

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm
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.

Patron: Ted Books

Office Bearers 2020/2021:

President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill

Jnr Vice President: Richard Gillard

Secretary: Peta Sharpley

Public Officer: Neville Dehn

Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: Dick Gillard

Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley

Committee members: Rebecca Turnbull, Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan and Peta Sharpley

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Manager and Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

Publications Committee: Jan Barkley-Jack, Ellen Jordan and Jan Readford

MEETINGS

Meeting dates for 2022
to be advertised in the New Year

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A Merry Xmas

WITH this, our thirty-seventh opportunity of wishing all and sundry the compliments of the season, we rise with the ever fresh, ever joyous, and ever ready salutation—A Merry, Merry Christmas. This is a time when we feel we must bury the past, with its joys and sorrows, and look forward with bright hopes to the future—the time of all times when we rise to give vent to that which lies within us, and shout the hearty greetings of the day of days...

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Friday 26 December 1924
(Trove)



Xmas Bells,

I heard the Bells on Christmas day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat,
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along,
The unbroken song.
Till ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day.
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

Hawkesbury Herald, Friday 18 December 1903 (Trove)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2021

Hello to you all,

As I write this message, the air around me is filled with darting colours, with hundreds of rainbow lorikeets foraging among the blossom laden branches of my gum tree. They are happy to speak out, to guide each other to the blossoms and are determined to enjoy every minute of their time together. They are also very adaptable, ever ready to try, not just their old well proven trees, but even the springy-branched young sapling gums in a different part of my garden.

As I watch, I am reminded of these same qualities that I have seen in every one of us over the last two years - a sense of supporting each other, determination and adaptability - as we have sought to overcome the challenges that COVID has thrown at us. I would like to thank all of you for your perseverance and helpfulness.

We have had to step out of our comfort zone and have found new ways of conversing which has led to extra news bulletins, super newsletters and phone calls to keep in touch with our non-zooming members. Some of us have bought new software like a camera for their iPad and others have listened in to meetings, when viewing was impossible. It has been amazing how quickly we got past the sight of 10 people waving at us on the screen, mouthing "turn on your microphone!!!"

Mind you, I think our adaptability skills will still be needed for a while yet as we try to navigate our way back to normal. Yet, it is a fact, that in spite of all, we have remained inclusive and connected, like my friends the lorikeets, which is so wonderful.

Thanks to all the committee, especially Ted Brill who has helped me with the technical difficulties, particularly as the illness I face has made it impossible for me to attend meetings. With Neville helping generously at the beginning of the

year, Peta has now developed into a grand secretary and we are most grateful for her continuing.

In spite of having cancelled some meetings and events, we pulled off two very special major activities thanks to Ted's Ebenezer Tour and Sean Flavin's Star Gazing Night. To those who helped with the organization, and John and Terry Tebbett for opening their historic observatory, I thank you. Dick Gillard has led us into the 21st Century with our wonder website and by staging a crown funding event, the first we have ever conducted, that saw us able to donate \$1,000 towards the repair of a vandalized headstone in the burial ground of St Matthews Anglican Church. I led a tour of the grave yard so we could all see the problem first hand. We all thank Jan Readford for our newsletter which continues bigger and brighter than ever thanks to those who generously contribute each issue. As well, last year's great festive season morning tea and picnic, organised so capably by Heather Gillard, was repeated this year with some surprises from Heather.

I look forward to having you all back together next year and hopefully with a slightly less challenging time for 2022.

Keep safe,
Jan Barkley-Jack

CAN YOU HELP

The Society has received a query which Peta and Jan have been trying to resolve and would like help if anyone knows more.

The query is about William Vernan Becke who lived in *Camira*, a house in Fitzgerald Street, Windsor.

Our search of the usual places like Trove and other online sites, has given us a lot of information and we have located a map showing Mr Becke owning a block midway between George Street and the river on the western side of Fitzgerald Street. Was this *Camira*? We are also trying to reconstruct the family tree.

Please let us know if you can help.

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Hawkesbury Historical Society Christmas Morning Tea Celebrations

Saturday, 27 November 2021

The Society's Christmas Morning Tea celebrations were held in the Tebbutt Room at the library...rained out from our planned location in Macquarie Park.

In 2020, our Christmas celebrations coincided with an extremely hot day...in 2021 – its rain!

Many thanks to Council's Kath von Witt and Ruth Maitlyn for their assistance at short notice with booking the alternate venue.

The day was good to catch up with our members, friends and four special children, who brought a lot of laughs to all.

Many thanks to all those folk who helped on the day...Tilly, Harry, Neville and Arthur for setting up the room and decorating tables, and together with Dick, doing much of the heavy lifting from car boots into the hall. Thanks too to those who helped with the catering...it all made for a successful and enjoyable morning.

There were two wonderful surprises. On hearing a bell coming closer down the hallway, the door opened and in came **Santa Claus** with his bag of gifts for all, with his **elf Harry**, who helped hand out Christmas bags to all.

Afterwards, our guests, Kath von Witt and her children Felix and Beatrice arrived. Ruth Maitlyn joined us too. Elf Harry played with Felix and Beatrice and made them feel very welcome.

Peta took some lovely photos along with Tilly, our granddaughter.

A Great Morning Tea was enjoyed by all and some folk also took home some lovely morning tea leftovers.

Heather Gillard

MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Dickson family

Contributed by Michelle Nichols



On the corner of George and Tebutt Streets Windsor is a small garden with monuments to local who served during the various wars. There is also a monument to some of the local Boer War soldiers. One of the names recorded is George Jennings Dickson who died 9 January 1902 in South Africa, see left.

Who was Dickson and what was his story?

George Jennings Dickson (GJD) was born in Windsor on the 10 May 1874, the son of George and Francesca 'Fanny' Dickson.

GJD joined up on 13 April 1901 and at the time was recorded as a produce merchant of Windsor. Farrier-sergeant Dickson of the 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles, died as a result of enteric fever, an infection similar to typhoid, on 9 January 1902, Standerton in South Africa.¹

In November 1902, a monument was unveiled in Windsor to three soldiers who "had fallen in South Africa" attended by members of the local community, families of the deceased as well as dignitaries and various politicians, including the Premier of NSW, Sir John See. According to the local newspaper, they "were escorted by the local force of Lancers and the band of A Company of the 3rd Regiment to Windsor Park, where the monument, veiled by a Union Jack, stood."

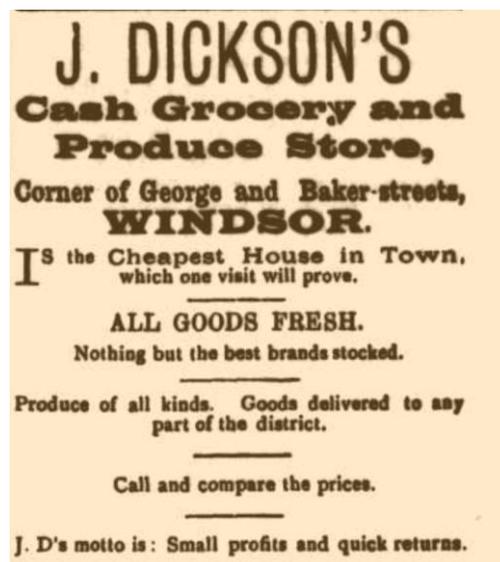
The other two men who lost their lives in South Africa and recorded on the monument were Charles John Gosper who accidentally drowned in the Vaal River 20 November 1901 and Trooper George Archie Montgomery killed at Zeerust on 27 October 1900. Note Mitchell added to the monument at a later stage.

GJD was the youngest son of George Dickson. His father was George Dickson who was born about 1833 in Portadown, County Armagh Ireland, son of John Dickson and Elizabeth Brownlee. George senior married in 1854 to Elizabeth Maguiness and then migrated to Australia in about 1855. The couple had two children Jane born 1856 and John born 1859. Elizabeth must have passed away as George married a second time to Francesca Elecia Valerie Jennings, known as Fanny. They married in 1868 and they had two children, Elizabeth born in 1869 and George Jennings. Fanny was from Loughical Galway and arrived from Ireland on the 'Inchinnan' in 1849. Their children had strong connections to Windsor. Jane married Mr. A. Hannabus of Pitt Town Road, John Dickson married Amelia

Maguire and resided in Windsor while Elizabeth married William James Mortley. GJD died a bachelor.

George was involved in farming pursuits and conducted an "extensive business as a produce dealer combined with a general store" with his wife. He was a shrewd horse buyer and also involved in the dairy industry and had acquired a dairy herd. He partnered with Brinsley Hall, the local MP, and they delivered much of their milk to the local Butter Factory. They dissolved their partnership early in 1897. George was also involved in the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association and the local Masonic Lodge.² George Dickson died 21 April 1897 from injuries he sustained from an accident. He was in his 64th year.

He "was returning from McGraths Hill about noon on Tuesday on his favourite black pony" and was apparently "thrown backwards and fell heavily to the ground...but he never regained consciousness." An inquest was held three days later at the Royal Hotel, now known as the Macquarie Arms in Thompson Square, but delivered an open verdict. He was buried in an unmarked grave in St Matthew's Anglican Cemetery, Windsor. Wife Fanny died in 1898 and is buried in the Windsor Catholic Cemetery.



Windsor & Richmond Gazette 9 Jul 1898 p. 13.

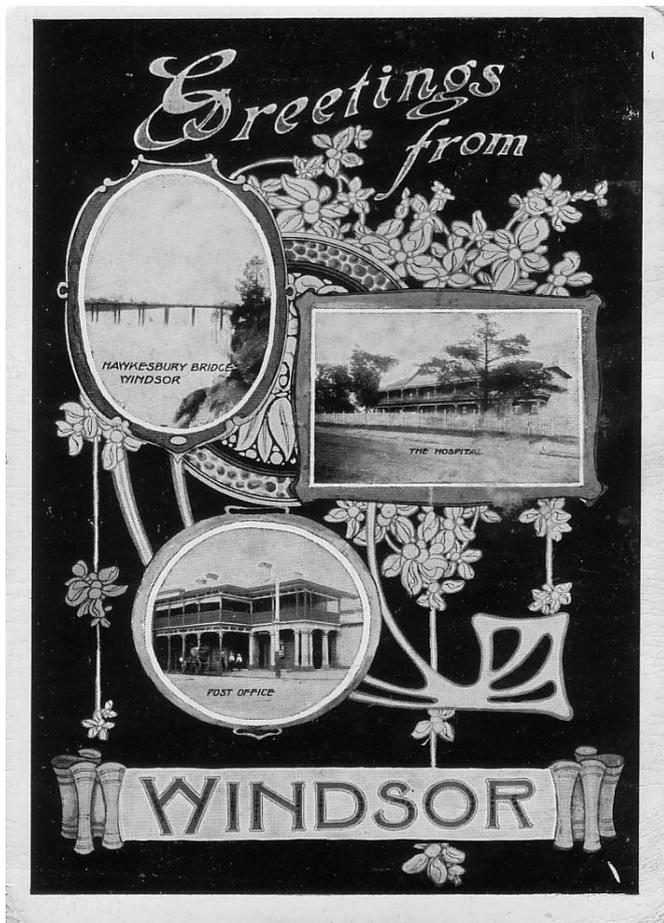
Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page6679590>

There was another Dickson family residing in the Hawkesbury around this time but do not seem to be connected. George Dickson married Mary Jane Maisey with children John Henry, Walter, Percival, William, Arthur and Connie.

GJD was honoured in 1999 when a street in South Windsor was given his name. According to Hawkesbury City Council minutes, a South Windsor street is now called Dickson Street, in memory of Farrier Sergeant George Jennings Dickson, who died in the Boer War. As part of the Roll of Honour name project, George Jennings Dickson's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 13 February 2022 <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1713874>

¹ Australians in the Boer War Oz-Boer Database Project http://members.pcuq.org.au/~croe/ozb/oz_boer_more.cgi?record=5553

² Obituary. (1897, April 24). Windsor & Richmond Gazette p. 7. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72551653>



Courtesy Carol Roberts from the Iris Cammack Collection. Annie F Johnston was a great friend of my grandmother, Charlotte Hornery, in the early 1900s.

Windsor artist – Maud Adelaide Becke

Cathy McHardy - November 2021



MISS MAUD BECK,
Royal Art Society.

Miss Maud Beck (Mrs Edwell Swift) (sic) participated in the Society of Artists Spring Exhibition of 1907. She was described as “a student artist of some merit – in landscape and in seascape more particularly. She has shown pictures in former years, and has done a good

amount of work”. *Sydney Mail*, 28 August 1907, p 558 retrieved 10 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/163662629>

Considered a most desirable accomplishment for well-bred ladies of the Victorian era, in keeping with music and fine needlework, an aptitude for drawing and painting was but one component of well-rounded education for girls.

Maud[e] Adelaide Becke was one of the few women who contemplated their artistic talent to be far more than a mere leisure pastime and who saw themselves as having a place in the Sydney art world. She was a member of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales and participated in various exhibitions for many years.

Maud was the second daughter of Windsor Clerk of Petty Sessions (CPS) and Police Magistrate, William Henry Hughes Becke and his wife Adelaide Mary Ann Marsh. The couple had married in June 1860 at Woodlawn, Clarence River, the home of Adelaide’s father Captain Francis Marsh, late of His Majesty’s 80th Regiment [1].

Their first child Ethel Isabella (born 1862) and her sister Maud Adelaide (1868) were both born in Grafton where their father was CPS from 1857. In 1874, Becke was appointed CPS in Windsor [2] serving in this position until he became Police Magistrate in 1889 and retiring

in 1896. In 1878 their third daughter Beryl was born in Windsor.

The family home known as 'Camira' was located in Fitzgerald Street, Windsor, New South Wales. Unfortunately this house no longer exists but it was located on the portion of land which now includes numbers 7 and 9 Fitzgerald Street. Fitzgerald Motors currently occupies number 9. The property was formerly the Cross Keys Inn and it was conveyed to William Becke under the terms of the will of Windsor solicitor Richard Coley who died in October 1889 [3]. The house was later known as Kamaroh during the ownership of Miss Nellie Cupitt.

By 1900, Miss Becke had developed and nurtured her talents as an artist, setting up a studio at Camira. Described as a large dwelling of some eight rooms and cellar in a later advertisement for sale [4], there was ample space to accommodate a well arranged artist's studio within its walls. Her studio was described in several articles in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. The edition of the 28 March 1903 wrote of her "ideal situation" overlooking the Hawkesbury, estimating her collection to be over 100 works [5].

Miss Becke has an ideal situation for her studio, for it commands an extensive view of the valley of the Hawkesbury, with its expanse of agricultural land and winding river. Among the pictures we saw some very fine work in black and white [charcoal?], and in all her black and white pictures Miss Becke shows that she is an artist of character and talent...

Maude was also sought after for her accomplishments as a singer and musician, playing the violin and presenting vocal items at various local entertainments and fund raising concerts. She was a member of the Windsor Amateur Dramatic Club and appeared in many of their plays, often staged in the Windsor School of Arts [6].

In February 1907, Maud married Sydney Dentist Edley Stanhope Swift, the son of the Rev A S Swift in a ceremony at St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor. The couple had met during Swift's weekly visits to Windsor where he had a private room set up at the Royal Hotel in which to see patients [7].

Whether she was able to continue as an artist in the years following her marriage is not known, but it seems that for a time, Maud did persevere with her with artistic endeavours. As she had done for several years, she participated in the annual exhibition of the Society of Artists which was opened by the Sydney Lord Mayor, Alderman Hughes at the Queen Victoria Markets in August 1907 [8].

There were two children from the marriage, Adelaide born in Sydney in 1908 and Pamela, born Chatswood in 1910. Both women had long careers in the nursing profession.

The marriage of Maud and Edley continued for only fourteen years and the intimate details of their lives together were aired in the public arena of the divorce court. In April 1921, Edley Swift sued his wife Maud for "the restitution of conjugal rights".

The decision of the court was to compel Maud to live under the same roof as her husband and to resume sexual relations with him within 21 days of the service of the notice. If this did not take place then Maud would be judged as having deserted her husband. No such restitution took place and the court issued a decree nisi and then a decree absolute dissolving the marriage in 1922 [9].

Maude moved away from Sydney and the Hawkesbury to northern NSW. Her daughters attended Hilton House, a private boarding school for girls in Armidale. In her later years, Maude was cared for by her daughter Adelaide in the small seaside town of South West Rocks in northern New South Wales. Perhaps encouraged and tutored by her mother, Adelaide was also an artist specialising in watercolours.

In July 1953 she exhibited a collection of largely locally painted scenes at the pharmacy of Mr H Mortimer. The *Macleay Argus* wrote that Adelaide "has a natural flair for drawing, and her excellent craftsmanship and appreciation of perspective and light and shade" [10].

Maud Adelaide Swift nee Becke died in Kempsey in 1963 aged 95 years.

Do any of Maud's artworks survive or that of her daughter Adelaide Swift? The author would like to hear from anyone with information on the Becke family or knowledge of what happened to the collection of artworks.

Email: cathy@nisch.org

References:

- 1 *The Empire*, 21 July 1860, Family Notices. Retrieved on 2 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60413591>
- 2 *Government Gazette of NSW*, 25 April 1873 p. 4. Retrieved 5 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60987109>
- 3 Old Systems Title: Book 1171 No 773. Retrieved 2 November 2021 from <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>
- 4 *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 2 March 1928, p. 11. Advertising. Retrieved on 4 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85931321>
- 5 *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 28 March 1903. Retrieved on 11 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86216915>
- 6 *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 15 October 1892, p. 2. "Barbara". Retrieved on 4 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72545231>
- 7 *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 9 March 1907, p. 5. Social. Retrieved 11 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85671415>
- 8 *Sydney Morning Herald* 19 Aug 1907 p 6. Retrieved on 2 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1490076419>
- 9 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 April 1921, p. 7. In Divorce. Retrieved on 4 November 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15932107>
- 10 *Macleay Argus*, 20 July 1953, p. 2. South West Rocks in Watercolours. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/23453333>

THE WOMEN OF THE HAWKESBURY

Mary Randall (nee Tute)

By Richard Gillard

The story of Mary Randall (nee Tute) is a story in two parts. The first part of her story begins in London on the 8th of May 1757 when she was christened at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, London¹. Mary's parents were Andrew and Mary Tute. It is apparent that the spelling of Mary's surname evolved into Tute over time. This part of the story ends in great tragedy for Mary as she is charged with receiving stolen goods and sentenced to fourteen years transportation to Australia, abandoning her six children.

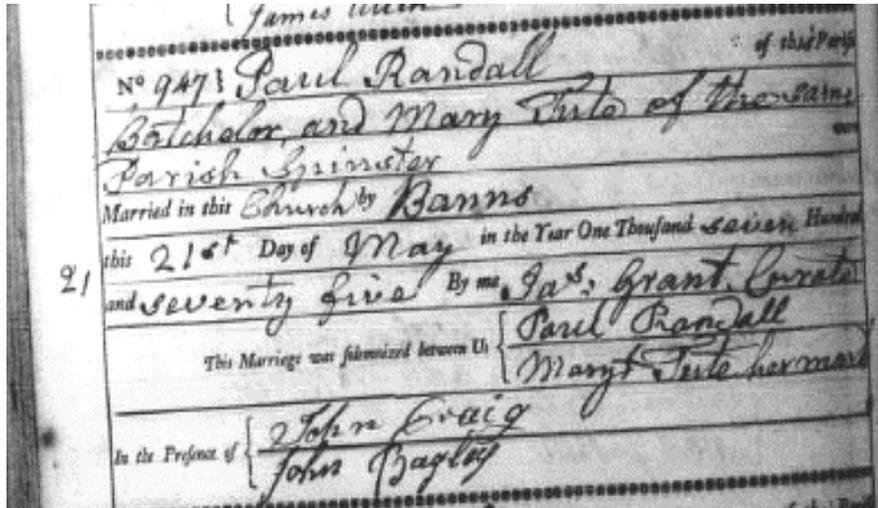


Figure 1. Marriage certificate, Paul Randall, and Mary Tute, Ancestry.com.au, Westminster, London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558 - 1812, accessed 2 September 2021.

The second part of her story begins when she arrives in Sydney Cove on the 16th of January 1793, aboard the convict ship *Bellona*, to serve out her 14-year sentence. Mary was able to reunite with her husband Paul Randall, who had arrived aboard the Admiral Barrington some fifteen months before Mary arrived.

There is no information available as to Mary's early life until at the age of eighteen when she married Paul Randall at St. Mary's Church, Whitechapel, Tower Hamlets, London on the 21st of May 1775.

Whilst it is uncertain where Mary and Paul lived in the early days after their

marriage, Mary's trial at the Old Bailey for receiving goods, gave her address as No. 3 Limehouse Causeway, Blackwall, London.² There is very little information available today about the houses in the seventeenth-century Blackwall. The British History Online web site in respect of Old Blackwall has found evidence of multi-level houses in Limehouse Causeway in the late 17th century.³ This verifies the evidence given at Mary's trial that Mary lived in a multi-story house at No. 3 Limehouse Causeway, Blackwall.⁴ In later years Limehouse Causeway was to become China Town in London.

Mary and Paul had 6 children during their time in England, Paul 1778, Mary 1779, Elizabeth Ann 1782, William 1784, Anne Isabelle 1787, and John 1789. The raising of the children and caring for the household would have taken up much of Mary's time.

Disaster was to strike the family when Paul was arrested for stealing on the 9th or 10th of April 1790, from the sloop Hopewell, a sloop's foresail, the property of John Hawkins. Paul was also charged with knowingly buying and receiving twenty pounds weight of rope the property of James Moore and partners.⁵ Paul's occupation on the trial records was shown as a Dealer of Rope.

Paul was found guilty on both charges and sentenced to transportation for 7 years. Whilst waiting for transportation, Paul was held in the Southwark House of Correction until he was placed aboard *The*

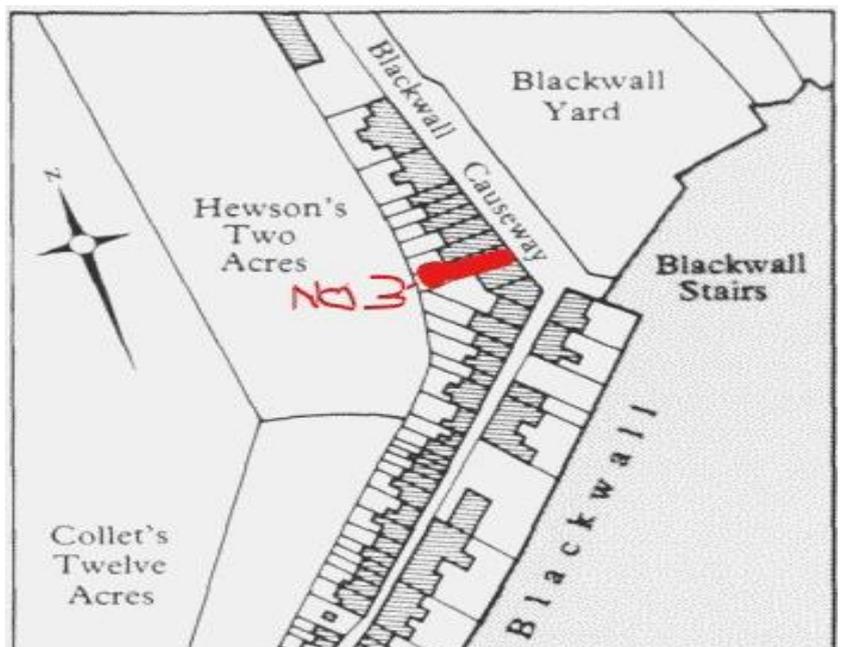


Figure 2. Old Blackwall, British History Online, accessed 1 September 2021.

Admiral Barrington for transportation to Australia. *The Admiral Barrington* left Portsmouth on the 27th of March 1791 arriving in Sydney Cove on the 16th of October 1791. There were 400 convicts on board *The Lord Barrington* with 36 convicts dying on the voyage.

The arrest of Paul left Mary destitute, with a family of six children to raise, with not enough regular income to sustain the family. The witness, Elizabeth Payne, in Mary's subsequent trial, stated that Mary kept an oil shop.⁶ The majority of houses in that era would have been lit by candle or by oil lanterns and of course must buy oil to keep the lanterns alight.



This certainly would have given Mary some income and she was also renting a room to Elizabeth Payne and could well have had other paying lodgers.

Two years passed since the incarceration of Paul, and it would be a further six months before he was to be transported to Australia.

Figure 3. Night in the early 18th century, as painted by William Hogarth. Photograph: Bridgeman Art Library, accessed 2 September 2021.

It is not known whether Mary was able to visit with Paul during this time in the Southwark House of Correction. Desperation would be becoming part of Mary's everyday life as the fight for survival continued.

On the 8th of November 1792, Mary's brother-in-law, William Randall, and James Leman Baker, broke into the Folly House, Blackwall and stole a large quantity of goods from Thomas Gibbons, Elizabeth Gibbons and Jane Mole. Mary was given some of the clothes to sell and she was also asked to hide the pistol used in the robbery.

Unfortunately, it did not take the police long to arrest William Randall and James Leman Baker for breaking and entering and to arrest William's wife Mary, and Mary, Paul's wife for receiving stolen goods.

William Randall, James Leman Baker, Mary wife of Paul Randall and Mary Randall, spinster, were tried at the Old Bailey on the 23rd of May 1792.⁷ The value of goods stolen by William Randall and James Leman Baker must have exceeded the value of 40 shillings which meant they received an automatic

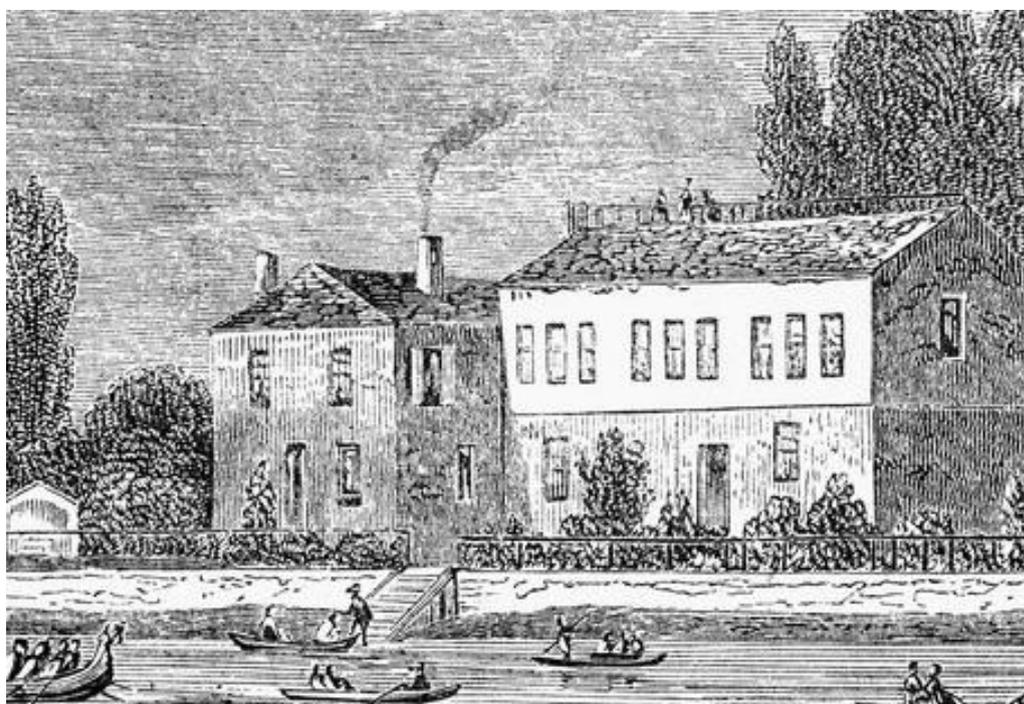


Figure 4. Folly House, Blackwall. Illustration from *Old England, A Pictorial Museum* edited by Charles Knight (James Sangster & Co, c 1845), accessed 7th of September 2021.

sentence.⁸ Mary wife of Paul Randall was found guilty of receiving stolen goods and was sentenced to 14 years transportation. Mary received fourteen years because of the value of goods stolen. The other Mary Randall was found not guilty and freed. Warren and James were hanged on the 18th of July 1792.⁹

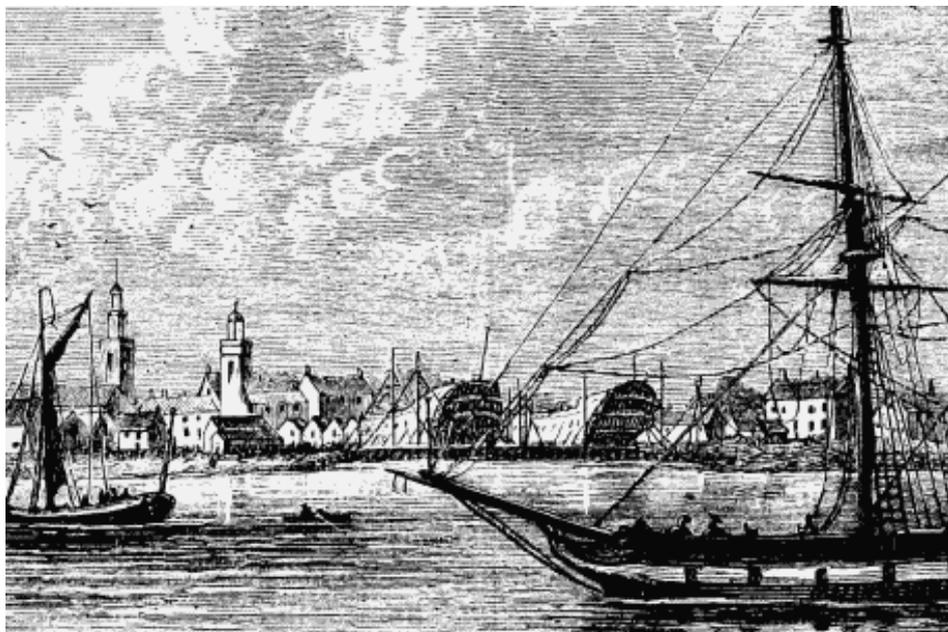


Figure 5. The Royal Dock, Deptford, end of the seventeenth Century, British History Online, Odland New London>Odland New LondonVolume6>Deptford, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/old-new-london/vol6/pp143-164>, accessed 8 September 2021.

Mary, wife of Paul Randall would have been immediately transferred back to Newgate prison to await transportation. It is not known if her children were able to visit her in Newgate prison. Mary is fortunate that she only remained in Newgate prison for just over a month before being transferred on the 28th of July 1792 to the vessel *Bellona* moored at Deptford, on the river Thames for the journey to Australia.¹⁰

Little is known as to what happened to Mary and Paul's children after they were both sentenced to transportation to Australia. The children were aged between 3 years of age to fourteen years of age at the time

of Mary and Paul's arrest. It is most likely they were cared for by their grandparents. Mary would have been devastated by the loss of her children, a loss she would have carried with her for the rest of her life.

Baptismal records have been found for each of the children on Findmypast, however, as Randall was a common surname in that era, it has been difficult to trace any further details on their lives after their baptisms. It is interesting in reading the transcripts of the children's baptismal records that Paul's vocation varied from Mariner to Ironmonger to Broker, the vocation of Broker probably ties in with him trading in rope for which he was tried for receiving stolen rope.

The second part of Mary's life began when she was transferred from Newgate prison to the vessel *Bellona*. There were a further 16 female convicts placed aboard the *Bellona*, along with five families of free settlers. The free settlers were the first free settlers to travel to Australia.

The *Bellona* set sail from Gravesend on the 6th of August 1792. The *Bellona* was not an overly large vessel weighing 472 tons, having three decks, measuring 113ft 5 1/2 inches in length and 30ft 10 1/2 inches in breadth. Its primary purposes for this voyage were to bring stores to the colony. Mary was probably most fortunate that the vessel only carried 17 female convicts.

The voyage took 163 days, arriving in Sydney Cove on the 16th of January 1793. The main problem

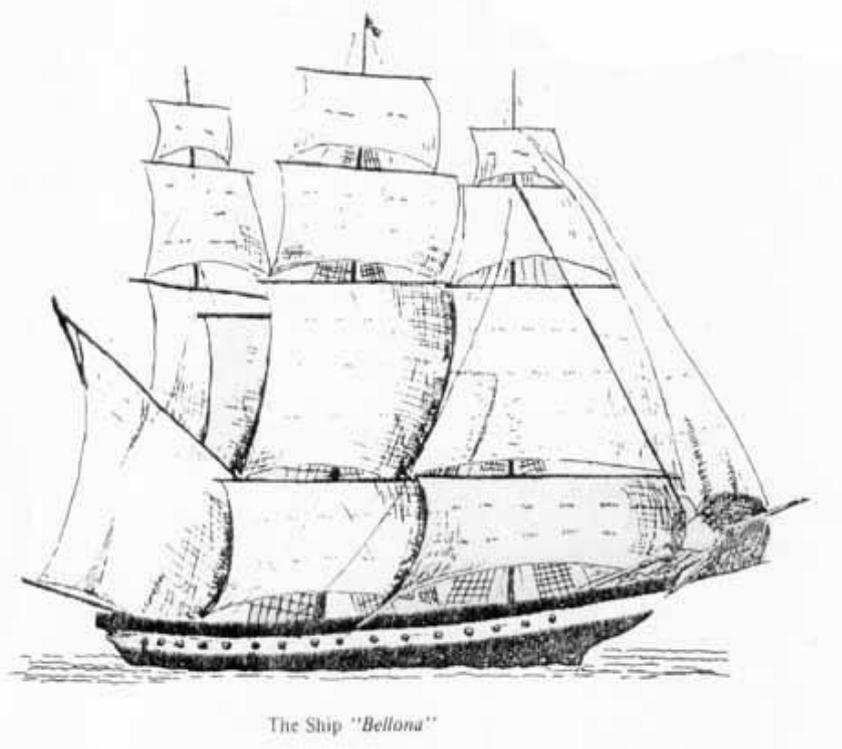


Figure 6. Sketch of the supply ship *Bellona*, artist unknown, The Dorset Magazine - Dorset Life, February 2017 issue, www.dorsetlife.co.uk/2017/02/bellona-australia-and-the-roses-of-sturminster-newton, accessed 9th of September 2021.

with the voyage of the *Bellona* was that the vessel was overloaded and as a result it settled low in the water. As the vessel experienced stormy weather on the voyage much of the cargo was damaged:

On the landing of the Bellona's cargo, much of it was found to be damaged; the ship had been overloaded and had met with very boisterous weather on her passage. This practice of crowding too much into one ship, had in many instances been very prejudicial to the colony; in the present instance.¹¹

It is not known whether Paul was aware that Mary was arriving on the *Bellona* as he had been transported to Australia prior to Mary's arrest and trial. There must have been some communication which allowed Mary and Paul to reunite together again.

The first record of their living together is the birth of their daughter Jane, who was born on the 9th of February 1794.¹² Jane was baptized on the 3rd of August 1794 in Sydney (no church was specified in the record).¹³ No further information can be found on Jane, and one could assume she passed away not long after her baptism.

Paul officially received his first land grant of 30 acres at Mulgrave Place on the 31st of December 1796, although it is believed he was on the list in 1794 to receive this grant. It is possible that Paul and Mary were already living on the site when formal notification was received.¹⁴

On the 12th of July 1797, at the age of 42 years, Mary gave birth to a daughter, Margaret Randall. Margaret was baptized on the 18th of August 1799. Margaret became a great joy to Mary and Paul.



Figure 7. Map of Richmond showing Paul Randall's Land Grant. New South Wales Land Registry Service, Map of Ham Common, County of Cumberland, accessed 18th of September 2021.

Paul, with the help of Mary, became a very proficient farmer. The 1806 Convict Muster shows that by the date of the muster he had cultivated the full 30 acres that he had been allocated and the muster recorded that he had the following crops planted:¹⁵

Wheat	10 acres
Maize	6 acres
Barley	1 1/2 acres
Potatoes	1/4 acre
Pasture	12 1/4 acres

The Randall farm was on the banks of the Hawkesbury River and

would have suffered serious flooding in 1799, 1806, 1809, 1817 and 1819. After each flood Paul and Mary would have had to replant their crops and most likely rely on the Windsor store house for food.

On the 16th of January 1816, Paul was named on a list of persons to receive grants of land in 1816.¹⁶ It was not until the 8th of October 1816 that the grant of 40 acres in the parish of Cumberland was finally granted, the land was identified as grant 1421, Register No. 4 Folio 172.¹⁷

The early years of the colony were plagued with drunkenness, convicts were constantly found drunk. Official orders of the colony against the trade in alcohol were constantly ignored. Colonists were repeatedly arrested for smuggling or distilling spirits, as the alcohol needs of the colony could not be met by incoming supply vessels. It is not surprising then that Paul ran into problems with the law in May 1806. Paul had a ready supply of wheat, barley, and potatoes from his farm to be able to distill alcohol.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, June 1806, reported that Paul Randall and his servant, Michael Branam, were called before a Bench of the Magistrates at Parramatta, on the 31st of May 1806, on the suspicion of being involved in the distillation of spirituous liquors.¹⁸

A constable, John Green, had found Paul's servant, Michael Branan, with part of a still. A search of Paul's premises found several requisites for the distilling of spirituous liquors. The Bench demanded that a full investigation take place. Paul was released upon the provision he would appear at court when required. No further information is available as to what happened with the investigation or what involvement Mary may have had in the production of illegal alcohol.

The above incident, however, did not prohibit Paul from obtaining a liquor license on the 20th of February 1819. Whilst the original license has not been cited, A copy of the original certificate must have been cited by a Mr. E. Wilmott, who quotes the content of the certificate in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW 1888 - 1961), Friday 7th of February 1919, page 1.¹⁹

The Certificate stated:

20th of February 1819

At a general meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county for licensing persons to keep common Inns and Ale Houses on the twentieth day of February in the 59th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

We His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county whose hands and seals are hereunto set assembled at the said meeting do allow and license Paul Randall at the sign of the Black Horse Prince in Richmond within the said colony to keep a common Ale House or Victualling House and to issue and sell Beer, Ale, Cyder, and spirituous liquors in the house wherein he dwelleth and not elsewhere, for one whole year from the twentieth day of this present month of February and no longer; so as the true assize in bread, beer, ale, and other liquors be duly kept; and no unlawful game or games, drunkenness or any other disorder be suffered in his house, yard, garden, or backside, but the good order and rule be maintained and kept therein according to the laws of Great Britain and the general orders of this colony in that behalf.

Given under our hands and seals the day and year. above written. (Signed) Jno. Wylde. (Another name not legible), Edwin Walker J.P.

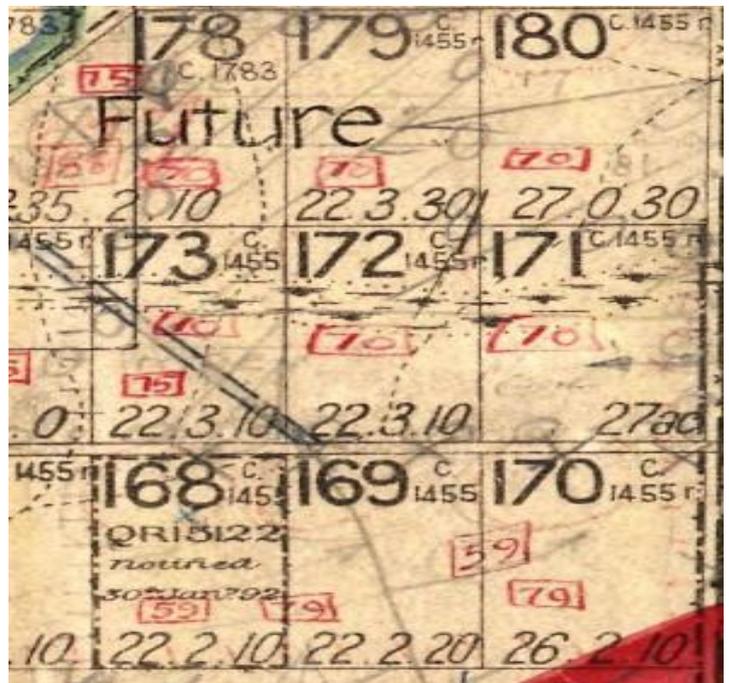


Figure 8. Map of Paul Randall's Land Grant, 8th of October 1816, Lot 172, Airds, accessed 17th of September 2021.

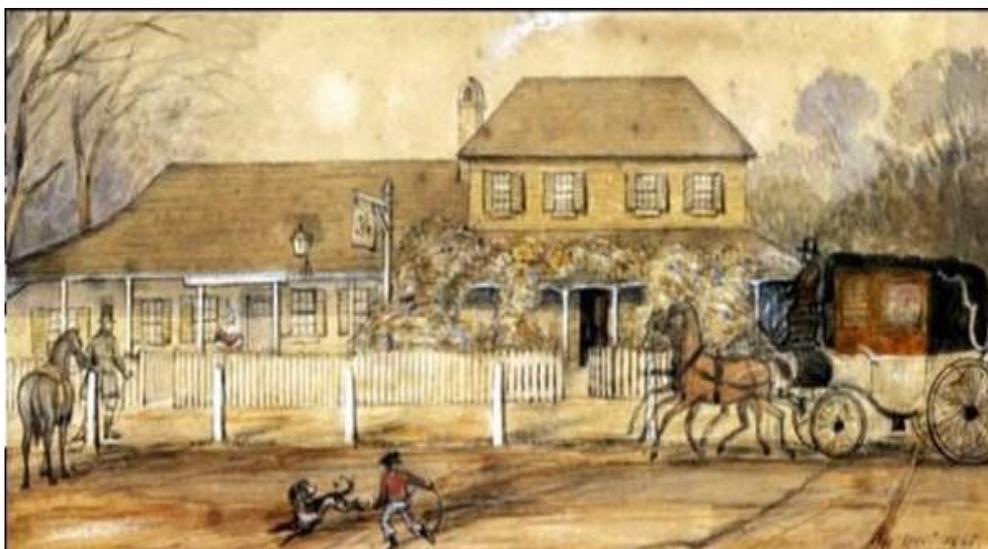


Figure 9. Painting of the Black Horse Inn, artist unknown, 1860s, image courtesy of Mick Roberts, The Sydney Inn of Long Ago: When Quaint Signs Creaked Over the Doorways, timegents.com, accessed 23rd of September 2021.

Mary would have played a prominent role in the management of the Black Horse Inn as Paul had commitments to run two farms. Mary decorated the interior of the inn and in its early days of operation it became known as the 'Honeymoon Inn', a special suite was set aside for the newlyweds. The newlyweds would arrive in carriages much like the one depicted in the above painting.

An old inhabitant of Richmond, Mrs. Ashton, describes Paul Randall *as a short stout man and the hostess, his wife, was short and thick set. You couldn't see what he was drawin' for you in them times, because the glasses were always filled behind a screen, after which they were handed to the guests through a little square opening.*²⁰

It is reported that the young men of Richmond and the surrounds held horse races down the main street of Richmond with the signpost of the Black Horse Inn as the finishing post. Wins were celebrated and the pain of defeat lessened within the sanctuary of the Inn.²¹ Paul was to hold the license for the Black Horse Inn until his death on the 28th of November 1834.

Mary and Paul's daughter, Margaret was married to Henry Francis Seymour on the 3rd of July 1820. Henry arrived aboard the *Fame* on the 8th of March 1817, having been sentenced to transportation for life. Henry spent his first two years in the colony as assistant surgeon at Bathurst and then sought approval to set up a medical practice in Richmond late 1819. Mary and Paul would have been extremely pleased that their daughter had married a doctor.

In March 1821, Paul wrote to Governor Macquarie requesting the deeds to his 1816 land grant at Airs. Paul at that time was 71 years of age and Mary was 64 years of age. Paul and Mary were concerned that they needed to put in place their wills, leaving everything to their daughter Margaret.²²

Over the next decade, Mary and Paul continued their hectic lifestyle ably supported by Margaret. It was some eleven years later that Mary passed away, with Paul following about 29 months later. They are both buried in the St. Peter's cemetery, Richmond.

One cannot comprehend the loss Mary felt when she was arrested, imprisoned, and transported to Australia, leaving her first six children behind in England. This grief would have remained with her to her grave. Mary's life in Australia, whilst difficult in the early harsh years of the colony, was one which she would never have enjoyed if she had remained in England.

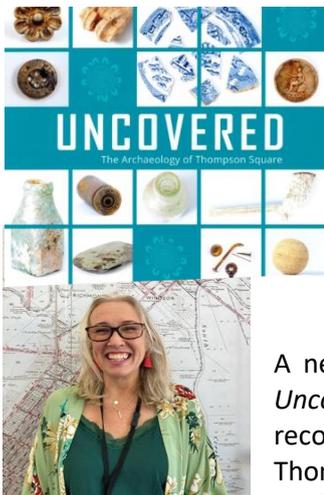
Endnotes:

- 1 Ancestry.com.au, Mary Anne Tutt, In the Westminster, London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558 - 1812, accessed 2nd of September 2021.
- 2 Old Bailey On-line, Reference Number t17920523-78, trial of William Randle, James Lemman Baker, Mary Randall, Mary Randall, accessed 2nd of September 2021.
- 3 Old Blackwell, British History Online, (british-history.ac.uk), accessed 31st of August 2021.
- 4 Old Bailey On-line, Reference Number t17920523-78, trial of William Randle, James Lemman Baker, Mary Randall, Mary Randall, accessed 2nd of September 2021.
- 5 Findmypast, Paul Randall in 1790, Reigate, Surrey Assizes, Archive reference numbers, QS2/6/1790/EAS/31, and QS2/6/1790/EAS/38, accessed 1st of September 2021.
- 6 Old Bailey On-line, Reference Number t17920523-78, trial of William Randle, James Lemman Baker, Mary Randall, Mary Randall, accessed 2nd of September 2021.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Trial Verdicts, Old Bailey Online, <https://oldbaileyonline.org/static/Verdicts.jsp#partail40shillings>, accessed 8th of September 2021.
- 9 William Randall, Digital Panopticon, <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/life?id=obpt17920523-78-defend705>, James Lemman Baker, Digital Panopticon, <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/life?id=obpt17920523-78-defend707>, accessed 8th of September 2021.
- 10 London Lives 1690 to 1800, Middlesex Sessions: General Orders of the Court, SM/GO, 28th of October 1789 - 5th of December 1795, LL ref: LMSMG0556100267, Image 267, 1 November 1792, accessed 9th of September 2021.



Figure 10. The original sign at the Black Horse Inn, the sign was a wooden board with a galloping horse on one side, on the other side a horse standing still. The sign was hung by a stout iron bar on top, image courtesy of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum accessed 25th September 2021.

- 11 Paterson, G., *The History of New South Wales: from its first discovery to the present time*, page 146, accessed 15th of September 2021.
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- 13 Ancestry.com.au, Australian, Births and Baptisms, 1792 - 1981, FHL Film Number 993949, accessed 16th September 2021.
- 14 Ancestry.com.au, New South Wales, Australia, Land Grants, 1788 - 1960, for Paul Randall, Colonial Secretary's Register of Land Grants, 1792 - 1809, page 133, accessed 12th of September 2021.
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- 18 Trove.nla.gov.au, Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 -1842), Sunday 1 June 1806, page 4, accessed 22nd of September 2021.
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- 20 Trove.nla.gov.au, Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW 1888 - 1916), Saturday 5th of December 1908, page 1, accessed 23rd September 2021.
- 21 Trove.nla.gov.au, Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW 1888 - 1916), Friday 23rd of March 1934, page 9, accessed 23rd of September 2021.
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THE THOMPSON SQUARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS

Our guest speaker, Elissa Blair, the current Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Gallery curator, provided a most interesting presentation on the exhibition at Hawkesbury Regional Museum of the Thompson Square Archaeological Artefacts at our Annual General Meeting held on 26 October 2021. For those of you who could not attend, Elissa has provided the talk including images from the collection and exhibition here for you to see.

A new exhibition opened in March this year at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum called *Uncovered the Archaeology of Thompson Square* which explores the history of objects recovered during archaeological excavations of the Dyarubbin/Hawkesbury River and Thompson Square between 2016 – 2020, as part of the Transport for NSW Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. The remarkable objects on display range from Aboriginal stone pieces, like tools for hunting and fishing, to maritime objects, such as a sailor's pipe; as well as every day, discarded items of colonial life, such as china and glass bottles. The finds reveal more than 27,000 years of human history and provide evidence of the daily lives of early European settlers, as well as the Darug, who lived in the area for millennia and were the people to first encounter the new settlers along the banks of the Hawkesbury River.

Over 30,000 artefacts were uncovered whilst archaeologists carried out salvage works at Thompsons Square and the Dyarubbin river, in close consultation with stakeholders, to minimise the impact to Aboriginal and colonial artefacts. It was unique and historic to have three distinct archaeological disciplines working together - maritime, aboriginal and historic. In the precinct was the original Windsor Bridge, constructed by noted engineers, Andrew Turnbull and William Dixon and opened in August 1874. The bridge was important in the transportation of local produce to the Windsor railway for shipment to Sydney markets and its reliability was critical. Unfortunately, the bridge's low height became an issue restricting river traffic and catching flood debris. So to rectify this, the bridge was raised in 1897 by or 2.5 metres, by placing iron cylinders on top of the original piers. And again in 1922, the timber superstructure was replaced with reinforced concrete to accommodate the change in vehicle traffic from horse-drawn carts to modern cars. At the time the bridge was decommissioned and demolished in 2020, it

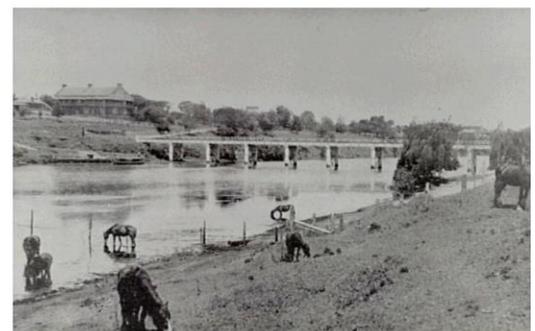


Image 1:
Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square, Windsor, c.
Courtesy of Windsor Library Service.

was still being used by up to 19,000 vehicles per day. Today you can still see a section of the original Windsor Bridge that has been retained as a viewing platform.

The other site for the archaeological diggings was Thompsons Square, named after emancipated convict Andrew Thompson, Chief Magistrate of the Green Hills precinct, whose career was cut short by premature death due to poor health from exposure to cold in successive floods during 1809. Based on British town layouts, the public square at Windsor became the civic and military hub of the settlement. Today it is recognised as a rare surviving example of a planned colonial town square, one of the oldest in Australia. The Thompson Square Conservation Area, including the buildings, streets, and open spaces of Thompson Square, is included on the NSW State Heritage Register. There was a huge amount of community support for the artefacts found in Thompsons square to be kept locally, with the museum becoming the keeping place and future site for ongoing research on the archaeology.

The three archeological disciplines investigated Aboriginal, Maritime and Historical objects in varying ways. The **Aboriginal Archaeology Salvage Program** commenced in two areas within the lower Thompson Square however, following the removal of modern layers and 19th Century historical deposits, it became clear that large parts of the area had been modified, resulting in the loss of Aboriginal cultural material. These unexpected disturbances were, in part, due to the **installation of an early colonial drainage system** that was too deep to have been found during test excavations, making it hard to determine pre-colonial soil layers from reworked deposits. As a result, the archaeological excavation proceeded only in areas where undisturbed pre-colonial soil profiles were identified. The pre-colonial soil profile recovered some 3,267 stone objects, dating from approximately 30,000 years ago to the early colonial period. The archaeological findings support three phases of visitation to the area, aligning with major climatic changes and a range of other paleo-environmental data also provides information on both the climatic changes and Aboriginal activities within the study area indicating that the river corridor likely formed an ecological refuge which Aboriginal people visited, lived and/or exploited during these periods of climatic disruption.



Image 2:
Excavation of Thompson Square 2017 – 2020

The 14, 000 plus recovered objects were dominated by raw materials and characterised by flaking technology related to weaponry and food making reinforcing the notion that the area was well used for hunting, living, and a river transport intersection.



Image 3:
Bondi Points, formed part of a toolkit and were individually hafted to the shaft of a spear allowing them to be replaced easily if damaged. (composed of silcrete c. 5, 000 years ago)



Image 4:
Stone aboriginal axe head

Significance assessment has shown that the deposits are of high (State) scientific significance, representing one of only a handful of examples of a Pleistocene ecological refuge used by Aboriginal people in the past. The classification is, in part, the result of the post-excavation work undertaken which developed one of the strongest chronological frameworks for an archaeological site in the Sydney Basin.

During the **Historical Salvage Excavation Program**, an area of 1,300 square metres of Thompson Square was investigated confirming a high level of past disturbance to the stratigraphy of the site. Large-scale modifications were a feature of the site, commencing as early as 1814 with works carried out at the request of Governor Macquarie during the re-structuring of the 'Green Hills' settlement into the township of Windsor. Key to these works was the construction of an extensive brick drainage system that provided drainage for the settlement centred on Thompson Square, the remains of which were found beneath lower Thompson Square. The system comprised of a central drain (the barrel drain) running down to the river, fed by box drains constructed at a higher level. The drain

system channelled surface water from George Street, to protect Thompson Square from erosion, with additional waste water designed to be conveyed through the drain from six separate locations – 3 in the government precinct and 3 in the developing private frontages.



Image 5:
Barrel Drain – c. 1814 – 1816 example on display in museum, the bricks came out of excavation

The Barrel Drain is a fascinating find with many myths associated with it such as people climbing in it but it had been closed off and packed with fill. The section of the barrel drain that was disturbed during the project was preserved and left in situ for future generations. In the museum exhibition a reconstructed section of the brick box drain is on display. The cost of the original work was 350 pounds and 350 gallons of Bengal rum.

One of the more salient aspects of the artefact collection is its personal nature, ranging from coins, buttons, buckles, harmonicas, pen knives, toys and fishing tackle – including copper pins bent into hook shapes. These finds tell us much of the Windsor community’s interaction with the River, via the wharf site, for over 200 years.

The curious belt buckle below is interesting because it appears to depict a sailing ship but on closer inspection you can see that it features a moulded centrepiece of cricket bats leaning on cricket stumps. It was a fastener on a cricketering belt – a Victorian fashion worn by men which featured a buckle with a cricketering theme attached to an embroidered belt as an accessory for both players and enthusiasts.



Image 6:
Metal buckle



Image 7:
Ceramic tobacco Pipe 1832 – 1864



Image 8:
Metal decorative handle

Many tobacco pipes were all discovered unsurprisingly as this is one of the most frequently found objects when excavating Australian historic sites, in 1832 the Sydney Gazette reported 9/10 labouring men smoked a pipe and in 1836 over 1 million pipes were imported to Sydney !



Image 9:
Shoe



Image 10:
Metal coin 1859



Image 11:
Ovis Aries Bone (sheep);

Children’s items such as marbles and even a Childs shoe were recovered – although the shoe just looked like a scrunched up piece of leather before it was conserved and then the tiny shoe was revealed.

The objects recovered from the **maritime excavation showed evidence of** a wide date range and included everything from Aboriginal stone objects to decimal coins and even a watch from the last quarter of the 20th century. It is believed that this was the first underwater excavation in Australia where Aboriginal artefacts were found. The variety of artefacts found represented the commercial aspects of the former wharf site, as well as vessel repair and maintenance; with the Hawkesbury River being the main route to Sydney for early settlers, ship building began early in colonial times along its banks. During archaeological inspections in 2018, evidence of timbers from an old wharf or wharves was observed. Timber samples were taken to determine the type and origin of timber species used in its construction. The evidence suggests that the remains were from 1862 rather than the earlier Greenway wharf, an unsurprising outcome given the ravages of floods in the intervening years.



Image 12:
Ceramic candlestick holder



Image 13:
Ceramic Plate

Artefacts recovered from the excavations included trade tools associated with ship building and maintenance and domestic relics such as fishing hooks, pen knives, harmonicas, toys and spent ammunition.



Image 14:
Toy Gun



Image 15:
Ceramic marble 1794 – 1900



Image 16:
Glass Marble

In 2019, the remains of an early boat, possibly a cutter, were discovered in the river opposite Thompson Square. Investigations revealed that it may have been built at one of the shipyards along this stretch of the river, as the vessel's construction demonstrates early colonial ship building techniques. While its date is uncertain, it was probably made no later than the mid-19th century. While the partial remains of two other boats were also discovered in the river, this one was significant because it had over 40% remaining including most of the keel with an attached keelson and mast step and approximately 36 planks and 22 frames because the boat had turned over when it sank. This 6m long boat is being conserved with its future still to be determined.



Image 17:
Timber samples were taken from the keel and were confirmed to be the timber *Eucalyptus saligna* commonly known as Sydney Blue Gum.

IMAGES: All archaeological finds are from the Hawkesbury Regional Museum Collection and are on display in the new museum exhibition UNCOVERED

POST WORLD WAR II



Following the war, Richmond became home to most of the RAAF's transport aircraft. No. 86 (Transport) Wing, made up of Nos. 36 and 38 Squadrons flying C-47 Dakotas, arrived in June 1949. No. 11 Squadron, which had disbanded in 1946, returned to Richmond in 1954 operating P-2 Neptune maritime reconnaissance aircraft, and remained until transferring to, South Australia in 1968.

Headquarters RAAF Base Richmond was formed in April 1952 to replace the former Station Headquarters. The base was evacuated in February 1956 due to the threat of rising floodwaters nearby, the only time in its history that flooding in the Hawkesbury region became serious enough to warrant such action. In 1958–59, No. 36 Squadron began operating its first C-130 Hercules heavy transports

1947 – WRECKAGE SCATTERED

RAAF pilot Warrant-Officer Harold Roy Stevens was killed when his plane, a Beaufighter, on a single-engine trial when the crash occurred. The plane took off from Richmond when within five minutes and when at a height of 4,000 feet the engine failed. The plane nose-dived and crashed three miles from Richmond and burst into flames.

Stevens was found at the controls with a charred parachute strapped to his back.

Leading Aircraftman W. S. Adams, of Richmond Aerodrome, saw the plane crash while he was waiting on Clarendon Station.

"It nose-dived straight down, spiraling steadily. Then it spun rapidly and rolled three or four times. The plane hit the ground about a mile from the railway station. A few seconds later there were three explosions at intervals of 20 seconds."

Sydney Morning Herald, 30 July 1947

1950- WE WILL BE LATE FOR LUNCH

Three crew members from a RAAF Dakota from Richmond RAAF Base escaped without a scratch when their aircraft crashed and caught fire in a paddock near Doonside, Rooty Hill.

A few seconds before the crash Pilot Strickland sent out a message to R.A.A.F. officials at Schofields. He said: "We are coming down. We will be late for lunch. Keep our places in the mess."

Onlookers saw the plane skim the treetops and then make towards a rain sodden paddock.

As it descended, its wing was ripped off when it struck a big gum tree. The crew opened an emergency door and scrambled out before the fire broke out.

A witness reported: "I saw it hit the ground. Flames were beginning to shoot out when I saw the three men get out and run towards me. One of them asked me where the nearest phone was. He was very cool about the whole thing. He thanked me courteously when I told him."

The three members of the crew were treated at the Richmond R.A.A.F. Hospital for shock and later were allowed to leave.

Sydney Morning Herald, 12 May 1950



Image: Aerial photograph of Windsor and Richmond RAAF base during the 1961 flood. Courtesy of Hawkesbury Regional Museum



Image: Beaufighter planes in flight. Courtesy of RAAF

NEPTUNE

One of the most recorded and observed air crashes - a tragedy which saddened the whole Hawkesbury district - was that of the Lockheed P2V-5 Neptune A89-308 of 11 Squadron which crashed at Freemans Reach on 4 February 1959 with 8 lives sadly lost.



The Neptune aircraft—a type deemed safe for crash landing—failed by a matter of seconds to make the landing, when a fire-weakened wing collapsed and the aircraft crashed and exploded, killing all the crew instantly.

Witnesses reported seeing a trail of black smoke, with white puffs- a series of explosions. The first indication that Richmond RAAF control tower had that the Neptune was in trouble was when the pilot radioed: "I am on fire." The pilot then said that he would try to land on the airstrip.

Two minutes later the pilot radioed Richmond again and said that he could not make the airstrip would try to land on river flats near the aerodrome.

No other message came over the radio except a deafening crashing noise. Then there was silence.

The aircraft was seen diving steeply and going very fast in an effort to lose height with flame coming from the fuselage. It started to level but the up the aircraft rolled to its back, hit the on south bank of the river head-on, and exploded on impact.

The crew members lost were : Squadron Leader G R Cullen – Captain,
Squadron Leader J K McDonald- Signaler,
Flight Lieutenant R A de Russett Kydd- Navigator
Pilot-Officer G I Holmes - Co-Pilot
Flying Officer F J Wood-Signaler
Pilot Officer T P O'Sullivan- Signaler
Warrant Officer V J McCarthy- Signaler
Flight Sergeant J M Rock - Navigator

One of the first civilians at the scene of the crash was the captain of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade, Mr Bob Eather who came across two acres of land that was a mass of smoke and fire.

"R.A.A.F. firefighters were spraying the plane wreckage with foam so we concentrated on putting out the huge grass fire," he said. "Two nearby homes were endangered by grass flames so we put them out with hand extinguishers. But everywhere we went there were pieces of burning plane wreckage. Bodies of the plane's crew were scattered over the field and nearby swamp, with torn pieces of their equipment. It was the most horrible sight I have ever seen."

The blazing wreckage crashed on a tractor and utility parked only 5 metres from farmer, Mr Peter Sacchetti, who was working on cauliflower crops directly in the path of the crashing plane. He had a lucky escape leaving the tractor only a few minutes before because it had broken down. He ran to a nearby farmhouse through a shower of burning wreckage where he was given first-aid for his burns.

Then Minister for Air, Mr F.M. Osborne, said: *"The aircraft was engaged on a final test flight before leaving for Biak in the Netherlands, New Guinea to take part in Sabre Ferry Phase 2. It had been airborne for over an hour and was at normal flight height when apparently a fire began in one engine. I express my deepest sympathy to families and relatives of the crew. Neptunes have been in service in the R.A.A.F. for about eight years, and this is the first serious accident to any of them."*

Even then the terrific velocity of the huge plane could not be stopped.

Sydney Morning Herald February 5, 1959



Image: Wreckage from the Neptune at the crash site. Courtesy of SMH.



Image: Funeral procession for the Neptune airmen leaves chapel at Richmond R.A.A.F. Courtesy SMH

TOWARDS 2000 AND BEYOND



In 1987 No. 86 Wing was reformed under the newly established Headquarters Air Lift Group that replaced the former Base Headquarters. It was responsible for No. 33 Squadron, operating Boeing 707 jet tanker/ transports, as well as Nos. 36 and 37 Squadrons, flying Hercules. The Hercules, Caribous and 707s became synonymous with disaster relief and emergency transport in Australia and the region, as well as deploying on overseas peacekeeping missions.

Richmond was the venue for many air shows including, in 1988, the largest staged in Australia to that date, celebrating the Australian Bicentenary. The base also staged the RAAF's 70th Anniversary Air show in 1991, the same year that the Hercules achieved 500,000 accident-free hours of operation.

In the 1980s, RAAF Base Richmond had been strongly considered as a second international airport for Sydney, and by 2009, it was reported as being the NSW Government's preferred location but the Federal Government decided against the proposal.

In September 2016, the then Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, stated that the RAAF favoured closing RAAF Base Richmond during the next 15 years as its functions had been declining, and the major investment in infrastructure needed to bring it to a "fighting state" could be better spent upgrading other bases. However, Minister for Defence Marise Payne stated that the Government was not considering closing the base.

In 2014 the NSW Rural Fire Service began using Richmond as a base for its Large Air Tanker (LAT) and Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) program. During the Australian summer the NSW RFS will have a variety of aircraft available including a C-130 Hercules, Avro RJ85, Boeing 737 and McDonnell Douglas DC-10 as well as smaller lead-in aircraft. As of 2019, the NSW RFS has purchased its own Boeing 737 which is now permanently based at Richmond

Over the past few decade, advancements in technology and safety have made a huge impact on increased air safety with less disasters to report. However, there have been two more recent loss of life that have occurred not in the local area but crews based from Richmond

1991

A Boeing 707 of No. 33 Squadron crashed into the sea 43 km (27 mi) south of RAAF Base East Sale while on a training flight. The aircraft stalled after an asymmetric flight condition was mishandled, causing an unrecoverable loss of control. All five RAAF crew were killed in the accident

2020

A C-130 Large Air Tanker Lockheed C-130 Hercules stationed at Richmond RAAF Base operated by North American aerial firefighting company Coulson Aviation engaged in routine water bombing activities was lost during the devastating NSW bushfires in January. According to its flight data, the aircraft departed RAAF Base Richmond, about 12:05pm. Officials lost contact with the plane shortly before 1.30pm, it crashed in an active fire zone in the Snowy Mountains. All three lives on board were lost.

We commemorate all those who have lost their lives during service over the past 100 years of RAAF service in Australia

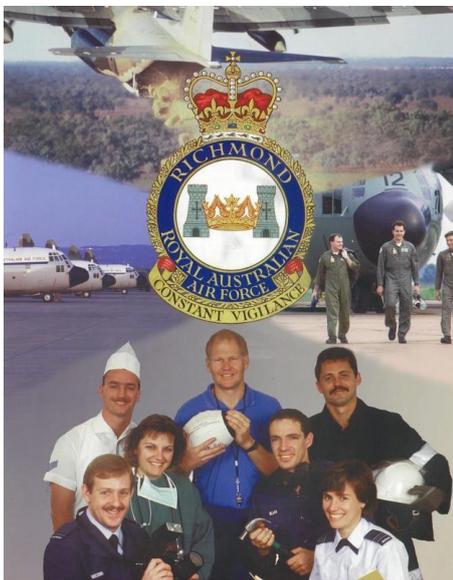


Image: Cover from the RAAF Richmond magazine, 1997. Courtesy of Hawkesbury Regional Museum



Image: Aerial view of RAAF Richmond, 1975. Courtesy of Hawkesbury Regional Museum

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE

Hawkesbury Voices captures the social and cultural history of the Hawkesbury through local stories. Hawkesbury Library Service invites you to explore and transcribe the interviews from our community to make them more accessible.

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HAWKESBURY VOICES NOW ONLINE

Check out Hawkesbury Voices <https://amplify.gov.au/hawkesbury> and some of the oral history interviews now available to view from the collection of the Hawkesbury Library Service. Hawkesbury Voices captures the social and cultural history of the Hawkesbury through local stories and the Library is looking for volunteers to help transcribe them, so that more people can learn about the amazing stories contained in the Hawkesbury Voices Collections.

Using the innovative online tool called Amplify, developed by the State Library of NSW, anyone from anywhere can now search, listen to and transcribe some of digitised audio oral history interviews. A selection of the digitised oral history collection has been placed on the platform with a copy of the interview, as interpreted by a machine. Volunteers can assist by listening to the interviews and then correcting the transcription to help make them more accessible. (Very similar to correcting on Trove).

It is not necessary to log in, just go to <https://amplify.gov.au/hawkesbury> and select an interview. There are instructions, tutorials and FAQ on the site. For more info see <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/services/local-and-family-history-resources/hawkesbury-voices>

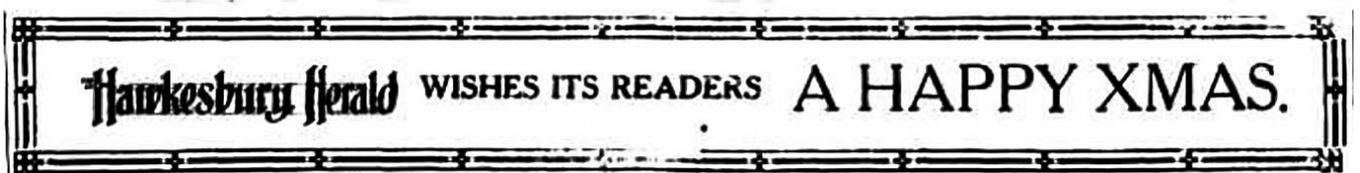
Any enquiries or more information, please contact the Local History Librarian email history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

New members welcomed during 2020/2021

Elissa Blair (Honorary), Beverly Chong, Susan Green, Sharon Greentree, Rod and Margaret Hartas, Colin Mallard, Matthew Ogg (now moving overseas), Oonagh Sherrard, Kristine Smith, Amanda Waller and Ian White.

Thank you to all our contributors during 2020/2021 – without you we do not have a newsletter.

“Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards Men!”



Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Saturday 17 December 1892



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR – KEEP SAFE**

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