

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 Jordon and Peta Sharply

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

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

MEETINGS

Thursday, 28 October 2021 - 7:30pm- AGM

Zoom Meeting

[See details on Page 3]

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FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE HAWKESBURY

By Michelle Nichols

Do you know when the first traffic lights appeared in the Hawkesbury and where?

These days we take traffic lights for granted as they appear on most major roads. The first set of traffic lights appeared in NSW in Sydney in 1933, on the corner of Kent and Market Streets, but it wasn't until four years later more lights appeared. In 1959 the then Department of Motor Transport actually established the first linked set of traffic lights in Australia along the Parramatta Road.

It wasn't until the 1960s that traffic lights became more widespread throughout the greater Sydney Metropolitan area and rural centres in NSW. The first set located outside the Sydney metropolitan area and the districts of Newcastle and Wollongong, were in Tamworth in 1966.

The first set of lights in the Hawkesbury were established in Windsor. According to the *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*, the local newspaper, the lights were officially switched on the 19 February 1968. The traffic lights were situated at the busy intersection of George Street and Richmond Road near McQuade Park which was (and still is) well-known for car accidents. They were a 'vehicle actuated system' which meant they were adjusted to the traffic flow. The lights were turned on by the local politician Mr Bernie Deane who gave a short speech to the small crowd. Deane was the local member for Hawkesbury between 1950 and 1971. He was sure that the lights would assist the



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2021

Hello everyone,

With lockdown still stretching on, it's sadly been quite some time since we have been able to get together in person. I am missing seeing you all. It makes me realise how lucky we were to be able to hold the Star Watching Astronomical evening at Tebbutt's Observatory in June. The result was a great evening and I have written more about it in this Newsletter.

Just when we will get together again of course remains uncertain. I was indeed dismayed that we had to cancel the Alan Aldrich Memorial Lecture and the August General Meeting, which it appears we will not be able to reschedule. The Annual General Meeting of the Society will go ahead in October 2021, but regrettably the Memorial Lectures for Ian Jack and Alan Aldrich cannot be held in 2021.

Unfortunately, the book launch for Annegret Hall's book *Andrew Thompson: From Boy Convict to Wealthiest Settler in Colonial Australia*, already put back once, has had to now be moved to next year. It's a good thing we are all such flexible souls.

Probably like you, I have been taking the time to re-read some of my books and in some kind of weird Covid-19 induced state I was drawn to a medical book published by Lois Sabine. It is called *Dr William Bell's 'The Settlers' Guide*, and sadly is now out of print. It was written by Dr Bell in John Howe's House in Thompson Square, Windsor, in 1849. Dr Bell's patients included one man in Windsor Hospital 'who had been horned by an infuriated bull and who admitted to drinking 40 glasses of rum in a day [he shouldn't have felt anything]'. One lady who yawned while praying dislocated her jaw and another had a dislocated hip. Bell's treatment for such hip problems Lois comments 'would bring tears of sympathy to most mens eyes'.

Lois goes on to relate:

Bell was not a believer in Patent Medicines. His treatment for indigestion of a patient who had made a 'drug shop of his belly' was two or three dozen leeches, an enema machine, a few pints of tepid water, a horse and gig, gun and an agreeable companion.

Shortly after the manuscript was finished, Dr Bell and his family moved from Windsor to Carcoar, but before it could be published, the manuscript had to be lodged with a Windsor solicitor as collateral against money that Dr Bell owed in the district. It remained hidden away in the solicitor's legal papers until it was eventually lodged in the Mitchell Library where Lois found it in 2009.

Happy history reading to you all, and hopefully some history writing as well. Cathy McHardy very kindly has taken over from me as coordinator of the Gazette articles which we and other historical and heritage societies have supplied for 11 years. Thank you Cathy. She tells me that more 400 word articles on Hawkesbury topics are currently needed from Hawkesbury Historical Society and she would love to receive emailed stories from you in the next few weeks.

Keep safe,
Jan Barkley-Jack

MEMBERSHIP 2021/2022

A friendly reminder HHS Membership Fees are now due for the coming year.

Pension/Student concession \$15.00

Seniors \$22.50

Single Adults \$30.00

Family Adults including children under 18yrs \$45.00

If you require another form, contact the Secretary at
secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

Introducing Hawkesbury Society's Newest Member



Edith Joyce McRae

B. 14 June 2021

We are happy to announce the arrival of our daughter Edith Joyce McRae at a surprising 4 weeks early on 14 June and weighing a healthy 3.4kgs (7.5 lbs) and measuring 52cm. We are both doing well and she is growing quickly! We luckily managed 5 days at home with family and friends before lockdown started.

We look forward to introducing her to everyone and making her the newest and youngest member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society.

Thank you everyone for your well wishes and congratulations.



Rebecca (Turnbull) and Vaughan McRae

Continued from Page 1...

pedestrians particularly the young and the elderly trying to make their way across the busy intersection. He also thought the lights would be very useful if the local swimming pool went ahead in McQuade Park. Although there were plans for the pool in the park, it was eventually constructed in Church Street, South Windsor.

Mr Deane also stated in his speech that the installation of the lights in Windsor was "yet another indication of the progress being made in this district."



Mr Deane with officers from the Department of Motor Transport at the ceremony
Courtesy *Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 21 Feb 1968

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 28th October at 7.30pm

The AGM will be on Thursday, 28th October at 7.30pm, unavoidably via Zoom, and we send our apologies to those who cannot attend in the Zoom format.

Immediately following will be the General meeting at which the speaker will be **Kath Von Witt** who will speak about the archaeological artifacts of Thompson Square. Please make a big effort to attend, we'd love to see you.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to hold the planned memorial lectures for Alan Aldrich and Ian Jack this year.

NEWSLETTER PRINTING

For those of you who receive a printed newsletter, we advise that the format will be slightly different, rather than the newspaper style you have become used to, due to current closure of Council's Print Room. Our apologies.

Star Gazing at Tebbutt's Observatory

By Jan Barkley-Jack



What a night we enjoyed on 19 June 2021 star gazing at Tebbutt's Observatory in Windsor!

It really was an occasion to be remembered and attended by around 70 people. Moreover, almost half of that number again asked to be put on the waiting list to attend the next time we hold another astronomical evening. Adults and many children thanked our Society, on the evening, for organising the event so safely during the problems of the COVID outbreak.

Sean Flavin, one of our long term associates and committee member, is a long time amateur historian. Sean has held other such evenings in the past successfully and has an enthusiasm for all things skywards, which is infectious and ensures that he delivers a sparkling event.

John Tebbutt III and his wife, Terri, must be applauded for again opening their grounds to us to provide an unrivalled authentic venue. The experience of actually being able to go inside the Observatory of John Tebbutt II (1834-1916) was greatly valued. John Tebbutt II was the son of original emigrant John Tebbutt, who made his world famous observations of the eclipses of Jupiter's satellites in 1895 and 1896, and the comet under observation by scientists in 1897, from this Observatory.



The original 8 inch Grubb Refractor telescope installed in 1888 was inspected on the evening, it having been brought back from New Zealand by Hawkesbury City Council some years ago.

Also toured were the earlier brick buildings of 1879 including where Tebbutt kept his extensive library and the transit room.

In gratitude, Hawkesbury Historical Society awarded John and Terri Tebbutt an honorary 10 Year membership of the Society.

There were many other attractions we experienced on the night offered by members of the NSW Astronomical Association and Sydney City Skywatch who assisted Sean.

My thanks go to Trish Wilkins, Ross Mitchell and David Mitchell who brought their high powered telescopes to allow us all to view the moon, just into its second quarter and the mountains of this our closest celestial neighbour.

Thankfully the night sky came out from behind its earlier thick cloud cover and the mini-gale force wind also abated.

Venus was low in the northwest and Mars, well past Opposition, was visible and somewhat feint. In addition many well-known star clusters, double stars and nebulae were visible.

Red cellophane covered torches allowed attendees to find their way around the grounds without providing light sources to interfere with the darkness.

The glow added much atmosphere appreciated by the children.

As well, on the sky watching evening, David Lloyd-Jones screened a fascinating tutorial on the art of taking photographs of the night sky.

Hot drinks and cakes provided the star gazers with pleasant warmth during the evening.



Patrons were each given a copy of a book printed by Hawkesbury City Council in 1986 which was a reprint of a 1908 edition written by the astronomer's son, John Tebbutt called Astronomical Memoirs.

A great many members of our society helped and I would like to thank them. The pre event clean-up work and preparations for the evening came from Sean Flavin, John Tebbutt, Secretary Peta Sharpley, Vice President Ted Brill and his wife, Sue, Neville Dehn, Janis Hart and volunteer helper John Cumming, as well as myself. All these members backed up to help at the event itself along with Alison Rose. Our treasurer, Heather Gillard organised the publicity and Dick Gillard ensured the event had a presence on our website.

The turf farmer on an adjacent property also helped get the site spruced up for the event.

I give a special thank you to Peta Sharpley for so capably taking the bookings and payments - not an easy task coping with all the COVID restrictions.

Also, we are grateful for the great photographic skills of Keith Friend who took the photos for this article. Thank you too to Ted Brill who also provided images for this special night.

Well done Sean and Hawkesbury Historical Society members for all their contributions.





John Tebbutt II, one of Hawkesbury's most esteemed citizens is recognised as one of Australia's astronomers. His discoveries were made from his personal observatory on the peninsula at Windsor, the most famous being the Great Comet of 1861 named "Comet Tebbutt". This proved to be one of the most spectacular comets ever seen according to Graeme White who worked in the Radio Physics Division in the CSIRO in the 1980s. The only amateur NSW astronomer ever offered the position of Government Astronomer at the Sydney Observatory, Tebbutt later had a major Luna crater on the moon surface named after him by NASA. In 1984, John Tebbutt II braced Australia's \$100 note sharing it with Sir Douglas Mawson, explorer of the Antarctic.

John came as a child to the colony of NSW by the *Nile* vessel in 1801 with his free settler parents, the same vessel which brought famous convict, Margaret Catchpole to the colony. In the Hawkesbury the family lived on many Hawkesbury properties including a shop above which they lived in Windsor.

He became the first locally educated boy to make his presence felt in the wider world after an education in the Church of England parish school. It was situated in Bridge Street beside the military barracks, now the site of a more recent Federation style house. There, young John caught the love of astronomy from his teacher, Edward Quaife. Under the later guidance of the Reverend Matthew Adam and the Anglican Minister, the Reverend Henry Stiles, he was educated in the classics and algebra, Euclid mathematics and the "globes".

John built the present house on the Observatory grounds still standing today in the 1840s and lived there until his death in November 1916. He was buried in St Matthews Anglican Church cemetery in the family tomb he himself designed along with other family members. The Royal Astronomical Society, which had given John Tebbutt II a coveted membership, wrote of him



John Tebbutt was one of those enthusiastic non-professional astronomers who, with instrumental appliances of the humblest order and no outside help, made an indelible mark on our records.

This tribute was bestowed by Dr H H Turner D.Sc., D.C.L., F.R.A.S., and Savilian Professor of Astronomy at the University of Oxford.

The tomb is easily seen today, recognisable as the largest monument in the cemetery topped by four moons. Hawkesbury Regional Museum holds the Hawkesbury Historical Society collection about John Tebbutt II, now on display. It includes his globe and many family photographs and items.

**Make sure you keep your eyes open for news of our next Astronomical Sky watch,
hopefully to be held next year!**

Frank Vindin of the Australian Joint Stock Bank Richmond

By Cathy McHardy

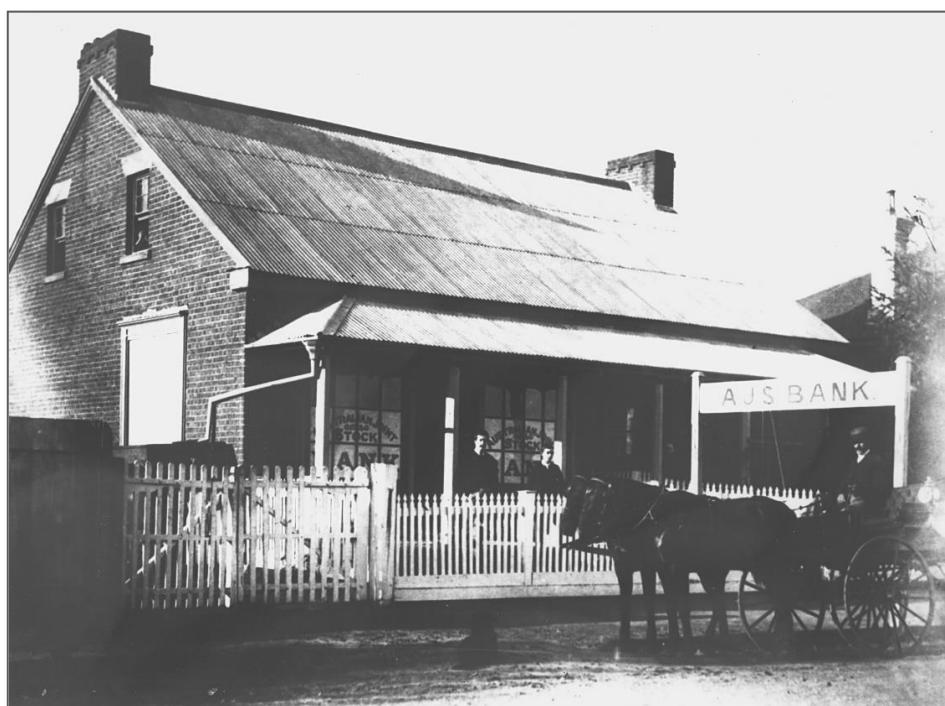
Newcomer to the town of Richmond, Frank Vindin was appointed to open a new branch of the Australian Joint Stock (AJS) Bank in 1888. In the days when bank managers were held in high esteem by the community they served, Vindin soon became immersed in the social and business fabric of the town where he hoped to raise and educate his family. He involved himself in numerous community organisations including the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association, Richmond School of Arts and Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and his popularity crossed boundaries of class and denomination.

Francis James Vindin, born in West Maitland NSW, was a son of George Vindin, a partner in the large West Maitland merchant and flour milling business Solomon, Vindin & Company. His mother, Emma Vindin, had a strong Hawkesbury connection, being the daughter of early Hawkesbury settler Benjamin Singleton, who built several water-powered grain mills first on Wheeney Creek near Kurrajong and later in the Wisemans Ferry area. Vindin was educated in West Maitland and commenced his working life in the local AJS Bank. Soon after his marriage in 1888 to Charlotte Morrice (nee Kemp), he was transferred to Richmond.



Charlotte (formerly Morrice, nee Kemp) and Frank Vindin with their only surviving child, a daughter Maude Kemp who was born in Richmond in 1895. [Courtesy of Stuart Cameron]

Charlotte Morrice (nee Kemp), born 1863, was the youngest daughter of Reverend Frederick Richard Kemp and Emma Gall, who were married in Sydney in 1856. Charlotte was first married in Queanbeyan, NSW in 1884 to James Osborne Morrice whose family were early settlers in the Bowral District. James Morrice died at Warooma near Marulan in April 1885.



The Richmond Branch of the AJS Bank, Windsor Street, c.1888-1892.
[Hawkesbury Library Service]

The building now known as 'Eltham' at 317 Windsor Street was purchased from Andrew Town for the purpose of setting up the new branch by Francis Adams, General Manager of the AJS Bank. Originally it was the Union Inn and was operated by Thomas Eather. This building served many purposes over the years including a saddlery operated by George Guest and a doctor's surgery. Under Vindin's successful management, the bank soon outgrew its location and in 1892 the branch relocated to the former Post Office Hotel site on the corner of Windsor and West Markets Streets. In 1895, Frank Vindin purchased the old bank premises (Eltham) for £800. He commissioned alterations in

keeping with a family home rather than commercial premises, such as the replacement of the two shop windows at the front by a fashionable bay window.

In contrast to his successful professional career, his private life was marred by tragedy. Charlotte suffered from poor health for many years, enduring several stillbirths as well as the loss of two infants before their second birthday. Unhappily, Charlotte died at the age of 33 years on 28 October 1897 and was buried in St Peter's Cemetery, Richmond. One of the three stained glass windows in St Peter's Church in Windsor Street was dedicated in her memory in February 1899. In her birthplace Port Macquarie, a memorial in Port Macquarie Historic Cemetery commemorates her death in Richmond. Inscribed on her father's headstone are the words 'To the memory of Charlotte, Beloved daughter of the Rev'd Frederick and Emma Kemp, who died at Richmond NSW on 28 October 1897 aged 33 years'.

Only one child survived from the marriage, a daughter Maud Kemp, born in Richmond in 1895 who married Jack Sanderson in 1916 in Chatswood, NSW. Maud lived with Jack for many years in Barwon Vale near Walgett, NSW and died in Dubbo aged 88 years in August 1983.

Frank Vindin remained in Richmond until 1900 when he was transferred to the bank's Albury branch. He married Isabela Wyatt (a relation of James Morrice) in 1901 but after only six months of marriage he died suddenly at the age of 39 years due to septicaemia following a surgical operation. His casket was conveyed by train back to the town that he loved. The funeral arrangements were made by Walter Carter Pty Ltd. The entry in the Funeral Book for Sunday, 24 August 1901 noted the arrangements that were made:

Met Melbourne Express at Redfern and received lead and oak coffin containing the body of Mr. W.J. Vindin from Albury, removed it in our hearse to Rev. H.C. Vindin's, and at night after service took it into church (St. Stephens) and on Monday morning 26th removed it to Redfern Station for Richmond Church of England Cemetery.

He was buried alongside his first wife Charlotte and their children in St Peter's Cemetery, Windsor Street, Richmond.

The greatest regret was expressed in Richmond and district when the death of Mr F J Vindin, our former bank manager, was announced. The remains of this much respected gentleman were laid to rest in St Peter's Cemetery on Monday last, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Mr Vindin was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a sterling friend. Respected, honored, and loved, the very large and representative funeral contributed, as it were, a triplet of sincere regard to his memory. He was respected for his upright character, honored for deeds of kindness and benevolence, loved for his tenderness and graciousness of manner and consideration for the welfare of his fellows.

Obituary published in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* on 26 August 1901.

A lengthy obituary expressing the sorrow of the community for one who had not been in their midst for long but had earned the esteem and respect of all was also published in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* on 30 August 1901, p. 23 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/128568578/10841376>



The Vindin graves, St Peter's Cemetery, Richmond.
[Cathy McHardy November 2015]

References:

- Additional research and image courtesy of descendant Stuart Cameron
- NSW Indexes to Births, Deaths & Marriages – www.bdm.nsw.gov.au
- Cape Banks Family History Society Inc – Index to Walter Carter Pty Ltd Funeral Books <http://capebanks.org.au/>
- Australian Cemeteries Index for Port Macquarie Historic Cemetery - <http://austcemindex.com/cemetery?cemid=387>
- *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 February 1899 p. 12 - Vindin window at St Peter's Church. Retrieved on 5 September 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66440265>
- *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 26 August 1901 – Obituary Frank Vindin. retrieved on 5 September 2021 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85853129>
- Primary Application No. 7613 for 317 Windsor Street Richmond, NSW from NSW State Records and Archives www.records.nsw.gov.au
- *Reminiscences of Richmond* by Sam Boughton, republished 2010 by Cathy McHardy
- Charlotte Vindin's stained glass window at Richmond. Retrieved on 5 September 2021 from http://hawkesburyheritage.blogspot.com.au/2013/07/charlotte-vindins-stained-glass-window_10.html

THE GOOD WIVES OF THE HAWKESBURY ROYALTY

Elizabeth Nowland (nee Richards)

By Richard Gillard

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact date of birth and parents of a person you are writing about, who lived many centuries ago. Whilst the age shown on a grave may give an indication, often that date may not be correct. Such is the case of Elizabeth Nowland (nee Richards). We know for certain that Elizabeth was born in Warwickshire, England. The age shown on her gravestone was 77. This makes her year of birth around 1775. However, in the book *The Crimes of Lady Julian Convicts - 1790* by John Cobley, Elizabeth is shown as being 18 years old when Elizabeth was tried at the Warwick Assize on the 7th of August 1787. If this date is correct then Elizabeth would have been born around 1771 and her age at date of death, 81 years old.

Ancestry.com.au lists the following christenings of an Elizabeth Richards:

16/4/1770

Baptism: Birmingham, St. Martins,
Warwickshire, England.
Parents: John and Dorothy Richards.

6/12/1771

Baptism: Birmingham, St. Martins,
Warwickshire, England.
Parents: John and Mary Richards.

13/3/1772

Baptism: Birmingham, St. Phillips,
Warwickshire, England.
Parents: Thomas and Elizabeth Richards.

Whilst Ancestry.com.au lists other Elizabeth Richards' being christened in 1774, 1775, 1777, 1778 and 1799, it is doubtful that they would have been the Elizabeth Richards we are telling the story of, as this would have made her only between the ages of 8 to 14 when she was arrested. It is possible that any one of the above three

baptismal records could have been that of the Elizabeth Richards in this story.

Elizabeth was born into a town which had evolved over the 1400 years of its existence, from a small 7th century hamlet to a major English city. The 18th century saw the emergence of Birmingham to be at the forefront of worldwide developments in science, technology, medicine, philosophy, and natural history. This period in Birmingham's transformation was known as the Midlands Enlightenment.¹ By the end of the 18th century Birmingham was the world's major supplier of steam engines from Boulton & Watt. The town continued to build its small metal industries which specialised in cutting tools and blade-making. The Sketchley's 1767 Directory of Birmingham lists some 62 workshops which were involved in gun making in what is known as The Gun Quarter.² By 1759 over 20,000 people were employed in the Birmingham toy-making business. Gold and silver and a variety of alloys were used in the toy making and jewellery business. The area the toymakers and jewellers operated in Birmingham became known as The Jewellery Quarter.³ Iron continued to be Birmingham's foremost industry.

The first time that we come to know anything about Elizabeth is when she stands trial with Hannah Bolton (alias Moore) at the Warwick Assize on the 7th of August 1787. They were both charged with various robberies, found guilty and sentenced to transportation for seven years. No details of the robberies were provided at the trial and the trial records were destroyed by a clerk in the 19th century. Elizabeth and Hannah were to spend the next two years in the Warwick prison until they were transferred to the convict ship *Lady Juliana* for transportation to Australia.



Figure 1. Westley's East Prospect of Birmingham c1730 reproduced in Dent 1880 'Old & New Birmingham' courtesy SallyLloyd, accessed 7th August 2021.



Figure 2. 1828 engraving shows the frontage of Warwick County Goal & Public Offices on Northgate Street in Warwick. John Collins Chartist accessed 7th August 2021.

Elizabeth was held in the Warwick goal until around April 1789 when she was transferred to London to board the convict ship *Lady Juliana* for her voyage to Australia to serve out her sentence. The *Lady Juliana* was chartered by William Richards who in turn was contracted by the British Government to carry the female convicts to Australia as part of the second fleet.

On the 28th of February 1789, the *Lady Juliana* was sent to Gallions Reach where in March 1789 the first 108 prisoners from Newgate Prison were embarked. More prisoners from Newgate Prison were embarked later. On the 7th of May 1789, the *Lady Juliana* proceeded to Spithead near Portsmouth where about 90 women from country goals were also transferred to the *Lady Juliana*.

The *Lady Juliana* sailed from Plymouth on the 29th of July 1789, with approximately 226 female convicts from a variety of backgrounds on board. A few were elderly and infirmed, a number were educated, some completely illiterate and the youngest, Mary Wade, was only eleven years old.

The voyage to Australia was long and very slow. Steward Nicol reported that most, if not all men aboard selected a mistress from among the female convicts for the duration of the voyage. Women who became ‘wives’ of crew

members aboard the ship could get access to better provisions and sleeping arrangements. Much has been written about the voyage of the *Lady Juliana* and it is not intended to elaborate on the voyage any further. There is no documentation available to tell us if Elizabeth shared the trip with any of the ship’s crew.

The *Lady Juliana* was in such a poor state after the voyage that she was unable

to make her way up the harbour unaided and had to be assisted into Sydney Cove, arriving there on the 3rd of June 1790. The *Lady Juliana* was received by an excited population who were near starvation. Many of the convicts who arrived on the First Fleet were unable to work because of old age or infirmity.

Elizabeth was only to stay in Sydney for a period of about two months. On the 1st of August 1790, Elizabeth, along with about 135 female convicts from the *Lady Juliana* and approximately 15 other female convicts who had previously arrived in the

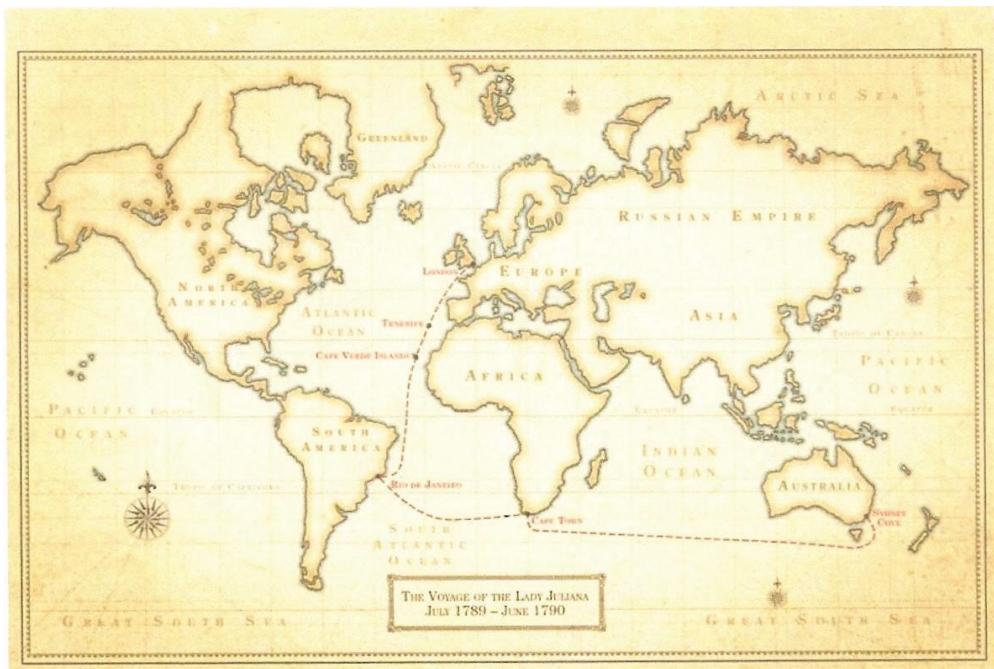


Figure 3. ‘The Voyage of the Lady Juliana July 1789 – June 1790’, National Film and Sound Archives, http://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/film-australia-collection/program-sales/programs/teachers_notes/8857floatingbrothnotes.pdf, accessed 21st March 2021.

Colony, were transferred to the *Surprise* for transportation to Norfolk Island. In addition to the female convicts approximately 42 male convicts were also loaded onto the *Surprise*⁴.

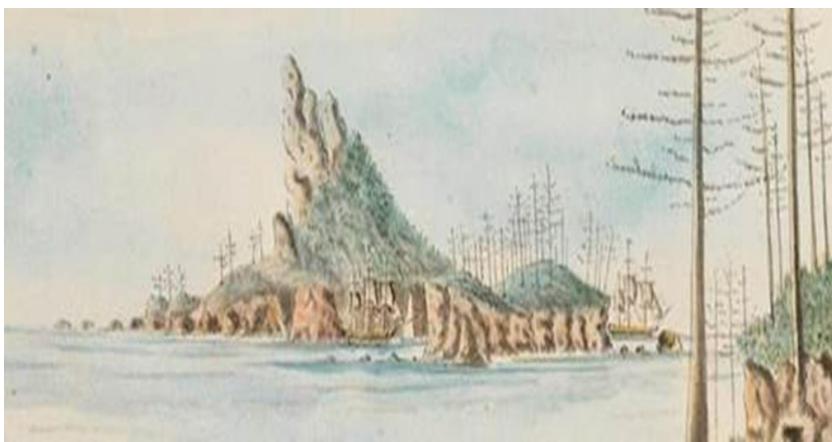


Figure 4. Cathy Dunn, 'Surprise August 1790 to Norfolk Island Passenger list', Australian History Research, <http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/surprise-august-1790-passenger-list/>, accessed 9th August 2021.

The *Surprise* arrived at Norfolk Island on the 9th of August 1790. Unfortunately, bad weather affected the unloading of the *Surprise*, with the stores being unloaded first. It was not until the 16th of August that the convicts were started to be unloaded, with the final group of convicts unloaded on the 17th of August 1790. During the unloading process, three female convicts and one child drowned.

It is uncertain if Michael and Elizabeth met on the *Surprise*, however, it was not long after their arrival in Norfolk Island that they were living together. Michael and Elizabeth were most likely married on the 5th of November 1791 when the Rev. Richard Johnson arrived on the 4th of November with Lieutenant-Governor King aboard the *Atlantic*. The Rev. Richard Johnson performed mass wedding and christenings ceremonies on the 5th of November before leaving Norfolk Island on the 6th of November 1791 aboard the *Atlantic*. There are no records available as to those convicts who were married, or the babies christened on that day.

Norfolk Island was in its infancy when Michael and Elizabeth arrived. Accommodation was limited and they were expected to work long hours and then labour to provide substance for themselves. Michael and Elizabeth initially farmed a small portion of land at Cascades (Phillipsberg) on the east coast of the island. Michael had cleared "82 or 100 rods". On the 5th of February 1791, Michael and Elizabeth were

each provided with a pig approximately two months old. This was followed by Michael receiving around the 1st of July 1791 a hog. Michael and Elizabeth became accomplished farmers and were able to provide for themselves as well as deliver surplus pork and maize to the Government Store. On the 30th of December 1796, Michael was granted 15 acres of land identified as Lot 87 with a further grant of 15 acres on the 1st of May 1797.

Elizabeth's seven-year sentence expired by the time Michael received his pardon

on the 12th of December 1794. Michael's pardon was granted on condition that he did not return to England. Not long after receiving his pardon, Michael was appointed by Lieutenant-Governor King to the position of Overseer at Queensborough on the 16th of February 1794. Michael held this position until

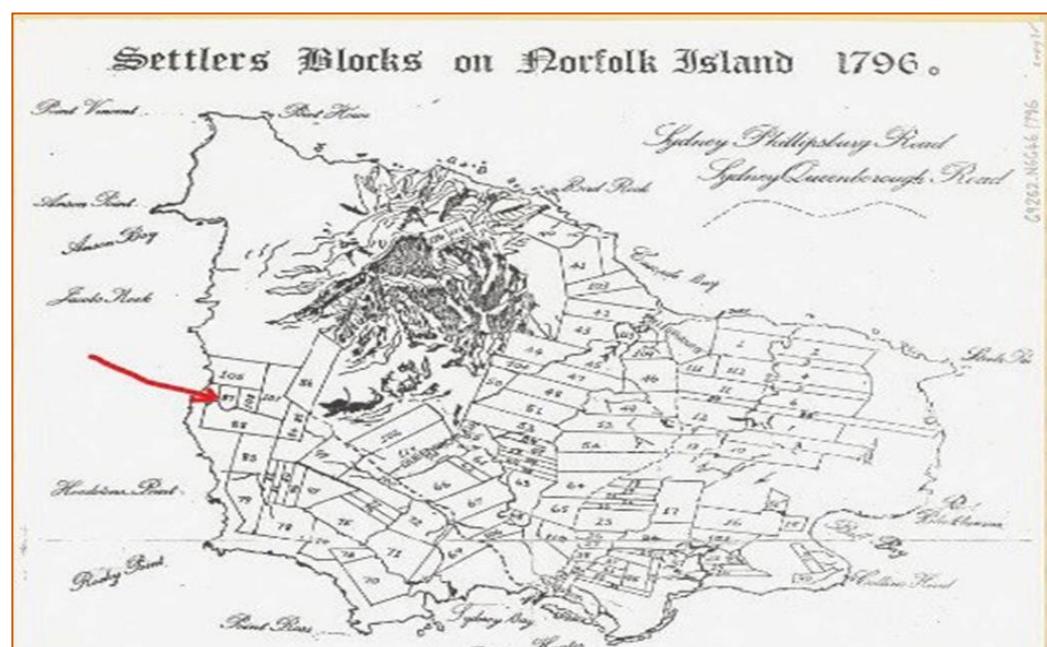


Figure 5. Michael Nowland's Lot 81, Trove, Settlers blocks on Norfolk Island 1796, MAP G9262.N6G461796, nla.gov.au/nla.obj+233989571/view, accessed 10th August 2021.

mid-1799 when he and Elizabeth and family moved to Sydney.

The exact date of Michael and Elizabeth and children's returned to Sydney is not known. It is most likely it occurred sometime after the birth of Elizabeth in 1798. Shipping depositions on the island were not maintained between 26 August 1796 and 28 February 1805. The family could have travelled several ways as commercial vessels sailed between Norfolk Island and Sydney as well as official vessels. No information is available as to why they chose to leave their farm on Norfolk Island to return to the mainland.

Ann Nowland was born in 1801 at the Rocks, Sydney. It is apparent that Michael, Elizabeth, and family did not remain very long at Lot 31, Windmill

recorded at 50 pounds per annum¹⁰. The appointment of Michael to the agricultural settlement at Castle Hill meant that Elizabeth and their children moved with him from The Rocks, Sydney, to settle on the site at the Castle Hill.



Figure 6. photograph of Michael Nowland's Land Grant Norfolk Island, photograph by Grant Taylor, owner Grant Taylor, Sydney, accessed 10th August 2021.

Row, The Rocks after the birth of Ann, as an advertisement appeared in the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser on the 26 June 1803, advertising a new eating house at the house formerly occupied by Michael Nowland⁵.

On the 30th of September 1802, Michael was appointed Superintendent of Convicts in the room of Rowland Hassell⁸. Michael did not take up this appointment, for in the following month of October 1802, Michael was appointed *Superintendent Castle Hill*⁹. Michael's salary by 31 December 1803 was

Michael may well have assigned the property to a Matthew Kearns for the sum of 45 pounds, 17 shillings and 5 pence as Mr. Kearns advertised on the 9th of October 1803, cautioning people against purchasing the property without obtaining his agreement⁶.

On the 4th of March 1804, the Irish convicts at the Castle Hill Agricultural Settlement rebelled against the authorities. They planned to march to Hawkesbury and team up with other rebels, then on to Parramatta and finally Sydney where they had planned to commandeer a ship home. The following day the rebels were defeated in what is known as the battle of Vinegar Hill¹¹. This must have been a very scary time for Elizabeth, worried for the safety of her husband and her children. It is not known if Elizabeth and her children were onsite on the 4th and 5th March 1804 as there is no record of any attack being made on the Superintendent's home or his family.

Michael decided to leave his employment late 1805 and to set up a farm along the Hawkesbury. In December 1805 he leased 37 and a half acres from Wm. Burgess. He eventually purchased the 37 1/2 acres on a promissory note. Whilst he had initial success in his farming venture, he was borrowing money to purchase land with the debt repayment falling in future years. Unfortunately, the years from 1806 to 1811 were particularly wet, with serious flooding occurring nearly every year from 1816 to 1821. This meant that Michael had ongoing losses of stock and produce.

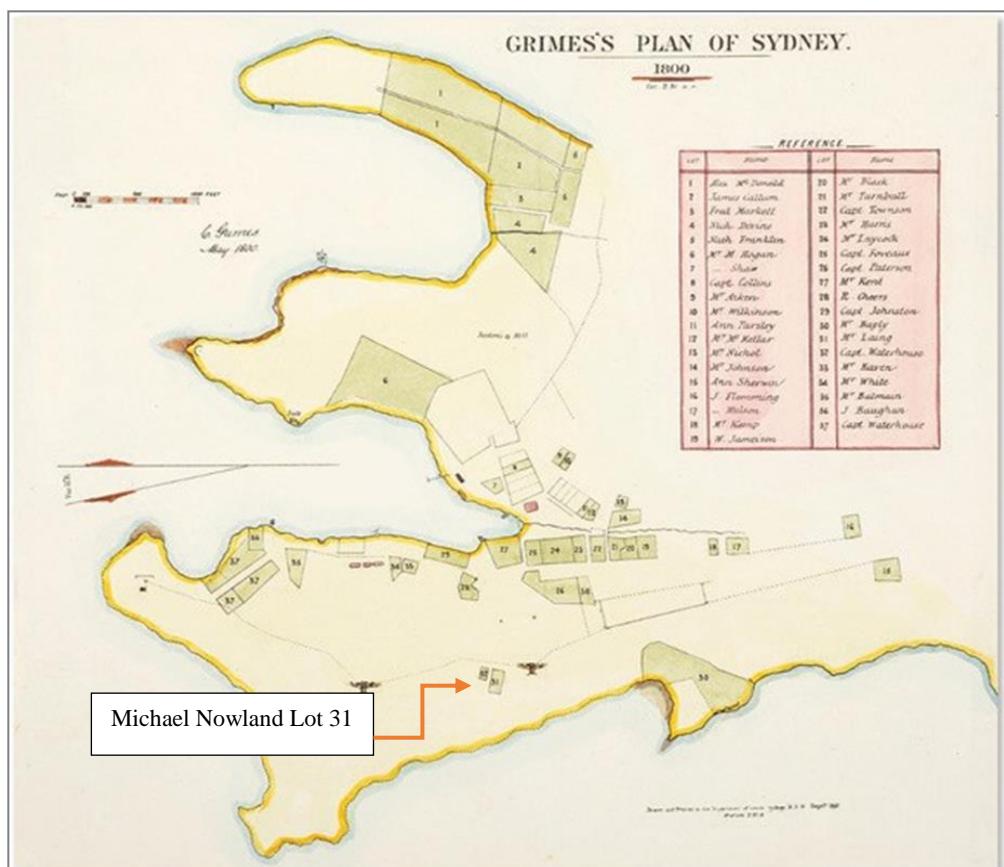


Figure 7. Grimes's Plan of Sydney 1800, Charles Grimes (1752 - 1858), Michael Nowland is thought to have purchased Lot 31 from Mr. Laing sometime in 1800, accessed 14th July 2021.

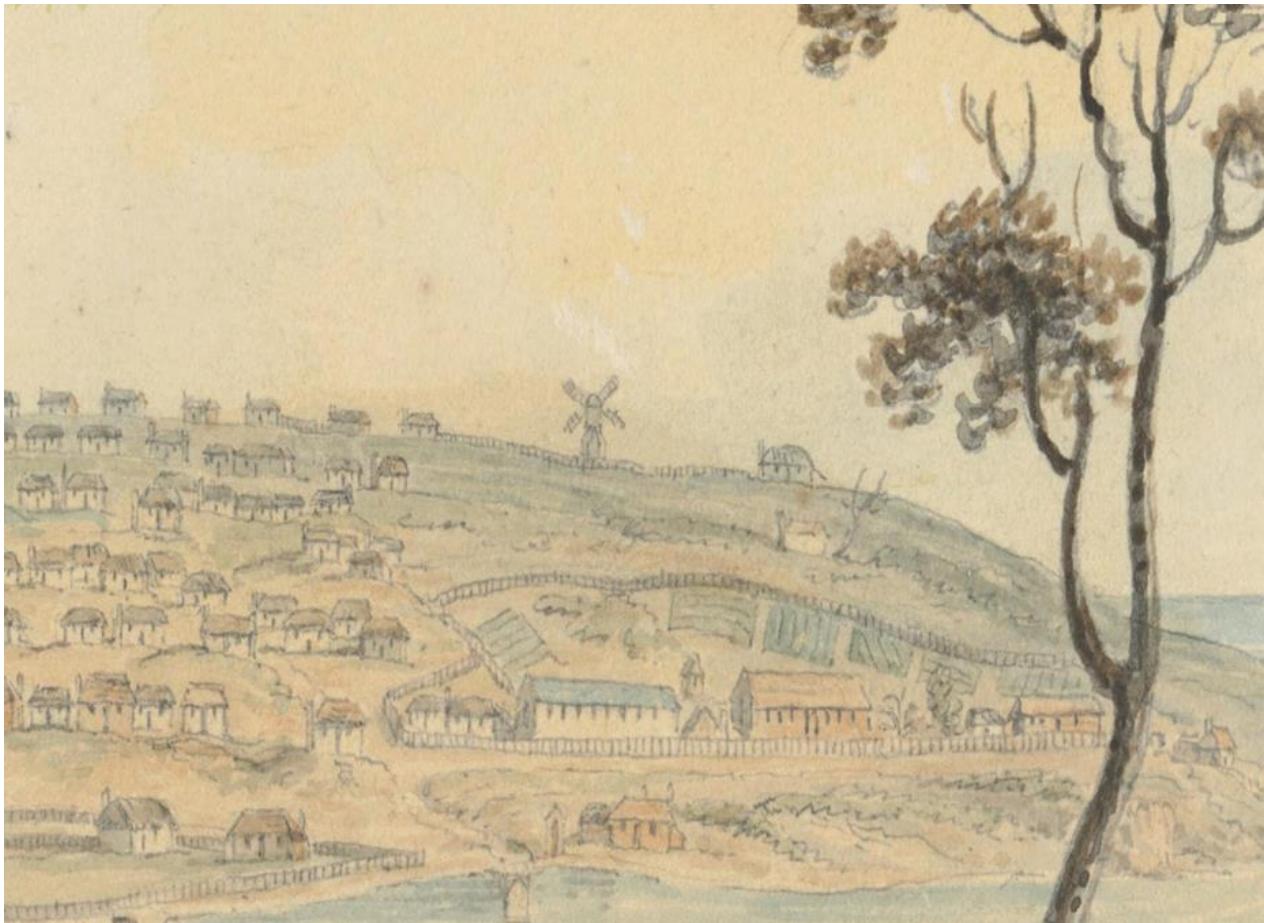


Figure 8. Painting of the first government windmill 1797, painted by Edward Dayes, National Library of Australia [PIC Solander Box A28#R284 (detail)], accessed 13th April 2021

This must have been a very worrying time for Elizabeth as she struggled to care for and feed her family and help Michael on the farm. Between 1806 and 1814 Elizabeth gave birth to a further four children. Elizabeth and Michael had the following children:

Born on Norfolk Island

William Nowland

Born: 11 April 1792
Died: 16 May 1792 Norfolk Island

Michael Nowland

Born: 18 May 1794
Died: 27 October 1854 Wilberforce
Married: Jane Pope, 13 October 1846, Wilberforce
Children: Nil

Henry Nowland

Born: 24 Sept. 1796
Died: 10 February 1883 Muswellbrook
Married: Harriett F. Farlow,
31 January 1825, Windsor
Children: 10

Elizabeth Nowland

Born: 1798
Died: 18 May 1878 Windsor
Married: Henry Richardson, 26 December 1814, Windsor
Children: 3
Married: James Rochester, 4 July 1851, Windsor
Children: 10

Elizabeth must have been living with James Rochester prior to the birth of their first child, Mary, in 1824 and chose to marry in 1851.

Born in Sydney and Hawkesbury Region

Ann Nowland

Born: 1801 Sydney
Died: 25 November 1819 Windsor

Edward J Nowland

Born: 1806 Hawkesbury
Died: 24 August 1842 Liverpool Plains
Married: Christian Farlow, 23 February 1829, Wilberforce.
Children: 5

Mary Nowland

Born: 1808 Wilberforce
 Died: 24 December 1881 Scone
 Married: Alexander Johnstone, 27 February 1828,
 Sydney
 Children: 13

William Nowland

Born: 14 April 1808, Castle Hill,
 Died: 28 April 1884, Camberwell
 Married: Mary Ann Farlow 24 October 1831,
 Wilberforce
 Children: 10

Sarah Nowland

Born: 14 September 1814, Wilberforce,
 Died: 26 June 1878, Sydney
 Married: William Adnum, 4 January 1831,
 Sydney
 Children 7

Three of the author's third great aunts, Harriett, Christian and Mary Ann Farlow married into the Nowland family.

It is apparent that Michael had grand plans for himself, Elizabeth, and family, however, it is obvious that Michael was not a good manager over his money. A

decision of Michael to apply for a license to operate a ferry (punt) to cross the Hawkesbury River between Wilberforce and Pitt Town, precipitated his financial collapse.

Approval to operate the ferry service and the fees that Michael could charge were set by the bench of magistrates at Windsor and approved by the Governor of the colony on the 25th of April 1812¹².

Within three years Michael had to borrow further funds to replace the existing punt. This further compounded his financial problems and from around May 1818 advertisements began to appear in the local newspapers for the sale of the ferry service and associated farm.

Michael was somehow able to hold onto the ferry service until the 28th of February 1822 when the



Figure 9. The Castle Hill Government Farm, painted by J. W. Lewin, 1806, part of the collection of Ralph Hawkins, accessed 14th August 2021

ferry service was taken over by John Howe. There is no record whether he received any payment or whether it helped settle some of his debts.

The loss of daughter Ann in November 1819 must have brought great sorrow to Elizabeth and Michael. Elizabeth having to deal not only with the death of Ann but also with Michael's financial problems.



Figure 10. The Battle of Vinegar Hill 1804, unknown Artist, National Library of Australia, <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/194121>, accessed 17th August 2021.

In May 1820, Michael was appointed District Constable, Lower Wilberforce¹³. Michael would have received a small stipend for providing this service which would have helped the family in their difficult time.



Figure 11. View of punt crossing the Hawkesbury River between Wilberforce and Pitt Town, image courtesy of the Hawkesbury Regional Library, accessed 19th August 2021.

Unfortunately, the difficulties that Michael had experienced throughout his life finally caught up with him and he turned to drink to try cope with life. As a result of his drunkenness, he was dismissed on the 5th of April 1822 from his position of District Constable, Lower Wilberforce¹⁴.

Life must have been very difficult for Elizabeth as she continued to raise her last three children, living with the uncertainty of sufficient money being available to feed her family. Whilst Michael did some farming during the latter years of his life, it is not known whether he produced sufficient food for the family. Elizabeth most likely had to rely on support from her grown up children to assist her.

Elizabeth had little choice but to remain with Michael throughout his drunkenness for there was basically nowhere for her to go. Elizabeth was fortunate that she and the children were able to stay in their home at 87 KingRoad, Wilberforce.

Sadly, the sheer severity of Michael's life, the loss of assets and the pursuit of him by his creditors eventually took its toll, with Michael passing away on the 31st of October 1828 at the age of 67 years. Michael is buried in the St. John's Anglican Church graveyard at Wilberforce alongside his daughter, Ann.

Michael's death left Elizabeth destitute, she had no source of income and at the age of about 54 years had basically little future in a male dominated colony. Elizabeth had no choice but to remarry, which she did on the 7th of September 1829, to a Peter Vaughan who was some 23 years her junior. Peter arrived in Australia aboard the *Eliza* in 1820. Peter was employed as a shoemaker by William Cox at Windsor. Very little is known of their life together, even though they were married for 23 years until Elizabeth passed away on the 8th of August 1852 aged 75 years.

Strangely Elizabeth was not buried as Elizabeth Vaughan but rather as Elizabeth Nowland. This may well have been a decision of her children. Elizabeth was buried alongside her daughter Anne and Michael, her first husband. Her son Michael was to be buried alongside her some two years later.

Elizabeth must have been a loving wife and mother, as she stood by the family throughout all the issues the family faced. All her children developed into good and able citizens. They each made something of themselves in what was a very hard and unforgiving country. Each family member has a story to tell.

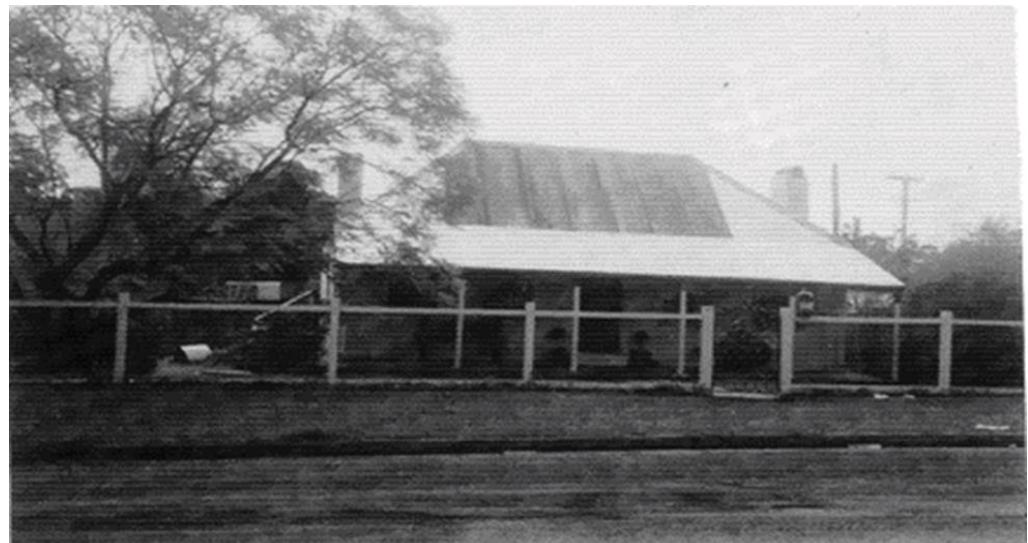


Figure 12. Nowland Cottage, circ. 1810 -1816, 87 King Road, Wilberforce, image courtesy of 'The Story of Michael and Elizabeth Nowland' by Ian A. Nowland, July 1996, accessed 20th August 2021.

Elizabeth lived to see seven of her eight children marry, with only Ann who died at age eighteen and Michael who did not marry until he was fifty-two having no children. Elizabeth also saw the death of her son Edward in 1846 aged only 36 years. Elizabeth was fortunate to see all the births of all but one of her fifty-one grandchildren, although some did not survive infancy.

Elizabeth was certainly the "good wife" of one of the Hawkesbury Royalty.



Figure 13. Headstones of Michael Nowland Jnr, Elizabeth Nowland, Ann Nowland and Michael Nowland snr, St. John's Anglican cemetery, Wilber-force, Find a Grave, accessed 20th August 2021.

Endnotes

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