

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 2018/2019:

President: Ian Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill Jnr Vice President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Secretary: Neville Dehn

Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Public Officer: Neville Dehn

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

Hon Auditor: [Vacant]

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Rebecca Turnbull

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Director – Kath von Witt, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

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

MEETINGS

Saturday, 24 August 2019 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 24 October 2019 - 7:30pm **AGM**

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM
Baker Street, Windsor

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General Meeting

of the Hawkesbury Historical Society

Saturday, 22 June 2019 – 2pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum,
Baker Street, Windsor

Speaker: Wal Walker

Topic: D'Arcy Wentworth

Wal Walker who will provide a presentation on the life of D'Arcy Wentworth, an Irish Surgeon who arrived in the Colony on the Second Fleet in 1790.



Wal Walker was born in Sydney 1939. After leaving school he studied agriculture in Queensland, obtaining a Queensland Diploma in Agriculture. He later returned to work in industry at Homebush and later Granville while studying for a commerce degree. He spent four years working overseas. He gained qualifications as B.Com; CPA; Master of Urban Studies; Certificates in Industrial Law and Labour Relations, in Risk Management, and as a Local Government Town Clerk.

He worked for six years in local government, was an Alderman on Bathurst Council where he lived for six years; he was a member of the Western Regional Advisory Council and a member of the last Hawkesbury College Council before its incorporation into the University of Western Sydney.

His interests naturally include history, especially of the early Colony, international economics, energy and environmental issues, genetics and literature.

Note: Wal Walker will bring with him copies of his books on Jane & Darcy: *Folly is not always Folly* and *Such Talent and Such Success* (see over).

Jane & Darcy

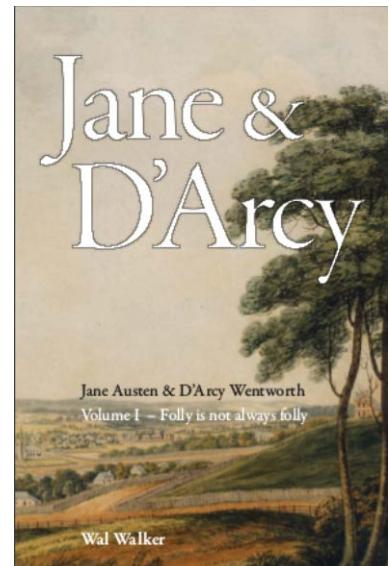
Folly is not always Folly

Jane & D'Arcy is the history of Jane Austen and D'Arcy Wentworth, a young Irish surgeon. *Folly is not always Folly* tells the story of their first meeting, family connections, their romance and adventures, and their separation, on the eve of D'Arcy's departure for New South Wales.

D'Arcy remained the love of Jane's life, the fixed star in her firmament. Their romance, kept secret by her family, provided the inspiration for much of her writing.

Folly follows Jane from the Steventon Rectory to Bath, then Southampton, and D'Arcy from Ireland to London, then to Sydney and Norfolk Island.

Wal Walker, the author of *Jane & D'Arcy*, is a grandson of D'Arcy Wentworth's great grandson. He has written his family's untold story of D'Arcy and Jane Austen.



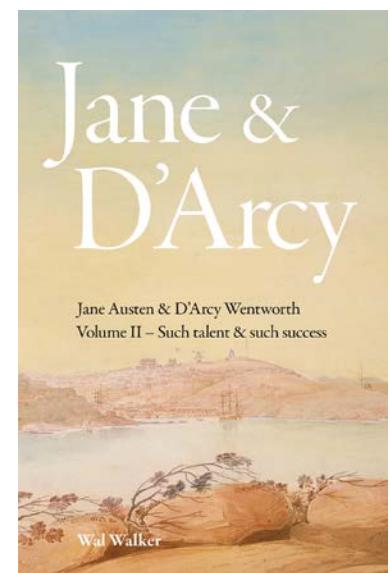
Such Talent & Such Success

The second volume of *Jane & D'Arcy*, takes up their story in 1806. Jane is in Southampton awaiting D'Arcy's return. D'Arcy is in New South Wales, confident the new governor William Bligh, will bring permission for him to return to England, to be reunited with Jane.

Such Talent tells the story of their rapidly changing fortunes which followed. In 1809, Jane returned to Hampshire, and there, between 1810 and 1815, she completed six remarkable novels, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, the most beloved, most widely read and enduring of novels in English.

In 1810, D'Arcy became the *great assistant* to Lachlan Macquarie, Bligh's successor. He helped Macquarie to transform the Colony, and he championed the cause of the former convicts, the emancipists. D'Arcy led the campaign for their rights and recognition, though he did not live to see it come to fruition. He died in July 1827, ten years after Jane.

His eldest son, William Charles, continued the fight for the emancipists, and for more than thirty five years, for the right of New South Wales to govern itself and make its own laws independent of Britain. Known as the *Liberator*, he was the father of Australia's Constitution.



For more information about *Jane & D'Arcy*: janeanddarcy.com



Dr Rex Stubbs OAM

2019 Dr Rex Stubbs OAM Symposium

Saturday, 31 August 2019

Council's Cultural Services is currently planning the Rex Stubbs Symposium for 2019. Over the next few weeks, an official invitation and program will be received. The theme is '**Bringing the past to life**' with topics relating to *publishing tips* and also *researching objects*. The event will be held at the Deerubbin Centre, at 300 George Street Windsor.

The annual history symposium is an information sharing and networking opportunity for members of all Hawkesbury Local Government Area historical societies and heritage groups, as well as those in immediate environs. It provides the opportunity for the representatives of groups to broaden their knowledge of trends in local and family history, heritage and collection management and to hear about projects that other organisations are focusing on.

The free event recognises Dr Stubbs' commitment to the Hawkesbury community, and aims to promote interest in the unique history of the area. The Rex Stubbs Symposium is named in commemoration of Emeritus Mayor, Dr Rex Stubbs OAM, who was first elected to Hawkesbury City Council in 1983. Dr Stubbs held office for nearly 27 years and was our longest serving Councillor.

Vale Lorna Campbell

28 October 1917- 5 April 2019

Written by Jan Barkley-Jack

Recently, well-known and much respected Windsor resident Lorna Campbell, died. She had spent very close to all her 101 years in the Windsor locality. You will, I am sure, have seen her snowy-white curls tossing as she walked straight and brisk around the town and in South Windsor. She loved the Hawkesbury district passionately and felt it her duty to inform all residents about the district's history so they were aware and inspired by past achievements.

Lorna's talents were many. A dedicated teacher, Lorna taught children in areas from Broken Hill to Riverstone and Windsor South, where she was Infants' Mistress. In later years she took classes in history at the Hawkesbury University of the 3rd Age [U3A] and herself took computer lessons into her 90s. She was a talented artist and engaged musician, with subscriptions to both the Australian Ballet and the Australian Opera. Her father, Thomas, was the school-master at Freeman's Reach Public School from 1919 until 1934, travelling there by horse and sulky daily.



Lorna as a small girl, taken with her sisters, her parents, Thomas and Ada Campbell, in the grounds of the St Matthew's Anglican Rectory Windsor with Vera Perry (reclining) and three of the young men from the Scheyville training Farm and Migrant Accommodation Centre, early 1930s. Photograph in *Our Town*, Vol. 3, No 4, Autumn 2001, p. 17, published by *Hawkesbury Gazette*.



The Rectory, St Matthews Anglican Church precinct, Windsor

As a child Lorna had unique experiences which led her to become an intrepid adult. From an early age she resided in the Rectory of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor, with her family when the rector in 1923 went on an extended holiday and rented out the premises. The Reverend Norman Jenkin maintained regularly that the old Rectory in the 1920s was haunted, and he, like Lorna, philosophically regarded its ghosts as 'great company'. Lorna, the youngest of the Campbell girls, had many hair-raising tales to tell of her similar experiences there. Many a night she would lie awake in her small bed upstairs, next to the very room where Samuel Marsden had died a hundred years before, with the covers up over her head waiting as the faint steps on the stairs came nearer and nearer. One night she summoned her courage and raced to the top of the landing just as the ghostly tread was to reach the top stair, only to find the ghost confirmed. No-one was there.

A young Lorna and her sisters enjoyed the tennis parties her mother, Ada, organised on the court her father built in the Rectory grounds, beside the beautiful garden they created. Friends and young men from the Scheyville migrant camp often joined them. The family's fondly-remembered horse, Laddie, kept Lorna on her toes, as the pet learnt how to undo the latch on the stable door and Lorna would often have to retrieve him from Mrs Gow's next-door vegetable

As a child Lorna had unique experiences which led her to become an intrepid adult. From an early age she resided in the Rectory of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor, with her family when the rector in 1923 went on an extended holiday and rented out the premises. The Reverend Norman Jenkin maintained regularly that the old Rectory in the 1920s was haunted, and he, like Lorna, philosophically regarded its ghosts as 'great company'. Lorna, the youngest of the Campbell girls, had many hair-raising tales to tell of her similar experiences there. Many a night she would lie awake in her small bed upstairs, next to the very room where Samuel Marsden had died a hundred years before, with the covers up over



A watercolour of the Rectory garden painted by Lorna's father, Thomas, in the 1930s when the Campbell family lived in the Rectory. Photograph courtesy of Ian Jack.

patch. When her father retired, the family moved to 'Balaklava' in George Street, South Windsor, the suburb then called Newtown. Lorna remained a dedicated parishioner of St Matthew's Anglican and resident of South Windsor for the rest of her active life.



Lorna Campbell outside the rear of the Rectory stables after their restoration was completed. Lorna formed the Stables Taskforce to raise money to have the stables professionally conserved.

Photograph by Jan Barkley-Jack, 1999.

Two of Lorna's mightiest achievements were saving the original stable block dating from 1825, which is part of the historic St Matthew's Anglican Church precinct, and having the site of the 1796 Commandant's Barrack, later the Hawkesbury Government House, put on the NSW Heritage Register as a site of state significance. In the 1990s the stables were falling victim to neglect much to the distress of Lorna. Her pleas for help resulted in the formation of the Stables Task Force with Lorna and former church-warden Ron Soper at its helm, and with support from an active community committee.

A great deal of fundraising and several years



The stables of St Matthew's Anglican Church precinct, Windsor, after their restoration organised by Lorna Campbell. Photograph by Chris Jones, rector, 2016.

later the stables were underpinned, repaired and conserved and stand today as a fitting tribute to Lorna's determination. The State listing of the Old Government House site which at that time was on an allotment which Lorna owned, was vital to ensure its rare eighteenth-century archaeological remains and its sight lines as known by the early NSW governors, are retained into the future.

Her love of history led her to be a founding member of Hawkesbury Historical Society, where she is remembered with warm-hearts. Lorna accepted the position of the Society's first Treasurer in 1956, and remained involved until recently. She was our last remaining foundation member, and was very influential on much we take for granted today. Lorna believed in a woman's ability to participate quietly but seriously in the very male-orientated world that was the Hawkesbury she lived in during the 1950s and 1960s. For example, she was the only woman on the first Hawkesbury

Historical Society's executive committee, amongst esteemed male company. The members of the Society's Committee were all local businessmen and community leaders. Amongst them Lorna Campbell was the capable treasurer and the initial lone female input into Society decision making. She went on to hold the Society's longest membership.

Lorna's contributions to the Society multiplied over the years: it was she who suggested the name 'Howe Park' for the Windsor riverbank park, helped produce the first Society newsletter and seconded the motion that we as a Society should collect artefacts in 1957, an action which led to our present State-acclaimed collection now in Hawkesbury Regional Museum. Lorna also

worked as a regular weekly volunteer at the Society's Museum for a great many years, and I remember sharing guiding of walking tour groups with her in the 1980s and early 1990s. Research and presentations were also amongst her early roles.

Like all members of other Societies and the Church she loved, Hawkesbury Historical Society is greatly indebted to her for her long contributions, always given with forthright cheerfulness, and dedication to community values. Lorna is much missed by her community.■



Lorna Campbell (centre). Photographer unknown.

One of our most successful of our tours ever!

Margaret Catchpole: the truth behind the legend

Tour conceived and conducted by Robyn and Penelope Sharpe

Forty-nine people joined Robyn and Penelope Sharpe in the Margaret Catchpole tour, sponsored by Hawkesbury Historical Society, to celebrate the life of a special Hawkesbury ex-convict colonial. It was held on Sunday 19 May 2019, close to the 200th anniversary of Margaret Catchpole's death at 'Bronte', a Richmond farm.

It was good to see so many adults and young people taking the rare opportunity to visit some of the places where Margaret had lived and worked during her years in the colony.

Margaret Catchpole had achieved notoriety in her own lifetime as a horse thief and gaol escapee in Ipswich, Suffolk, before her transportation. Twenty-six years after her death she became the heroine of a best-selling novel 'The History of Margaret Catchpole, a Suffolk Girl' written in 1845 by the Reverend Richard Cobbold.

However, it was a 1911 silent film which captured the initial attention of the group at Hawkesbury Regional Museum at the start of the tour. The old film proved a special hit with the crowd. True to the era it portrayed in melodramatic form the essence of the legend that had been created around the young girl, and had topical interest as parts of Windsor had been used as the backdrop for several scenes.



Robyn and Penelope Sharpe at 'Durham Bowes', previously 'Mountain View' at Richmond leading the Margaret Catchpole tour, with Hawkesbury Historical Society President, Dr Ian Jack. Photograph by Neville Dehn, 2019.



The cottage on high land that the Dight family purchased and extended after the 1806 floods in Richmond, now part of 'Durham Bowes' farmhouse. The original kitchen in this cottage was the one Margaret Catchpole knew well during her years as midwife and nurse to the family. Photograph by Jan Barkley-Jack, 2009.

viewed from the gardens of the St John of God Hospital overlooking the lowland plain allowed a real understanding of Margaret's New South Wales world after her arrival in 1801.

Finally, a trip to Richmond burial ground allowed those on the tour to voice their opinions of where the mysterious location of Margaret's final resting place was likeliest to be on current information. It may have been 200 years after Margaret's death but a fitting tribute to her remarkable life spent helping other women mainly in the Hawkesbury as a nurse and midwife, evolved as each person placed a rose on what they thought her likely grave site.



The extended farmhouse of 'Durham Bowes' which Margaret Catchpole knew towards the end of her life, as it is today. Photograph: Margaret and Penelope Sharpe, Richmond.

Jan Barkley-Jack

Side by side at Sackville Cemetery

By Michelle Nichols



The Stephen & King headstones at Sackville Cemetery

Photo: M. Nichols, 2017

The Stephens and King families, two well-known surnames in the Ebenezer/Sackville district, share a plot at the Anglican Cemetery at Sackville. The two families were connected by marriage, when Walter King married Elizabeth Stephens in 1874.

Walter was born in Glebe in 1849, the son of James Kelsey King, a tailor, his wife Mary nee Baker. James and Mary along with their three daughters, arrived in Sydney in 1838. The couple had an additional six children after arriving, including Walter. The family settled in Sydney and appeared to prosper in their new surrounds.

In the 1860s, a Provisional School consisting of a slab building with a single room and earth floor was established at the junction of the Colo and Hawkesbury. Walter King, now a teacher, was appointed as the teacher for this school in 1869.

A Provisional School was also established at Ebenezer from 1874. It was originally known as Portland Head, but became Ebenezer Public School in 1887. Walter was appointed as the Schoolmaster at Ebenezer in the mid-1880s. Classes were originally held in the Ebenezer Church until a new weatherboard building was constructed on Coromandel Road. This building was destroyed by a bushfire in 1901 and the site was eventually relocated to its present site on Sackville Road with new buildings constructed, opening in 1902.

Walter King married Elizabeth, the daughter of the stonemason John, and Elizabeth Stephens in 1874. John Stephens was born in England in about 1806

and by his mid-20s was recorded as a Mason and Master Builder. He had lived in the Cornwall area for many years and was noted as building a number of houses in that locality. He was sentenced to Life in 1833 after being caught forging a bill, and arrived in Sydney on the '*Neva*' and first assigned to Port Macquarie. John married Elizabeth Brown in 1843, whilst living in Maitland, and shortly after they moved to Windsor. John and Elizabeth had six children including Elizabeth. They also raised Elizabeth's niece from birth.

John Stephens senior is attributed as building Buttsworth's Mill at Wilberforce. Built in the late 1840s for Henry Buttsworth, it was used to process grain, a popular crop in the district.

John and Elizabeth's sons, James Brown (1849) and John Gross (1850) were also well-known stonemasons and worked alongside their father, eventually taking over the business. Rough blocks of sandstone were cut, usually on the building site to avoid transporting the heavy stones. The stonemasons then perfected the blocks using their chisels and mallets. The substantial blocks were lifted into place with double and triple pulleys. All back-breaking work. Some of the structures built in Ebenezer and Sackville include Rockleigh ca 1870; Coromandel ca 1890; Girrawa Park (now Pickwick Park); Stonehill; Ebenezer Villa; St Thomas Anglican Church, Sackville completed in 1871; Sackville North School built in 1878, now known as Brewongle Field Study centre. They also built Tizzana Winery in 1887, the Sackville Methodist parsonage and the St Albans Court House which was completed in 1892. These surviving properties, built by remarkable craftsmen, are important examples of sandstone construction, and contain outstanding heritage features.



The Stephen home on Tizzana Road Ebenezer

Photo: M. Nichols, 2018

John Stephens senior died in 1890 aged 84 and is buried at Sackville cemetery, with his wife Elizabeth who passed away twelve months earlier. Son John died in 1922 aged 71 and James died a

few months later, aged 73. Both are buried at Sackville Cemetery.

Walter and Elizabeth King built their own residence on Sackville Road, towards the ferry, called 'Twyfordville'. Walter was a popular teacher, well-liked by the students and the local community. In 1912, after a career spanning over thirty years, he retired from teaching and the locals provided a farewell celebration.

There passed away at Matcham, near Gosford, on Tuesday of last week, a well-known and much respected identity in the person of the late Mr. Walter King, at the age of 86 years. Mr. King was for many years prior to retirement the teacher of the local public school. The burial took place at the Sackville Church of England cemetery in the presence of a large concourse of mourning friends, among whom were a number of ex-pupils. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. S. Howard, assisted by the Rev. A. J. Carter. As a mark of respect to his memory, the local school children stood at the salute as the cortege passed the school premises. Mr. King was the father of Mr. Herbert King, Mrs. Alma Tuckerman, Mrs. J. McKenzie and Mrs. Ada Brown, all of this district.

Report of Walter's death in *Windsor & Richmond Gazette*
26/10/1934 p. 3

Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85796429>

Walter King passed away near Gosford, aged 86 years, in 1934 and was buried at Sackville Cemetery. As a mark of respect the local school children stood and saluted as the cortege passed Ebenezer School. Elizabeth died two years later and their headstone is side by side John and Elizabeth Stephens, in the Anglican Cemetery at Sackville.■

The RAHS has been leading the research into the influenza pandemic in NSW and have established a website and produced a guide <https://www.rahs.org.au/an-intimate-pandemic-the-community-impact-of-influenza-in-1919/> to encourage others to research the impact the disease had on communities. Members of several historical groups in the Hawkesbury attended a workshop a few months ago with historian, Dr Peter Hobbins. Peter, a Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society, has been co-ordinating the project marking the centenary of the 1919 influenza pandemic.

From this workshop, a group of interested local and family historians, have joined together to research the impact of the influenza pandemic on the Hawkesbury and Riverstone district to contribute to the RAHS research.



Volunteer workers at the emergency hospital in Bega during the 1919 pneumonic influenza epidemic, State Library of NSW

We are seeking any stories of how the pneumonic influenza affected your family in the district during 1918 and 1919? Do you have any personal family stories, photos and documentation? We are interested in hearing your stories.

We are also investigating the impact on the community, closures of institutions, suspensions of activities, efforts to combat the disease. If you can assist, please contact:

Michelle Nichols (Hawkesbury Family History Group)
history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

or Neil Renaud (Colo Shire Family History Group)
nrenaud@bigpond.com

<https://www.rahs.org.au/an-intimate-pandemic-the-community-impact-of-influenza-in-1919/>

A Life Shaped by Five Iron Bolts

By Richard Gillard

My fourth great grandfather, Robert Farlow, was born on the 19th April 1778 to Robert and Lydia Farlow in Portsmouth, England¹. Growing up in Portsmouth probably meant that Robert worked at the dockyards as they were the main employers in Portsmouth at that time. At the age of 21, Robert married Ann Dyer on the 21st January 1799 at St. Mary's Portsea, Hampshire².

Robert was arrested and charged with stealing five iron bolts. His trial took place at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Thursday 14th January 1801. He was found guilty and sentenced to 7 years transportation³.

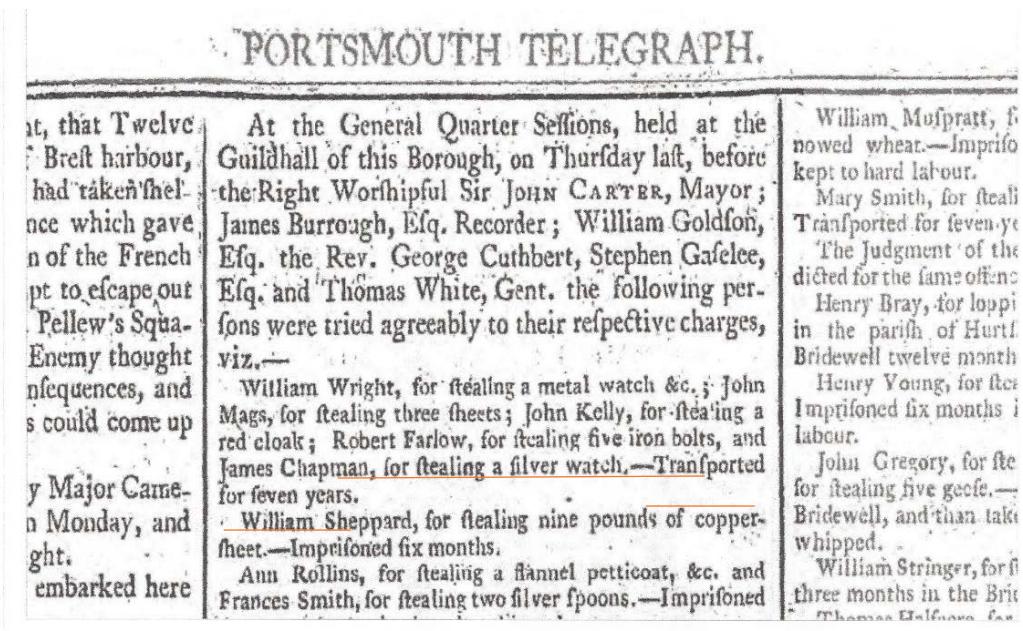


Image © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Figure 1. Verdict Robert Farlow's trial, 14th January 1801³.

On the 1st April 1801 Robert was transferred to the prison hulk '*Captivity*' to await transportation to Australia⁴.

Their first child Maria Farlow, (my third great grandmother), was born whilst Robert was in prison and he would have missed her christening at St. Mary's Portsmouth on the 17th May 1801⁵.

Approximately three months later, on the 6th June 1801, Robert was transferred to the prison ship '*Canada*' for transportation to Australia⁶. The '*Canada*' sailed from Spithead on the 21st June 1801, arriving in Sydney on the 14th December 1801. Ann and Maria Farlow were fortunate to be able to travel with Robert on the '*Canada*'⁶. Confirmation of Ann's sailing on the '*Canada*' with Robert is documented in a few General Musters, particularly the NSW General Muster of 1811 which details '*Free Women who actually came free into the Colony*'⁷.

Whilst little is known of the initial years spent in the Colony by Robert and Ann it is possible that Robert was assigned to Commissary John Palmer on his property, '*Stillwell Farm*', at Freemans Reach⁸. This

¹ Record of Robert Farlow's Birth 19th April 1778 - Church of England Parish Registers, 1538 – 1812. London, England: London Metropolitan Archives – Findmypast – Accessed 18 March 2019.

² Robert Farlow & Ann Dyer's Marriage Record 21 January 1799 - Hampshire Marriages, 1799 – Findmypast – Accessed 18th March 2019.

³ Robert Farlow's Trial & Conviction reported in the Hampshire Telegraph, Hampshire, page 5 - 19th January 1801 – Findmypast – British newspapers – Accessed 18th March 2019.

⁴ Robert Farlow's record on Prison Hulk Captivity - The National Archives of England, Kew, England; Topic: Convict Prison Hulks: Registers and Letter Books – Ancestry – Accessed 18th March 2019

⁵ Maria Farlow's Baptism Record 17th May 1801 - Hampshire Baptisms – Hampshire Genealogical Society – Findmypast – Accessed 19th March 2019.

⁶ Record of Robert Farlow's transfer from prison hulk Captivity to HMS Canada 6th June 1801 - The National Archives of England, Kew, England; Topic: Convict Prison Hulks: Registers and Letter Books – Ancestry – Accessed 18th March 2019.

⁷ Record of Anne Farlow travelling on Canada with Robert Farlow – State Archives and Records New South Wales - New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Musters 1806 -1849 – NSW General Musters > 1811 – Ancestry – Accessed 19th March 2019.

⁸ Jan Barkley-Jack – Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed – pages 118 – 121. Accessed 5th April 2019

assumption is based the 1806 Convict Muster⁹, which details that Robert was renting 10 acres of land in the Hawkesbury from a Mr. J. Palmer.

This Muster also recorded the following: -

- Robert already had his Ticket of Leave.
- Planted – 10 acres of wheat.
- Owned 10 hogs.
- Bushels in hand of: -
 - Wheat - 2 bushels
 - Maize - 8 bushels

Importantly, this Muster records that Robert, Ann and their two children at that time, were approved to be ‘*victualled by the Government*’, that is, they could draw items of food from the Government Store at Windsor. This was very important for the survival of Robert and his family because of the destruction caused to his farm by the 1806 flood of the Hawkesbury¹⁰. Robert again had to rely on provisions from the Government Store after the 1809 flood.

Whilst Robert lost all his crops in these floods, the whole colony was devastated by the floods as the Hawkesbury Region was known as the ‘*food bowl of Sydney*’¹¹. Loss of a major source of food supply put the fledgling colony in dire risk of failure.

On the 2nd February 1811 Robert was granted his Certificate of Freedom¹².

Robert was a very successful farmer and an astute business man despite being unable to read or write. From the humble beginning of renting 10 acres of land, Robert was continually seeking to expand his land portfolio. Robert obtained his land from two sources, government grants and direct purchases.

An example of one of the government land grants Robert received was from Governor Lachlan Macquarie on the 31st March 1821 when Governor Macquarie granted Robert 80 acres in the Counties of Durham and Brisbane¹³.

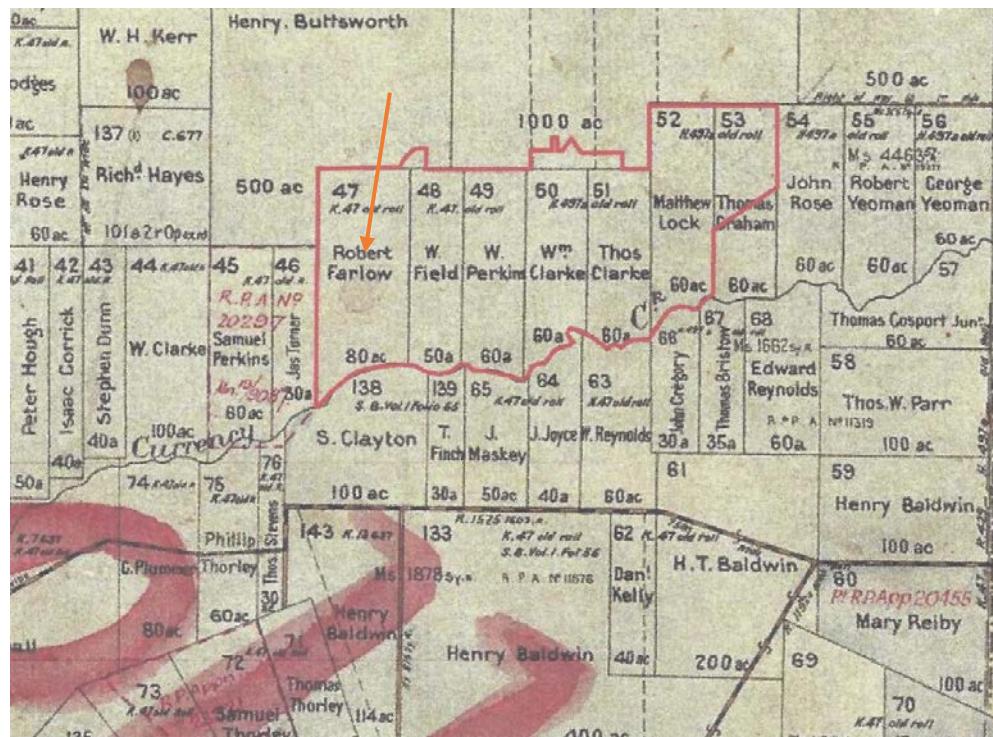


Figure 2. Land map of 80 acres granted to Robert Farlow 30th June 1823¹⁴

⁹ Record of Robert Farlow in Wilberforce 1806 – State Archives & Records New South Wales – New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Musters 1806 – 1849 – NSW General Musters>1806 – Ancestry – Accessed 19th March 2019.

¹⁰ The Hawkesbury River Floods of 1801, 1806, 1809. Their effect on the economy of NSW by J.C. H. Gill. Read at a meeting of the Society on 26 June 1969.

¹¹ A History of Aboriginal Sydney – www.historyofaboriginalsydney.edu.au/west/1780s - Accessed 3rd April 2019.

¹² State Archives and Records, New South Wales – New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom 1810 – 1814, 1827 – 1867 – Ancestry – Accessed 3 April 2019.

¹³ Land Grant of 80 acres to Robert Farlow - State Archives and Records New South Wales – New South Wales, Australia, Register of Land Grants and Leases, 1792 – 1867 for Robert Farlow > Counties of Durham & Brisbane> 1823-1836 (Vol. 8) – Ancestry – Accessed 21st March 2019.

¹⁴ Jacaranda Ponds, Glossodia – Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment Final Report by Godden, Mackay, Logan 2009 – Source of Map: Mitchell Library (AO Map 20712) – Parish of Currency Creek. Source report no longer available on the internet. Accessed around 2013 by Richard Gillard.

This grant of 80 acres did not satisfy the land needs of Robert. On the 4th October 1824 he had a letter written on his behalf to Sir. Thomas Brisbane thanking him for the grant of 80 acres by Governor Macquarie and requesting consideration be given to granting him more land ‘for the depasturage of his Herd of Cattle’¹⁵.

The Census for the year 1828 shows that Robert had acquired 221 acres of land of which 91 acres were cleared and cultivated. Not only was he farming at the time, he also ran 19 horses and twenty head of cattle¹⁶.

The 1828 Census also included a list of his eight children still residing at home, namely William 19, Christian 17, Mary 15, Elizabeth 13, Robert 11, Samuel 8. Robert and Ann’s other three daughters, Maria, Ann and Harriett had all married by the time of the 1828 Census.

Government herds were established in the colony and farmers could apply to the Governor to draw down on the herds. On the 12 September 1812 Robert was given approval to attend the Government Stock Yards at Seven Hills and draw down the cattle assigned to him. Prior to attending, Robert was required to have completed the ‘necessary bonds’¹⁷.

In the early days of the colony the farmers in the Hawkesbury region were required to deliver their produce to the Government Store at Windsor. The Government Store paid a set rate depending on type of produce and livestock delivered. On the 24th May 1821, Robert was recorded as delivering 107 half bushels of wheat at a contract price of 9 shillings per half bushel, totalling forty-eight pounds and two shillings¹⁸.

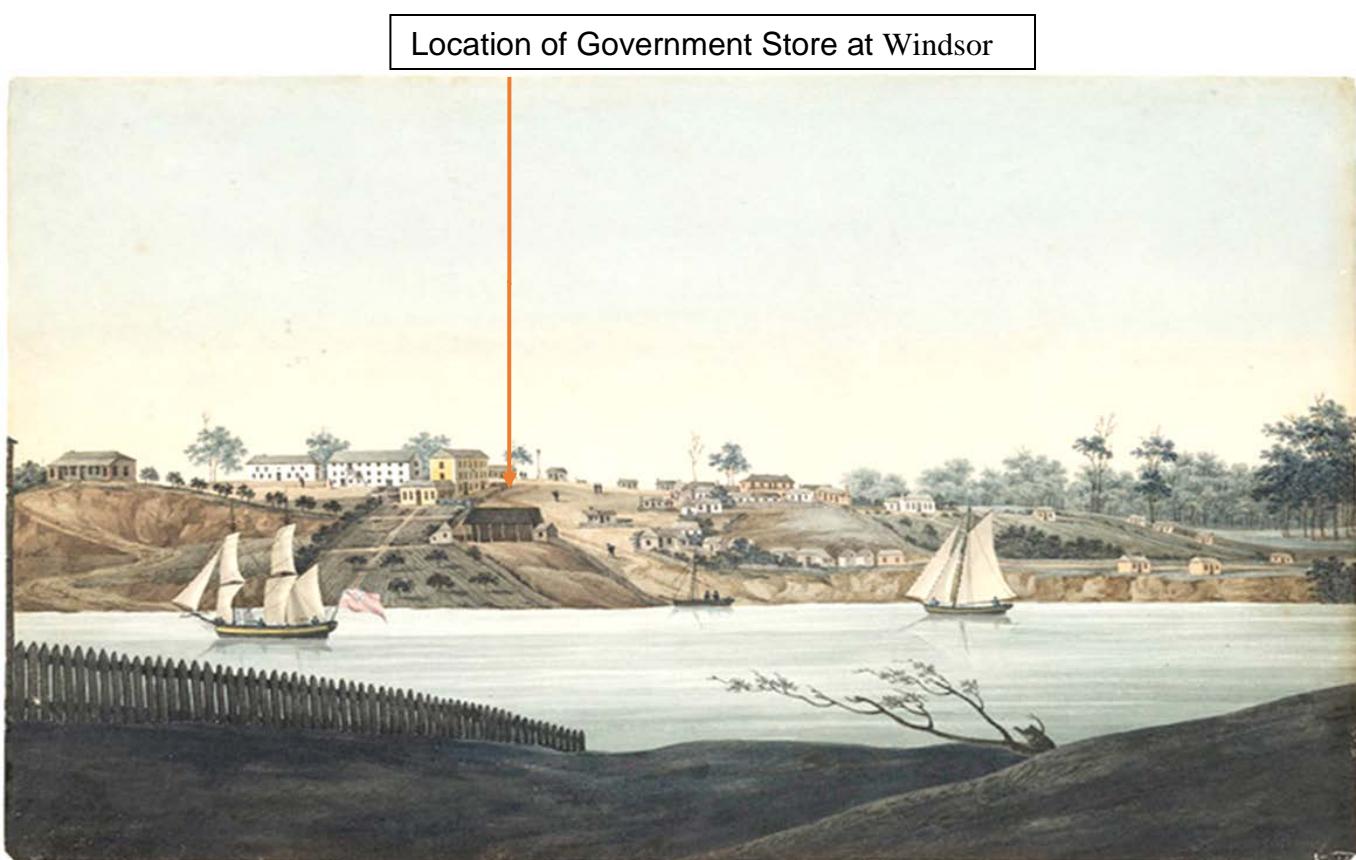


Figure 3. “Settlement of Green Hill” painted by surveyor George William Evans in 1809¹⁹.

Convicts were often assigned to the farmers in the Hawkesbury. A convict was assigned to Robert in September 1836²⁰.

Robert was heavily involved in the community and local politics. At a meeting held on the 28th April 1845 to establish the “Penrith and Hawkesbury Agricultural Society”, Robert was elected to the Committee²¹. At a

¹⁵ Request by Robert Farlow for additional land - State Archives and Records New South Wales: Colonial Secretary Papers, Series of Letters Received 1788 - 1825 – Ancestry – Accessed 21 March 2019.

¹⁶ Robert Farlow – 1828 Census Report - State Archives and Records New South Wales: 1828 New South Wales, Australia, Census, Census of New South Wales, Nov. 1828. – Ancestry – Accessed 22 March 2019.

¹⁷ Robert Farlow approval to draw down cattle - State Archives and Records New South Wales: Colonial Secretary Papers, Series of Letters Received 1788 – 1825 – Ancestry – Accessed 24th March 2019.

¹⁸ Robert Farlow delivery of produce to Government Store – State Archives and Records New South Wales: Colonial Secretary Papers, Series of Letter Received 1788 – 1825 – Ancestry – Accessed 24th March 2019.

¹⁹ State Library of New South Wales - Painting by George William Evans – 1809. Accessed 5 April 2019.

²⁰ Assignment of convict to Robert Farlow - National Library of Australia – Trove – The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 – 1842) – Saturday 24 September 1836 Page 4. Accessed 24th March 2019.

public meeting held on the 4th November 1846, Robert was appointed to a committee to research the possibility of building a church at Wilberforce²².

Life at times was not easy for Robert. A serious fire was started by Robert as he tried to burn off his corn stubble eventually destroying 40 acres of his neighbour's wheat crop²³.

Robert's life journey was certainly shaped by those five iron bolts. If he had not been charged and shipped to Australia, he would not have made a significant contribution to the early life of the Colony. Except for the three months spent on the prison hulk *Captivity*, Robert had his wife Ann by his side. As a result, Robert did not experience the same privation issues as most convicts who were sent to the Colony in those early days suffered.

Robert passed away on the 22nd May 1853 at the age of 75 years. Ann Farlow passed away about three weeks after Robert²⁴. Robert and Ann are buried in the Wilberforce cemetery.



Figure 4. Robert and Ann Farlow's Grave – Wilberforce Cemetery. Photograph Richard Gillard



NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Have you seen the new Library Catalogue yet?

Hawkesbury Library Service has been upgraded to a new library management system, thanks to a NSW Library Infrastructure Grant, which will significantly improve your borrowing experience.

The new catalogue has some great new features, including the integration of eBooks, Audiobooks and eMagazines, as well as its historic photograph collection into the main catalogue, and also includes the option to write online reviews.

Library staff are there to help you at every point. If you have any questions about the new system, please feel free to call on 4560 4460 and/or email library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

²¹ Election of Robert Farlow to Penrith & Hawkesbury Agricultural Society Committee - National Library of Australia – Trove – Hawkesbury Courier and Agricultural and General Adviser (Windsor, NSW: 1844 – 1846) – Thursday 29th May 1845 Page 3. Accessed 24th March 2019.

²² Election of Robert Farlow to Committee to build a church at Wilberforce - National Library of Australia – Trove -The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 – 1954) – Monday 9 November 1846 Page 2. Accessed 24th November 2019.

²³ Report on fire started by Robert Farlow - National Library of Australia – Trove – The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 – 1842) Friday 19 December 1828 Page 2. Accessed 25th March 2019.

²⁴ Report of death of Robert Farlow and Ann Farlow - National Library of Australia – Trove – The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW: 1843 – 1893) Saturday 25 June 1853 Page 3. Accessed 30 March 2019.

Heritage Festival – Richmond



Heather Gillard and Ian Jack representing the Hawkesbury Historical Society on our stall in the old NAB Bank in Richmond, on the Richmond Heritage Day, 27 April 2019. Thank you to all those who helped out on the day. Photographed by Neville Dehn.

Membership 2019/2020

Members are reminded that your Membership fees are due to be paid by 1st July.

Concession/Student:
\$15.00 with Pension or student card

Seniors:
\$22.50 with Senior's card

Single Adults:
\$30.00

Family:

\$45.00 Adults incl. children under 18 years

Forms have been distributed by the Secretary to members, however, if you still require a form, or would like to pass one on to a prospective new member, please contact:

Neville Dehn on 4578 2443.

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

Saturday, 24 August 2019

HHS General Meeting

Speaker: Kath von Witt

Topic: Museum Activities Update

Saturday, 31 August 2019

2019 Rex Stubbs Symposium

See more information on Page 2.

Thursday, 24 October 2019

HHS Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Alex Pugh (TBC)

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