Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Website: www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: facebook.com/hawkesburyhistoricalsociety

Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage and

preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.3opm-1opm, except June and August - 2pm. Venue – St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall, 25W Market Street, Richmond.

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Wendy Sledge

Office Bearers 2023/2024

President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Treasurer: Rodney Hartas Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford Web Administrator: Dick Gillard Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

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Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

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HHS Collection Committee

Carol Carruthers and Elissa Blair (Museum representative)

Publications Committee

Jan Barkley-Jack, Cathy McHardy, Rebecca McRae and Jan Readford

2024 MEETINGS

Saturday, 22 June– 2pm Saturday, 24 August– 2pm

Thursday, 24 October – 7.30pm

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall 25 West Market Street, Richmond

Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting

Saturday, 22 June at 2pm

to be held at

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

25 W Market Street, Richmond Parking is available next door. and_via Zoom (details provided separately)

Speaker: Andy Macqueen

Andy Macqueen is a Blue Mountains historian, bushwalker and conservationist. He has produced six history books and many articles, including several peer-reviewed papers published in the Blue Mountains History Journal. His topics include colonial exploration and first-contact history, surveying history and



conservation history. His latest book "The Frenchman: Francis Barrallier, life and journeys 1773-1853", is a major overhaul of his popular 1993 book "Blue Mountains to Bridgetown". It presents much new content, and fresh perspectives. Andy will have copies available for purchase at his talk.

<u>Topic</u>: A different explorer: The Frenchman Francis Barrallier

Before the famous three found their way across the Blue Mountains in 1813, the only serious official attempt was made in 1802, by the French refugee Ensign Francis Barrallier. He failed, but he left us with a wonderful account of his incursions into the Gundungurra country of the southern Blue Mountains. Barrallier had bright prospects in the colony but fell victim of the feuding between his fellow Rum Corps officers and Governor King. His talents were employed in West Indies instead. In his talk to the Society Andy Macqueen will introduce Barrallier and his expedition, and describe how he and his efforts stand out from all his exploring contemporaries.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 2024

Hi all,

Hawkesbury Historical Society has a new project. Defenders of Thompson Square have asked us to join with them in presenting a tour to be offered regularly to the public at St Matthew's Anglican Church, in which jointly we will give aspects of church history. It was an offer not to be missed. Initially, Peta and I will present the first specific tours of the burial ground, which are unlike those we usually do because they will be much more orientated to St Matthew's Church and its ministers and stories. Anyone else also interested from the Society in presenting the one-hour tours (the notes will be given to help you) will find their help welcome at any time. The funds raised will be divided between the DOTS group, Hawkesbury Historical Society and St Matthew's Anglican Church Restoration Funds.

In researching information for the above tour, I was struck how interesting it is that historical research continually can throw up totally new information, just as we thought we had found most of what was available. This was the case recently when I began thinking about William Cox's grave as central to the controversial early days of the church.

Coincidentally, I was reading Marion Starr's well-researched book, *James Gough*, about a colonial carpenter. It turned out that Gough worked on many occasions for William Cox Sr both in Sydney and at Hawkesbury. This Sydney aspect of William Cox was unknown to me, as was their connection in this district. Ex-convict Gough's carpentry skills soon over-rode his early troubles in the colony and, as he gained large government contracts, his usefulness became apparent to Cox.

It seems that Cox had several properties in O'Connell Street, Sydney and the grand house he built there was rented out to important government dignitaries which saved Governor Macquarie difficulties and meant Cox was probably well-known to the Governor. Macquarie heaped praise on Cox, and Cox's enterprises in O'Connell Street make it sound like he took regular trips to Sydney. Moreover, Cox followed Macquarie's instructions to the letter, but sometimes beyond the letter it seems as when, in other evidence, Cox split James

Blackman's Richmond town grant in half and took half back, seemingly Blackman thought, without cause.

After Governor Brisbane had taken over the colony, Gough advertised in 1824 that he was 'supervising the private concerns of William Cox Esq.', in Sydney. Dr James Broadbent, an architectural expert, has pointed out the similarities of Cox's new house in O'Connell Street, built from a book of plans to the design of the Rectory of St Matthew's Anglican at Windsor, was built in 1825 when Gough was busy working for Cox in Windsor. What I found out about the extensive work Gough carried out for Cox was so interesting, that I have summarised the details of it in a short article in this newsletter.

James Gough's first wife, Ann Cain, also a convict, separated from James in 1822. By 1824, Ann was living with her daughters, Elizabeth, Louisa and Phoebe, in a relationship with Charles Eather, a farmer at Cornwallis, where she had six more children, whilst Ann's other children lived with James Gough in Sydney, but returned in 1828 to the Hawkesbury and married locals. It was the wives of Ann's sons, Thomas and William Eather, according to Starr, who perished at Cornwallis with ten of their children in the devastating 1867 flood. Ann Gough died in 1871 and she is buried in a marked grave near the western door of St Matthew's Anglican church, not that far from Cox's altar monument. James Gough died five years later and is buried at Cootamundra with no grave marker.

Another unrelated fact about William Cox Sr, which I discovered recently, concerned John Howe, the Hawkesbury explorer and Chief Constable, who had a land ownership dispute with rich and difficult James Mudie in the Hunter Valley. Howe received the land in 1821 and Mudie came later, expecting to select any land he wanted as one of the rich immigrants settling in the northern valley under new rules from Britain. Howe had William Cox as magistrate argue his case to ownership of the land, but the determination of Governor Brisbane was that under the new policy the rich immigrants got preference and Howe, along with Benjamin Singleton whose land was involved, were forced to reselect.

This connection with Benjamin Singleton and John Howe links well with our guest speaker for June who is Andy Macqueen, whose informative and detailed writings about the journeys the two and others made exploring north into the Hunter Valley, have long been a delight to historians in New South Wales. We are most happy to welcome Andy to our June meeting and look forward to hearing him speak- definitely not to be missed.

Please note that as it is now winter, our meetings will be on Saturdays, with the next general meeting scheduled for 22 June. For details of the lecture and June meeting time and venue see advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter and I look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers,

Jan Barkley-Jack, President

Peek into the Past

'The Peek into the Past' was a popular event which we began prior to the COVID pandemic and held only once before it became impossible. At the time we took a peek into 'Howe House' in Thompson Square, which was extremely successful, and allowed Hawkesbury Historical Society to reach the wider historical community as well as to become better known to the business groups.

This year on 16 April 2024 at 5pm, we resumed the gettogether at 'Glenroy' the elegant house of Peta Sharpley and Keith Friend in George Street at South Windsor. The event offers a rare opportunity for a close look inside the house and its grounds and we thank Peta and Keith for their generosity in opening up their wonderful house for us. We hope now it will become an annual event moving around the delightful historic houses of the Hawkesbury.

'Glenroy', the house featured in 2024, at first had been a four-room cottage built by a wealthy widow who leased it. Next it was owned by Richard and Gertrude Cobcroft, members of the early Wilberforce family, who ran a tannery in South Windsor. When the Cobcrofts bought it, they aggrandised it in stages with an extended verandah around three sides and French doors to allow gracious entry to the gardens.



Peta Sharpley pictured on the far right, with Kerrie Levy (of the Doctors House) to her right, followed by Neil Renaud, then Cheryl Ballantyne, Pat Schwartz, Wendy De Paoli of the National Trust (rear), then Sue Brill.

There was a very sizeable crowd who received a personal guided tour from Peta, beginning with the full-sized billiard room and beautifully conserved ballroom, built for a Cobcroft daughter's wedding in the 1890s. The tour went from the grand ballroom to the small office on the verandah where Richard Cobcroft did his accounts for his tannery business and to the servant's quarters, which is today a kitchen. Many wondered at the many entries to the house as was standard in the Victorian era, with a grand entrance for visitors beside the carriageway, another entrance for family, another for the tradesmen visiting and yet another for the kitchen staff when such

were employed there. Each knew their place and were particular to use the right entry. The old decorative outside toilet was especially noteworthy with its upturned ginger-beer bottle path leading down to it, if one needed to visit on a cold winter's night.

Supper was served on the lit verandah and enjoyed by all.

Thank you, Peta and Keith, and everyone, please remember to be sure to watch out for next year's similar event.

Jan Barkley-Jack

MEETING REMINDER

Please note:

WINTER meetings will be held on Saturday afternoon

(June & August meetings)

All meetings will be held at

St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

25W Market Street, Richmond

Parking is available next door.

The next meeting for the Hawkesbury Historical Society will be held on:

Saturday, 22 June at 2pm

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The shooting of John Wright

By Michelle Nichols

Many crimes evolved out of passion. John Wright presented himself as a single man, although he already had a wife and family still living.

In 1889, he tried to kill himself at the Windsor home of his ex-lover, Frances. He had purchased a gun purposely to end his life, or was it simply to gain her sympathy? What was the story behind the shooting?

Who was John Wright? Born in 1851, the son of Richard Wright and Isabella Langridge, his name at birth was John Mounsteven Langridge Wright. When he was about twenty, he took the name Edwin Roland Ernest Leonard and married Elizabeth Incher in Sydney, in 1871.

The following year the couple had a son, Edwin. At the time, John was listed as a butcher. John mentioned his wife being involved with a superior officer which turned him to drink and gambling, but this may not be accurate. In 1874, daughter Isabel Elizabeth Wright Leonard was born, but John had left the family and was later convicted at Deniliquin and served three years for forgery.

He returned to Sydney and tried unsuccessfully to locate his wife. But did he try that hard? It appears by 1877 that John joined the police force. Believing his first wife dead, married Frances Jane Davis, the daughter of wheelwright Christopher Davis and Mary Cupitt. Frances was from Windsor and was only nineteen when she married in 1878. This time John married under the name of John Edward Langridge at St James, Sydney by Rev Garnsey who had recently moved from Windsor and had known Frances since she was a child. The couple had at least three children including Florence Maud born in 1879, Malcolm Percy born in 1881 and Elsie May.

Only a month after the marriage in 1878, a warrant was issued for the arrest of John and published in the Police

Gazette, under the name of Leonard, for deserting his young son from his first marriage without providing adequate means of support. It is not clear if he was actually apprehended. He was supposed to take care of the boy but he disappeared from the scene, leaving the boy behind. When he was seven, Edwin was admitted to the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children. The register notes his mother Elizabeth had admitted him and the young boy spent about five months in the home before being discharged to her.

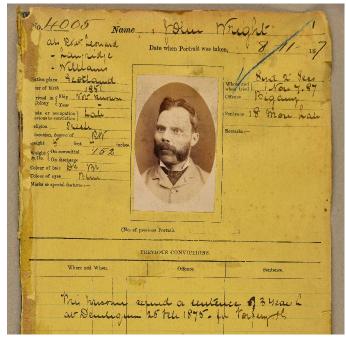
The happiness John reportedly found with Frances, was not to last and his past started to catch up with him. Several years after his second marriage, his first wife Elizabeth discovered his whereabouts. She approached Frances with her allegations, but the accusations were dismissed as unbelievable.

Elizabeth appeared in their lives for a second time in 1887, first by sending threatening letters followed by a visit. Shortly after, John was picked up by the police and charged with bigamy.

Appearing at Darlinghurst Quarter Sessions in 1887, Elizabeth described to the jury how she had married John Leonard some years earlier and had a son. Frances recounted that her husband, "had been to her one of the best husbands in the world, and she could not speak too highly of him." Despite her fervent support, John was found guilty of contracting a bigamous marriage. In his concluding statements, Judge Clarke, "remarked on the enormity of the offence, of deserting one wife and family, and ruining a woman with a false marriage, for it was nothing more."

The fact John had assumed at least three different names was held against him, and he was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour at Darlinghurst Gaol

It is difficult to understand why John chose the path of marrying when his first wife was still alive.





John Wright, 1889 [Gaol Photographic Description Books, State Records NSW]

Divorce legislation was not implemented in NSW until 1873, but there were strings attached and divorce was costly. Bigamy, the act of marrying while already married to someone else was, and still is, an offence. The children of John and Frances were also caught in the illicit web and when the marriage was dissolved, they became illegitimate, a cruel cross to bear at the time.

While John was serving time, Frances, obviously shamed by the turn of events, returned with her children to her family in Windsor, trying to put the past behind her. With his sentence complete, John tracked Frances down, wanting to reconcile but she wanted nothing more to do with him. He returned to her house in George Street in February 1889 and would not leave. By evening, Frances left the house, however John threatened to shoot himself if she did not return. He had purchased a gun specifically and shots were fired and John was found "with a discharged revolver in his hand, and with blood oozing from a wound in his left side"- he had aimed at his heart.

Dr Callaghan arrived at the scene very quickly and the patient was moved to Windsor Gaol where the doctor tried to unsuccessfully remove the bullet, lodged in John's rib. The newspaper reported the patient was in a "precarious condition." A few days later he was charged with attempting to commit suicide. In the past, suicide was viewed as sinful, but later thought to be caused by a mental illness although illegal. John survived the tragedy and moved on. He met a much younger woman, Mary Jane O'Neil, and between 1897 and 1908 the couple had seven sons and two daughters, finally marrying in 1912.



Headstone of Frances Egginton, St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery, Windsor. Photo: Michelle Nichols

Frances Davis picked up the pieces and aged twentynine, married for the second time in 1891 to English-born police constable, William Henry Egginton at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor. William and Frances had several children including Albert in 1892 and Lionel five years later. Not everything went smoothly though as sixmonth-old Lionel died on Christmas Day 1897. They moved around as a result of William's career in the police force and Frances was living in Enmore when she passed away in 1929 aged seventy. She was buried at St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery near family. Her husband, William, had retired from the police force and died in 1947 in Nambucca Heads.

The man known as John Wright succumbed to chronic myocarditis in 1917 at Lidcombe Hospital, aged sixty-six. He is buried at Rookwood Cemetery with wife Mary who died in 1951.

John Wright's story is shrouded in mystery, and not all of the details are yet known, particularly due to his excessive use of aliases throughout his life. However, for descendants, the search continues. A secret life, filled with infidelity and deception.

Michelle Nichols

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An Interesting Connection between James Gough, a carpenter and William Cox Sr.

Compiled by Jan Barkley-Jack from a book written by Marion Starr in 2013, called *James Gough: a very industrious man*, self-published.

[M. Starr: pp. 1-27] James Gough was a restive prisoner when first sent to NSW as a convict, arriving in 1813 on board the transport, *Earl Spencer*. He had served his apprenticeship as a carpenter but had been convicted of stealing when trying to sell a tea caddy twice, as he was in debt. At first, he was in the cells in Newgate but was then sent to the hulk *Retribution* before embarking for NSW, meeting up with a young free passenger on board the ship to the colony. Her name was Ann Cain and she soon shared a room together with Gough in Kent Street, Sydney. After the ship's arrival Gough was sent to work in the Sydney Lumber Yard.

However, James was soon in a goal gang in Sydney and Ann in the women's Parramatta goal for misdemeanors, though not for long as he escaped and then he remained imprisoned in Sydney goal for seven months until his carpentry skills saw him working at the Parramatta Lumberyard. His second escape saw him briefly with Ann until he was returned to the Parramatta Lumber Yard, under the supervision of Hawkesbury's Richard Rouse. There he found the new works on the Sydney Government House were given preference and just two

months later in 1816 Governor Macquarie gave permission for James and Ann to marry. Gough usually worked at Parramatta but had two days' work in Sydney at this time, perhaps on the Hyde Park Barrack. Next Gough either worked on the roof of the new Sydney Barrack or on making beds for the Government Hospital or furniture for Government House.



Government House in Macquarie's day, detail of 'View of Government domain and part of Sydney, taken from Bunker's Hill, N.S. Wales', Richard Read, c.1820, National Library of Australia, from the MHNSW website, 'Life at Government House in the Macquarie era', www.mhnsw.au.

James Gough was made Overseer of the carpenters at the Parramatta Lumberyard by 1819, the year Commissioner Bigge came out to report on Macquarie's perceived overspending on buildings. James' life continued to improve as he received his Conditional Pardon two years later. He then began working for himself.

[M. Starr: pp. 28-47] Skilled carpenters could by this time in the colony earn up to £25 a year according to William Cox. Andrew Mitchell, an ex-convict, was principal carpenter at the time of building St Matthew's Anglican Church at Windsor. Mitchell also built the new convict barrack at Windsor. Several other carpenters worked, unnamed, on these buildings, advertised for by Greenway as 'men of merit'. In 1822, the year that the church was finished to the Reverend Samuel Marsden's pernickety satisfaction and consecrated, the Gough family continued to live in central O'Connell Street (South Row) in Sydney in one of its six brick or thirteen

weatherboard houses mostly owned by government and lived in by the likes of Judge Sir John Wylde. By November that same year, this had changed as James Gough and Ann separated.

Keeping track of James Gough is difficult and often based on indirect evidence. That same month, James Gough signed a petition for another man, a William Jones, and his cosignatories were William Cox, Thomas Eather and Michael Lamb. All were resident at Hawkesbury in 1822, so it may have been that this document tells us that Gough worked for a while on Hawkesbury projects but if so, he was soon back in Sydney working on other

government buildings. With the completion of the Sydney Courthouse roof reported in the *Sydney Gazette* on 30 October 1823, Gough was praised. The paper told that it was 'contracted by Gough the Builder, and...executed in a masterly and durable fashion'.

James Gough was busy in O'Connell Street building a house for William Cox. It was declared 'one of the best'

houses in Sydney by the New Commissary General. Cox then bought yet another house in the same street. James Gough had left his trunk in a shed in Cox's house, and it was stolen by Patrick Flannaghan, a labourer; later it was recovered from the harbour as were most of its sodden contents. When James Gough gave his evidence, he was described as supervising the private concerns of William Cox Esq., with the rents Cox received from his houses

in that street amounted around £500. [Jan: There seems no real question about this not referring to Hawkesbury's William Cox but as there was another William Cox in Sydney, I should like to check this fact out further at a later date].

Dr James Broadbent, an architectural guru feels that the Cox house in O'Connell Street was taken from a pattern book design by Laing and he has suggested that it resembles the 1825 Rectory building at St Matthew's [Anglican] whose designer is unknown. Gough was, by then, living in Windsor, as early as January 1824, being recorded as being paid £16 odd for three tradesmen's work up to the previous June. In August 1824, Gough sent a letter to Governor Brisbane requesting a land grant, with supportive comments from William Cox, and also signed by fellow Windsor magistrates John Brabyn and Archibald Bell. Gough received 60 acres in September, probably at Hawkesbury.

Date	To Whom	Residence	no of acres	Kewarks
1824 July _15	Gowew Lohn	Liverpool	.288	
August 19 9	Podard Buyanni	in Lyoney	- 60	
Leptent 10 5	Jough Lames	Lydrey	60	
Arby 15 3	Gray Edward	Parramatta	600	
March 5	riffiths Thomas	ayoney.	. 6.0	republication (Company)

Detail of the recording by Governor Brisbane of James Gough's land grant, 10 September 1824, p. 13, frame 1464, Special Bundles 1794-1825, Colonial Secretary's Papers, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com.au.

[M. Starr: pp. 48-118] From 1822, Ann Gough was living at Hawkesbury with two of her daughters and Charles Eather, whilst late in 1823 James was working for Judge Wylde, building his Cabramatta house 'Cecil Hills'. In 1824, James received the contract for extensive repairs to Windsor Church and the schoolhouses, and he remained working on both in the Hawkesbury and Evan districts until late 1825. In St Matthew's Church, Gough replaced damaged ceiling joists and secured them, cut out the damaged parts of the ceiling and repaired the damage plaster work, white-washed the walls, painted the stucco and oiled the pulpit and pews. He did other repairs, including to the choir area, repaired the dome of the communion area and altered the pulpit and shingled the roof where it needed repairing and was paid £149 for the total work. He was also paid £21 for providing seven leather-lined, brass studded elbow chairs and a footstool for the new Courthouse.



The external dome of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor at the eastern end of the church which Gough repaired internally in 1824.

Photo: Jan Barkley-Jack, 2022.

The school-houses and temporary chapels soon received Gough's attention too, after Gough was asked by Cox to inspect them. At Castlereagh, where the schoolhouse was located in the centre of the planned town, not just the

whole ceiling needed replacement but the shingling also and walls and pews were recognised as needing strong attention, as well as the pews which were to 'be hung with good hinges and brass buttons'. The pulpit, windows from which about 50 squares of glass were missing, and many other running repairs cost the government in total, £104/15/10. The tender was signed by James Gough and William Cox Sr. The original 1813 Schoolhouse at Richmond was next to receive attention, with Archibald Bell, the Richmond Warden Magistrate and Church requesting a tender from Gough for repairs. The repairs required were extensive involving 'decayed brickwork, the shingling and the flooring that had been destroyed by termites'. This

schoolhouse also needed repointing of the replacement bricks, new hips and ridges to support the new shingles and replacing five sets of windows, each with 15 small panes of glass (of which at least 40 panes needed replacement), as well as a verandah with octagonal pillars stone was added and window sills except under the verandah. The tender was accepted at a cost £101/14/6, signed by James Gough and William Cox Sr. and the work completed and inspected in 1826.

In May 1827, a new school/temporary chapel was being built by a Mr Taylor on the ridge where the present church of St James is located at Pitt Town to replace the first school established by Mr J. D. Wood. It was inspected by James Gough and James Smith, another exconvict builder. They determined it was worth £145/14/11. Today, Wilberforce has the only extant Macquarie schoolhouse/temporary chapel built by Lachlan Macquarie in the Hawkesbury, but James Gough is not known to have been involved in its construction.

A temporary chapel and schoolhouse was built in 1804 in Windsor even before the village of Green Hills was initiated there, close to the central civic square.

Gough wrote to the Church Wardens, William Cox Sr. and John Brabyn, suggesting moving a fireplace, and replacing the decayed soft bricks, plastering, remaking the foundation on the south-western wall and erecting buttressing with the lintel over the west door to be renewed. In addition, the improvement to the schoolmasters' apartments necessitating bricking up two other doorways and opened another. Changes to the windows, replacement of the sash frames and rotten floor boards and the ceiling were also recommended. Gough was always thorough and he discussed the changes with Cox and when in November 1825, he resubmitted the tender for £152/14/6, it was accepted by Cox. It included building two new chimneys 'in the present access, one at each end of the building and one on the south side'. The windows were to be 12 panes of 10x8 inch glass pieces in two sashes one of eight panes and the other four.



Detail of 'A view of Part of the Town of Windsor', drawn and engraved by P. Slaeger, c. 1812-1813, published by A. West, Sydney, 1813. Privately owned. The building second from left was the two storey Schoolhouse /temporary chapel from 1804-1822. The civic square is immediately to the right.

Yet another revised quote was submitted in December 1825 that included an additional £10 work to add the removal of the privy that belonged to the schoolroom alongside the street to the back of the present schoolmaster's privy 'a considerable distance from the

street or dwelling' and removing 'a split paling fence to form a passage from the playground to the privy'. The work went ahead in 1826, along with work on the Blacktown schoolhouse by Gough, and then both passed inspection.

In later years, James Gough seems to have been involved in constructing a two-storey inn for William Cox Sr. on the Windsor Road near the present-day turn off to Castle Hill, where the Windsor Road meets the Old Windsor Road. Cox named it the White Hart Inn. Being involved in its construction by 1826, is given credibility by James giving his address as Windsor Road when advertising for joiners in the Sydney Gazette for work of a dwelling house 'about 40 miles from Sydney'. In 1828, Gough was back in Sydney, working on terrace houses at Church Hill opposite the second St Phillip's Church for Joseph Underwood, and then his wife when Joseph died. The tenants were quite prestigious being William Charles Wentworth and Robert Wardell in the southern terrace after they commenced producing The Australian newspaper in 1824. The middle terrace was the site of John Dunmore Lang's Australian College and in 1842 it became the Royal Bank and then the Treasury. In 1829 the Gough family moved to Hawkesbury again.

Next, Gough and John Richards, who had also worked for Willian Cox Sr., were in Bong Bong on the southern Highlands and had their tender accepted to build the Berrima Gaol, although this was left incomplete and was a building and financial disaster for Gough. His son, John Gough, was involved in various illegal activities, and in April 1841, both James and John were held in Berrima Gaol, having stolen a cow from William Bowman, the nephew of John Bowman of Richmond, who had an inn at Bong Bong. Found guilty, they were sent to Sydney Gaol and Cockatoo Island. For forty years Mary Allen had been James' partner but she died in a fire in April 1846. The Gough children and their families stayed in the southern area and James was living with his Sarah and family at Muttama near Cootamundra when he died in 1876. He is buried at Cootamundra.

150th Anniversary - Great Fire of 1874 Walking Tour

This event was held by Hawkesbury Historical Society on Saturday, 18 May 2024. It was widely advertised and was guided by historian Michelle Nichols, who has written a book about the 'Great Fire', as well as by Jan Barkley-Jack and Peta Sharpley. We were joined by an audience widely distributed from the Central Coast and Sydney to other local Societies with a couple from our own Society.

The tour was remembering the 'Great Fire of Windsor' which happened one tragic, super-hot day, with blistering winds and bushfire warnings all around in 1874. Yet, in reality, it was a spark from the Blacksmith Shop in George Street near New Street that started it. A freakish spark was

blown across George Street into Mrs Stubbs wooden house, which was consumed before anything could be done to stop the fire. The fire devoured a few shops beside Mrs Stubbs and continued across the town into Macquarie Street. There, tanneries, dwellings, barns and a hall were consumed as well as animals in pens and barns. The fire continued up both sides of Macquarie Street and burnt out the Wesleyan Parsonage. The Minister, the Reverend Mr Wilkinson, was not a believer in the safety of banks and tragically had all his money in his dwelling and lost it all. The Wesleyan Church was next to burn. When the fire was contained on the corner of Fitzgerald Street (where also houses and tenements were burnt down) the only Wesleyan building remaining was the schoolhouse, which still remains today beside the car park at the K-Hub. The loss for the district was tragic, with one person killed and another later dying of her wounds. The community rallied, with even the poorest contributing to the relief fund to help their neighbours.

Today we see the result in the number of Victorian buildings later built in the streets of Windsor, and 150 years later we are still amazed that with just hand operated fire engines, the community was so strong and rallied so defiantly.

Jan Barkley-Jack

Mr. Tebbutt's Observatory.

We have received the report for 1889 of Mr. Tebbutt's Observatory. It comprises 26 pages,, and affords a deal of valuable information to the reader, giving an account of the buildings and instruments, meteorological observations, extra-meredian work, proposed work for 1890, and a list of presents received for the library during 1889. Altogether the report is very interesting and serves to show that Mr. Tebbutt has not been idle during the past year.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Saturday, 29 March 1890 (Trove)



The Hawkesbury Women and Convict Ship Lady Penrhyn

By Richard Gillard

The Lady Penrhyn was built in 1786 on the River Thames by Edward Greaves of Limehouse, London for Richard Pennant. Lady Penrhyn, designed to transport slaves to the Americas, was constructed as a three-masted wooden cargo vessel. Richard Pennant was heavily involved in the slave trade, amassing a large fortune from the slave trade, allowing him to purchase several estates in Jamaica. Other owners included Alderman William Curtis, a third-generation sea-biscuit manufacturer from London, and William Cropton Server, a master mariner who served as a captain during the voyage to New Holland (renamed Australia). Richard Pennant named the vessel after his wife, Lady Ann Susannah, calling the vessel Lady Penrhyn, recognising his wife's status in the society of the day.



The Lady Penrhyn

In 1787, the Navy Board chartered *Lady Penrhyn* as part of the First Fleet bound for Australia. Her mission was to transport convicts and to establish European settlements in Australia.

The first female convicts were delivered by wagon to Lady Penrhyn, which was moored at Woolwich, on January 6, 1787, from the Newgate prison and Southwark goal. Two days later, a further 54 female prisoners were delivered from Newgate Prison. Female convicts from country prisons were sent to Lady Penrhyn in Gravesend.

The Hawkesbury Women aboard *Lady Penrhyn* were Ann Green (nee Cowley), Mary Carroll, Elizabeth Lock, Eleanor McCabe, Elizabeth Needham, Margaret Stewart and Nancy Young.

The female convicts were separated from the male convicts to protect those female convicts 'who still retained some degree of virtue'. Despite the attempt to keep female prisoners separate from males aboard Lady Penrhyn (whether they are sailors or convicts), prostitution was rife. The Surgeon, Arthur Bowes Smyth, recorded on April 19, 1787, that five women were 'put in irons'i' for fraternising with the crew.

Governor Arthur Phillip inspected the *Lady Penrhyn* before the First Fleet set sail for Australia and made the following comment:

The situation in which the magistrates sent the women on board the Lady Penrhyn stamps them with infamy – tho' almost naked, and so very filthy, that nothing but clothing them could have prevented them from perishing...there are many venereal

complaints, that must be spread in spite of every precaution I may take hereafter...ⁱⁱⁱ

The Hawkesbury Women who were placed about *Lady Penrhyn* were Ann Cowley, Sarah Bellany, Mary Carroll, Elizabeth Lock, Eleanor McCabe, Elizabeth Needham, Margaret Stewart, and Nancy Yates/Yeates. There is no record available how these individual women faired on the voyage other than what has been written in general about the voyage,

The Lady Penrhyn finally set sail on May 13, 1787, having completed the loading of the provisions of water and food the day before. One of the problems Lady Penrhyn faced on the voyage was that a 'considerable part of women's clothing', iv had been left

behind. This meant that the women were cold for most of the voyage and were subject to bouts of fever.

When Lady Penrhyn arrived at the port of Tenerife, the Surgeon-General John White boarded Lady Penrhyn on June 5, 1787, to inspect the conditions aboard Lady Penrhyn. In particular as to 'the condition of the sick' and he 'pronounced the Lady P the most healthy ship in the fleet'.

By the time *Lady Penrhyn* crossed the equator on July 14, 1787, the convict women 'fell ill with

fevers, vi and as they progressed towards Rio De Janeiro, the Lady Penrhyn was experiencing dangerously low food supplies. Just as they finally ran out of food, land was sighted, and they arrived at Rio de Janeiro.

Lady Penrhyn was to spend a month at Rio De Janeiro, restocking the vessel with water and food supplies and making a number of minor repairs before setting sail for the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa on September 4, 1787. Lady Penrhyn was the slowest of the First Fleet vessels, taking 39 days to reach the Cape on October 14, 1787.

The voyage of *Lady Penrhyn* was not without incidents. Female convicts caused numerous problems on the voyage and were punished for thieving, fighting, and abusive language. The culprits could have their heads shaved, and their fingers or toes could be placed in a thumb screw or iron fetters. The worst offenders were whipped with a Cat of 9 Tails. Smyth described his thoughts on these convict women as: -

'I believe few...were ever better, if so well provided for as these Convicts are...I believe I may venture to say there was never a more

abandon'd set of wretches collected in one place...The greater part of them are so totally abandoned & callous'd to all sense of shame & even common decency that it frequently becomes indispensably necessary to inflict Corporal punishment upon them..."

The First Fleet was to remain at the Cape for nearly 30 days, taking on fresh water and food supplies. The First Fleet selected various seeds for planting and livestock to build new herds in the colony. Livestock was distributed among various vessels of the First Fleet. Lady *Penrhyn* was responsible for the welfare of the horse livestock. Surgeon, Arthur Bowes Smyth, recorded the following

information on the horses, 'This day we recd. on board 1 Stallion, 3 Mares & 3 Colts for Governor Phillips use at New South Wales'.'*iii The horses purchased at Cape of Good Hoppe were largely descended from the Barb and Spanish Horse.

The First Fleet set sale on its final leg to Australia on November 12, 1787. Surgeon Smyth recorded the approximate distance they had travelled by December 13, 1787, as: -

'...we were ten thousand 5 hundred miles & upwards from England [and] have now 5 thousand 5 hundred miles to New Holland.' ix

Cape Town to Botany Bay was the longest leg of the voyage, taking sixty-eight days. Extremely high and rough seas plagued the *Lady Penrhyn* as they rounded Van Diemen's Land. Smyth reported that he had never seen 'the Sea in such a rage, the Convict Women...were so terrified that most of them were down on their knees in prayers, & in less than one hour after it had abated, they were uttering the most horrid Oaths...that could proceed out of the mouths of such abandon'd Prostitutes...!'x

Lady Penrhyn finally reached Botany Bay on January 20, 1788. Captain Arthur Phillip arrived a few days earlier and determined that Botany Bay was unsuitable for establishing a new colony. The First Fleet set sail again, sailing north where they sailed into Sydney Cove on January 28, 1788, where Captain Arthur Phillip raised the British Flag



Captain Arthur Phillip raising the British flag at Sydney Cove on January 26,

claiming the land of New Holland for the British Empire.

Convict women aboard *Lady Penrhyn* were to remain onboard until February 6, 1788. Most of the women had been aboard *Lady Penrhyn* for around 13 months, an extremely long time to be confined to such a small area assigned to them on the vessel.

It is a little wonder that when they disembarked with little shelter on the first few nights, problems occurred as male and female convicts mixed. Smyth recorded in his notes:

'At...abt. 6 O'Clock p.m. we had the long wish'd for pleasure of seeing the last of them leave the Ship -- They were dress'd in general very clean...The Men Convicts got to them very soon after they landed, & it is beyond my abilities to give a just discription of the Scene of Debauchery & Riot that ensued during the night. 'xi

Information is very scant as to how Hawkesbury Women fared during the voyage. It is known that one of the Hawkesbury Women, Ann Green (nee Cowley), formed a relationship with the Captain of Lady Penrhyn, William Server, giving birth to a baby daughter, Letitia Green, November 9, 1788. Ann and Letitia were abandoned by William Server when he sailed Lady Penrhyn out of Sydney Cove on May 5, 1788. It is not known if Server gave any financial support to Ann to sustain her and Letitia in this new, unknown land.

Lady Penrhyn played a crucial role in shaping Australia History. In their own way, each of the Hawkesbury Women aboard Lady Penrhyn also played a significant role in shaping the life of this early British Colony.

¹ Historical Records of New South Wales (Sydney: Charles Potter Government Printer, 1892), page 51, Phillip's view on the conduct of the expedition and the treatment of convicts, 1787,

https://archive.org/stream/historicalrecord1pt2sidnuoft#page/50/ mode/2up, accessed May 10, 2024.

ii Arthur Bowes Smyth, 'A Journal of a Voyage from Portsmouth to New South Wales and China', 1787,

http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/cdview/?pi=nla.ms-ms4568, transcript at

http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/ transcript/2007/D00007/a1085.html, accessed May 10, 2024.

iii IBID 1 Page 59, Letter from Governor Phillip to Under Secretary Nepean, March 18, 1787,

https://archive.org/stream/historicalrecord1pt2sidnuoft#page/58/ mode/2up, accessed May 10, 2024.

iv IBID 1 Page 104, Letter from Governor Phillip to Under Secretary Nepean, 12 May 1787, accessed May 10, 2024.

v IBID 2 accessed May 10, 2024.

vi IBID 2, accessed May 11, 2024.

vii IBID 2. Accessed May 11, 2024.

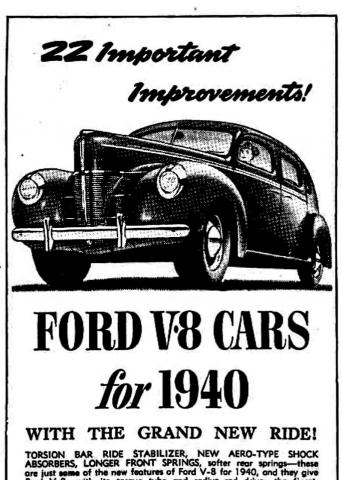
viii First Fleet Fellowship- Lady Penrhyn,

https://firstfleetfellowship.org.au/ships/hms-lady-penrhyn/, accessed May11,2024.

ix IBID 2, accessed May 11, 2024.

x IBID 2, accessed May 11, 2024.

xi IBID 2, accessed May 11, 2024.



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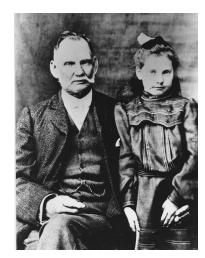
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Friday 3 May 1940 (Trove)



Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 17 May 1902 (Trove)

A CHAPTER FROM THE TUCKERMAN FAMILY

The Adolphus Tuckerman story and the story of the Bible as written by Philip Tuckerman



Adolphus with his youngest daughter Marion Hope to his second wife Mary Fitzgerald. Photo: Val Tuckerman.

Adolphus Tuckerman, the 10th child (5th son of Stephen and Sarah Tuckerman), was born 1842 at Sackville. He married Grace Dunstan on 23 January 1876 at St John's Wilberforce (in the old schoolhouse).

Adolphus was also prominent in Church of England matters and died in 1918, at Sackville.

Adolphus and Grace had five children: Elizabeth Alice Grace,

Kathleen Mary, Harriet Constance, Claude Hamilton, Herbert Oswald, and they all grew up at Sackville Reach.

As a young man, Adolphus lived a strenuous life. He was educated by the late Mr. Kennedy, who had a private school at York Lodge, Windsor. He then went into station life and was trained for the vocation by the late Benjamin Richards. He worked on the cattle and sheep stations owned by Ben Richards and sons for some years and managed a station for the late Duncan McKay.

On his father's death, Adolphus inherited about 414 acres of land, the bulk of his father's estate at Sackville Reach, and on consideration, he had earned it considering his two older brothers Stephen and Charles, left the family property and went off to the goldfields in Mudgee and Gulgong. Prosper, his other brother married and went off to Queensland, but Adolphus stayed at home for 23 years and worked in the orchards for his father and sisters. He did not marry during that period.

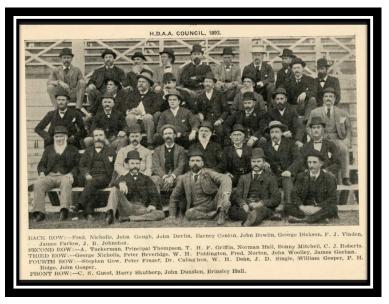
Adolphus was made a Justice of the Peace on 11th June 1881, and for 14 years he was a member of the Windsor Land Board, a magistrate of the Windsor Court in 1880 and became Chairman of the Court in 1881. He was one of the foundation members and Vice President of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Society when it held its first show in 1880.

He was a member of the Nepean Hawkesbury Pastoral Board, and a member and Secretary of the Windsor Public School Board.

Between 1881 and 1885, Adolphus and his family all moved to Mileham Street, Windsor to a house called "Grassmere" where their fifth child, Herbert was born. Unfortunately, Mother Grace died on 17th September 1885 aged 40.

On moving to Windsor, Adolphus leased the Sackville properties to his nephew, Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman (son of Prosper) for many years. Stephen Adolphus worked in the orchards and employed many of the family, particularly those of his brother, James Ewing Tuckerman's family.

Following Grace's death, the family carried on at "Grassmere", with the eldest girl, Elizabeth running the family.



H.D.A.A. Council, 1893. Image: Hawkesbury Library Services



H.D.A.A. Council, 1898. Image: Hawkesbury Library Services



Adolphus Tuckerman's Family photo showing (Back row) Elizabeth, Kathleen, Adolphus, Constance, (Front row) Claude, Mary sitting, Herbert and Hollis, was taken in 1890 in Windsor outside a house named "Grassmere" on Mileham Street, Windsor. Photo: Val Tuckerman.



Map obtained from Hawkesbury City Council showing the property owned by Adolphus in right hand corner. (Property now the home of Kings Mitre 10 Hardware).

Adolphus married a second time, on 23 January 1887, to Mary Fitzgerald at Cowra. Mary was a schoolteacher at Windsor and ran the Windsor Grammar School and they had another three children: Hollis Lachlan, John Roy Fitzgerald, and Marion Hope. The first four children went to Ebenezer School then on moving to Windsor



The Windsor Grammar School, Macquarie and George Street, South Windsor - Mary standing out the front with daughter Kathleen 1890. Photo: Val Tuckerman

they all went to Windsor Public School with the two eldest daughters Elizabeth and Kathleen becoming pupil teachers and later becoming schoolteachers with the NSW Education Department.



Pupils at the Windsor Primary School. Photo: Val Tuckerman

Another keen interest Adolphus had was to become involved in forming a committee, to establish, The Jersey Butter Factory in Windsor - located on The Terrace. A meeting was held on Thursday,14 January 1892, at Bushell's Royal Hotel in Windsor. The meeting was chaired by Mr. James Bligh Johnston, and was attended by a large number of Hawkesbury farmers and interested local residents. A committee was formed, consisting of J.B. Johnston, B. Hall, J.T. Gosper, Adolphus Tuckerman, S. Gow, W. McGrath, and J.C. Fitzpatrick together with Mr. P. Butler to act as Secretary. It was decided that shares @ 1 pound each would be required to form the company. 3000 pounds was raised coming from shares taken up by local individuals. It was also moved that the A.J.S. Bank, be the Bankers for the company.

The committee chose a factory site and paid 320 pounds for approximately five (5) acres on part of Mr. J.T. Gosper's land, located on The Terrace, at Windsor, on the banks of the Hawkesbury River.



An early photo of the Jersey Butter Factory, 1892 (above) with a later photo (over) showing the extensions around 1907 – note the Chinese gardens in foreground. Photo: Ross Gardener.



By 18 March 1892, tenders were being called for erection and completion of buildings for the butter factory at Windsor. Mr. J. Lavor, from Parramatta, was the successful tenderer. With buildings costing 120 pounds and the machinery costing 520 pounds, the factory was completed and ready for business by 1 August 1892. It was officially opened on Wednesday, 24 August, by His Excellency the Governor (Lord Jersey) and afterwards became known as the "Jersey Butter Factory."

Following is another photo of the buildings with local residents standing in the front.

confidence and respect of all men, and the district certainly was poorer by the death of such a man.

In his will, Adolphus left all his personal estate to his wife, Mary. All his real estate, consisting of 450 ac. approx. at Sackville Reach, 50 ac. at Brooklyn, South Creek, and 2 and 1/4 ac. at Mileham Street with a brick cottage, therein, plus all other real estate of which he died possessed to the trustees Mary his wife and sons Claude and Hollis. Mary was to have the rents, use of and enjoyment solely for her lifetime. After her death, all property was to be sold and proceeds divided equally between the eight children or their descendants.

The will made by Adolphus was quite unsuitable by the time he died. It had been made eighteen years previously. The eldest three girls were grown up and married, the other four boys were married with no children and the youngest, Marion, was still a teenager.

After family consultation in 1921, an application was made to the Supreme Court of New South Wales to set aside the will and provided a certain sum was settled upon, the widow, the trustees were to be empowered to dispose of real estate and divide proceeds equally amongst the eight (8) children. The court agreed to this, and the trustees carried it out.

At this stage, the trustees sold the Sackville Reach property to his nephew Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman for 8000 pound who as we have said previously, farmed



Adolphus had another property he called "Brooklyn". It has been hard to locate where this was only apparently it adjoined the Mileham Street property on the other side of South Creek where he ran cattle.

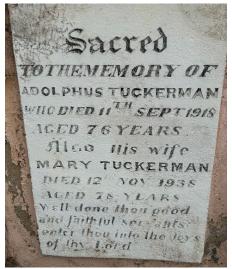
Adolphus stated he lived at Brooklyn but died at Grassmere in Mileham Street in 1918 following the result of a fall from his horse whilst driving cattle to the sale yards at St Mary's. As a result of the fall, he suffered a brain tumour. His wife, Mary nursed him until he died.

Adolphus was a great loss to the Hawkesbury District. He always worked for its progress and loved the place of his nativity. He was a very popular man, and one possessed of great tact and ability in the management of his own business, as well as public affairs. By his upright character and honest dealings, he won the

the property for some years and then in 1929 resold the property to his only son Alma Tuckerman, for 4000.00 pound.

To the right is the inscription for Adolphus and Mary on the Tuckerman vault at St Thomas Church cemetery at Sackville Reach.

Photo: Phil Tuckerman



A TUCKERMAN BIBLE

The Adolphus Bible

Another story from the Tuckerman family is about the lost Tuckerman Bible. It is not known how it was lost or how it finished up in Boorowa, but notes say, there is a family bible somewhere. Information was copied from it prior to the death of William John Septimus Tuckerman.

Where found, Name, Location and by whom

The finder knew that the Mayor of Boorowa was Wendy Tuckerman and so contacted family member Michael (Adolphus - Claude - Reg - Ron - Michael), who immediately saw the possibility of a family connection.

Michael contacted Mrs Dewar and with Ron and John Brennan, arranged to meet, in September 2012. Neither Mrs Dewar nor her family had any interest in retaining the bible. Mrs Dewar was satisfied that Ron and Michael were descendants of Adolphus and happy for us to inspect the bible. There was no way she was going to pass it over to us without consultation and documented evidence of our family connection to it.

Over the next two years, Michael kept in touch with Mrs Dewar and eventually negotiated a sum of money in exchange for the bible. Ron's children, Peter, Teresa, Michael, Patricia, and Catherine (Moore) contributed equally to this sum. All are great/great grandchildren of Adolphus.

The bible was then given as a present to Ron for his 80th birthday on 16th October 2014.

Although the bible was generally in good condition, it did require some minor repairs. Ron identified Kim Morris of Art & Archival in Queanbeyan, ACT, to undertake the repairs and to make a preservation box. Kim has amongst his many clients, the National Library of Australia, so the bible was in great hands.



Inside front cover of bible is the inscription: "To Adolphus Tuckerman, from his affectionate father, Stephen"

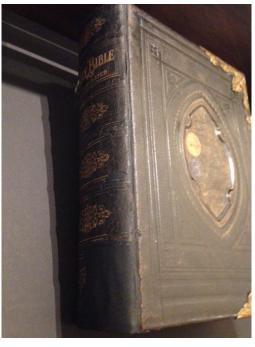
After consultation with the family and descendants of Claude, the fourth of five children of Adolphus and Grace Dunstan, it was agreed that the bible have a permanent home where it could be preserved professionally.

Since the Tuckerman family has early links with the Hawkesbury district, we are indeed very happy that the Hawkesbury Museum, Windsor, has agreed to accept the task of looking after The Tuckerman Bible given by Stephen to Adolphus as part of the artefacts in the museum.

The Bible is now held in a glass case at the Hawkesbury Museum, Windsor.

The leather cover of the bible has the words "The Holy Bible Illustrated". Published by William Collins Sons and Co, Glasgow, London, and Edinburgh.





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Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Friday 7 June 1929 (Trove





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Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Saturday 14 June 1902 (Trove)

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