and descendants. Every individual's story is unique, special and meaningful, but more especially, to family members.

There are a number of publications relating to reminiscing, memories & writing your memoirs. There are also videos, DVDs and books with images of times gone by. These are useful to find out more, as well as stimulating. If you are a member of Hawkesbury City Council Library check out the catalogue online at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or drop into your own library and ask for some assistance.

[This is an outline of a talk given by Michelle Nichols, Local Studies Librarian for Hawkesbury City Library mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au on the 24th March 2005 for the Seniors Group at the Uniting Church, Richmond]

HOW TO GET STARTED

To give you some help..... here are just a few things you could start to record. You can use old photographs, letters & documents to stimulate your memory. Also talk to both friends & relatives about times-gone-by. Be yourself & be honest. Try & remember experiences, how you felt, texture, smells, sensations and the ambience of it all. Describe these feelings. Recall the funny things, even if it means laughing at yourself, as well as the regrettable. You can relate your stories to significant events, if it helps. *"I met my future husband at the time of the Football Grand Finals between Souths & Parramatta in 1951....."*

⁸ Definition from the **Canadian Oral History Association** webpage at <http://oral-history.ncf.ca/>
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SOME OF MY MEMORIES

My Surname _____ My Maiden Name _____

Christian Names _____

Current Address _____

Today's date _____

Personal details, full name, when & where you were born. Do you have any nicknames, how did they start?
Were you named after someone?

Parents, their full names, when & where were they born, where did they marry. Describe your Mother & Father.
What did your Dad do for a living? Did your Mother work?

Do you have brothers & sisters. What are their names, when were they born. Do you remember when any of
them were born?

What are your earliest childhood memories? What games did you play, friends?

Describe some of your clothes, what you ate. What were your favourite things?

Did you go on holidays and outings, and where? What did you do in your spare time?

Do you remember your home, where was it, describe it. Did you have to do chores?

Did you do anything special on your birthday? Do you recall any parties?

What did you do at Christmas? What sort of presents did you get?

Where did you attend school? Do you recall your first day of school, how old you were, the year. What did you wear?

Describe your class room and some of your teachers. What did you like & dislike about school. Did you play sport?

Do you remember your both sets of grandparents. What were their names, do you know where and when they were born. Can you describe them. Where did they live? Did they talk about their childhood? Your father's parents

Your mother's parents

Do you recall other relatives? Aunts, uncles & cousins. What relations do you recall, where did they live, did you visit.

Can you remember any stories about relatives? Did you have any family gatherings or traditions.

What was your first job, describe the duties. How much were you paid. What did you like about the job. Did you travel to work, what friends did you have at work. What other jobs have you had?

Your first date, special friendships what you did in your spare time, growing up.

Meeting your spouse, where, what dates did you go on. Your courtship.....

Your marriage. Where was it, who planned it, what did you wear. Did you have attendants. Family life, children, husband and home. Did you have children, when & where were they born. What stands out in your family life?

Describe some of your feelings about love and commitment

Did you attend Sunday School & church as a child. What are your beliefs about religion and God, and how they relate to life

Your thoughts about some of the experiences in your life that you lived through, suffered about and triumphed over.

What are your hobbies and interests? Have they changed over the years. What events stand out, that you have attended. Did you go to dances or musical events?

Have you travelled in your life? Where did you go, who with. Did you enjoy and dislike about going to new places.

What are some of the things you did, and the things you didn't do, and wanted to. What things would do differently, now, if you could.

What are your values about family, work, friendship. Have these changed over the years?

What are some of the significant events that have taken place in your lifetime, events in your town, your state, your country. What were you doing on that day, has it affected you in anyway. (*i.e. Man walking on the Moon in 1969*)

Anything else you may want to add?

Would you like some more questions? See some of the following websites, or check out some of the titles.

WEBSITES.....

Interviewing Grandma

www.genealogy.com/genealogy/95_carmack.html

Family traditions

www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=9587

Capturing the Past: How to Prepare & Conduct an Oral History Interview

<http://www.kbyu.org/capturingpast>

Cyndi's List: Oral History & Interviews

<http://www.cyndislist.com/oral.htm>

Guide for interviewing family members

www.rootsweb.com/~flgso/intvwqus.htm

Doing Oral History

<http://www.gcqh.org/oral.html>

Interview everyone!

www.ancestry.com/columns/george/04-03-98.htm

Timeless legacy : questions

www.timelesslegacies.com/questions.htm

Sample questions

www.kindredkeepsakes.com/products/questions/sample.pdf

SOME BOOK TITLES INCLUDE.....

Family memories : a guide to reminiscing / Bob Price

Unpuzzling your past / Emily Croom

Bringing your family history to life through social history / Katherine Sturdevant

Research your family history for the first time / Laura Best

Family history comes to life / Peter Cuffley

Tracing your family tree / Kathy Chater

GRANDMA'S TABLE AND CHAIRS

by Ross Miller

My mother's family – my aunt and uncles
Got together in generous mode
Collected money from one and all
For times were hard just after the war
They wanted to make a surprise
To see the look in Grandma's eyes.

New gleaming chrome table – a Namco –
Chairs updated in vinyl, pink and grey
All had gathered on the day
Out with the old and in with the new
The truck had arrived today...Hooray!

Before she could have her say
Old chairs and table had been taken out back
New laminex table was in old table's place
Eight new chairs and two to spare
Grandma said nothing, just a stare

"Mum, Mum, have a sit,"
"Good", we thought, you like it
"What, don't you like it?"
"Oh, yes," she said
"Bit of a surprise, though".

Much noise and fuss and tea and scones,
All were talking, Grandma was quiet..
And I saw the look on my grandmother's face
As they laid her table and chairs out to waste.

Gone was the chair in Grandpa used to sit
Forty years he used that chair
Before he died
Now it's in the backyard, on its side.

Gone was her favourite chair
In which she would nurse us kids,
We would look up to her
Until we surrendered to heavy eyelids.
A heavy timber table,
On which I bumped my head,

Could tell a thousand mealtime stories
And countless loaves of Grandma's home-made
bread.

The last home-cooked meal Uncle Rex had
Before he went off to war,
That table soaked up an aunt's tears
Caused by a war letter telling her of her tragic loss.

The reliability of the table was never
questioned
As cloth and patterns were spread and sewn,
Babies' baskets placed & children dressed &
changed...

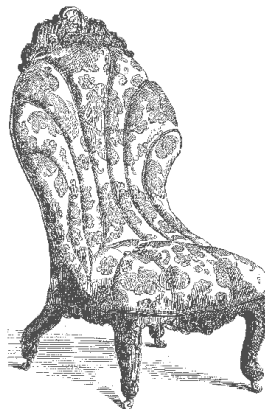
I saw the look on Grandma's face
As we laid her table and chairs out to waste.

"A cousin cut the timber in a south coast mill –
Good with timber was cousin Will",
No-one heard but me,
For they had moved on to beer after the tea.
Heavy timber table laying on its side,
Four stout legs sticking like a bloating cow that had
died.

Grandma stood at the back door,
I stood beside her and held her hand –
She cried, and cried some more;
With tears in her eyes she said last good-bye.

She busied herself make scones and tea,
Washing up as she always did,
Complaining about the smoking & picking on
Uncle Sid...

Things were back to normal –
But I saw the look on grandmother's face
As they laid her table and chairs out to waste.



© Ross Miller 2004

St. James, Pitt Town NSW Marriage Registers - NOW ONLINE

The St. James Church of England (now Anglican) Pitt Town Marriage Registers 1826-1915 are now available to search online on the **Hawkesbury on the Net - Church Registers** at www.hawkesbury.net.au/church/stjames_pitttown.html The marriages were transcribed by Kristine Wood.

Church services were possibly held in the Pitt Town locality from the early 1800s, however it was not until the 1820s that a purpose built building was established. In 1814 Matthew Pearson Thompson established a school in Pitt Town and taught there until 1818, followed by John Downing Wood & in 1820 repairs were made to the dwelling so that it was adequate as a school, chapel and accommodation for the schoolmaster. Rev John Cross used the building a temporary chapel. In 1825 Reverend Matthew Devenish Meares arrived on the "*Mariner*" with his family & appointed the Assistant Chaplain for a new parish which covered the area of Wilberforce, Sackville & Pitt Town. In about 1827 a single storey building was established for use as a schoolhouse/chapel in Bathurst Street. During the 1840s the congregation agitated for a new church and eventually it was given the go ahead. The foundation stone was laid in 1857 by the Lord Bishop of Sydney. The sandstone church was designed by architect Edmund Blacket & constructed by Thomas Collison. It cost £1050 to build. Although completed in 1858 & in use the church was not officially consecrated by Bishop Barker until 1859. The Parish Registers commenced in 1826. For baptisms, marriages & burials prior to this date check the records of St. Matthew's Church of England in Windsor which commenced in 1810. The following are the first 8 entries :

No	Date of Marriage	Surname	Names	of	Married by	Ceremony performed by	with consent of	Signed by	Witnesses
1	12 June 1826	GRONO	William	this Parish Pitt Town	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	Groom & Bride	George Hall of Pitt Town
		SMALLWOOD	Esther	this Parish Pitt Town					Jno (John) Grono of Pitt Town
2	2 July 1827	CASTLES	Patrick	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	His Excellency the Governor	x his mark & x her mark	John McDonald?? of Pitt Town
		O'BRIEN	Honora	this Parish					Eliz Smallwood of Pitt Town x her mark
3	1 October 1827	WRIGHT	John	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	x his mark & x her mark	Sarah Jones of Pitt Town
		HUGGINS	Sarah	this Parish					F D Wood of Pitt Town
4	14 April 1828	CROSS	Christopher	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	x his mark & x her mark	Henry ?? Irwin of Pitt Town x his mark
		PECKHAM	Mary Ann	this Parish					F D Wood of Pitt Town
5	28 April 1828	ISLES	John	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	Groom & x her mark	William Mason of Pitt Town
		LLOYD	Elizabeth	this Parish					F D Wood of Pitt Town
6	19 May 1828	PAYTON	William Henry	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	Groom & Bride	John Hannibus of Pitt Town x his mark
		WARD	Mary	this Parish					F D Wood of Pitt Town
7	15 September 1828	SMITH	William	this Parish	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	Groom & Bride	W Baker Snr of Windsor
		BAKER	Elizabeth	the Parish of Windsor					F D Wood of Pitt Town
8	6 October 1828	BURGIN	Henry	the Parish of Parramatta	Banns	M. D. Meares	their respective families	Groom & x her mark	William Jones of Pitt Town
		GOWAN	Mary	this Parish					F D Wood of Pitt Town

Sources:

Bowd, D.G. *Macquarie Country*; Jack, R. I. *Exploring the Hawkesbury*; BarkleyJ. & M. Nichols *Hawkesbury 1794-1994*.

Enquiries...Can you assist?

FORRESTER, STEWART & ALLEN

The following gentleman has compiled a book on Breaker Morant, and is now updating details for another. He is keen to seek information on a number of characters that were associated with Harry "Breaker" Morant and would appreciate any assistance. To date he has been unable to source any information on them. They were Hawkesbury people around the period 1890-1900s. He is interested in any details about the following persons, or making contact with descendants. The names are :

R. H. Forrester, Fred Stewart, & R. Allen.

If you can assist, contact Ted Robl phone (03) 57851208 or email roblt@bigpond.com

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

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, PITT TOWN REGISTERS ONLINE

Keep checking the availability of records on the **Hawkesbury on the Net's Church Registers** site www.hawkesbury.net.au/church/ as it is being updated regularly. Marriages for St. James, Church of England now Anglican for Pitt Town have been transcribed by volunteer Kristine Woods. The address is www.hawkesbury.net.au/church/stjames_pitttown.html For more information see p.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Seven Hills : a village divided, a suburb united by Jack BROOK. (A4 x 230pp, indexed & referenced includes illustrations. Books available from the author for \$30 + \$8 P&H. 88 Best Road, Seven Hills 2147. Phone (02) 9621-1081.

STATE CONFERENCE AT COWRA 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2005

Annual State Conference for 2005 of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc to be held on Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September 2005 to be held at the Cowra Civic Centre, Darling Street, Cowra & hosted by Cowra Family History Group Inc. For further information check <http://www.home.westserv.net.au/~fordhen/famhispage.htm#Conference> or contact Convenor Cheryl Ianson - kich@allstate.net.au

HOBBS REUNION, PITT TOWN 17 SEPTEMBER 2005

The Hobbs family have planned a Reunion at ST. James Anglican Church Hall, Pitt Town on Saturday 17th September 2005 between 10am-3pm. Gold coin entry. Some associated family names are: HOBBS, HESLIN, MCKENZIE, WRIGHT, TURNER, ROSE, JONES, MYERS, SMALLWOOD, SULLIVAN, NEAL, DOUGLASS, CROSS, HURST, CELEY, MAHONEY, WALKER, GREENTREE, WILBOW, MONAHAN etc. **For more information contact : Bev Woodman on 02 49468491 or bevpwoodman@ozemail.com.au**

CROSS - FLOOD Reunion 26 June 2005 - Ebenezer church and Cemetery

Reminder that there is Cross Family Reunion on 26th June 2005 at the Ebenezer Church. For further details, please contact: Lois mrnewman@pacific.net.au or Hazel on malford@ozemail.com.au

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