



# The Hawkesbury Crier

**NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

**ISSN 0811-9031**

**September 2022**

**PRICE \$3.00**



**Celebrating the Hawkesbury Family History Group 40<sup>th</sup> birthday!**  
Pictured are members from the 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

# SEPTEMBER 2022

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

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# **Hawkesbury Family History Group celebrates 40 years!!**

*By Michelle Nichols*

This month we celebrate 40 years since the Hawkesbury Family History Group was established. The following is an outline of the past 40 years.

The inaugural meeting of the Hawkesbury Family History Group was held August 1982 at Windsor Central Library in Dight Street, Windsor. The meeting was attended by about 50 interested persons and the group officially formed under the auspices of the Library. As a result - Hawkesbury Family History Group was established as a support and information group for family historians in the local area as well as catering for persons researching Hawkesbury families.

Since 1982 the group has met at 10am every second Wednesday of the month, except January - that's over 400 meetings!!! There have only been a handful of occasions when the group has not met, including in March due to floods.



IMAGES: Top Left - Elizabeth Grossell with Ray Clifford, from Hawkesbury City Council.  
Top Right – Jeanette Bell, and right - Reference Librarian Louise Bravery with Doreen Brewin.  
All pictured in August 1982

As well as providing regular meetings, the group have been on a number of interesting excursions over the years. These include visits to State Records, Society of Australian Genealogists, National Archives, State Library of NSW, Rouse Hill House, Sunny Brae, Reiby Croft at Freemans Reach and the Power House Museum at Castle Hill.



We have had a wonderful array of speakers over the years. Some speakers we have had more than once including Martyn Killion, State Records and Carol Liston. Other speakers such as Heather Garnsey and Cathy McHardy have given numerous presentations over the years. Michelle Nichols, the Local History Librarian has presented the most talks, usually once or twice a year. Some of the early speakers include:

- 1984 JAMES McCLELLAND - Series of history books
- 1984 PROF. KEN CABLE - Church Registers
- 1987 JAN WORTHINGTON - Computers & Genealogy
- 1989 BABETTE SMITH - Convict women & the "Princess Royal"
- 1990 DENNIS GOSPER - Gosper family history;
- 1992 BOB WOODS - Lands Titles Office records
- 1994 COLONEL IAIN SWINNERTON - UK records & sources
- 1998 ELIZABETH BOLTON - Lacemakers of Calais
- 1998 JOAN REESE - Indexes for researchers
- 1999 SHIRLEY SINCLAIR - Elizabeth Cook (1741-1835)
- 2002 KEITH JOHNSON - Sydney Burial Ground
- 2003 CRAIG LAFFIN - Families & Friends of the first AIF Group
- 2007 JEREMY PALMER - English resources





**Top – Michelle Nichols giving 30 year talk in August 2012. Above Left - Jeanette Hill & Diann Ford at the Fair in 2010. Above Right – Des Nicholson, Cathy McHardy, Del Swain & Michelle Nichols 1980s.**



**Long term members of the group cutting the 30-year celebration cake Del Swain, Coral Cleary, Laurel Legge, John & Ena Norris, Robynne Winley and Michelle Nichols.**



**Fay Worrell, one of the original members of the group, with Local History Librarian, Michelle Nichols in 2012. Fay passed away in 2021.**



**Members of the Group at the 20th birthday in 2002. Chris King, Del Swain, Jeanette Bell, Fay Worrell, Cathy McHardy, Eileen Pye, Grace Douglass, Laurel Legge and Aubrey Pritchard.**



**Visit to Rouse Hill Estate in 1990**



**Left - launch of the Hawkesbury Pioneer Register Vol. 2 with Dr Rex Stubbs, Mayor in 2001.  
Right - some of the Committee who worked on Vol. 2.**

The Group has participated in the numerous celebrations in the Hawkesbury district including the Australian Bicentenary in 1988 and the Hawkesbury 1794 celebrations. In 1994 the Hawkesbury Pioneer Register Vol. 1 was released as part of the celebrations with Vol. 2 released as part of the Federation celebrations in 2001. Both of these books continue to sell.



**The late Historian Babette Smith as guest speaker in 2005**

In 2005 the Hawkesbury Library Service moved from their Dight Street home to the new premises in the Deerubbin Centre in George Street, and the group began meeting in the new Tebbutt Room. In 2010, the Group assisted the Library present the highly successful Hawkesbury Family History Fair. As part of the Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary celebrations, the Library organised a gathering for persons interested in genealogy. There was a trade fair with many stalls, talks and a book launch with over 1500 people visiting on the day.

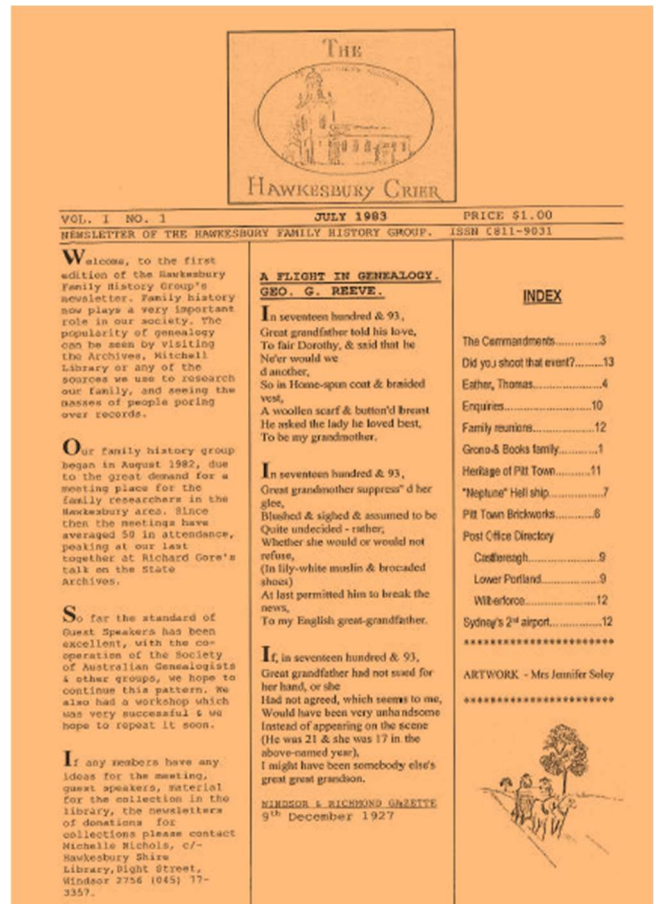


## Opening of the Deerubbin Centre

When the new Hawkesbury Central Library relocated to 300 George Street, Windsor on Monday 6 June 2005, members of the Hawkesbury Family History Group participated in the "Human Chain" event where 500 members of the community passed books from the old library to the new.

## The 'Hawkesbury Crier'

The 'Hawkesbury Crier' newsletter was established the following year and the first edition went out in July 1983. Originally foolscap format and typed on a typewriter – with lots of real "cut & paste" and cost \$1. The newsletter continues to be edited by Michelle Nichols and she also provides a number of articles per issue. There have been some enlightening stories over the years. The newsletter is quarterly appearing in March, June, September and December. Some people have been subscribing to the newsletter from the beginning. Regular contributors have included the late Grace Douglass, Laurel Legge, Del Swain, the late Des Nicholson and the late Robynne Winley. Cathy McHardy has been a very regular contributor researching and writing some very informative articles. Over the last few years, the Crier is now available electronically. How things have changed!!





# **The Crisfords: Builders of Richmond**

**By Cathy McHardy**

Crisford was a familiar Richmond surname in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. John Crisford, aged 42, his second wife Mary (Young nee Merrick), aged 39 and seven children arrived as assisted immigrants aboard the 'Florist' in October 1839. James was aged 19 years, Caleb 17 years, Charlotte aged 7, Thomas 3 years and Edward aged 14 months. Also in the party were Mary's children from her previous marriage: Joseph (Young) 16 years and Edwin aged 12 and Mary's brother John Merrick. [1]

John hailed from Hastings, Sussex and Mary from Sedlescombe, a village in East Sussex, England. Soon after arrival, John, a bricklayer by trade, and second son Caleb were assigned to Captain O'Connell at Woolloomooloo for the sum of £2/5/0 per week without rations. [2]

In his *Reminiscences of Richmond*, Cooramil (Sam Boughton) related that the Crisford family from 1841 occupied the Horse and Jockey Hotel which stood on the corner of East Market Street and March Street, Richmond.

The building was replaced by the Imperial Hotel in 1898 and then by the Richmond Inn in 1971. The Crisfords are credited with the construction of many buildings in the town including the Presbyterian Church in West Market Street although the text does not make it clear whether it is referring to John or his son Caleb. [3] John died in 1855 aged 58 years and was buried in the Wesleyan Cemetery, Londonderry.

**The next family to occupy the building was the late Mr. John Crisford, the father of our Mr. Caleb Crisford. He arrived in Richmond, with his family, in the year 1841. He was a bricklayer and contractor, and erected the "Richmond Stores" for Mr. W. Brew; "Richmond House," for Mr. Ducker; the Presbyterian church and—I think—the Wesleyan church, and many other buildings.**

*The Hawkesbury Herald*. 19 December 1902 p. 19 Reminiscences of Richmond by Cooramil.

Over the next seventy years members of the Crisford family carved out a significant place in the development of the town. Learning the building trade from his father, Caleb in particular may be credited with working on the construction of many of the attractive buildings which still adorn the town today.

Writing under the pen name of 'Cooyal' in about 1905, George Charles Johnson asserted that Caleb assisted James Melville with the brickwork for 'Toxana', located on the corner of Windsor Street and East Market Street, built for William Bowman in 1842. [4]

This association with the Bowman family continued with the construction of the Presbyterian Church in West Market Street in 1845. George Bowman generously gave the land for the church as well as funding most of the building costs. [5]

The contractors responsible for the erection of the Richmond School of Arts on the corner of West Market Street and March Street were William Tomkinson and Caleb Crisford. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on the momentous occasion which took place in January 1866. Miss M A Bowman was honoured with the task of ceremoniously laying the foundation stone under which a time capsule was positioned. Later that year the building was opened by Henry Parkes.[6]



**Richmond School of Arts c. 1900. The decorative porch was added in 1896.  
[From the collection of Caroline Woodhill.]**

William Sullivan of Richmond assigns Messrs Thomas Crisford and Edward Crisford (both sons of John and Mary Crisford) with having been instrumental in the formation of the Richmond School of Arts and Literary Institute. The story goes that Thomas offered one of the rooms in a shop that he owned as a meeting place for like-minded men of the town to gather for the purpose of discussion and the exchange of literary works. The assembly gradually outgrew the shop premises and the group formed the nucleus of the movement that worked towards the construction of the building which still functions as a meeting place today.[7]

It is not known whether Caleb Crisford worked on the construction of the Richmond Post and Telegraph Office, designed by James Barnet in 1875, but he did work on the addition of the second storey in 1888, together with Samuel Boughton. This addition provided residential living space for the postmaster and his family. [8]

**PROGRESS.**—Yes, our ordinarily Sleepy Hollow is taking the lead just now in things progressive. First, there is the addition to the Post and Telegraph Office. The contractors, Messrs. Crisford and Boughton, were good enough to show us through the additional rooms the other day—then floorless—though the well-seasoned inch and a quarter flooring boards were then ready to be laid. There are four rooms, one of which will be a drawing-room, 20 x 14 feet, and the others are intended for bed-rooms, two being 20 by 10, and the third 14 x 12. These rooms are 12 feet high from floor to ceiling. Besides these there will be a large lobby and staircase descending to the lower floor. The rooms will be provided with French windows, which will open on to a splendid balcony, extending right round the addition, over the present arched verandah, and when finished will look very ornamental. A brick and stucco parapet will

Excerpt from the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 19 November 1887, p. 3. Richmond – Progress.



Eulabah in West Market Street Richmond was completed in 1881 and was the work of Caleb Crisford. [From the collection of Caroline Woodhill.]

One of the stately homes of Richmond, 'Eulabah' in West Market Street is another example of Caleb's handiwork. In 1881 the building was designed in the late Victorian Jacobean style by prominent Sydney architects Mansfield Brothers for Dr James Cameron and his wife Eliza Bowman. [9] The architects also designed several local bank buildings, including the former CBC Bank on the corner of Windsor Street and West Market Street.

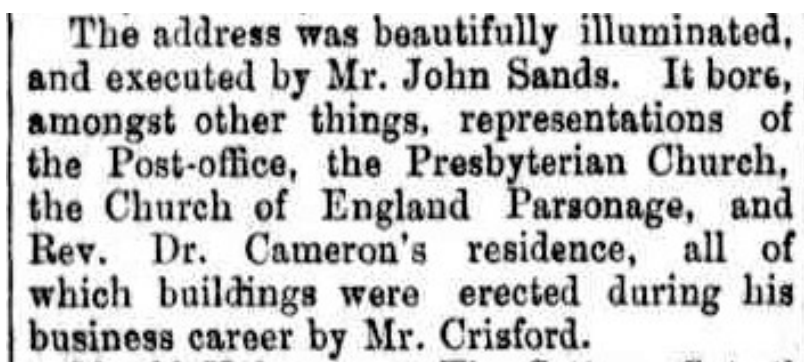
Caleb also had a close association with St Peter's Church in Windsor Street. He worked on The Rectory designed by Edmund Blackett and completed in 1848, and with William Tomkinson when the chancel was added to the church in 1869. [10]

Crisford married Marianne Price in Windsor in 1848 and the couple produced a large family of 14, although many children did not survive into adulthood. The family lived in Windsor Street opposite the park and next to the coachbuilder and lifelong friend William Mitchell. Caleb also took an active interest in community affairs and served as an alderman on Richmond Borough Council from 1873 to 1892. [11]

He was nominated for mayor several times but declined this elevation in status. He was outspoken in his beliefs and known for his advanced opinions on social questions: he "did not travel in the current ruts of thought". He believed that keeping an active mind was significant to longevity. [12]

Accused of obstructing the progress of the town, Caleb Crisford and fellow members Tomkinson, Turner and Guest used their bank of votes to block the passage of motion promulgated by the Works Committee to improve the condition of the road pavements on East Market and Bosworth Streets which were described at the time as "impassable". [13]

In 1891 he sold up the family home and set sail on a visit to 'the Old Country', England. A presentation was made at the Commercial Hotel (now R G McGee's Hotel) of an illuminated address produced by John Sands of Sydney which depicted some of the important buildings of Richmond on which he had worked over the years. [14]



The address was beautifully illuminated, and executed by Mr. John Sands. It bore, amongst other things, representations of the Post-office, the Presbyterian Church, the Church of England Parsonage, and Rev. Dr. Cameron's residence, all of which buildings were erected during his business career by Mr. Crisford.

**Excerpt from the report of the presentation of a beautifully designed illuminated address to Caleb Crisford on the occasion of his leaving for England. Windsor & Richmond Gazette. 7 January 1892, p. 2.**

On his return to Australia Caleb settled in Strathfield near his daughter Blanche who had married Arthur Woodhill in 1895. [15] Caleb was a frequent visitor to the town of Richmond until his death in in October 1909, aged 87 years.

Described as a “genuine, loyal and true friend”, his obituary was written by his lifelong friend, William Mitchell. [16]

**Obituary of the Late Caleb Crisford**  
**Windsor & Richmond Gazette, 13 November 1909 p. 2.**

**The Late Caleb Crisford.**

ON Saturday, the 23rd ult., I followed to its last resting place the remains of my late and esteemed friend, Mr Caleb Crisford, a resident of Richmond, N.S.W., for about 60 years. I had the privilege and pleasure of being intimately acquainted and associated with him for about 47 years, and during that time we were next door neighbours. His death took place at his son-in-law's residence (Mr A. Woodhill), of Strathfield, at the advanced age of 87 years. His health has been failing for some time, but he was able to get about a little each day up to within a few days of his death. He was a man with wonderful vitality for his age, and he retained all his faculties and was quite conscious right up to the last. I saw him a few days before he died. There were only a few outside his own relatives he cared to see, and I was one of the few. His daughters, Mrs A. Woodhill and Mrs J. Graves, were with him when he died. The latter came from Orange to be with him in his last hours. I am given to understand that the Rev. Mr Young, another son-in-law, and Mrs Young, a daughter, were also present when he died. Caleb Crisford was a well-known and highly respected townsman, and there were few that knew him better than I did. He was a man of sterling character—honest, straightforward and upright in all his dealings, and his word was his bond. He had a big and generous heart, full of compassion for those in distress, and he was always ready to assist those that



He was buried in St Peter's Cemetery Richmond with his wife Marianne who predeceased him by many years.

**Headstone of Caleb & Marianne Crisford at St Peter's Cemetery Richmond**

Cathy McHardy  
 E: [cathy@nisch.org](mailto:cathy@nisch.org)

## References:

- [1] Miscellaneous Immigrants Index 1828-1843. State Archives and Records of NSW. <https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/permalink/f/1ebnd1/INDEX87048> See also Reels 2654 and 1301.
- [2] Disposal of Immigrants per 'Florist'. State Archives and Records of NSW retrieved 9 September 2022 from [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- [3] *Hawkesbury Herald*, 19 December 1902, p. 19. Reminiscences of Richmond by Cooramil. Retrieved on 10 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66353065>
- [4] *Reminiscences of Richmond: From the Forties Down*, Cathy McHardy, 2010, p. 186.
- [5] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [6] *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 1866, p. 7. Richmond. Retrieved on 10 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13124753>
- [7] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 10 November 1900, p. 1. Richmond School of Arts. Retrieved 8 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85851797>
- [8] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 19 November 1887, p. 3. Richmond – Progress. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66377534>
- [9] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [10] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 4 July 1891, p. 5. St Peter's Church Jubilee. Retrieved on 11 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72540333>
- [11] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [12] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [13] *Australian, Windsor and Richmond and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 28 February 1874, p. 7. Richmond Municipality. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/70660035>
- [14] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2 Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [15] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 November 1893, p. 4. Richmond. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72544268>
- [16] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 13 November 1909, p. 2. The Late Caleb Crisford. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85866135>

# Top Local History Resources sites

By Michelle Nichols

These days it is much easier to conduct local and family history research, with accessing online resources. Researching involves using information described as PRIMARY or SECONDARY sources. Although it is still necessary to visit repositories, in some cases to view unique material, there are many interesting sites available online to view for free, as well as unique repositories scanning original documents.

Digitization has resulted in more original material being made available whilst institutions having to deal with Covid lockdowns have fast tracked a number of digitizing projects. Most of us are now familiar with using [TROVE NEWSPAPERS](#) where you can search millions of pages of Australian newspapers using key words or browse <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> but what other informative sites are available at our finger tips?

Here is my top sites, in no particular order, to use researching local history topics, useful for family history research.

## PROJECT GUTENBERG AUSTRALIA (PGA)

<http://gutenberg.net.au/>

A site which was established in 2001 and hosts free ebooks or e-texts which are in the public domain in Australia. One of the most useful sections of PGA is the section on the site is the FIRST FLEET <http://gutenberg.net.au/first-fleet.html> which includes books, diaries and accounts published by people associated with the early settlement of the colony including William BRADLEY (1758-1833), David COLLINS (1754-1810), Arthur PHILLIP (1738-1814), Watkin TENCH (1759-1833), John WHITE (1757-1832) and George WORGAN (1757-1838). It is similar but not connected to the Project Gutenberg site [https://www.gutenberg.org/help/new\\_website.html](https://www.gutenberg.org/help/new_website.html) an online library of free eBooks.



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Project Gutenberg Australia gratefully acknowledges the significant contribution of Sue Asscher in preparing many of the eBooks relating to Australian History, which are available from this page.

**Australian History**

Resources relating to Australian History available from Project Gutenberg Australia and Project Gutenberg in the U.S.

**General History Resources**

- [Australian Explorers](#) page. A chronology of Australian exploration with links to relevant eBooks, together with an extensive list of Australian explorers and their biographies. Also see the [Australian Explorers Journals](#) page, a virtual library of writing by the explorers themselves.
- [Australian Discovery](#) page. Details of early maritime contact with Australia.
- [The First Fleet](#) page. Details of the First Fleet which arrived in Australia in 1788.
- [A Short History of Australia](#) by Ernest Scott.
- [The Discovery of Australia](#) by George Arnold Wood
- [An Economic History of Australia](#) (1948) by Edward Shann
- [A chronology of Australian history](#). This timeline appeared in [A Short History of Australia](#) by Ernest Scott.
- A list of Governors and Ministers of the Commonwealth and the states. See [A Short History of Australia](#) by Ernest Scott.
- [A List of Convicts sent to New South Wales on the First Fleet, in 1787](#). From [The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay](#).
- [Dictionary of Australian Biography](#). Biographies of about 1000 people prominent in the development of Australia--explorers, artists, politicians, scientists, etc. All died before 1950.
- [A Source Book of Australian History](#) by Gwendolen H Swinburne. Contains extracts from documents relating to Discovery and Exploration and to General

Screenshot courtesy of Project Gutenberg <http://gutenberg.net.au/>

## DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY

<https://home.dictionaryofsydney.org/>

The Dictionary of Sydney is a website sharing the history of Sydney and includes information the formation, people and places as well as urban myths, anything that enhanced Sydney's story. It includes information about Greater Sydney including the Hawkesbury. Funding ceased for the project about 2018 and the content moved to the State Library of NSW for preservation purposes with the site archived in 2021.



## AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY (ADB)

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/>

The Australian Dictionary of Biography is a great site to locate biographies on significant and representative persons in Australian history. Biographies of prime ministers, artists, authors, convicts and much more proving a cross-section of our society. Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol. 1 was first published in 1966 and is still printed in hard copy with volume 19 published in 2021. It is now produced by the National Centre of Biography at the Australian National University. A number of other sites are hosted on this site including Obituaries Australia, People Australia, Indigenous Australia, Women Australia and Labour Australia. Doug Bowd, past president of the Society authored two articles included in the ADB, James Augustine Cunneen (1826–1889) farmer, politician and land agent and stud breeder Andrew Town (1840–1890) stud-breeder and horse racing identity.

The screenshot shows the Australian Dictionary of Biography website. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Obituaries Australia', 'People Australia', 'Indigenous Australia', 'Women Australia', and 'Labour Australia'. Below these is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'text' and a search button. A tip below the search bar reads: 'Tip: Use double quotes to search for a phrase'. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About', 'FAQs', 'Contact', 'Essays', 'Advanced Search', 'Faceted Browse', 'Browse', and 'Donate'. The main content area features the title 'Cunneen, James Augustine (1826–1889)' by D. G. Bowd. A box indicates the article was published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 3, in 1969 and online in 2006. A 'View Previous Version' link is also present. The biography text begins with: 'James Augustine Cunneen (1826–1889), farmer, politician, and land agent, was born on 22 February 1826 at Mulgrave, New South Wales, youngest of eight surviving children of Irish-born parents John Cunneen, farmer and grazier, and his wife Mary, née Flanagan. An emancipist from County Clare, his father had arrived in Sydney in 1818 as a convict on board the *Earl St Vincent*, having been sentenced to seven years' transportation for sheep stealing. James' mother migrated to Australia with five of his siblings on the *Abnorah* in 1824. After disembarking, they joined John at Windsor. James received the rudiments of education from James Cassidy, teacher at the Roman Catholic school in Windsor. He became a farmer and grazier on land at South Creek, through which the railway passed in 1864. Largely by perseverance he developed remarkable oratorical powers which were first exercised in the Debating Society formed at Windsor in 1857. He served on its committee and after it became the Windsor Literary Institute in 1861, gave it £25 to help to build a School of Arts; in moving that a subscription list be opened he claimed that 'Windsor district stood first in agriculture, and fourth in population but only about twelfth as to literary institutions'. In the Legislative Assembly elections in 1860 one of the sitting members for Hawkesbury, (Sir) John Darvall, supported survey before selection but failed to win public favour and withdrew. Cunneen, who was popular in the district, 'declared himself an advocate of free selection, with no quarter to the squatters' and was returned unopposed. He was again returned unopposed in 1864 and in October 1865 was appointed postmaster-general, the first member of parliament to occupy this post, although it did not give him a seat in the cabinet. He held office for four months. In the election of 1869 he was defeated when two members were returned for Hawkesbury from a field of five. He won the neighbouring seat of Wollomih in 1872 and 1874. Defeat in 1877 ended his parliamentary career. Cunneen took up business as a land agent in Sydney but 'spent the remainder of his life in anything but affluent circumstances'. His end came suddenly on 19 April 1889 when he accidentally fell and broke his neck whilst descending a flight of stairs in his home at Paddington. He was buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery at Windsor. His wife Elizabeth, née Hudson, whom he had married at Windsor in 1861, and their five sons and three daughters survived him.' To the right of the text is a portrait of James Cunneen, n.d., from the National Archives of Australia, C4078/N4064A. Below the portrait is a 'Life Summary [details]' box containing the following information: Birth: 22 February, 1826, Mulgrave, New South Wales, Australia; Death: 19 April, 1889 (aged 63), Paddington, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; Cause of Death: accident; Cultural Heritage: Irish; Religious Influence: Catholic; Occupation: land agent, Member of Lower House, mixed farmer; Key Organisations: Windsor Debating Society (NSW), Windsor School of Arts (Sydney).

Screenshot from Australian Dictionary of Biography



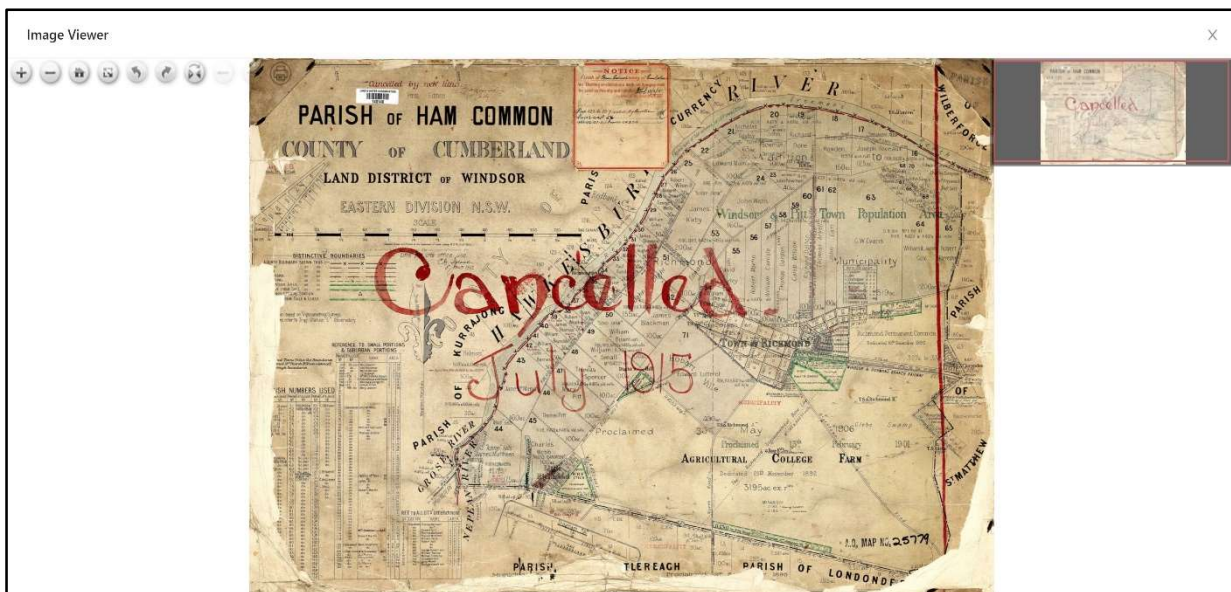


## HISTORICAL LANDS RECORDS VIEWER (NSW)

<https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>

The Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) is provided and administered by NSW Land Registry Services (NSW LRS) which was formerly the Lands Titles office. The site enables online access to historical land information including access to over 19 million images of historical maps, plans, titles, registers and indexes relating to New South Wales.

Researching historical land records is very complex, so it is suggested to carefully peruse the search guides at <https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Searching-Guides> On the other hand viewing Parish Maps is not difficult.

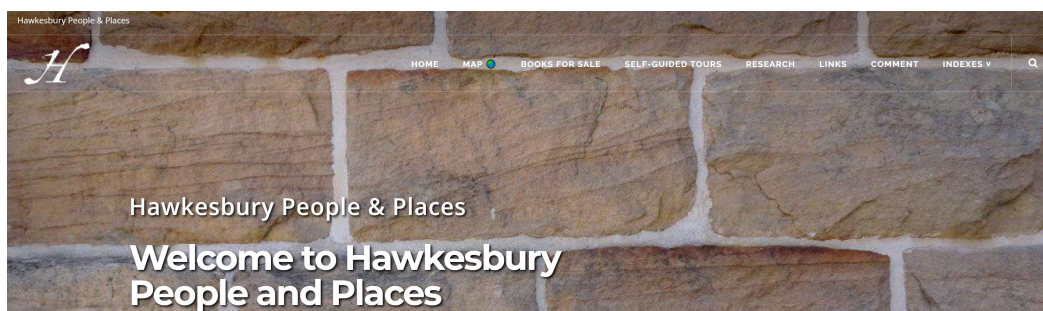


Example Parish Name of Ham Common, County Cumberland, 1902.

## HAWKESBURY PEOPLE AND PLACES

<https://www.hawkesbury.org/>

Hawkesbury People and Places is an ongoing project created and maintained by local historian, Cathy McHardy. It aims to locate and research places, the built environment, geographical features, organisations, events and people associated with the Hawkesbury district, then recording them on this very informative site. Information for entries have been sourced from a wide variety of material including newspapers, maps, books, church registers, minutes, reports and websites. A good port of call when undertaking any Hawkesbury research.



## HAWKESBURY ON THE NET

<http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/>

The Hawkesbury Cemetery Register is an ongoing voluntary project to transcribe, photograph and map local graves in the Hawkesbury area and provide free access online. Managed by Jonathan Auld and Michelle Nichols. The site also includes Church registers, Lists Registers, Memorials and Monuments plus the Claim a Convict site <https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/search.php>



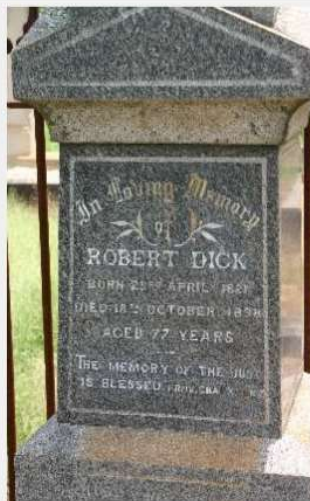
### Dick, Robert

Grave Details	
Name:	Robert Dick
Died:	18th October 1898
Age:	77 years
Cemetery:	<a href="#">Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery, Windsor</a>
Location:	row 4 plot 5



Additional Notes:

of



Sample showing headstone Robert Dick died 1898, Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.

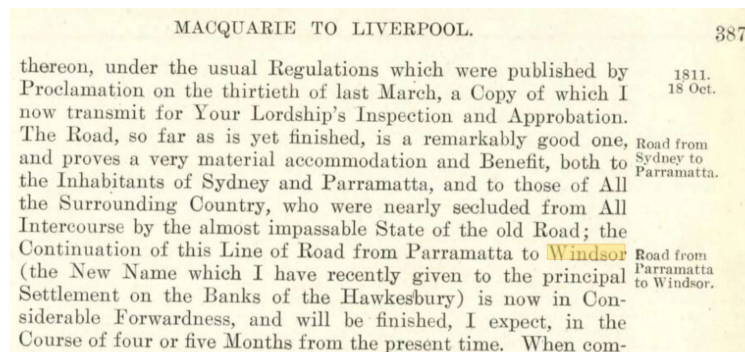
In Loving Memory / of / ROBERT DICK / BORN 23RD APRIL 1821 / DIED 18TH OCTOBER 1898 / AGED 77 YEARS / THE MEMORY OF THE JUST / IS BLESSED PROV.CHAP X.VER 7. // Also HIS SISTER / MARGARET LINDSAY DICK / BORN GLASGOW SCOTLAND 13TH JULY 1843 / DIED 18TH AUGUST 1929 / AGED 86 YEARS

## HISTORICAL RECORDS OF AUSTRALIA (HRA)

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-442186184>

Historical Records of Australia (HRA) are a series of records, comprising of 37 volumes, published about the history of Australia. Published by the Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament, between 1914-1925, they are probably more familiar to researchers as blue bound volumes.

They commence prior to 1788 and contain despatches of the various Governors of NSW reporting about the colony to the English authorities. Despatches included correspondence, petitions, shipping arrivals and many other subjects relating to the day to day running of the colony. The first 33 volumes are available freely online.



Historical records of Australia, Series 1, vol. 7 (January 1809 - June 1813) p. 387



## TROVE (NEWSPAPERS)

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

Via Trove, you can search Australian newspapers using key words or browse, to find a specific issue. You can read the actual article, or the transcribed text. Text is corrected by volunteers. Trove covers from 1803 to the 1990s.

## TROVE

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

You can also search manuscripts, websites, diaries, photographs, maps and reports on Trove. Search a specific category, across all of the Trove material.

## COLONIAL SECRETARY'S PAPERS 1788-1825

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/colonial-secretarys-papers>

The Colonial Secretary's Papers are one of the most valuable sources of information on NSW, particularly the early history of NSW settlement. This was one of the first major indexes and recently the digitized papers have been added to the index so it is much more comprehensive.

The Papers include petitions by convicts for sentence mitigation; settler memorials; permissions to marry; land grants applications; court cases and much more.

Name/subject	Surname	Description	Date	Remarks	
William	REYNOLDS	To assist his father Richard, now acting permanently as District Constable for Upper & Lower Wilberforce, following dismissal of Michael Nowland, District Constable for Lower Wilberforce	20/04/1822	Born in the Colony of Wilberforce; son of Richard Reynolds istant constable at Windsor	<a href="#">Details</a>
David	BROWN	Recommending Isaac Gorrick of Wilberforce for renewal of his publican's license	01/07/1822	of Wilberforce	<a href="#">Details</a>



INDEX  
**REYNOLDS William**  
 Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825  
 Ship: per "Atlantic" | Citation: [4/1756], pp.91-91a | Reel No: 6053 | Start Date: 20/04/1822

Windsor Court house  
20<sup>th</sup> April 1822

Sir,

We have the honor to inform you that we were under the necessity to dismiss on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant Michael Nowland District Constable for Lower Wilberforce, for repeated acts of Drunkenness. And we have deemed it advisable to allow Richard Reynolds to act permanently as District Constable for the Districts of Upper and Lower Wilberforce and the better to enable him to perform the duty of both Districts we have allowed his son William Reynolds to be appointed a Constable to

Sd<sup>o</sup> Goulburn Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Col<sup>l</sup> Secretary  
 &c — &c — &c

# MOONLIGHT CONCERT AT COMLERoy ROAD

*Windsor & Richmond Gazette, 20<sup>th</sup> January 1900.*



The second Moonlight Concert arranged by Miss Tessie McMahon, which took place at the residence of Mr. M. McMahon, Comleroy Road, on Saturday night, eclipsed anything of the kind ever held in the Hawkesbury district. Too much praise cannot be given to the performers and the promoters of the concert. There was an attendance of over 300 persons, and everyone present was delighted with the entertainment. The Rev. Father O'Brien acted as chairman, and among the visitors we noticed Mr. and Mrs. Brinsley Hall, Messrs. G. B. Bowen, G. McCauley, Miss Brown, Miss McCauley, Miss Cobcroft, Miss Hutchisson, Mr. A. Griffiths, Miss O'Donovan, Messrs. Brown, W. Pope, M. McMahon and family, Messrs. Pitt [3], G. Woodhill, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunston, Mr. T. McMahon, Miss F. Butler, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peck, Messrs. Hamilton, Edmunds, Clark, McAnelly, Alford, Benson, H. Phipps, and many others.

The following programme was rendered :- Pianoforte solo, Miss Nolan; song, 'My Dreams,' Mr. Cosgrove, recalled, the performer repeating the last verse; song (comic) 'Out they Come,' Master Ray Pope; song 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' Miss Devitt; comic song, 'Father O'Flynn,' Mr. Fred Leston; the performer was recalled and gave 'I Burst out Laughing.' Song, 'Yoeman's Wedding,' Mr. S. Adams; song, 'The Carnival,' Miss Nolan; in response to an encore 'Killarney' was given. Comic song, 'That's how I Saved my Life,' Mr. R. Watson. The performer was recalled and gave a comic recitation. Song, 'Anchored,' Mr. A. Grogan; comic song, 'The Pretty Girl's Name was Flo,' Mr. Dave McClure. The performer was twice recalled, and gave 'She Changed her Mind,' and a comic recitation, 'McCarty's Buck Billy Goat.' Song, 'The Bloom is on the Rye,' Mr. Cooper; comic song, 'Staring me in the Face,' Master Ray Pope; in response to an encore, 'Jolly Little Polly' was given. This brought the first part to a close. Refreshments were then provided. Mr. A Griffiths opened the second part with 'The Gallants of England,' which was well received; comic song, 'A thing he had never done Before,' Mr. Fred Leston; song, 'Call me Back,' Miss Devitt; comic song, 'Parody on Monte Carlo,' Mr. R. Watson. The audience wished to hear Mr. Watson twice more, and he sang 'Imitation of a Sydney Larrikin,' and recited 'The Dream.' Song, 'Swallows,' Miss Nolan; comic song, 'The American Laughing Song,' Mr. Dave McClure. In response to an encore he gave 'I've been left in Charge,' and 'I Wonder Why.' Song, 'Norah O'Neill,' Mr. Cosgrove. The performer was recalled and sang 'For Ever and For Ever.' Comic song, 'Mabel,' Master Ray Pope, encored, and responded with 'I happened to be There.' Mr. L. De Groen acted as accompanist, and by special request played one of his magnificent selections.

**Contributed by Maureen Gibb**

# Looking for Annie Louisa Herps?

By Michelle Nichols & Jonathan Auld, Hawkesbury Cemetery Register



Brown's Cemetery - Lower Portland. Courtesy Hawkesbury on the Net 2003

Several years ago, we came across the mention of the death Annie Louisa Herps who died in 1881 and was apparently buried on the family farm and not in the local cemetery which was the norm.

The Herps family were a well-known family, living in the Hawkesbury River district. The patriarch of the family was John Hearps/Heaps/Hirps arrived as convict on the “*Shipley*” in 1818 and descendants married into the Chaseling and Leets families.

Annie Louisa Chaseling was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Chaseling. In 1876 she married her first cousin Thomas James Herps (1854-1927), son of John Brown Herps (1829-1861) and Mary nee Chaseling. Annie gave birth to at least three children,<sup>1</sup> daughter Minnie Agnes was born in 1877, followed by a son George Herbert Washington born in 1879 then daughter Annie L. in 1881. Baby Annie died in the same year of her birth whilst George died in 1882. Annie Louisa Herps, died aged 25, on Monday 19 September 1881, at her home which was located at Portland Head. As she died suddenly it was necessary that a Coroner’s Inquest was held, which was presided over by Mr J. B. Johnstone, J. P. and the coroner of the Hawkesbury district. This report was published in the *Hawkesbury Chronicle & Farmers Advocate* 24 September 1881.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NSW BDM Minnie Agnes Hirps(sic) Minnie Agnes B22736/1877 D 4617/1956; Annie Louisa Herps B17975/1881 D7899/1881 & George Herbert Herps B25866/1879 D8992/1882

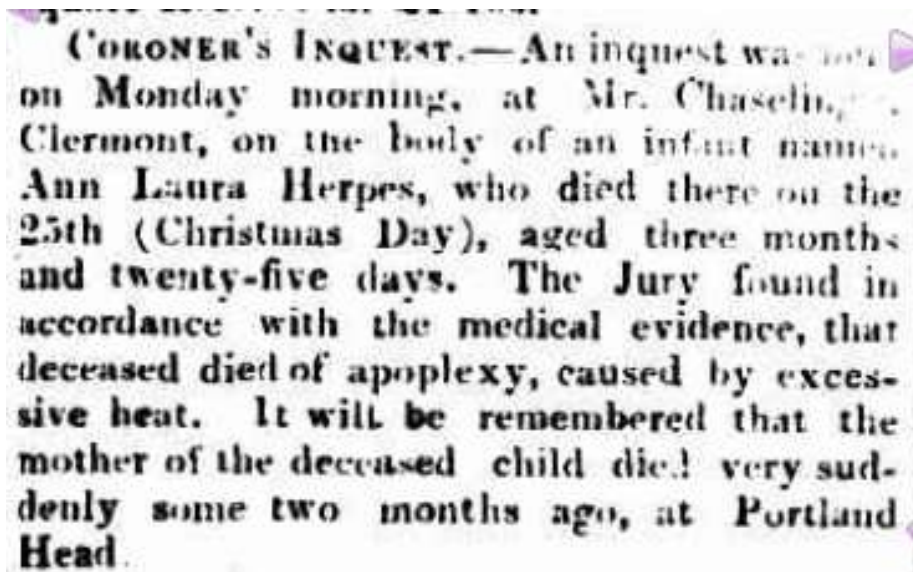
<sup>2</sup> LOCAL AND GENERAL. (1881, September 24). *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate* (Windsor, NSW : 1881 - 1888), p. 2. Retrieved August 17, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66375366>

Annie Louisa “had been ailing for some time, and had not in fact, recovered from her confinement,” the birth of her daughter Annie Louise on the 30 August 1881. On Sunday 18 September, her husband Thomas, attended chapel at Leets Vale.

When he returned after the service he found his wife dead. The newspaper reported that Louisa Kemp, “the daughter of a neighbour, was staying at the house, and seeing the deceased sitting in her arm chair, well as usual, she had gone outside the house to sit under a tree, upon returning into the house she found Mrs. Herpes(sic) had fallen from the chair and was lying on the floor in a faint - the deceased it appeared, had been subject to these fits for some time past - and as soon as she saw her she tried to revive her by means of cold water and such other means she could think of. Finding she did not come round, she ran for her mother who discovered that life was extinct.” Dr Thomas Fiaschi reported that the cause of Annie’s death was “Obstruction of the Pulmonary Artery.”

This article also reported that Annie was buried “at Portland Head, on their own property; quite a large gathering having assembled on the occasion, out of respect to the deceased and her bereaved husband.”

On Christmas Day that same year, Annie died aged three months as a result of excessive heat. The article from the *Hawkesbury Chronicle*<sup>3</sup>, named the infant as Ann Laura.



**CORONER'S INQUEST.**—An inquest was held on Monday morning, at Mr. Chaseling's, Clermont, on the body of an infant named Ann Laura Herpes, who died there on the 25th (Christmas Day), aged three months and twenty-five days. The Jury found in accordance with the medical evidence, that deceased died of apoplexy, caused by excessive heat. It will be remembered that the mother of the deceased child died very suddenly some two months ago, at Portland Head.

*Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate* 31 December 1881 p. 2.

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66375796>

<sup>3</sup> LOCAL AND GENERAL. (1881, December 31). *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers Advocate* (Windsor, NSW : 1881 - 1888), p. 2. Retrieved August 17, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66375796>



The despair was not yet over for the family. Three year old, George Herbert Washington Herpes passed away suddenly on the 28 September 1882. Apparently a normally healthy child George became unwell with a sore throat. The family applied a linseed poultice to his chest, but he did not appear to get any better. The next day he was no better, and breathed with difficulty despite having his chest and throat rubbed with turpentine and oil. By the third day, George was much worse, his breathing very difficult, and he died that afternoon with Thomas and his mother by his side.

An inquest was held following the child's death and it reported that:

Charlotte Smith, wife of John Smith, residing at the Mouth of Colo, was sent for to see deceased on Wednesday, and found the child to all appearance in the last stage of croup. She applied various remedies, but he was too far gone for them to take any effect. He died about twenty minutes past three o'clock in the evening.

William John Jackson, a legally qualified medical practitioner, residing in Windsor, having examined the body, found no external marks of violence. He tried to examine the throat, but rigormortas(sic) having set in he was unable to do so. On the inside of the cheek, he found diphtheria deposits, and that, coupled with the evidence he had heard, induced him to believe that diphtheria was the cause of death.<sup>4</sup>

At this stage, it is not known where these children were buried, the acquisition of death certificates would confirm this information.

Thomas James Herps remarried several years after Annie's death. He married another cousin, Clara Jane Chaseling, a native of Tarara, the daughter of James Chaseling, from the Shoalhaven district in Nowra in 1882.<sup>5</sup> They returned to the Hawkesbury and went on to produce a large family, having at least seven children, six surviving childhood.

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<sup>4</sup> Inquest. (1882, September 30). *The Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser* (NSW : 1873 - 1899), p. 2. Retrieved August 17, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66359708>

<sup>5</sup> NSW BDM Index. M6459/1882

They were:

- Eva born in 1884 and died in 1884
- Mary A G born 1885 married Mr Leet, lived at Lower Portland
- Lily V born 1888 married Mr Marshall, lived at Strathfield
- Dorothy born 1890 married Mr Aird, lived at Chatswood
- Thomas Lisle born 1893 lived at Lower Portland
- Arthur M C born 1896 lived at Lower Portland
- Clara M born 1898 married Mr Gambrill, lived at Lower Portland

Their first child, Eva, born in 1884, died in 1884. It is not known where she is buried. The family had a scare when daughter Lily aged about nine years old, caught typhoid fever whilst in Sydney during 1898. Thankfully she pulled through.<sup>6</sup>

The family resided at Lower Portland for many years and was one of the best known families along the river. Thomas Herps passed away on 11 April 1927 aged 73 years. He had *“only returned from a holiday”* the week before. Clara Jane died the following year, she was 68 years.<sup>7</sup> They are both are buried at the Lower Portland General Cemetery.



**Lower Portland General Cemetery. Courtesy Hawkesbury on the Net**

<sup>6</sup> LOWER PORTLAND. (1898, April 9). Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW : 1888 - 1954), p. 11. Retrieved August 17, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66437511>

<sup>7</sup> OBITUARY. (1928, June 29). Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW : 1888 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved August 17, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85925001>

Minnie Agnes Herps, Thomas and Louisa's daughter, never married and she died 16 January 1956 aged 78. Minnie was interred Lower Portland General Cemetery.

We are particularly interested if anyone can assist with copies of a death certificate for Annie Louisa Herps nee Chaseling who died in 1881, her daughter Annie Louisa who died in 1881 and George who died in 1882 as we are keen to find her exact burial location for Hawkesbury Cemetery Register [www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/)

It is quite possible they are buried on the site on River Road at Lower Portland, see <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/browns/index.html> where John Brown and his wife Judith Brown are buried. Apparently John and Judith adopted John Brown Herps who was born in 1829 and Catherine Byrne and in 1835 made a will leaving his wife, then his two adopted children the property. This John Brown Herps was father of Thomas James Herps.

If you are able to assist please email [registers@hawkesbury.net.au](mailto:registers@hawkesbury.net.au)

**Note this article first appeared in the Hawkesbury Crier in September 2013.**

## NEWS

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty The Queen on the 9 September 2022.



In April 1970, as part of the Bicentenary Celebrations, she visited Windsor's St. Matthew's Anglican Church and many locals lined the streets to see the Queen in person and schoolchildren lined the roads and waved flags. Picture courtesy Hawkesbury Historical Society Collection, Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

Some Australians will have memories of enthusiastically watching the Queen's coronation in 1953 at Westminster Abbey, or being part of the crowds during her 16 visits to Australia. Check out some of the articles from the Australian Womens Weekly here <https://bit.ly/3d4nBiK> or more info here or <https://trove.nla.gov.au/collection/queen-elizabeth/platinum-jubilee>

## HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

2022 DATE	Speaker & topic
14 September	My favourite ancestor & why ~ presentation from HFHG members
12 October	The Dynasty of Elizabeth Crouch ~ Richard Gillard
9 November	~ To be advised ~

The Hawkesbury Family History Group meetings have returned to 'face to face' in 2022, however will still be offered via Zoom. Bookings are only necessary if attending online.

Meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, except January.

It is still necessary to book to attend for online access with Zoom via Eventbrite

<http://hawkesburylib.eventbrite.com.au/>

Find the Hawkesbury Family History Group on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG)

Find the Library on Facebook [www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary](http://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](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)