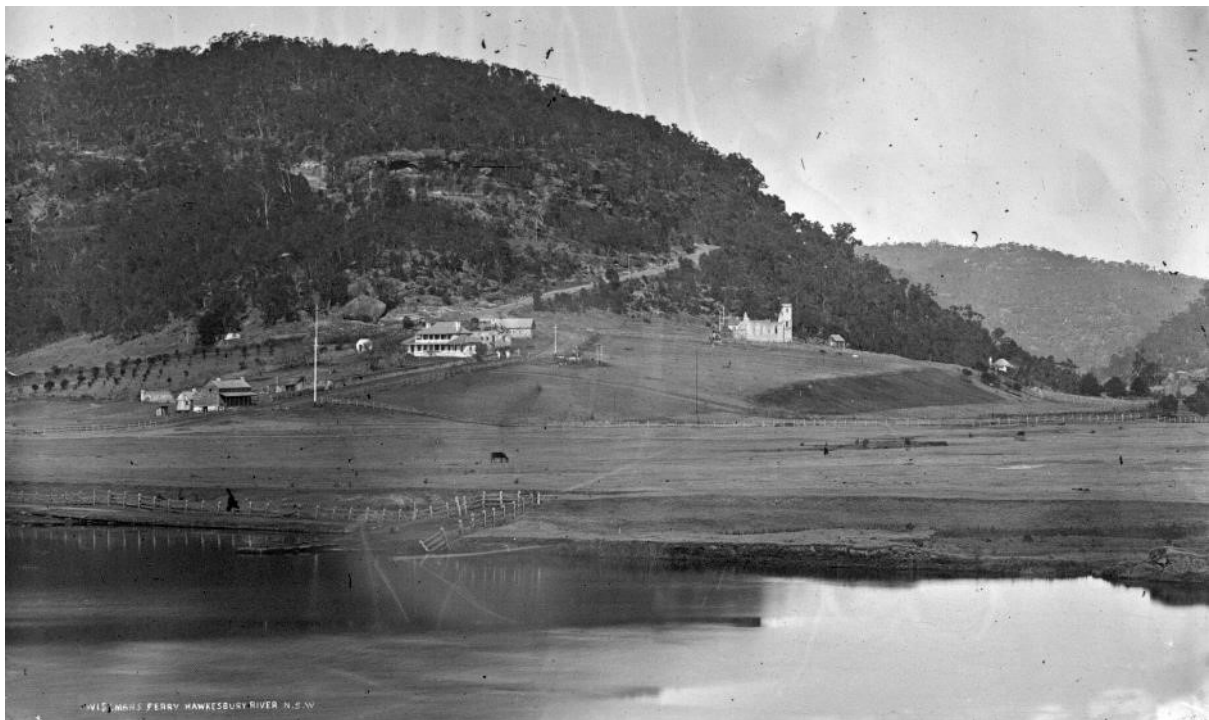




NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
ISSN 0811-9031 September 2021 PRICE \$3.00



**Wisemans Ferry, Hawkesbury River circa 1879, Government Printing Office
Courtesy State Library of NSW**

September 2021

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



The Hawkesbury Family History Group (HFHG) is for people who have an interest in family history in the Hawkesbury area or live in the Hawkesbury and are conducting research. There are no joining or membership fees. The group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January) at Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor commencing at 10am.

W: www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au

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

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

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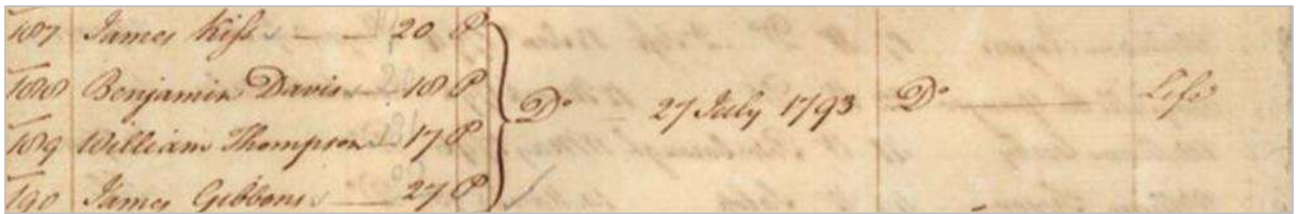
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Read ‘One step further’ on p. 17 which will give researchers tips and how obituaries can fill in many gaps in our family history and provide numerous clues to follow up.



The Kiss Family mystery, solved

By Catherine Ryan

According to the 'Convict Records', James Kiss, is the only convict transported to Australia with this surname.¹ James's story of survival is one of mistaken identity, acquiring fortunate connections and seizing opportunities to thrive, all of which assisted him to navigate life in NSW. William and Mary Kiss had their son James baptised on 30 May 1769 at St Phillip's Cathedral Birmingham, England.² He was the youngest of 7 children. Sadly, both of James' parents died during his childhood; William in 1779 aged 45 and Mary in 1775 aged 36.³ It appears that James was then cared for by an older brother.⁴ During the late eighteenth century the Industrial Revolution turned Birmingham into a major manufacturing centre, which resulted in a quadrupling of the population, to become the third largest city in England.⁵ Brodie writes that property crime was high in Birmingham, due the increase in chattels, and not just poverty.⁶

On 8 June 1793, James was arrested on a charge of highway robbery. He was bought to the General Assizes, Midlands Circuit Court, Warwick, on 23 July, together with his co-accused Mary, wife of John Howarth, for stealing the hat of Benjamin Jones. According to court records, the magistrate Mr. Justice Wilson, heard that Jones recognised James and Mary, as the pair who approached him in the churchyard, knocked him down and stole his hat. James defended his action to run, knowing there was a warrant against him, and thought Jones was after him.⁷

As part of the trial, character references from John Marston and Thomas Willdey were submitted in James' defence, both confirming him as a reputable person.⁸ Despite Marston's reputation as a wealthy Wolverhampton manufacturer, Wilson dismissed his plea, as James's employment

¹ State Library of Queensland, 'Convict Records', <https://convictrecords.com.au/>, accessed 21 May 2021.

² Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, Ancestry.com, accessed 2 June 2019.

³ Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, Ancestry.com, accessed 22 May 2021.

⁴ John Marston to the Earl of Warwick, Petition for Clemency, September 1793, Home Office: judges' reports on criminals 1784-1830, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England, HO 47/16/64, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, findmypast.com, accessed 27 May 2021.

⁵ Nick Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, Hardie Grant Books, 2015, p. 24.

⁶ Nick Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, Hardie Grant Books, 2015, p. 24.

⁷ Report of Justice John Wilson, September 1793, Home Office: Judges Reports on Criminals 1784-1830, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England, HO 47/16/64, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, findmypast.com, accessed 27 May 2021.

⁸ John Marston and Thomas Willdey to the Earl of Warwick, Petition for Clemency, September 1793, Home Office: judges' reports on criminals 1784-1830, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England, HO 47/16/64, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, findmypast.com, accessed 27 May 2021.

with Marston was five years previous.⁹ The jury found James and Mary guilty, and were sentenced to death, as larceny from a person, warranted this punishment. Wilson's recommendation for clemency for Kiss, to Secretary of State, Henry Dundas, stated it was 'absolutely necessary for his own sake' to send James out of the country and away from Birmingham's influencing undesirables. Reference to an increase in Birmingham's current crime rate in his report, may have also contributed to Wilson's decision.¹⁰ James was eventually granted transportation to New South Wales for life on 5 August 1793.¹¹ He remained at Warwick Gaol, until his departure on the *Ganges* from Portsmouth, on 10 December 1796.¹²



Figure 1: *Ganges*, 1794

The *Ganges*' only convict voyage, transported 190 male convicts to Sydney Cove, arriving on 2 June 1797, to a growing colony of 4,300.¹³ The captain was Thomas Patrickson and the surgeon, James Mileham. The voyage was fairly uneventful, with thirteen deaths and some instances of scurvy recorded.¹⁴ Only two convict ships docked in the colony that year; the other, *Britannia*, transported Irish Defender rebels who arrived in poorer health.¹⁵

James, now 28, was fortunate to have been assigned to Charles Grimes, Colonial Deputy-Surveyor, as a servant and was given the title 'surveyor's man'. Grimes was responsible for preparing the first Plan of the Settlements of New South Wales.¹⁶ In 1800, Governor King had

⁹ Wolverhampton History and Heritage website, 'John Marston', <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/genealogy/Marston/Marston.htm>, accessed 20 May 2021.

¹⁰ Report of Justice John Wilson.

¹¹ James Kiss, August 1793, Correspondence And Warrants, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England, HO13, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, findmypast.com, accessed 20 May 2021.

¹² _

¹³ Free Settler or Felon, 'Ganges', https://www.freesettlorfelon.com/convict_ship_ganges_1797.htm, accessed on 19 May 2021; HR NSW, vol. IV, p. 787; "3105.0.65.001 - Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2006". Australian Bureau of Statistics. 23 May 2006. Retrieved 21 November 2011. Table 1. Population by sex, states and territories, 31 December 1788 onwards.

¹⁴ Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, p. 22.

¹⁵ Free Settler or Felon, 'Ganges'.

¹⁶ People Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 'Kiss, James (1769-?)', <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/biography/kiss-james-25275/text33703>, accessed 16 June 2021.

ordered Grimes to Mulgrave Place (Hawkesbury) as magistrate and superintendent of Public Works.¹⁷ Presumably, James Kiss accompanied Charles whilst he worked in the area.

By 1806, James Kiss was granted his Ticket of Leave, and the Convict Muster has him renting ten acres of land from John Palmer Esq., in Mulgrave Place. He grew two acres of wheat, three acres of maize, a quarter acre of potatoes and four- and three-quarter acres of pasture.¹⁸ James' name appears again on the 1811 Muster, and in 1812 had gained both a Conditional and Absolute Pardon.¹⁹ By 1814 he was still listed on the Musters but recorded as being free, off stores and his occupation was given as a labourer. His Pardon petition documented a successful employment record and described himself as an industrious and sober man.²⁰ This was granted on the recommendation of the Anglican Chaplain William Cox.²¹

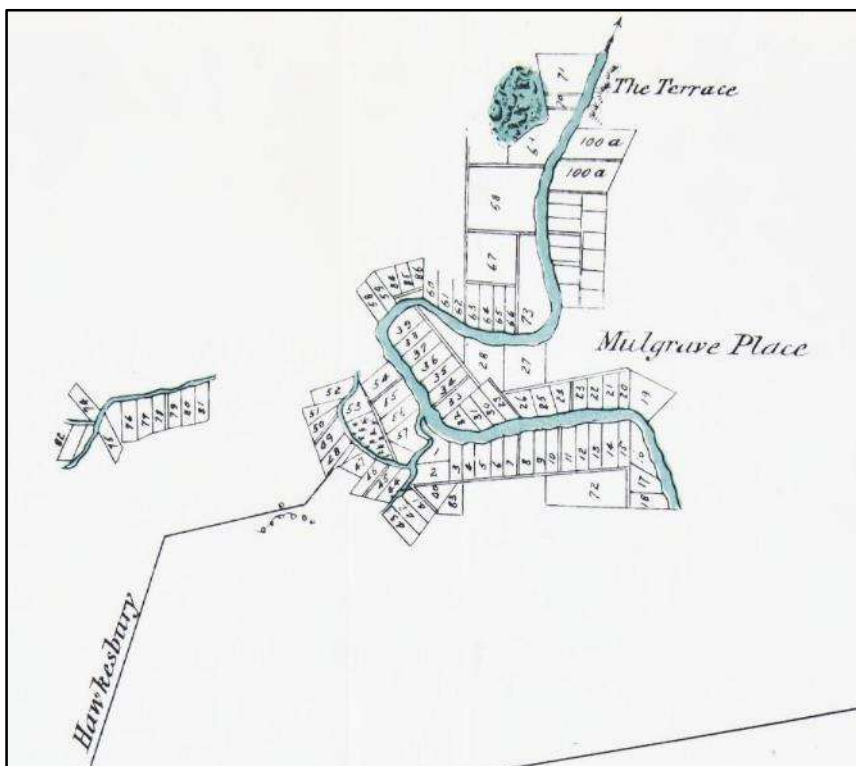


Figure 2 Mulgrave Place (Hawkesbury), NSW, 1796

By 1820 James had moved to Sydney and had signed a letter requesting Governor Lachlan Macquarie to grant him a small piece of land in Sydney so that he could build himself a small cottage. Simeon Lord, a wealthy landowner who was sent to the colony as a convict for 7 years and also had a small part in the Rum Rebellion, co-signed James' application. William Cox was named as previously

petitioning on James' behalf and also William Cowper, the Colonial Secretary at the time. James' occupation was listed as a horse dealer of Sydney. His request must have been granted because

¹⁷ Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 'Grimes, Charles (1772–1858)', <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/grimes-charles-2129/text2699>, accessed online 17 June 2021.

¹⁸ Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, p. 26; James Kiss, Ganges, 1811, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787 – 1834, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019.

¹⁹ James Kiss, Ganges, 1811, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787 – 1834, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019; New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019.

²⁰ Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, p. 23.

²¹ Brodie, *Kin : a real people's history of our nation*, p. 24.

in 1822 his occupation was listed as a horse trader. From 1823 to 1825 he was employed by a Mr James Underwood in Sydney and according to the 1828 Census records, James Kiss, aged 61, was employed as a labourer for James Underwood's distillery at Botany and had been granted a Full Pardon.

Although James's name appears in the Musters 1816-1821, it is the entries for the 1822 and 1825 Musters which are of great interest.²² In 1822, James's son William is listed as *bc* (born in the colony) and a labourer. In 1825, James's daughter Ann is listed as *bc* and married to Daniel Reid, and William is working for Mr Smallwood.²³ This is the first time we learn that James has children, without any evidence of a marriage, the children's mother's name or birth records.

Central to Kiss's story is James Ruse, a pioneer in Australia, who was the first former convict to be granted land, and the first settler to become self-sufficient.²⁴ In 1798, James and his wife, Elizabeth, were granted 30 acres at Mulgrave Place, and settled with other pardoned convicts along the banks of the Hawkesbury River. Unfortunately, Ruse endured ruined crops from repeated floods, and owed money to many creditors, leaving his family in a precarious situation.²⁵ Sometime between 1800 and 1804, and in 1804, Ruse sought work on sealing expeditions, requiring long periods at sea, no doubt for wages to support his family.²⁶

Ann and William had been recorded as part of the Ruse family, in a land sale document in 1815.²⁷ Ann identifies as Ann Ruse on her marriage certificate to Daniel Reid, with witnesses James Ruse and his daughter Elizabeth.²⁸ Ann Kiss was born circa. 1801 and William was born in 1806.²⁹ These dates coincide with Elizabeth Ruse and James Kiss both located at Mulgrave Place, without the presence of James Ruse. Kiss was still an indentured convict at this time. The population in the colony at the time, recorded three times as many men as women, and polygamy was a real possibility.³⁰ The assumption was that James Kiss fathered two children with Elizabeth Ruse, Ann and William, whilst James Ruse was at sea.

²² James Kiss, Ganges, 1816-1821, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787 – 1834, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019.

²³ James Kiss, Ganges, 1822 & 1825, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787 – 1834, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019.

²⁴ Michael Crowley, *The stony ground : the remembered life of convict James Ruse*, Hook, Hampshire : Waterside Press, 2018, p.10.

²⁵ Janice Ruse Israel, *My mother reread me tenderly*, Possum, Eastwood, N.S.W., 1988, p. 55.

²⁶ Clifford Tolchard, *The Humble Adventurer. The life and times of James Ruse Convict and Farmer*, Lansdowne Press Melbourne, 1965, p. 107, 112.

²⁷ Janice Ruse Israel, *My mother reread me tenderly*, p. 66.

²⁸ Australian Royalty, 'Ann Ruse', <https://australianroyalty.net.au/tree/purnellmccord.ged/individual/I38559/Ann-Ruse>, accessed 5 August 2019.

²⁹ Birth register of William Kiss, 339/1806, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, NSW, accessed 4 August 2019.

³⁰ HR NSW, vol. IV, p. 787. '3105.0.65.001 - Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2006'. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 23 May 2006. Table 1. Population by sex, states and territories, 31 December 1788 onwards.

According to the church baptismal records, in 1836 both James Kiss and James Ruse were baptised, in the Catholic Church at the same time as Kiss's grandson William, born to his son William Kiss and Elizabeth Kennedy. Interestingly, Elizabeth Ruse having died in 1836, was buried in St John's Catholic Church, Campbelltown, cemetery. Perhaps James Kiss and James Ruse had notions to be buried with her when the time came.

In the absence of a death record or burial records at St Johns Church, James Kiss could lay claim to the plain cross to left of Elizabeth Ruse's grave, who is buried with her husband. The love triangle complete!



Figure 3 Descendants of Elizabeth and James Ruse, at the Ruse's burial site, St John's Church cemetery, Campbelltown.

In 2019, a Ruse-Kiss DNA Project uncovered the truth that Elizabeth Ruse was the biological mother of Ann and William Kiss, with James Kiss the biological father.³¹ James Kiss's story was complete, through DNA research, 222 years after he arrived in the colony.

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³¹ Amanda Dunn, 'Facebook', *James Ruse*, https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=708372276289807&id=519919595135077, accessed 2 September 2019.

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HORSE STEALING

There was a horse stealing case in the Hawkesbury in the 1860s. **JAMES CLARK** junior was charged with the theft of horse from **MARY CLINK** in Riverstone in 1861.

Another, of those cases which have been of so frequent occurrence of LATE in this district, was disposed of by the bench of magistrates on Tuesday, the 24th ultimo. James Clark jun., was brought up on remand, charged with stealing a horse, the property of Mrs Mary Clink. Constable Raper deposed to the apprehension of prisoner at Riverston (sic) on Thursday, 5th September ultimo, a warrant produced, charging him with having stolen an entire horse, the property of Mrs. Mary Clink; on being taken the prisoner said he know nothing of the charge; prisoner's brother asked what he was taken for then, and on being told, wanted to know whether Raper had got the horse.

There were several descriptions of the horse including brands and where the horse was supposed to have come from.

John Killduff, keeper of Pitt Town common, had seen horse in the police paddock; he first saw him at Clark's on the 8th May last, at Cattai; prisoner then took him out of the plough, and witness castrated him; prisoner said he had bought him of Mr. Hassall, South Creek. James Johnston had known the horse for six or seven years; was in the habit of running at Maroota, about nine miles from Pitt Town; was then an entire; witness had helped, on two occasions, to get him in for Mrs. Clink; he was now a gelding; last time he saw him was near James Clarke's he was then cut, and branded JC on near shoulder. Mrs. Clink knew prisoner; have seen the horse, and recognise him as my property; no person had authority to take him away or to work him. James Walmsley knew the prisoner, but could not swear to the horse. Thomas McNealy had seen the horse, which he had purchased from one W. Smith, of Parramatta, for £3, Charles Hassall deposed, he had never seen the horse before to his knowledge; never sold him to prisoner; never sold a horse of any description to him. No evidence was offered in defence, and the Bench committed the prisoner to take his trial at the next Quarter Sessions, Windsor. Bail was allowed.

WINDSOR. (1862, January 9). The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13057628>





The joys of researching your family history

by Grahame Thom

Several years ago, someone said to me *“I have finished my family history”*. I said to myself *“you will never finish researching your family history”*. Here is an example.

I have been researching my family history for many years. Many cousins and friends are aware that one of my favourite ancestors is Obadiah Ikin who came to Sydney from England over 200 years ago. We know that Obadiah’s mother was Ann Ikin, and that he was baptised on 21 March 1761 in Whitchurch, Shropshire, England. It has been accepted that it is probably impossible to find the name of Obadiah’s father but what of Ann’s parents. This has been a challenge.¹

Also my cousin Margaret Miller and I have wondered what was behind a 1858 statement that Obadiah’s son William was born in America, when records reveal he was born in Nottingham, England in 1785.

What do we know about Obadiah’s life in England before sailing to Sydney, Australia in late 1789 with his wife and children, as a soldier in the New South Wales Corps?

Obadiah married Sarah Butts on 23 May 1781 in the Church of St Peter, Canterbury, Kent, England. They had their first-born child Obadiah junior on 18 March 1782, who was christened on 24 March at Manchester Cathedral, in Lancashire, England.

Their next child Marianne was christened on 20 March 1784 at Whitchurch, Shropshire, followed by William born on 19 October 1785 in Nottingham and christened on 31 March 1786 at St Mary’s Church, Nottingham. Their fourth child, Mary Ann was christened on 18 May 1788, at St James Church, Bury St Edmund, Suffolk, England.

We also know that Obadiah enlisted in the 11th Light Dragoon Guards on 14 August 1785, while the regiment was stationed at Nottingham, and was discharged on 27 March 1786 for an unknown reason.

1. References to most of the events covered in this article can be seen in the book *Obadiah Ikin - The story of a Shropshire soldier and his family in Australia*, by Margaret Miller and Grahame Thom, published privately in 1986.

Next Obadiah enlisted in the newly formed New South Wales Corps on 11 October 1789 and was stationed at Chatham, England prior to departing on board the Surprise with his family bound for Sydney, Australia, on 19 January 1790. Another son, Alexander was baptised at Chatham on 25 October 1789.

None of this research assisted in revealing the names of Obadiah's grandparents, that is the parents of his mother Ann Ikin. Perhaps Ann's father was named Obadiah too.

Some years ago, cousin Martin Wallace of New Zealand wrote an article about our Ikin ancestors which can be seen on my family history website at www.grthom.info The following is an extract from his article.

A search for the name Obadiah Ikin (in England) reveals three men with that name (I will use this spelling, although Obediah occurs.)

Obadiah I - This man married Bridget Beddow in Myddle, a Shropshire village, on 21 June 1719. She was probably a member of the Beddow family described by Richard Gough in "A History of Middle" in 1700. I can't find a link with our family.

Obadiah II - This man married Mary Jones at St. Alkmund's on 10 February 1750/51. He appears in the Whixall Manor record on 12 May 1777.

Obadiah II wrote a will on 17 May 1793 in which he described himself as "*a sawyer, with two dwelling houses and lands situated in Whixall where I now live.*" He must have died shortly after for his will was probated at Prees on 3 July 1793. The list of beneficiaries has allowed us to identify a large family of Ikins

He left half his property to be shared equally between:

*"Obadiah, son of my sister Anne,
James, son of my brother John,
Mary, daughter of my nephew Joseph Ikin,
William, son of my nephew Edward Ikin."*

The other half of his property he left to John Hall and David Chidlow, who were joint owners. Joseph Ikin the younger was an executor.

Obadiah III - This man was our ancestor who came to Australia in 1790. He was baptised at St. Alkmund's in Whitchurch on 24 March 1761. His mother's name Ann Ikin is recorded, but no father's name was included.

Peter Krafft (another cousin living in New Zealand) has constructed a spreadsheet presentation of Ikin family births and marriages, using parish register transcripts, the IGI, and other sources. His records begin in the 17th century. Peter has generously given me access to this resource. With the information from Obadiah II's will, it is possible to make the following family structure.

JOB IKIN married ANN SHEPHERD at Wem, 27 December 1733

They had nine children at least. The records are not complete. I have identified those mentioned in Obadiah II's will by a x after their name.

1. THOMAS baptised 4 August 1734, Whitchurch, (died 1734)
2. JOHN (x) baptised 23 May 1735, Whitchurch,
 grandson James (x) baptised 21 September 1761, Whixall
3. WILLIAM baptised 11 May 1736, Whitchurch
4. JOSEPH, son Edward (x) baptised 29 June 1755, Prees
 grandson William (x) baptised 30 January 1790, Whixall
 son Joseph (x) baptised 10 March 1761, Prees
 grand-daughter Mary (x) baptised 27 September 1784
5. ANN(E) (x) baptised 1 April 1739 at Wellington,
6. OBADIAH II (x)
7. JOB baptised 2 October 1741, Wellington
8. MARY baptised 11 September 1743, Wellington (died 1750)
9. HANNAH baptised 12 February 1748, Wellington

The above research by Martin and Peter appears to be reasonable. But like all good researchers we considered another source was needed to confirm the link between Obadiah and Ann.

In 2004 I attended a gathering of the Clan MacThomas in Glenshee, Perthshire, Scotland. There I met Jon Hedges, a cousin of the Chief. We became good friends and Jon looked after the Clan's website where he presented much Clan research carried out by me in my role as the Clan Sennachie (genealogist).

Then in 2019 the world wide pandemic COVID 19 resulted in Jon being house bound. So, he undertook much research into his family history, including taking out a subscription to the British Newspapers Archives website. This meant he had access to the very large online collection of British newspapers. In May 2021 Jon mentioned this to me and offered to do searches for me. My request included a search for any reference to any mention of the name Obadiah Ikin and variations.

Jon obtained one result as follows:

Sun (London) - Monday 11 April 1803

LEGACY ~ LEFT by Mr. OBADIAH IKIN, of the Parish of Prees, and County of Salop, to Obadiah Ikin, a Native of Whitchurch in the said County. He was a Soldier in the Light Dragoons in the American War- married a Wife in Canterbury. When discharged from the Army, went to settle in Rochester; in Kent, and is supposed to live in the same place now. Either him or his lawful Heir may receive the same, by applying to Mr. Joseph Ikin, of Prees, in the County of Salop. Prees, March 17, 1803.²

Some comments:

There is a clear link from the 1793 will of Obadiah Ikin who died on at Whixall and the advertisement that appeared in the London Sun nearly 10 years later on 11 April 1803. As a result the advertisement gives details that clearly link this Obadiah Ikin to his nephew Obadiah Ikin who came to Sydney in 1790.

The following points indicate the links:

The “American War” would be the war that is today called the American Revolutionary War 1775-1783. It is likely that Obadiah served in this war prior to his marriage in 1781; more research is needed. But this links the advertisement to the comment made 55 years later that his father Obadiah had been in America.

In a memorial by Obadiah in 1810 he stated that he had served 26 years in the army. This included 20 years in the NSW Corps and less than a year in the 11th Light Dragoon Guards. The balance could have been served in the 54th (Shropshire) Regiment as the regiment served in America from 1775 to 1781, and recruited in the County of Shropshire. It would seem that no Light Dragoon Guards regiments served in America.³

Obadiah, a native of Whitchurch, Shropshire, and his wife Sarah Butts had married in Canterbury 1781. In the late 1700s Rochester was a small town just north of Chatham where Obadiah enlisted in the NSW Corps in 1789.

Who would have thought that after 50 years of research, the magic of the internet, and COVID 19, would be brought together by the finding of one small advertisement in a London newspaper published in 1803, that added two generations to our family tree. Oh, for the joys of family history research.

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2. British Newspapers Archives <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> - accessed May 2021
3. Kitzmiller, John M, In search of the “Forlorn Hope”. Volume 1, published 1988.

QUEEN OF WINDSOR ~ 1918

By Michelle Nichols

During the 20th century, communities often held events crowning a Queen to raise money. Young women raised money for a particular charity and usually the most money was declared Queen. The ceremony or ball was usually held to announce the winner. At this particular event, Nurse Mary Freeman (aged 18) of Riverstone narrowly beat Nora McMahon, later Mrs Cupitt. The special event was held in the Windsor School of Arts and raised about £80.



The crowning of the Queen of Windsor at the Red Cross Day in September 1918.

The image shows left Eddie Hurley (pageboy), Mayor Chandler as Bishop of Windsor, attendants Celia Cassidy, Kitty Freeman, Queen Mary Freeman, plus Josephine Freeman and pageboy Jack Mattens. The herald on the right was Rev Norman Jenkyn from Windsor's St Matthew's Anglican Church, he was also an alderman on Windsor Council.

Source: Windsor & Richmond Gazette 13 September 1918 & 8 April 1970

Two friends of the Hawkesbury Family History Group recently passed away. On behalf of the group we extend our heartfelt sympathies.

Vale Ernie Byrnes 24 Aug 1927 – 11 Aug 2021

Ernie Byrnes was born and bred in Riverstone. When he married wife Judy, he raised his family in Riverstone. Ernie was very involved in the community and loved history. He was very proud of his family history and connections to the area and enjoyed researching and attending the Hawkesbury Family History Group meetings. He passed away just 13 days before his 94th birthday.



Photo courtesy Maureen Byrnes

Vale Bryan Patrick Mullins 8 Dec 1927 – 26 Aug 2021

Retired agriculturist and husband of the late Joan nee Shepherd, was a regular attendee at the Hawkesbury Family History Group meetings over the last 20 odd years. He was involved with the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (Western Sydney University, Richmond) as well as a number of local organisations including the Hawkesbury Hospital Auxiliary.

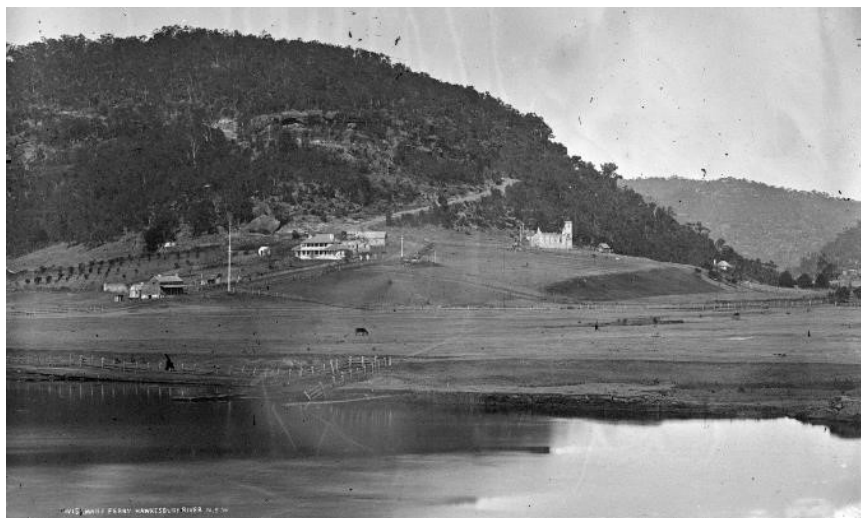
His beloved wife Joan, was involved in our family history group since she started her family history research in the 1980s, sadly passed away last year. Bryan Mullins passed away on 26 August 2021, aged 93.



Courtesy Windsor Funeral Home Facebook page

1880 APPLICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL AT WISEMANS FERRY

When a public school was planned in NSW, officials interviewed the local community and compiled a list of the possible students and their distance from the school.



Wisemans Ferry, Hawkesbury River circa 1879, Government Printing Office
Courtesy State Library of NSW

Parent/guardian *	Distance from school	Name of child	Age	Religious denomination
John Jones	150 yards	William Wallace	16	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Reuben	14	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Alfred	12	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Amie	10	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Christina	8	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Ada	6	Church of England
John Jones	150 yards	Edward	4	Church of England
Thomas Preston	200 yards	Maria	13	Roman Catholic
Thomas Preston	200 yards	Theresa	11	Roman Catholic
Thomas Preston	200 yards	Jane	9	Roman Catholic
Thomas Preston	200 yards	Mary Ann	7	Roman Catholic
Thomas Preston	200 yards	George Ernest	5	Roman Catholic
Thomas Preston	200 yards	Asminear	3	Roman Catholic
Thomas Cross	Same house where school at present	Mary Jane	11	Church of England
Thomas Cross	"	Walter Fred. Chas	9	Church of England
Thomas Cross	"	Albert Hercules	7	Church of England
Thomas Cross	"	Rosetta Gertrude	4	Church of England
Francis Hearn	1½ mile	Edward Peter	13	Roman Catholic
Francis Hearn	1½ mile	Elizabeth	11	Roman Catholic
Francis Hearn	1½ mile	Robert	9	Roman Catholic
Francis Hearn	1½ mile	Rose Alicia	7	Roman Catholic

Francis Hearn	1½ mile	William Bede	5	Roman Catholic
Francis Hearn	1½ mile	Frederick James	3	Roman Catholic
George Books	¼ mile	Margaret	11	Presbyterian
George Books	¼ mile	Cameron	9	Presbyterian
George Books	¼ mile	Elizabeth	7	Presbyterian
George Books	¼ mile	Mary	3	Presbyterian
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	George E. Herbert	14	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	Alfred Henry	13	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	Edith Maud	11	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	Gertrude Laura	9	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	John James Leslie	7	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	Violet E. Ethel	5	Church of England
Mary A. Black	¼ mile	Reginald Wm	4	Church of England
Thomas Stewart	1¼ mile	Margaret	14	Roman Catholic
Thomas Stewart	1¼ mile	Amos	10	Roman Catholic
Thomas Stewart	1¼ mile	Louisa	7	Roman Catholic
Thomas Stewart	1¼ mile	Elizabeth	4	Roman Catholic
Henry Walker	1 mile	Emily Louisa	12	Wesleyan
Henry Walker	1 mile	William Lesley	10	Wesleyan
Henry Walker	1 mile	Mary Annie	8	Wesleyan
Henry Walker	1 mile	Henry John	6	Wesleyan
Henry Walker	1 mile	Frederick James	4	Wesleyan
C. D. Cross	1¾ mile	Frederick John	6	Church of England
C. D. Cross	1¾ mile	George Herbert	4½	Church of England
William Greentree	2¼ mile	Emily Ellen	8	Church of England
William Greentree	2¼ mile	John James Leslie	6	Church of England
William Greentree	2¼ mile	George Frederick	4½	Church of England
John T. Manx	300 yards	Natalie Johanna	5	#
John T. Manx	300 yards	Millicent A	4	#

*** = Written by the parent**

= To no particular Denomination belonging being Catholic and Apostolic.

Source : School Files Wisemans Ferry 1880-1906 NRS 3829 [5/18152.2]

One step further...

By Michelle Nichols

When researching our family history, we often use newspapers as a resource. Newspapers can fill in many gaps in our family history and provide clues to follow up.

Newspapers are an excellent source of information for both local and family history. Details may be found about shipping arrivals, land records, court information, advertisements and most importantly local news as well as providing birth, marriage and death details. Information located from newspapers is often unique and not found in other sources. Browsing through local newspaper can provide details of background information, social activities and images of a particular place and time.

With the introduction of the Australian Historic Newspapers on Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> there is much to celebrate. Family historians can spend hours and hours each day locating snippets about our family in hundreds of newspapers across the country. However, it has its limitations. Not all editions of newspapers have survived, not all newspapers have yet been digitised and the cut off date for most newspapers is currently the mid-1950s.

Let's take an example, of an obituary, and see what it tells us...and where it can lead us.

The following obituary for **MARY WHITE HUNGERFORD** from *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 1 June 1983.

The obituary records that Mary died in 1983 aged 90 years. Born sometime in 1892 or 1893 as Mary Cremin, she started teaching at Bilpin School in the 1920s. She travelled from her family home in Richmond and boarded with the Anderson family of 'Bilpin Springs' while teaching at the nearby school.



Mary Cremin, probably at Anderson's at "Bilpin Springs" about 1922-1923.
Bilpin Collection, Hawkesbury Library Service

Whilst in Bilpin she met her future husband, Clarence Hungerford, a WW1 veteran, soldier settler of Mt Tomah. The couple married in 1924 and acquired 60-acre property at Berambing and they built their home called "Burando" where they raised their four children Molly, Natalie, Brian and Nevell. When the Second World War commenced, Mary formed a community group with some of her neighbours which eventually became the Bilpin District Women's Association, which firstly raised funds for the Red Cross. After the war, the group purchase an ex-army hall and when this was no longer viable, they constructed the Bilpin District Hall.

Her husband Clarence passed away in 1958. Mary kept busy and celebrated her 90th birthday in the Bilpin District Hall with family and friends at the end of 1982. She passed away on 7 May 1983.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">OBITUARY</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">MARY WHITE HUNGERFORD</h3>	
<p>Mary White Hungerford, a greatly loved and respected Bilpin pioneer, died on May 7 aged 90 years.</p> <p>As Miss Cremin, she started teaching at Bilpin school more than sixty years ago, travelling from her parents' home in Richmond by horse and sulky to board with Mr and Mrs Johnny Anderson, of 'Bilpin Springs'.</p> <p>In 1924 Mary Cremin married Clarence Hungerford, a Mt Tomah soldier-settler.</p> <p>During that period, the government was savagely increasing the rents payable by the World War I veterans who had been settled on the land, to such an extent that many veterans were forced off their farms.</p> <p>The young couple were able to secure a sixty acre selection of virgin timber country at Berambing. They left Mt Tomah in 1925 to build their home Burando and by sheer hard work created a successful farm out of the bush.</p> <p>Here, their four children, Molly (Mrs Clive Brown), Natalie (the late Mrs Jim Buckett), Brian and Nevell, spent their happy childhood quite unaware of how difficult the times must have been in the 1930's. Those were the days of kerosene and candlelight, hot home-made bread, lots of cream and butter from the house-cow, crowded house parties with most of Bilpin laughing together, correspondence lessons when Bilpin School closed down for want of pupils, of fun and laughter and bush dances with Mrs Hungerford playing the piano.</p> <p>It was a great era for kids, and hard though it must have been a time which Mrs Hungerford and her generation looked back on with pleasure.</p> <p>At the outbreak of World War II, Mrs Hungerford and a group of her neighbours formed</p>	<p>what was to become the Bilpin District Women's Association, that remarkable organisation which still reflects Mrs Hungerford's belief in the community. She was secretary for the Association's first nine years, later was President and was subsequently honoured with life membership.</p> <p>During the war years the main activity of the B.D.W.A. was fund raising for the Red Cross.</p> <p>After hostilities ceased the Bilpin women threw their energies into providing for the needs of their community.</p> <p>Firstly, an ex-army hall was purchased and erected for community use. After many years of use by the community, the 'hall's' limitations became apparent and the women, under Mrs Hungerford's presidency, dedicated themselves to the construction of the present Bilpin District Hall.</p> <p>It was most appropriate that Mrs Hungerford celebrated her 90th birthday at this venue just six months ago.</p> <p>After her husband's death in 1958, Mrs Hungerford gave herself to her family, friends and neighbours — visiting, phoning, writing, supporting, always with a great belief in her fellows, and continuing to be intensely interested in, and proud of, her sixteen grandchildren.</p> <p>In a note to the writer about the death of her aunt, Mary Hungerford, the author Pixie Brinsmead wrote: "As the years pass her influence will show more and more. Now we have to take up the baton. We were the lucky generation, to be born the last in the old stability of the world before scientists got so busy and people obsolete".</p> <p>To those of us who shared her friendship and love, Mary White Hungerford made us all feel quite the opposite of obsolete.</p> <p>For the past few years Mrs Hungerford was cared for by Mrs Molly Brown and Mrs Gwen Hungerford. She will be sadly missed by all.</p>

The obituary of **MARY WHITE HUNGERFORD** from
Windsor & Richmond Gazette 1 June 1983

Bearing in mind what you have read let's see where it will lead us.

1. The obituary records that Mary died in 1983 aged 90 years. Born 1892/1893 as Mary Cremin.

2. She started teaching at Bilpin School in the 1920s.

3. She travelled from her family home in Richmond and boarded with the Anderson family of 'Bilpin Springs'

4. [She] met her future husband, Clarence Hungerford, a WW1 veteran, soldier settler of Mt Tomah.

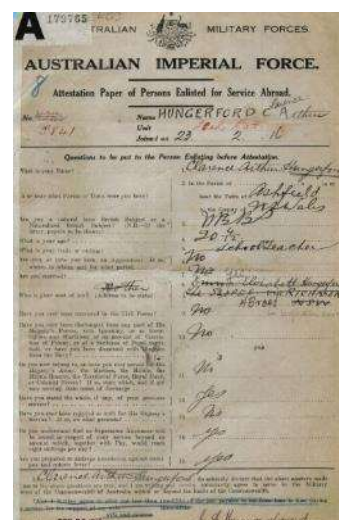
1. In 1983 Mary White Cremin was aged 90 years, therefore born circa 1892/1893. From the NSW BDM Index <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search?4>

Mary W. CREMIN is recorded in 1892 with parents Daniel & Ellen registered Balmain no. 6023/1892

2. From State Records check *Schools and related records* for info about teachers <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/schools-and-related-records> including Administrative file for Bilpin Pre 1939 Item No: [5/14925.4]

3. Search for articles in Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> about Mary Cremin and the Cremin family of Richmond. Also, the Anderson family of 'Bilpin Springs'. A number of articles including a very full obituary of Mary's father Daniel Cremin in 1918. from (1918, October 4). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86151998> and small notice of the death of Ellen, Mary's mother, in 1936 from (1936, July 24). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86048882> An article about Ruth Anderson an ex-teacher from Bilpin in 1927 (1927, April 15). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85955734>

4. Check Service Records from National Archives of Australia www.naa.gov.au



Clarence Hungerford, a WW1 veteran,
soldier settler of Mt Tomah...cont'd

Check State Records
www.records.nsw.gov.au for Soldier
settlement info from 1919-1920s



5. The couple married in 1924.

5. From the NSW BDM Index we can check the marriage of Mary and Clarence but the births are after 1921
<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search?4> From the index it records the marriage of Clarence Hungerford and Mary W. Cremin no. 9805/1924 registered Sydney.

6. [They] acquired 60-acre property at Berambing and they built their home called "Burando" where they raised their four children Molly, Natalie, Brian and Nevell.

6. A search online provides information from the Blue Mountains Heritage Listing for the property 'Burando' at Berambing <https://bit.ly/3jJF4gH>

7. When the Second World War commenced, Mary formed a community group with some of her neighbours which eventually became the Bilpin District Women's Association, which firstly raised funds for the Red Cross. After the war, the group purchase an ex-army hall and when this was no longer viable, they constructed the Bilpin District Hall.

7. On the National Archives of Australia site www.naa.gov.au a search reveals WW2 service records for Clarence Arthur Hungerford but these are not yet digitised. A digitisation project of WW2 records has recently commenced.

B884N346914 HUNGERFORD CLARENCE ARTHUR : Service Number - N346914 : Date of birth - 18 Oct 1895 : Place of birth - ASHFIELD NSW : Place of enlistment - RICHMOND NSW : Next of Kin - HUNGERFORD MARY

Also search for articles in Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> about Mary Hungerford and Bilpin District Women's Association references.

about Mary Cremin and the Cremin family of Richmond. Also, the Anderson family of 'Bilpin Springs'. A

8. Clarence passed away in 1958.

There was widespread district regret at the passing of an esteemed resident of Berambing Crest, Mr. Clarence Arthur Hungerford, on March 11, after a long illness, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jim Buckett, of Kurrajong, at the age of 62 years. He is mourned by his wife Mary, daughters Molly (Mrs. C. Brown, Ebenezer), Natalie (Mrs. Jim Buckett, Kurrajong) and sons Brian and Nevell, of Berambing, to whom district residents extend their sincere condolences. Mr. Hungerford was born at The Slopes, being the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hungerford, and lived in this district all his life, with the exception of Army service in World War I (20th Battalion, 1st A.I.F.). After the war he took up a selection at Mt. Tomah, and then at Berambing. Prior to joining the A.I.F., he was a school teacher, being the youngest teacher in the State when he left college. He was a brilliant man and interested himself in all kinds of controversial issues. He also had a good tenor voice. During the war he invented a charcoal burner, and 15 to 20 years ago he invented a honey extractor which is now sold in the U.S.A. and Canada. He was engaged in constructing a fruit-spraying machine at the time of his death and claimed it would outmode all others. He was person responsible for taking up a petition for the continuation of Bell's Line Road to Lithgow. He also put forward a suggestion regarding the Putty-Singleton Road which Mr. Jim Power (C.P.S.) put before the council and it was made a reality. There was a large and representative gathering at the service at St. Stephen's Church of England, Kurrajong, on March 13, prior to the cremation service at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

8. From the NSW BDM Index we can check the death of Clarence <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search?4> It records Clarence Arthur Hungerford died 1958 no. 4573/1958 registered at Richmond. Parents Guy & Emma Hungerford. Check the index for birth of Clarence Arthur Hungerford and any siblings, as well as the marriage of his parents.

State Records www.records.nsw.gov.au also has references to Probate Packets and Deceased Estate Files. These are not digitised but copies can be viewed in the Reading Room at Kingswood or copies purchased online.

<p>ITEM NRS-13660-38-14587-Series 4_480384 Clarence Arthur Hungerford - Date of Death 11/03/1958, Granted on 28/08/1958</p>

Check Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> for an obituary. The death is mentioned in 2 articles (1958, April 2). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article256357522>

It is with very deep regret that we record the passing of a very well-known and esteemed resident of Berambing, Mr. Clarence Arthur Hungerford, whose death took place at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jim Buckett, of Kurrajong, on March 11, at the age of 62 years. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Molly (Mrs. C. Brown, Ebenezer), Natalie (Mrs. Jim Buckett, Kurrajong), two sons, Brian and Nevell, of Berambing, and seven grandchildren to whom very sincere

A more in-depth obituary is found at (1958, March 19). *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article256357085> See left

Mary kept busy and celebrated her 90th birthday in the Bilpin District Hall with family and friends at the end of 1982. There may have been mentions in the local newspaper at the time? She passed away on 7 May 1983, her death is recorded on the obituary featured in Windsor & Richmond Gazette 1 June 1983.

Other sources to follow up include Ancestry.com There are a number of family trees relating to Clarence and Mary Hungerford. The one below includes a picture of Mary and her sister Nora Cremin, as young women.

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Mary White Cremin. The profile includes a photo of Mary and her sister Nora. The 'Facts' section lists her birth on 22 Oct 1892 in Balmain, New South Wales, Australia, and her death on 7 May 1983 in Bilpin, New South Wales, Australia. It also lists her parents, Daniel Cremin and Ellen Nevell, and her siblings, Eileen Nevell Cremin and Nora Collins Cremin. The 'Sources' section lists various records, including the Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922, and the Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980. The 'Family' section shows her marriages to Clarence Arthur Hungerford in 1924 and 1925, and her daughter, Ellen Mary 'Molly' Hungerford.

There is also an extensive family tree website, called the Peerage at <http://www.thepeerage.com/p33746.htm#i337455>

The screenshot shows the Peerage.com profile for Mary Cremin. The profile includes a photo of Mary and her sister Nora. The 'Facts' section lists her birth on 22 Oct 1892 in Balmain, New South Wales, Australia, and her death on 7 May 1983 in Bilpin, New South Wales, Australia. It also lists her parents, Daniel Cremin and Ellen Nevell, and her siblings, Eileen Nevell Cremin and Nora Collins Cremin. The 'Sources' section lists various records, including the Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922, and the Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980. The 'Family' section shows her marriages to Clarence Arthur Hungerford in 1924 and 1925, and her daughter, Ellen Mary 'Molly' Hungerford.

So, when next reading an obituary in a newspaper think about all the clues you may find and use it as a resource to fill in gaps in our family history, or confirm information we have. Look for more pointers to follow up.

Michelle Nichols

RICHMOND IN 1871



Richmond Park from Windsor Street, toward St Andrew's Church, 1879
Courtesy State Library of NSW

The following article was compiled for a Sydney newspaper in May 1871 and describes the township of Richmond and its services.

Richmond is a small, though attractive-looking little township, containing about 1000 inhabitants. It is four miles from Windsor, and by train thirty eight miles from Sydney. Many of the buildings are old, although in good repair; and there are a few fine residences. There are three principal streets, but most business is transacted in that known as the Windsor road. Among the institutions they have three or four schools, four churches, a school of arts and library, a mutual improvement society, a volunteer company, a cricket club, and last, though not least, a bank (branch Bank of New South Wales, C. Hole, Esq. manager). There is no court-house, and but two policemen stationed in the town- senior-constable Tiernan being in charge.

The Public School is a compact and neat structure of the gothic style of architecture. It is of brick with slated roof, and has recently received additions costing £240, making it now about fifty-four feet long and twenty feet broad, besides an infant class-room eighteen feet by fourteen. The number of pupils on the roll is 120, with an average daily attendance of 100. The head master is Mr. W. H. Wilson, assisted by Miss Brown and Miss Douglas, the former in charge of the infants, and the latter a pupil teacher. I have had occasion to visit this school before, and the examination the children underwent during my visit only confirmed my opinion that it is one of the best conducted in the colony. The children presented a clean and pleasing appearance, and were remarkably well behaved — the discipline being excellent. The pupils evidenced considerable proficiency in reading, parsing, and analysis, and the copy-books shown were neat and clean. Several of the elder pupils exhibited remarkable skill in landscape drawing and scroll-work. Several songs were sung by the children with a sweetness of expression and harmony of voice gratifying to the ear. Without doubt the Richmond public school is a credit to the town.

From the Public School I proceeded to the Church of England Denominational school, which is held in an upstairs room of a brick structure, built, I am informed, fifty years ago. The room is much too small, besides being otherwise quite unsuitable, and the furniture is bad. There were seventy-four children in attendance. The discipline and method of instruction were as good as could be expected under the circumstances. The odour from dinner, rising from the rooms beneath, prevailed, while an examination in arithmetic and geography was going on, in which latter moderate attainments were manifested. The dictation was indifferent, but the writing

very fair. In simple justice I may state that the present master— Mr. C. M. Chapman— had only been a few days in charge of the school.

The Roman Catholic school is held in a small brick building, and is conducted by Miss Purcell and her sister, who have had charge for over six years. The children— to the number of forty in attendance — are mostly very young. They seemed to be conducted and orderly during my short stay. The girls were doing some plain and some fancy work in wool, such as belts, slippers, etc in a very creditable manner.

The Church of England congregation, under the pastorship of a venerable clergyman — the Rev. J. Elder — is a fine large brick building at the west end of the town. The Presbyterian Church is nearly opposite the public school, and is a neat stone structure. The Rev. Mr. Cameron officiates. The Wesleyan Church is in Windsor-road, built of brick in a plain manner, and is almost concealed by trees. A minister from Windsor conducts service in the Wesleyan Church, and in the Roman Catholic Church — a very small building — Dean Hallinan officiates. Opposite the Church of England is the Richmond cemetery, containing many beautiful monuments of departed members of the leading families, such as the Bowmans, Coxs, Towns, Bensons, Rouses, Pitts, etc.

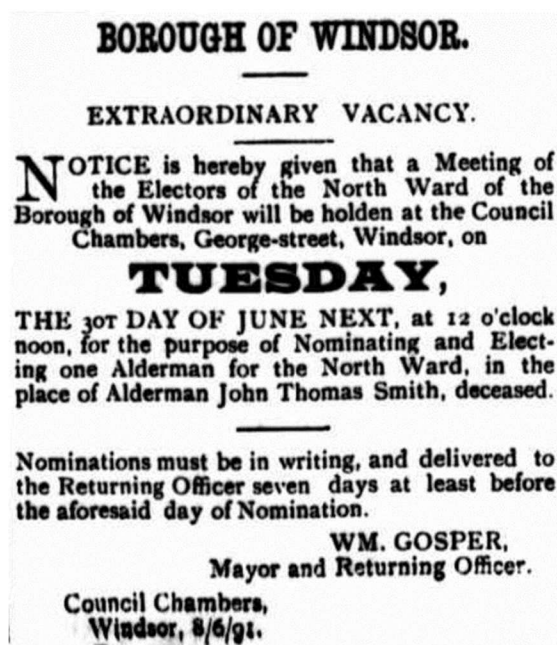
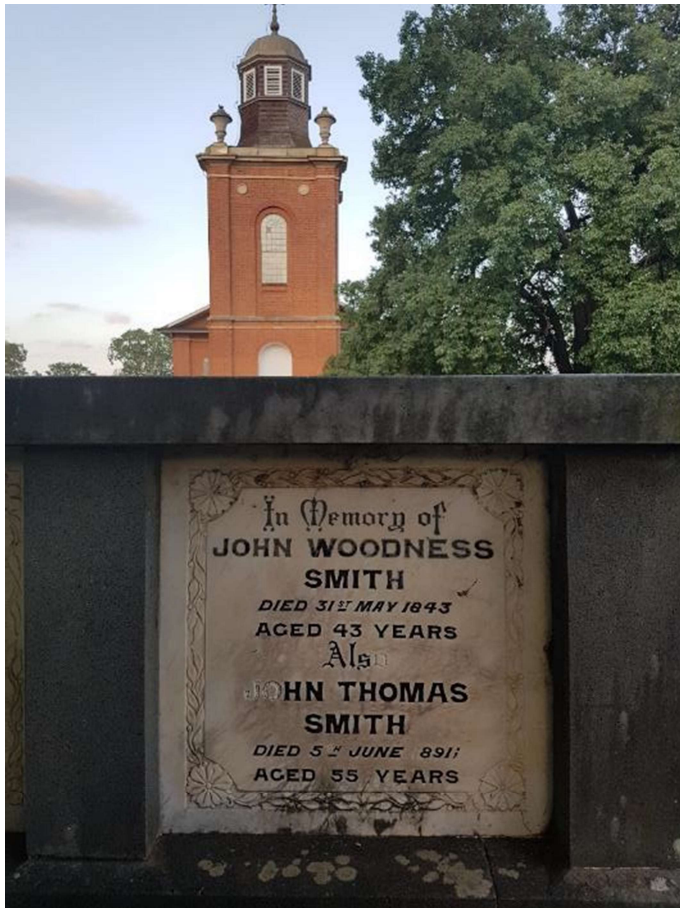
In private residences, that of Mr. William Bowman, near the railway station, is worthy of more than a passing notice. It is a splendid structure, surrounded by pine trees. The residence of his brother, Mr. George Bowman (the Peabody of Richmond), is on the opposite side of the street, lower down, and though not so fine, has an air of comfort, and if I may use the term, competence. Very pleasing to look at. The residences of Mr. Andrew Town, Mrs. Benson, and Mr. Onus are also worthy of mention.

The volunteer rifle corps, under the command of Captain Holborow, now numbers fifty-eight members. There are some crack shots among them, and it is made a boast that the Richmond rifles have never yet been beaten in any of the numerous contests they have been engaged in. Among the Richmond cricketers there are many good bats, but they have not done much this season.

In hotels, the principal are Mrs. Seymour's Black Horse, The Royal, Eather's Union Inn, and Bate's Old House at Home. The principal stores are Holborow's, King's, Ducker's, Harris's, Turner's, and Price's (chemist); and among the saddlers, Mr. C. Mills does a good business. There [is] a fine park, six acres in extent, in the centre of the town, around which are planted some fine trees, which will afford shade to the inhabitants in a few years, I may take the liberty of adding, that the Richmondites are an exceedingly social and hospitable people.

As in most small towns, there are, of course, occasionally local jealousies and heart burnings which, though often arising from over zeal, occasionally prevent good being done. The great drawback of Richmond, like Windsor, is the want of a bridge over the Hawkesbury. The method of crossing at present is very novel half punt and half bridge, one half of the latter having been washed away some time since. For days and days together traffic is entirely suspended, causing serious inconvenience to the inhabitants across the river. Petitions have been repeatedly sent in without avail. It is to be hoped that the matter will no longer be allowed to rest in abeyance.

RICHMOND. (1871, May 12). *Evening News*, p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article129961772>



JOHN THOMAS SMITH

John Thomas Smith was the first Town Clerk of Windsor Borough Council, and was born and bred in Windsor.

John was born 9 May 1836 Windsor and was baptised 12 June at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor. He was the son of John Woodness Smith, a tailor, and Elizabeth Smith formerly Robinson.

He married in 1868 at St. John's Anglican Church at Wilberforce to Blanche Selina Dunston and they had five children.

On 4 March 1871, the Borough Council of Windsor was incorporated and the first election took place on 31 May 1871. Crew, Dick, Ridge, Gosper, Walker, Johnson, Beard, Primrose and McQuade were elected. Robert Dick was unanimously elected as the first mayor. John Thomas Smith was appointed as the first council clerk, a position he was originally appointed for three months temporarily. He was then appointed permanently, and was employed as the Council Clerk through the formative years of the Windsor Council until 1874. He was noted as a very meticulous person which would have held him in good stead as an administrator.

a keen sportsman, and would sit behind a fishing-rod for hours, or tramp a score of miles after duck or quail.” ⁽¹⁾ He was well-known as being a generous personality, and also had a keen interest in politics, including Local Government.

Smith was appointed as the District Court Bailiff by the Police Magistrate at the Small Debts Court at Windsor Court House in 1887 and resigned two years later. In the same year he was appointed as the Bailiff [1887] he was elected as an Alderman of North Ward of Windsor Council 1887 and served the local community for three years.

John Thomas Smith passed away 5 June 1891. For sometime prior he had been poorly and for several weeks he was unwell. At the time of his death, he was 55 years old, and not 46, as recorded in his obituary in the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 13 June 1891. Only a fortnight after his death, the vacancy created in Windsor Council was advertised, and nominations were to be received by 30 June.⁽²⁾

Death of Ald. J. T. Smith.

One of Windsor's oldest identities, in the person of John Thomas Smith, passed away at his residence, the Peninsula, Windsor, on Friday evening last. For some considerable time he had been ailing, and it was evident to most of his friends, that a complete break-up of his constitution might be expected at any moment. For a couple of weeks prior to his death, Mr. Smith was seriously ill, and for a great portion of the time was compelled to keep within doors. On Thursday he took to his bed, and after undergoing a deal of pain and suffering, died in the midst of his family some time after 8 o'clock on Friday evening. The funeral took place on Sunday and was very largely attended by old-time acquaintances and friends, all anxious to pay their last tribute of respect to a man whom everybody in the district knew and liked. Mr. R. W. Dunstan conducted the funeral, and amongst others the Aldermen of the Borough followed the remains of one of their colleagues, who for many years represented the ratepayers in Council. The deepest sympathy is everywhere manifested towards Mrs Smith and family. The familiar form of poor old John Thomas Smith will be missed by many in the town where he was born, and where he resided during the whole course of a more than ordinarily active life. He was 46 years of age.

Windsor & Richmond Gazette 13 Jun 1891 p. 6. From <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72540131>

(1) When We were Boys Together - *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 1 Aug 1908 p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85868268>

(2) Advertising - *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 20 Jun 1891 p. 5. Retrieved September 12, 2021, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72540260>

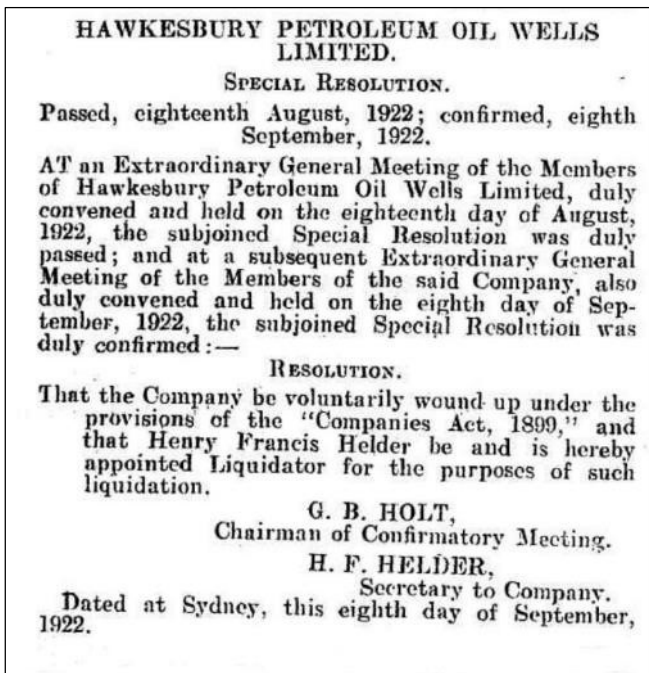
Oil Exploration in the Hawkesbury – a Forgotten Story

By Cathy McHardy

When thinking of the Hawkesbury District the subject of oil exploration doesn't readily spring to mind, but in the early years of the 20th century the search for commercial quantities of this valuable commodity was foremost in the minds of some Australian investors. It was recognised that although Australia was rich in many other mineral deposits such as iron, copper, lead and zinc no substantial reserves of this resource had yet been found and so the search was on.

In October 1910 a syndicate was formed in Melbourne with the aim of searching for viable oil reserves in the Hawkesbury area. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* reported that 'a Melbourne syndicate is boring for petroleum on the bank of Redbank Creek, in Mr J T M Pitt's paddock at North Richmond. Mr Duke is in charge, and he is down over 200 feet with a percussion drill. They are on a carboniferous rock, and the indications are said to be very encouraging.'

Although hampered by heavy rains during 1911, reports continued to be optimistic that good supplies would soon be located below the ground at North Richmond. In July of that year gas was found to be bubbling to the surface when drilling reached a depth of 252 feet indicating that the presence of oil deposits was not too far below.



Government Gazette of NSW 15.9.1922 p. 5144.

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222059992>

The syndicate continued the search at North Richmond and in January 1912 documents were lodged with the NSW Registrar General under the Companies Act NSW (1874) to form a public company to be known as Hawkesbury Petroleum Oil Wells Limited. In March of that year capital of £2,000 was raised issued at a rate of £5 per share. The first directors of the company were A D Playfair, H T Morgan, E Pack, W Logan and P W Nelson. By December 1912, the manager of the bore site reported reaching a depth of 377 feet and was achieving the colossal drilling rate of 10-14 feet per day.

In early 1916 the state government announced offered a reward of £1,000 to the person or company first producing 500,000 gallons of petroleum within NSW. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* urged the operators of the well at North Richmond to hurry up and 'get that oil out'. In support of the exploration effort the local member for Hawkesbury, R B Walker organised a deputation from the company consisting of the directors and Mr F Duke who was the manager of boring operations to meet with the Minister for Mines, J C L Fitzpatrick and the government geologist Mr J E Carne. Mr Fitzpatrick was no stranger to the Hawkesbury region having instigated the publication of the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* in 1888, but he could give no assurances that government funding would be forthcoming in

support of their endeavours, referring the matter to his departmental officers.

By April 1918 it seemed that the hopes and dreams of the promoters and investors in Hawkesbury Oil were not to be realised, the local newspaper commented:

‘writing of past glories reminds me of the fast-fading glamour of the oil-finding experts who almost succeeded into turning Redbank Creek into a centre of world-wide renown owing to the fabulous wealth that lies hidden several feet from the surface’.

Remarks were also made on the sudden disappearance of these ‘experts’ when it became apparent that fortunes were not to be made in the oil fields of the Hawkesbury.

Meeting in July 1918 the company shareholders were informed by the chairman Mr H E Peck that operations were being retarded because of a shortage in capital. The deputation to the NSW minister had proved to be unsuccessful and promised funding from a broker in Melbourne had also failed to materialise. However, despite these setbacks, the chairman confirmed his faith in the project stating that he was in favour of putting down another bore and quoted the analysis of samples taken by the government geologist at the site. He was of the opinion that the prospects at North Richmond compared favourably with similar sites in West Virginia and Kansas in the USA. After listening to lengthy reports and opinions the shareholders voted to raise further capital and continue with exploration. The company secretary stated that permission had been obtained from the federal treasurer to extend the capital of the company to £5000.

Accordingly in May 1919 the board resolved to increase capital by £3,000 by issuing 12,000 shares valued at five shillings per share. The value of the shares were much reduced from the initial float of £5 per unit. The federal government increased the reward for locating commercial quantities of oil in Australia to £50,000 in late 1920. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* posed the pertinent question ‘what has happened to the North Richmond oil wells, where it was said petrol was literally bubbling out of the earth?’

In reality the North Richmond site produced scant evidence that oil was present below the surface at this location. The company continued to exist into the 1930s but reports of its progress in the field of oil exploration disappeared from the pages of the local newspaper part of the forgotten history of the Hawkesbury.

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References:

SRNSW, Hawkesbury Petroleum & Oil Wells Ltd, Documents Lodged under the Companies Act (NSW) 1874, item no 4274 Series 12951
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 8 October 1910 p 6
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 4 February 1911 p 4
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 1 July 1911 p 11
Sydney Morning Herald, 28 March 1912 p 11
Sydney Morning Herald, 16 December 1912 p 11
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 25 February 1916 p 3
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 25 May 1917 p 4
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 5 April 1918 p 10
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 5 July 1918 p 6
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 21 March 1919 p 7
Sydney Morning Herald, 2 May 1919 p 8
Western Argus, 5 October 1920 p 3
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 13 May 1921 p 4

Some Hawkesbury headstones



ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CEMETERY, WINDSOR

**Headstone in memory of
George Joseph Hadley
who died
1 October 1913
aged 40 years.**

ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CEMETERY, WINDSOR

Headstone for

**Ruby Izetta
Armstrong**

**died 28 April 1907
in her 15th year**



BULGA CEMETERY

Headstone of

Thomas Eather

**Died 6 April 1909
aged 84 years.**

NEWS

SESSION - HISTORIC HAWKESBURY HEADSTONES

Wednesday 22 September 4-5PM

Join Hawkesbury Library presentation on some of the historic headstones in the Hawkesbury and discover the stories of a selection of unique people who helped shape the history of our area.

FREE – all welcome book FREE book <http://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com>

SITES SUGGESTED BY BILL PHIPPEN AT HIS TALK TO HFHG 8 September 2021

Railway employees guide

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and%20indexes/railway-employees-guide>

Australian Railway Historical Society, New South Wales Division

Known as ARHSnsw and is the oldest and largest member-based organisation of its type in the country. The Society has amassed a large collection of material related to the history of railways in NSW.

<https://arhsnsw.com.au/>

NSW Railways Remember site

The NSW Railways Remember website honours the contribution of the NSW Railways both at home and abroad during the First World War. The site was developed during the Centenary of ANZAC (2014-2018), marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in WW1 & stories on the NSW Railways efforts during WW1.

<https://nswrailwaysremember.com.au/>

Central Station Honour Boards

Information on the commemorative art project undertaken in 2015 plus database to search names on the Central Station Honour Boards listing railwaymen who lost their lives through service to their country.

<https://nswrailwaysremember.com.au/honour-boards.php>

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

2021 DATE	Speaker & topic
13 October	To be confirmed
10 November	To be confirmed
With Covid-19 restrictions in place all meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.	

**The Hawkesbury Family History Group has returned to meeting
every 2nd Wednesday of the month.**

**Numbers are limited and bookings must be made at <http://hawkesburylib.eventbrite.com.au/>
Join online via ZOOM**

Find the Hawkesbury Family History Group on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG

Find the Library on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary



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

Contact the Local History Librarian,

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

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