

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Facebook: facebook.com/hawkesburyhistoricalsociety

Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm except June and August - 2pm. Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

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

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Publications Committee

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MEETINGS

Saturday, 27 August 2022 – 2pm

Thursday, 27 October 2022 – 7:30pm - AGM

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Alan Aldrich

Memorial Lecture



& General Meeting

of the Hawkesbury Historical Society

Saturday, 27 August 2022 – 2pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum,
Baker Street, Windsor
and via Zoom (details provided separately)

See Page 3 for further details.



Regent Theatre

© Hawkesbury Library Service

Last Time To-night (Thurs.) "The Big Store" and "Gallant Sons."



BOOKING:—Ring Richmond 6 for Reserves. Box Plan at Royal Hotel —6 days in advance. No extra charge for booking.

Seats, unless paid for, will not be kept after than 7.45 p.m.

Western Electric Wide Range Sound System.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette,
Wednesday, 10 June 1942



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 2022

After December 1792 when Governor Phillip left the colony, the head of the military, Francis Grose, was made Acting Governor of the penal colony of NSW. Favouring his troops always, Grose increased their rations and dismantled the civil aspects that Governor Phillip had set up in the colony. For the third mainland settlement of Mulgrave Place, known to all as the Hawkesbury, this meant appointing a Commandant to oversee the settlement. Captain Edward Abbott came to the district as the conflict between some European settlers and the Boorooberongal clans escalated over essential resources. A barrack was built for the Commandant and this later became what is known today as the Old Government House at Windsor.

It was built in 1796 on the Government Precinct, a parcel of land the government left for itself amongst the farms on the highest point of the ridge. The Barrack of the Commandant was one of the earliest buildings in the area, preceded only by the construction of the Stores Building with the associated wharf and a smaller barracks for the soldiers. There was also a log granary. Within the government precinct these buildings form the Civic Square where farmers regularly congregated to pick up their provisions, drop off wheat, and seek the help of the military or just to gossip. The government precinct never formed a village, for only the soldiers and the store attendants lived there. All convicts lived on the farms with the settlers.

The Commandant's barrack overlooked this busy scene from its ridge top vantage point. It became known as the Government House in 1800 when Charles Grimes, the surveyor, became the magistrate and housed Governors Hunter, King, Bligh and Macquarie on their visits.

The Government House was the scene of several important events in this districts early history. It was where Anthony Fenn Kemp argued with ex-convict John Harris, whom he imprisoned illegally in the watch house in 1798. Harris took Kemp to court and won – the first “fair go” for ex-convicts legally in the colony. In 1799, Constable Powell called there and used this as his excuse to try to extricate himself from a trial of murder of two Aboriginal boys along with several others. Eventually the building was sold and demolished early in the 20th Century.



Old Government House
Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

The Old Government House is to be the subject of the first ever Memorial lecture of Alan Aldrich to be given by Mary Casey prior to our General Meeting on Saturday, 27 August 2022 at 2pm. Please note that it will be held in person or you can come in by Zoom.

Mary is partner in one of the top archaeological firms in Sydney with Tony Lowe. She has a PHD from the University of Sydney and much experience as a Heritage Consultant since 1989. She is also experienced in historical surveys of large development areas including the former ADI site at St Marys, Rouse Hill infrastructure and the Mt Victoria to Lithgow road upgrade. She has conducted many archaeological excavations in Parramatta, the Sydney metro, Darling Harbour, Barangaroo and Conservatorium of Music sites. Mary is the Vice President of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and the General Editor of their Journal. In May 2007, Mary was appointed to the Archaeological Advisory Panel of the Heritage Council of NSW and she is a member of ICOMOS.

Please try and come to this important and interesting Memorial Lecture for Alan Aldrich.

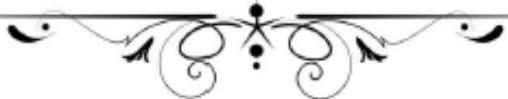
Cheers, Jan Barkley-Jack



HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

invites you to

ALAN ALDRICH MEMORIAL LECTURE & AUGUST 2022 GENERAL MEETING



Our Guest Speaker will be prominent Archaeologist, Mary Casey,
on the subject of Government House at Windsor.



Mary Casey

Details:

The lecture and meeting will be held on Saturday **27th August 2022 at 2.00pm** in the Hugh Williams Room at Hawkesbury Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor and via Zoom facility. Mary Casey will be appearing via Zoom.

Non-members are very welcome to attend this talk, so please try to join us. This is a free event.

RSVP by 25th August 2022 to Peta 0410 498 944 or secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

QUEEN OF WINDSOR ~ 1918

By Michelle Nichols

Government Printing Office 1 - 31487 -

During the 20th century, communities often held events crowning a leader, also known as a 'Queen' to raise money. Young women raised money for a particular charity and whoever raised the most funds was declared Queen. The ceremony or ball was usually held to announce the winner.

At this particular event, held in Windsor in 1918, Nurse Mary Freeman (aged 18) of Riverstone narrowly beat Nora McMahon. Nora, who went on to become Mrs Cupitt, a well-known identity in the Hawkesbury, was placed as runner up. The special event was held in the Windsor School of Arts and raised about £80 for the Red Cross.



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

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

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

St Matthews Anglican Churchyard Visit: Andrew Thompson's Grave

A group of people interested in heritage gathered together recently around the grave of Andrew Thompson for a photo opportunity arranged by Grant Gerrish. It was an excellent opportunity for a chat and to hear a little more from Annegret Hall about Andrew Thompson while she was visiting the district for talks on her book 'Andrew Thompson: From Boy Convict to Wealthiest Settler in Colonial Australia'.

Those in attendance included the Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, Hawkesbury City Councillor, Shane Djuric, St Matthew's Anglican Church Rector, Chris Jones, and members and friends of the Society.

Flowers were laid at the grave by Susan Templeman and discussion turned to placement of a new plaque beside the grave as the writing is getting indecipherable sadly.

Jan Barkley-Jack pointed out that when Andrew Thompson was laid to rest in October 1810, he was the only burial in the entire graveyard and the placement of the grave on the hillside overlooking the valley was deliberate, as Governor Lachlan Macquarie praised the work he did in developing the early settlement of Greenhills and the town of Windsor. The large memorial stone with its detailed inscription of Thompson's regaining of his position in society, was laid on the grave three years after his death by Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie themselves.



Pictured from left (above):
Chris Jones, Rector – St Matthew's Anglican Church,
Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie,
Annegret Hall and Shane Djurek, Hawkesbury City Councillor



Miss Strickland and her flying machine

By Michelle Nichols



Miss Strickland at Richmond Aerodrome

Courtesy State Archives

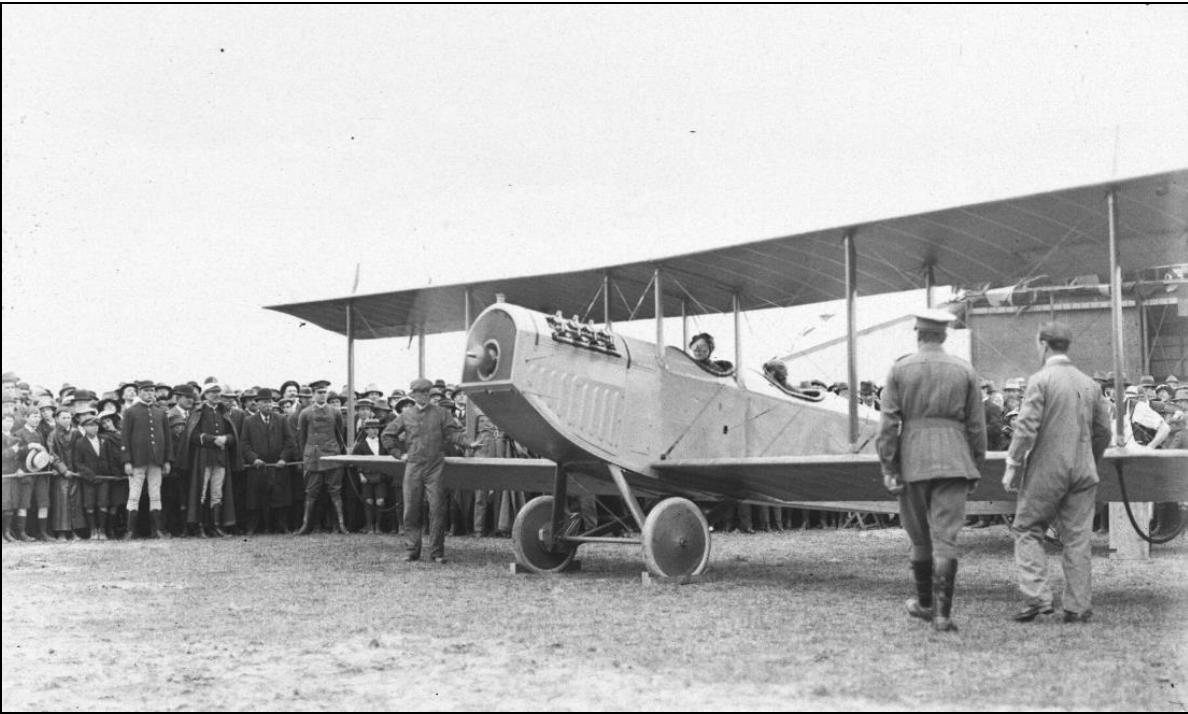
In 1916 a new Aviation School was established on Ham Common on the outskirts of Richmond by the NSW Government. Later this site would become Richmond RAAF Base.

In the midst of the First World War, the site was selected and buildings constructed. Instructors were appointed to train pilots so they could serve abroad and mechanics employed to service the Curtiss Jenny planes acquired from the US.

W. J. 'Billy' Stutt was engaged as the Chief Instructor. He was originally from Hawthorn and had travelled to England to learn how to fly. He returned to Australia with remarkable qualifications and experience in flying a range of aeroplanes. Sir Strickland officially opened the Aviation School and stated, "*Flying was the most important modern development of warfare*".

In August 1916, about 500 guests were invited to the official opening and a reception which was held in one of the new hangars. Approximately 4000 onlookers, including local school students, surrounded the site, to glimpse the officials and the remarkable planes.

As well as celebrating the official opening of the School, the first intake of student-pilots were also admired. It was indeed an enormous event attended by the Premier of NSW, Mr. Holman, Sir Gerald Strickland, the NSW Governor, as well as many important officials such as the Lord Mayor of Sydney Council. As Premier, Holman was keen to stimulate the aviation industry in NSW. Within two years of employment at Richmond, Stutt had trained around 130 pilots.



Miss Strickland in the cockpit

Courtesy State Archives



Inside hangar Richmond Aerodrome

Courtesy State Archives



Luncheon, Richmond State Aerodrome

Courtesy State Archives

Apparently Miss Mary Christina Strickland, the Governor's eldest daughter, was encouraged to accompany Stutt on one of his display flights. She had been up in a plane previously and was "taken on a loop the loop". On her return, Miss Strickland said, "It was perfectly delightful".

Newspapers reported that members of local government in both Windsor and Richmond, were very indignant about the official event, as they had not been invited to participate.

Stutt departed the Aviation School in 1919 moving south to the Flying School at Point Cook. The following year Stutt was lost at sea when his plane vanished on a rescue mission. Strickland's daughter married in 1920 to Henry Albert Hornyold.

Sources

Opening of Aviation School (1916, Sep 2).

Nepean Times p. 3. Retrieved from

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86143137>

Aviation School (1916, Aug 29). The Sun p. 6.

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223372327>

Government Printing Office, Glass plate negative Collection NRS-4481-3

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

Top 10 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 local history 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 to view for free, as well as 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 are my other Top 10, in no particular order, to use researching local history topics.

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 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 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

DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY

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

The Dictionary of Sydney is a website sharing the history of Sydney and includes information on 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 and 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, land agent and stud breeder, and Andrew Town (1840–1890), stud-breeder and horse racing identity.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. At the top, there are links for Obituaries Australia, People Australia, Indigenous Australia, Women Australia, and Labour Australia. Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'text', a 'town' input field, and a 'Search' button. A tip below the search bar says '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 a biography for 'Cunneen, James Augustine (1826–1889)'. It includes a portrait of James Augustine Cunneen, a summary of his life, and a 'Life Summary' section with details about his birth, death, cause of death, cultural heritage, religious influence, occupation, and key organizations. The biography also mentions his role in the Legislative Assembly and his death from accidentally falling and breaking his neck.

Cunneen, James Augustine (1826–1889)

by D. G. Bowd

This article was published:

- in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 3, 1969
- online in 2006

View Previous Version

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 *Almorah* 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 Wollombi 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.

Life Summary [details]

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

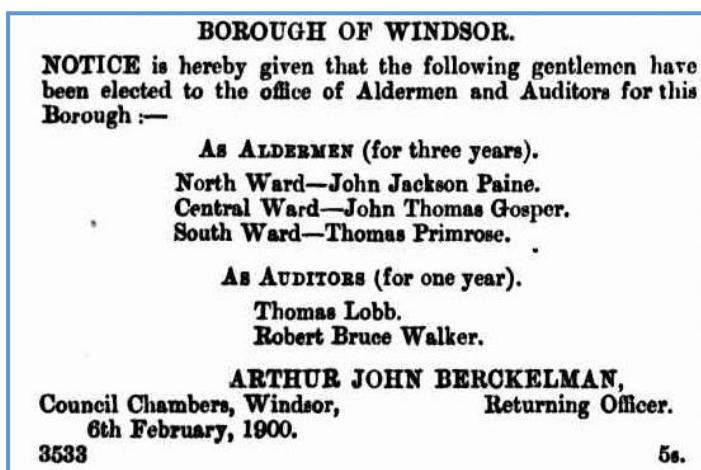
Key Organisations

- Windsor Debating Society (NSW)
- Windsor School of Arts (Sydney)

NSW GOVERNMENT GAZETTES

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/gazette/>

Government gazettes are official publications that inform the community of government decisions and actions of the government. The NSW Government Gazette is the oldest such publication in Australia, published weekly from 1832. Before 1832 government notices were published in The Sydney Gazette newspaper. The type of information you may find includes: Appointments, Land information, convicts, proclamations etc. You can search also the normal Trove newspaper search <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>



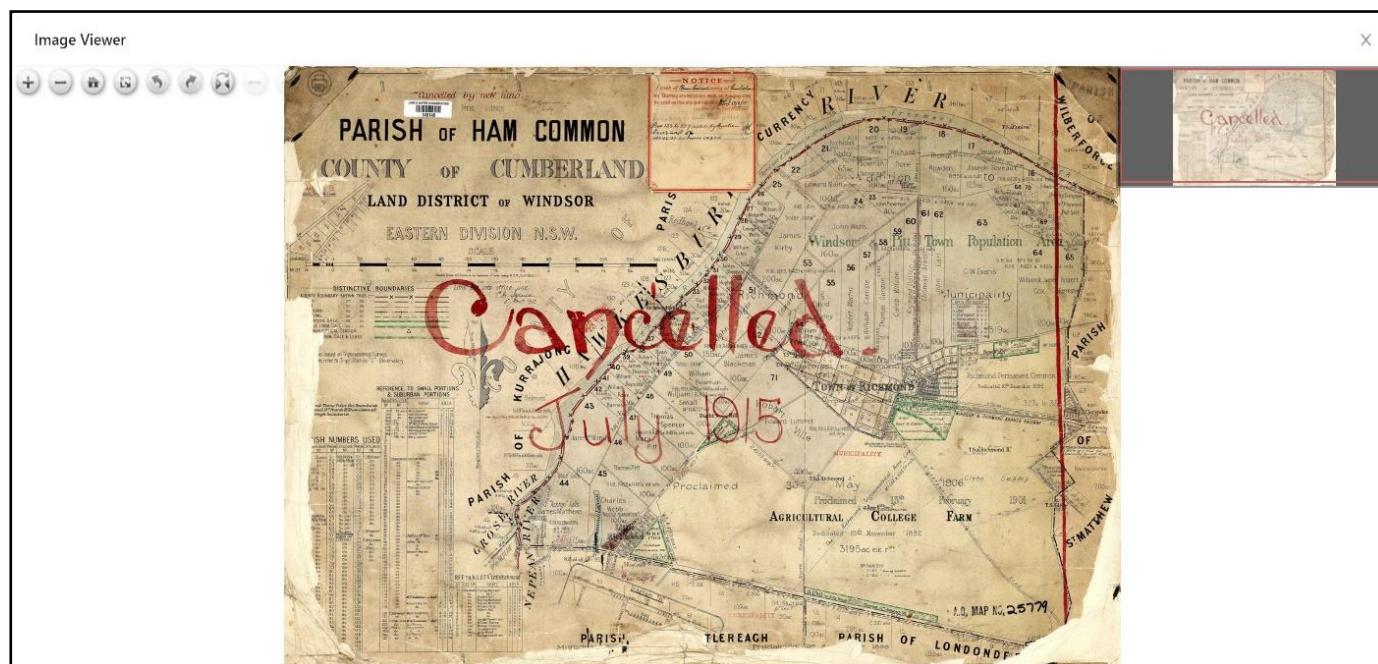
Borough of Windsor

NSW Government Gazette, 20 Feb 1901, p. 1456.
Retrieved from
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221014940>

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, built environment, geographical features, organisations, events and people associated with the Hawkesbury Region, then record them on this very informative site. Information for entries are 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 & Michelle Nichols. The site also includes Church registers, Lists Registers, Memorials and Monuments plus Claim a Convict.



Dick, Robert

Grave Details	
Name:	Robert Dick
Died:	18th October 1898
Age:	77 years
Cemetery:	Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery, Windsor
Location:	row 4 plot 5



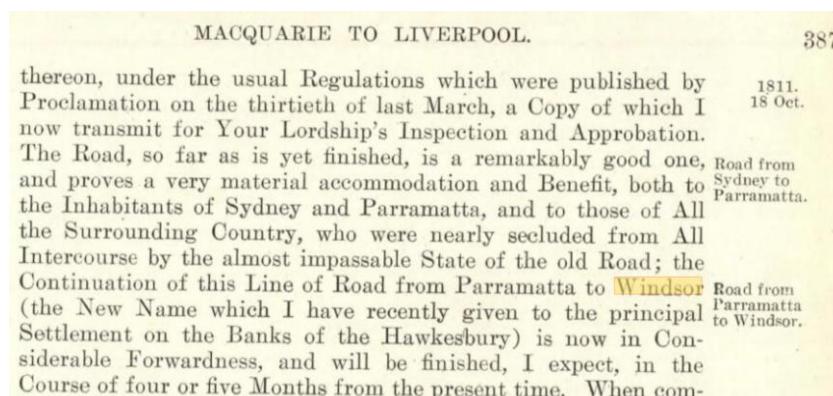
Sample showing headstone of Robert Dick died 1898, Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.

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.CHP.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 and 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

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.

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Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825

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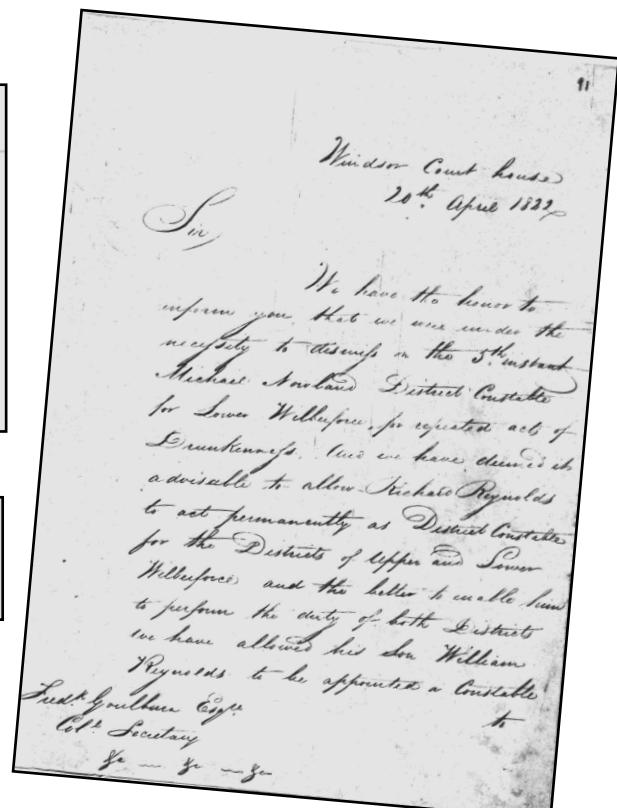
Show: 10 |

Enter your search terms in the box to the right to search within:
First name, Surname, and/or Place.

Search:

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 instant constable at Windsor
David	BROWN	Recommending Isaac Gorrick of Wilberforce for renewal of his publican's license	01/07/1822	of Wilberforce

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