

# Hawkesbury Historical Society

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

## HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

**Address:** The Secretary PO Box 293, Windsor NSW 2756  
**T:** 0410 498 944 **E:** [secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org)  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/hawkesburyhistoricalsociety  
**Aim:** Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage and preserve the history of the Hawkesbury  
**Meetings:** 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm, except June and August - 2pm. Venue – St Andrew’s Uniting Church Hall, 25W Market Street, Richmond.  
**Open to:** People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.  
**Patron:** Wendy Sledge

### Office Bearers 2025/2026

President: Jan Barkley-Jack  
Alternate President: Rebecca McRae  
Snr Vice President: Ted Brill  
Jnr Vice President: Tyler Dehn  
Secretary & Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley  
Public Officer: Neville Dehn  
Treasurer: Rodney Hartas  
Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford  
Web Administrator: Tyler Dehn  
Bookshop Manager: Kathy Layton

### Committee members

Cheryl Ballantyne, Neville Dehn, Janice Hart, Jan Readford and Oonagh Sherrard

### HHS Collection Committee

Jan Barkley-Jack

### Publications Committee

Michael Christie, Jan Barkley-Jack, Cathy McHardy, Rebecca McRae and Jan Readford  
(To be confirmed)

## 2026 MEETINGS

Thursday, 26 February – 7.30pm

Thursday, 23 April – 7.30pm

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June – 2.00pm

Saturday, 22 August – 2.00pm

Thursday, 22 October – 7.30pm AGM

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

## Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting

Thursday, 26 February 2026 – 7.30pm

to be held at

**St Andrew’s Uniting Church Hall**

25 W Market Street, Richmond

**Parking is available next door.**

**Speaker: Julie Perry**

**Topic: “I wouldn't look into your mother's ancestors if I were you”.**

This was the warning which one of my father's sisters once gave me! The dreaded convict stain!

I was born in Dubbo and grew up in western New South Wales. I have an Arts Degree and a Science degree from ANU and now live in Sydney.

My mother was very interested in the family history but before the Internet it was hard for her to access the data now available. I dedicate my book to her memory.

I have had the benefit of knowing Louise Wilson who has written a biography of Robert Forrester and Isabella Ramsay, *Sentenced to Debt: Robert Forrester, First Fleeter* and a biography of Richard Ridge: *Richard Ridge: Trader and Bailiff*. She has been able to go into far more detail than I could, and I recommend these to people interested in Hawkesbury history. I am glad Louise is to be your guest speaker in June 2026.

My new book is about a host of my ancestors: First Fleeters Ann Forbes and Robert Forrester, and Third Fleeters Thomas Huxley, Isabella Ramsay and Richard Ridge, as well as James Bligh Ridge and Sophia Huxley and their son Richard. My talk will explain the labour of love I undertook.

The journey starts with understanding background, like Cook's discovery of the East Coast of Australia, with Joseph Banks and James Matra aboard, and the establishment of a penal colony in New South





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 2026

Hi everyone,

May I wish all who read this Newsletter the happiest of New Years for 2026.

I think it is always fun to move into a new year and plan what we shall do together. This year, of course, is a very special year for Hawkesbury Historical Society, being a celebration of our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. That is rather a large number of functioning years for an Historical Society to be providing interesting historical and heritage experiences for its members and also for educating the wider community. So, if you are not a member already, please join actively this year, or alternatively feel welcome to come along to any of our events without membership.

Many celebratory activities are planned. Leading off on 26 February there will be a talk by author Julia Perry telling us about many of the members of her family who made up Hawkesbury's early European farming community. Following on from this, on 28 or 29 March (yet to be decided), will be a special luncheon with a talk about Hawkesbury Historical Society's memorable happenings and reminiscences. In April, in or around the Australian Heritage Festival, we are holding our usual 'Peek into The Past' event which will showcase one of the district houses and highlight the importance of Hawkesbury Regional Museum and the collection held there owned by Hawkesbury Historical Society. Also in April, will be a wonderful lecture by Erin Wilkins, one of the Aboriginal members active in our community, together with archaeologist, Amy Way, both of whom were part of a team which excavated and interpreted the Dargin Cave (on the way to Lithgow) with stunning results- I can't wait for that talk!

In May and November, we are holding tours of the district (yet to be finalised) and in June our speaker will be well-known author, Louise Wilson, telling us about more of the Hawkesbury history of Richard Ridge and others. The August Alan Aldrich

Memorial lecture will this year be a little different, showcasing past members of the Society, both those still alive and those now lost to us, as remembered by current members and in activities over the years. A special feature will be a slide show illustration about the Society's varied 70 years. And in October, for the Ian Jack Memorial Lecture, we will round off our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday year with a great speaker yet to be confirmed. Throughout the next 12 months our aim is also to do our best to entice younger members to become involved. Love to see you at the functions. Do mark each event on your calendar as they are not to be missed.

I am also still on my quest to understand the frequency of carvel/ clinker boat building techniques used on the Hawkesbury River in the early contact colonial period. Vessels built with clinker construction, we are most familiar within the later colony, with boards overlapping each other to form the outer skin, and until recently no evidence of carvel-built vessels (where the outer planks sit side-by-side with no overlap) was known.

Benjamin Wharton, of the Australian Maritime Museum, and I, have been exchanging emails on the subject of boat construction types, and the research is ongoing, so watch this space. I am going down to visit Benjamin at the Museum in Sydney soon, so I will update you when we know more. My visit with others to the Grono shipbuilding yards of the 1820s, in 1993, was most exciting for me after an exceptionally low tide yielded evidence of copper nails and other signs in the boatbuilding stratigraphy of the riverbanks at Pitt Town, just south of Long Neck Lagoon. Yet it, too, gave no information about carvel or clinker construction. The previous NSW Heritage Office archaeologist, Dr Siobhan Lavelle who visited the site, could add little about early vessel construction techniques and even the diary written in 1865-1867 by William Grono, the son of one of New South Wales' greatest boat builders, John Grono, still yielded no information about the frequency of each building method. Let me assure you it is a source of great frustration to early boat building enthusiasts, as no-one writing about the boats in the early colony specifies the type of construction- it must have seemed too mundane for them to mention!

Benjamin Wharton will be the speaker at the Rex Stubbs History Symposium on March 7, run by Hawkesbury City Council. Rex was the president of Hawkesbury Historical Society for many years, so hearing Benjamin speak there will be a double treat. Bookings essential.

A great year ahead!

Dr Jan Barkley-Jack  
President

Continued...

Wales. Then, staying in England, the story continues with the trials and transportation of my ancestors, under Governor Phillip and his successors. The members of my family spent their early days in Sydney and Norfolk Island and then came to the Hawkesbury. Richard Ridge Jr's going to the Darling River is a fitting way to end the story of vast journeys undertaken by my early family.

I draw on various sources (all cited), cross checking as far as possible. I am sure it will be of interest for members of Hawkesbury Historical Society as general history, as well as in its detail of descendants of the protagonists I claim.

## Getting to know Hawkesbury Historical Society's Members

This is a new feature of our newsletter to showcase our various members and their personal special memories - some about the Hawkesbury and some not; some related to the Society and some not. Over this, our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday year, let's share these various memories.



This initiative is the idea of **Arthur Cooper**, a member who joined the Society in August 2011, so this month it is Arthur in the spotlight.

Arthur is a very active and helpful member, who supports all our activities; always providing us with great equipment, as we need it, for external exhibitions; and for his ongoing contribution to promoting

the history of the Hawkesbury.



**Figure 1:** The welcoming entry to the property 'Overdale' in Creek Ridge Road, Glossodia, where Arthur's childhood was happily spent. The family moved there in October 1950, from Liverpool, and Arthur lived there until his marriage in 1970. His parents continued to own the property until 1988.

Arthur's father, Joe, was a breeder of show fowls, so well-known that he sent eggs off to exotic places like Indonesia and New Guinea to fill orders for eggs from breeders there.

Arthur to this day retains the front gate as a memento.



**Figure 2:** The old bridge over Wheeny Creek. Arthur and his sister and her beau used to bush walk in the area and fossick. Near the old bridge, which is now replaced with a ford, was a cave in which was living 'an old bloke' of unknown name and origin.



**Figure 3:** The family outing: Arthur Cooper's uncle, Harry Lumsden, with his family arriving at 'Overdale' on a visit, complete with suitcases strapped to the running board.

When Arthur and his family first moved to the property, his mother's sister's family came by train to visit and see the property. At the same time his mother's brother's family arrived in their car as did Arthur's father's father, also named Arthur Cooper. Altogether, 14 members of the family stayed the night on the verandah of the house in the assortment of beds housed there.

## CONTENTS

- ◆ Notice of February General Meeting ..... 1
- ◆ Presidents Report ..... 2
- ◆ Getting to know Hawkesbury Historical Society Members: Arthur Cooper ..... 3
- ◆ Back to Tebbutt's Sky Watching Event..... 4
- ◆ The Significance of the Green Hills Village, Hawkesbury ..... 5
- ◆ Photographer: Frank Harvey Rodda ..... 9
- ◆ The Crisford's – Builders of Richmond ..... 11
- ◆ Hawkesbury's limestone millstones: further insights from Norfolk Island ..... 14
- ◆ A Chapter from the Tuckerman Family – Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman ..... 16
- ◆ New Digitising Space open from 16 February..... 19
- ◆ Hawkesbury Historical Society Bookshop..... 20

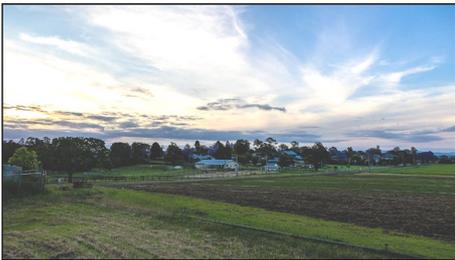
# BACK TO TEBBUTT'S SKY WATCHING EVENT

On Saturday evening, 2 November 2025, our Society, in cooperation with the Astronomical Society of NSW, (ASNSW), held one of our occasional 'Back to Tebbutt's Evenings'. The evening was a great success - weather-wise, and in every other way. We had some 80 to 90 members of the public attending of all ages.

As well as the telescopes provided by the ASNSW, out in the observing field, John Tebbutt, showed people over the 8-inch Grubb refractor, installed by his Great-Grandfather in the 1880's. In addition to telling people about his famous relations' earlier work, he talked about 'with much small instruments' it led to his discovery of the Great Comet of 1861. That small earlier telescope is now on display in the Hawkesbury Council Museum.

It was a warm evening and free coffee/tea and snacks were served in one of the historic buildings. Copies of *Astronomical Memoirs* by John Tebbutt were given out as lucky door prizes. The well attended event was enjoyed by all.

Our thanks are given to the ASNSW members for bringing their telescopes; to our own members for their help, and to Keith Friend for the memorable photographs.



# The Significance of the Green Hills Village, Hawkesbury

Jan Barkley-Jack

**‘Heritage matters, for it is ‘the context in which we live’.**<sup>[1]</sup>

## BACKGROUND:

**The urbanisation of the Deerabbun-Hawkesbury Valley began in 1806 when a village was created by ex-convict, Thomas Rickaby, on his high land above the central reaches of the Hawkesbury River. This was almost five years before Governor Macquarie set up the town of Windsor adjoining ‘the village at the Green Hills’. The village was by then extensive, running from Arndell Street almost to McQuade Park. Macquarie himself acknowledged the ‘existing village’ and walked through it in December 1810. This village documentation has only recently been recovered by Jan Barkley-Jack.**<sup>[2]</sup>

Ever since the Aboriginal people arrived in Australia and spread south, around 40,000-60,000 years ago, they have been a human presence in this district; and only since the late eighteenth century have they been forced to share with Europeans the land they have curated for thousands of years. In our Deerabbun-Hawkesbury area the understanding and significances of both Aboriginal and European history periods is intertwined and important for conservation of our total district’s history and heritage. This significance continues to evolve as new information and concepts are found through new research and interpretation.<sup>[3]</sup>

In its European context, from its beginnings in 1793 until 1806, the entire settlement along the central section of our district was made up of farms, which increasingly displaced and created immense hardship for Aboriginal people of the Boorooberongal clans of the Dharug tribe already settled here. Initially, no village was created and no town existed anywhere in the region before 1806. Only the Government Precinct broke this Aboriginal and farming pattern, supplying buildings to distribute food, wharfs for unloading items, granaries for the public store and a school and law enforcement. Only the necessary government employees lived on the 40-acre Precinct, with the exception of two Europeans allowed leases there- one a constable and the other an innkeeper, who received permission to run a pub there.<sup>[4]</sup>

The first village ever created in the Hawkesbury area was in the Richmond Hill district in the governorship of Philip Gidley King. It was not initially connected to the Government Precinct; being located on the low

hills on the south side of the Hawkesbury River commonly referred to at that time as the Green Hills (likely for the Green Hills area in Ireland)<sup>[5]</sup> below Fitzgerald Street. The village received no official name but was referred to as the village ‘at the Green Hills’,<sup>[6]</sup> abbreviated now to ‘the Green Hills Village’.

The ‘Macquarie town’ of Windsor, did not come into existence until five years after the village, yet the town foundation is often erroneously regarded as the beginning of urbanisation at Hawkesbury, because the existence of a large village prior to the township was not officially documented. The town of Windsor was created as an extension to the village with no alteration to the village’s fabric of 1806-1810 being made by Governor Macquarie, when the town was instigated in January 1811. It is the earlier village footprint which determined the location and growth of the streets and building allotments in the eastern part of the township itself.<sup>[7]</sup>

Green Hills village is an integral, important contributing element to the heritage of the town of Windsor and our district.

To determine heritage significance, the guidelines of the NSW Heritage Office are used in documenting the relevance of the items to the locality’s history: these values being Historical, Associational, Aesthetic, Social, Research and Rarity. The heritage values contributed by the Green Hills Village are:

## 1. **HISTORICAL: contribution to the village’s importance in the course of NSW’s history.**

- a. It is the village footprint which determined the location and growth of the township of Windsor itself and is integral to any understanding of one of Australia’s oldest town developments. **Macquarie’s contributions** are at present in NSW generally seen as the overarching first meaningful urban achievements in the Hawkesbury. Yet it was Macquarie who wrote of the importance of the village at the Green Hills, insisting in his diary that it was a village when he first saw it in 1810 and that he walked the entire length of it. His subsequent discussions of “the present village on the Green Hills” formed the location and base of his plan of the town of Windsor, not begun until January 1811.
- b. **Surveyor James Meehan**, an early and important surveyor in New South Wales, first surveyed the village of Green Hills in 1809 and 1810 before Macquarie had arrived in the colony and begun to form the town in January 1811. Maps now made from Meehan’s notes between 1809 and 1812-1813,<sup>[8]</sup> show the extent of the village and how it formed an integral part of the first map which Meehan

drew for Governor Macquarie in 1812. From this, it can be seen, that the main streets and roads and section-blocks already established as the village, were left intact as were the freehold allotments, after some necessary minor adjustments, and the town basically added to the eastern and southern ends of the village.

**2. ASSOCIATIONAL – relates to the associations of the item with the life or works of an important person or group of persons.**

- a. Garnham Blaxcell, a wealthy and important Sydney businessman who was an integral part of the interregnum government in 1808-1809 built a house in the Green Hills village, where he stayed whilst on official government business showing the village's economic importance to the colony.
- b. Humble ex-Chief Constable Thomas Rickaby, an ordinary farmer and inn-owner at the farming settlement of Hawkesbury for over 24 years, in 1806 created the revolutionary planning and sold allotment to form a village on his highland farm amongst the uniform district of farms, almost five years before the town was begun. Thomas Rickaby, and others in this cohort, were a vastly important but understudied group, who when examined show themselves, like Rickaby to have been quiet creators of change which allowed the most numerous group of colonial citizens, made up of ex-convicts and poor free-settlers, to become, in most cases independent, hard-working and successful citizens.

Rickaby's housekeeper and partner, Catherine Smith was his constant companion throughout most of that time, her works unrecorded, but able to be seen to caring for the properties and running the inn in the many absences when Rickaby was called to take prisoners to Sydney or to go to Court to give evidence. His job made Rickaby a well-known associate of almost all the movers and shakers in the colony: the Reverend Samuel Marsden, Garnham Blaxcell, Andrew Thompson, Richard and explorer John Howe, as well as through his working with the early Commandants, officers Edward Abbott, Neil McKellar and magistrates William Cox and Archibald Bell and the early ministers in the district- the Reverends Cartwright, Cross and Docker. He was also well-known and appreciated by Governors Hunter and Bligh, and Macquarie was called to give evidence in the Courts then throughout his life.<sup>[9]</sup>

Rickaby and Catherine also were loving parents to an Aboriginal waif for the five years before he died; with consent of his mother. The respect that the district had for Thomas and Catherine was shown at his funeral attended by villagers and farmers alike and 50 schoolchildren dressed in white in the funeral procession.

- c. Other well-known humble ex-convicts or poor free-arrival settlers who contributed to early Australian European colonial development in great measure, and who lived in the village and often its later township, were Andrew Thompson, Henry Kable, Richard Fitzgerald Matthew Everingham and John Howe by 1809. Andrew Thompson was the first ex-convict to be created a magistrate in the colony and was credited by Macquarie in his journal with being an important founder of the village of Green Hills, mainly from his investment as one of the richest men in the early colony in his brewery, inn, vast retail store and residence in the village; Henry Kable, a wealthy colonial shipping tycoon and merchant built and worked in the village; Richard Fitzgerald had been the powerful agent of John Macarthur at Hawkesbury and became the Government Storekeeper and Convict Superintendent and a contractor for government buildings in the village; Matthew Everingham was a constable, farmer and innkeeper of note whose houses were examples of very substantial and well-designed assets to village life; and John Howe was the manager of Andrew Thompson's huge colonial concerns and leader of the exploration team that forged the first road to the Hunter Valley from the Hawkesbury. He was later a pioneer Hawkesbury settler living in the northern valley.

**3. AESTHETIC – relates to the aesthetic characteristics and creative achievement of the item including its architecture, interiors, landscape and other designed or natural elements.**

Does not apply.

**4. SOCIAL – relates to strong/special associations with communities or cultural groups.**

The village thus has great significance as a tangible demonstration of the power and achievements of the humble classes of early colonial society, begun by an ex-convict, Thomas Rickaby, who became a successful Chief Constable and land developer and farmer, and who was relied on by governors Hunter, King and Macquarie in his role as successful Chief

Constable. The village was significantly developed by an ex-convict, Andrew Thompson who was highly praised by Governors King and Macquarie for his aiding the economic development and the growth of the colony and who was the wealthiest ex-convict when he died. The village was taken forward by humble settlers like Richard Fitzgerald, Matthew Everingham and John Howe who raised the village to new heights.

As well, non-well-known ordinary settlers valued the village which was further developed into a flourishing commercial area with shoemakers, blacksmiths and industrial sites like a brickworks, boatbuilding sites and several inns. The village land was easily bought and sold being freehold land and Windsor inherited this village vibrancy and commercial beginnings which caused the town to develop quickly during its first years, unlike another three towns in the Hawkesbury who had their town lots only able to be sold with their farms.

The village lot owners were the very pioneer families which built the farming district and there are many descendants still living in the area, with a couple of 1794 families, like the Cobcrofts, still farming here. Moreover, the families who have spread further afield, like ex-prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull's family, see Windsor as one of the main family centres, visit the burial grounds and the area generally regularly, many holding pioneer family reunions here and shopping in the remnants of the village.

##### **5. RESEARCH – relates to the potential of the item to reveal new information of scientific, technical or cultural nature.**

The shape and layout of the village has totally been retained from until today from Arndell Street almost to McQuade Park, and many of the street divisions in the current town of Windsor still follow the early village layout, with the main streets of George and Macquarie and all cross streets except Kable and Suffolk Streets in existence in their current location before the town was born. The area and the origins of the village streets and blocks go back to 1806-1809 and allotments retain their original form although being subdivided. The documentary research to date has only been carried out minimally and so the potential to yield much more understanding of the nature of the growth of the village and later township exists with further documentary research and physical exploration. In its technical development, original layout and the cultural nature of the ownership of allotments of many families like Rickaby and Richard Fitzgerald found families retained ownership for decades.

The Primary Applications available at the Archives Office at Kingswood have yielded much of this information after the analysis undertaken by Jan Barkley-Jack for her PhD and forthcoming book, but this is only a fraction of the layout and cultural significance that may be revealed from future study. What is now known is:

- In May 1806, Rickaby put an advertisement in the *Sydney Gazette* for the sale by auction of 20 small lots of 32<sup>2</sup>rods each, on his two high farms. The lots were all to be on the southern side of the main track (later known as George Street) which ran through his property and is now known as George Street.
- Three auction lot numbers have survived in the records. They are Lot 4, bought by John Embrey, and Lots 11 and 12 which were bought by the Reverend Samuel Marsden. Rickaby went on to advertise around 30 more allotments for sale soon after, mostly on the northern side of the main track and in or below today's Fitzgerald Street.
- He was soon followed by the other owner of the high land in today's Windsor Reach, the Government Storekeeper William Baker. Baker's village-sized lots filled in the remaining space between Fitzgerald Street and the Government Precinct and Andrew Thompson's brewery which was measured with its eastern side on Wilcox's farm boundary, which today would be an extension of Arndell Street, and forming the village's eastern extremity. There was no official way Rickaby could at that time give ownership papers to those who purchased, but a handshake deal sufficed for most Hawkesbury farmers or a hand-written note of sale.

Thus, the village took up all the land from Arndell Street almost to McQuade Park by January 1811, around two kilometres, before the town was added on to it.

##### **6. RARITY – relates to the ability of the item to be an exceptional example or rare survivor of its kind.**

The village of Green Hills is rare as the only one of Macquarie's towns which was built on the footprint of an earlier village, and which had its layout and street set out determined by the earlier village. Not only that, but the village is rare as the earliest example of a non-government planned urban area created and developed entirely by the private enterprise of one humble ex-convict's foresight and endeavours.

What Thomas Rickerby proposed to create was not a grand, elite affair but one proposed by an ordinary fellow-settler to help the humble farmers on low grounds along the Hawkesbury River in times of flood. He proposed selling small acreages of 8 rods by 4 rods in width, about equivalent to a modern 1980s sized land parcel of today, that is approximately 800 square metres in size. The idea of selling such small blocks on his own property was entirely conceived and carried out by Rickaby as a private individual. The allotments were to run beside the main track which ran through his highland farm and inn premises and were sold despite Rickaby having no permission or way of transferring title.

The village also has rarity from being the only village begun and developed by humble early settlers of their own accord in NSW. It developed in the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with no government involvement for five years. The village rapidly expanded, also housing ordinary people who saw no place for themselves on the farms: tradesmen, single women with families and small retailers. Boat building, brewing, inn-keeping and retailing were conducted there by Andrew Thompson, and later others. The village was the first urban area in the Hawkesbury district initially created by the poor for the poor.

Macquarie's written acknowledgement of a village that was too well-developed to move or obliterate when he came to build his town and which he left intact as the basis of the old part of his new town, adds to the significance of Green Hills Village.

Moreover, with Macquarie personally acknowledging he designed the town blocks with their street layout to allow the village to remain, thus determining the rest of his new town, makes the Green Hills Village unique in NSW history as the only village determining a town structure by 1811.

#### References:

- [1] R. Ian Jack, Fairview, 550 Ten Mile Hollow Road, Mangrove Creek, June 2012', sent to Gosford Council.
- [2] Jan Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury's Pioneer era 1793-1843: how the humble led change despite the odds*, forthcoming, Inscope Books, Cremorne, 2026, taken from research which gained Jan a PhD from Western Sydney University in 2024.
- [3] Jan Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury's Pioneer era 1793-1843*, forthcoming.
- [4] Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: a new look at Australia's third mainland settlement*,

1793-1802, Rosenberg Publishing, Dural, 2009, pp. 100-106.

- [5] Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, p. 333.
- [6] *Register of Assignments and Other Legal Instruments (Old Registers), Book 2, 34, 167, July 24, 1809*
- [7] Macquarie, *Journal*, p. 31, 42-43.
- [8] Sketches drawn by John Whitehead, a retired surveyor of Coonabarabran, 2023, from Meehan, Surveyor's Field Notes, in Jan Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury's Pioneer era: how the humble led change despite the odds*, forthcoming 2026.
- [9] J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: a new look at Australia's third mainland settlement, 1793-1802*, Rosenberg Publishing, 2009, pp....; Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack, *St Matthew's Windsor, a Hawkesbury landmark celebrating 200 years*. Rosenberg Publishing, 2016, pp....

## HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*A luncheon to celebrate this momentous occasion will be held in March 2026.*

*The event will be held on either Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026, so please keep these dates free.*

*Arrangements will be finalised shortly and the date and venue will be advertised at that time.*

*A slide presentation on the Society's history will accompany the celebrations.*

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.  
TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY OF  
ARTICLES OR ANY STATEMENTS EXPRESSED  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

# PHOTOGRAPHER: FRANK HARVEY RODDA

By Michelle Nichols

Frank Harvey Rodda was born 27 February 1862 at Bathurst NSW, son of James and Louisa Rodda, a pioneering family from the Central Western Slopes region. His father, James, was an architect but was involved in pastoral pursuits with properties near Wellington such as 'Mount Arthur' and 'Bodangara'.

When he was 18 years of age, he was employed by the Bank of NSW around 1880. He had a very successful career in the banking industry. Throughout his time with the bank, he was the accountant at Windsor for ten years and Manager at Richmond for five years. In 1892, he married Emily Frances Tebbutt, daughter of the well-known astronomer, John Tebbutt of Windsor.



As a young man, Frank was an enthusiastic photographer and secured many beautiful scenic studies of the local district including South Creek, the Hawkesbury River, historical buildings, livestock, sport teams etc.

In 1875, 'Isthmia' (also known as the 'Blue House') a Victorian style villa was built in North Street, adjacent to Windsor Courthouse. It was built by local contractor Frank Mullinger for the Tebbutt family. John Tebbutt gifted this property to his daughter Emily Frances, Frank's wife. The couple lived in this property for about ten years and their five children were born there. The children were all born in the Hawkesbury: Jane

Frank Rodda captured John Tebbutt's property at Windsor, where his wife grew up.

born 1893; Louise born 1895; Mary born 1897; Emily born 1899 and John Thomas born 1902.

The couple then reside at the Bank of New South Wales, in Windsor Street, Richmond, for about five years. They later lived in Randwick, Coogee and Roseville. Whilst residing in Windsor, Frank interested himself in bee farming, importing bees from Italy and America. He also imported maize and other cereals which improved the standard of the crops in the district.

Frank Rodda passed away on 19 May 1933 at Roseville. His funeral was held at the Crematorium at Rookwood. His wife Emily, died in April 1938. Their daughter, Mrs Louise Chapman made available Frank's glass plate negatives for copying in the 1980s for an exhibition and they were then donated to Hawkesbury Library Service for the residents of the Hawkesbury to enjoy.



He was a true lover of nature and following his retirement from the bank, made frequent excursions into the bush.



The Punt House at Pitt Town, circa 1890s.

Hawkesbury Library Service is currently hosting a display of Rhoda's images dating from the late 1880s to 1910s. The display is available to view, during Library opening hours.

All of the images in this collection were printed from glass negatives, that is negatives produced on a glass plate.

The collection has also been digitised for preservation. Some of the images are coloured.

The glass negatives were hand tinted at some stage which was popular in the early 1900s. Images accompanying this article are courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service.



Unidentified group, circa 1890s (Right)

Students in Richmond Park circa 1900s (Below)



### References:

LATE MR. F.H. RODDA (1933, June 2). *Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1971)*, p. 2. Retrieved August 25, 2025, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86054537>

Emily Frances Rodda - OBITUARY (1938, April 29). *Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1971)*, p. 4. Retrieved September 4, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85809084>

NSW BDM Index  
<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search>

# The Crisfords – Builders of Richmond

Cathy McHardy – [cathy@nisch.org](mailto:cathy@nisch.org)

First written August 2015,  
updated September 2022 and February 2026

Crisford was a familiar Richmond surname in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. John Crisford, aged 42, his second wife Mary (formerly Young nee Merrick), aged 39, and seven children, arrived as assisted immigrants aboard the 'Florist' in October 1839. James was aged 19 years, Caleb 17 years, Charlotte aged 7, Thomas 3 years and Edward aged 14 months. Also in the party were Mary's children from her previous marriage: Joseph (Young) 16 years and Edwin aged 12 and Mary's brother John Merrick. [1]

John hailed from Hastings, Sussex and Mary from Sedlescombe, a village in East Sussex, England. Soon after arrival, John, a bricklayer by trade, and second son Caleb were assigned to Captain O'Connell at Woolloomooloo for the sum of £2/5/0 per week without rations. [2]

In his *Reminiscences of Richmond*, Cooramil (Sam Boughton) related that the Crisford family from 1841 occupied the Horse and Jockey Hotel which stood on the corner of East Market Street and March Street, Richmond.

The building was replaced by the Imperial Hotel in 1898 and then by the Richmond Inn in 1971. The Crisfords are credited with the construction of many buildings in the town including the Presbyterian Church in West Market Street, although the text does not make it clear whether it is referring to John or his son Caleb. [3] John died in 1855 aged 58 years and was buried in the Wesleyan Cemetery, Londonderry.

**The next family to occupy the building was the late Mr. John Crisford, the father of our Mr. Caleb Crisford. He arrived in Richmond, with his family, in the year 1841. He was a bricklayer and contractor, and erected the "Richmond Stores" for Mr. W. Brew; "Richmond House," for Mr. Ducker; the Presbyterian church and—I think—the Wesleyan church, and many other buildings.**

Excerpt from *The Hawkesbury Herald*. 19 December 1902, p. 19 *Reminiscences of Richmond* by Cooramil.  
Retrieved on 2 February 2026 from  
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66353065>

Over the next seventy years members of the Crisford family carved out a significant place in the development of the town. Learning the building trade from his father,

Caleb, in particular, may be recognised as working on the construction of many of the attractive buildings which still adorn the town today.

Writing under the pen name of 'Cooyal' in about 1905, George Charles Johnson asserted that Caleb assisted James Melville with the brickwork for 'Toxana', located on the corner of Windsor Street and East Market Street, built for William Bowman in 1842.[4]

This association with the Bowman family continued with the construction of the Presbyterian Church in West Market Street in 1845. George Bowman generously gave the land for the church as well as funding most of the building costs.[5]

The contractors responsible for the erection of the Richmond School of Arts on the corner of West Market Street and March Street were William Tomkinson and Caleb Crisford. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on the momentous occasion which took place in January 1866. Miss M A Bowman was honoured with the task of ceremoniously laying the foundation stone under which a time capsule was positioned. Later that year the building was opened by Henry Parkes.[6]



Richmond School of Arts c.1900. The decorative porch was added in 1896. [From the collection of Caroline Woodhill.]

William Sullivan of Richmond credited Messrs Thomas Crisford and Edward Crisford (both sons of John and Mary Crisford) with having been instrumental in the formation of the Richmond School of Arts and Literary Institute. The story goes that Thomas offered one of the rooms in a shop that he owned as a meeting place for like-minded men of the town to gather for the purpose of discussion and the exchange of literary works. The assembly gradually outgrew the shop premises and the group formed the nucleus of the movement that worked towards the construction of the building which still functions as a meeting place today.[7]

It is not known whether Caleb Crisford worked on the construction of the Richmond Post and Telegraph Office, designed by James Barnet in 1875, but he did work on the addition of the second storey in 1888, together with Samuel Boughton. This addition provided

residential living space for the postmaster and his family.[8]

**Progress.**—Yes, our ordinary Sleepy Hollow is taking the lead just now in things progressive. First, there is the addition to the Post and Telegraph Office. The contractors, Messrs. Crisford and Boughton, were good enough to show us through the additional rooms the other day—then floorless—though the well-seasoned inch and a quarter flooring boards were then ready to be laid. There are four rooms, one of which will be a drawing-room, 20 x 14 feet, and the others are intended for bed-rooms, two being 20 by 10, and the third 14 x 12. These rooms are 12 feet high from floor to ceiling. Besides these there will be a large lobby and staircase descending to the lower floor. The rooms will be provided with French windows, which will open on to a splendid balcony, extending right round the addition, over the present arched verandah, and when finished will look very ornamental. A brick and stucco parapet will

Excerpt from the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 19 November 1887, p. 3. Richmond – Progress.

One of the stately homes of Richmond, ‘Eulabah’ in West Market Street is another example of Caleb’s handiwork. In 1881, the building was designed in the late Victorian Jacobean style by prominent Sydney architects Mansfield Brothers for Dr James Cameron and his wife Eliza Bowman.[9] The architects also designed several local bank buildings, including the former CBC Bank on the corner of Windsor Street and West Market Street.



Eulabah in West market Street Richmond was completed in 1881 and was the work of Caleb Crisford. [From the collection of Caroline Woodhill.]

Caleb Crisford also had a close association with St Peter’s Church in Windsor Street. He worked on the Rectory designed by Edmund Blacket and completed in 1848, and with William Tomkinson when the chancel was added to the church in 1869.[10]

He married Marianne Price in Windsor in 1848, and the couple produced a large family of 14, although sadly many of the children did not survive into adulthood. The

family lived in Windsor Street opposite the park and next to the coachbuilder and lifelong friend William Mitchell. Caleb also took an active interest in community affairs and served as an alderman on Richmond Borough Council from 1873 to 1892.[11]

Crisford was nominated for Mayor several times but declined this elevation in status saying that others were more deserving of the honour. He was outspoken in his beliefs and known for his advanced opinions on social questions: he “did not travel in the current ruts of thought” and was not afraid of speaking his mind which encouraged his detractors. He believed that keeping an active mind was significant to longevity.[12]

At a Richmond Council meeting in February 1874, Crisford was accused of obstructing the progress of the town. A group made up of fellow members Tomkinson, Turner and Guest used their bank of votes to block the passage of motion promulgated by the Works Committee to improve the condition of the road pavements on East Market and Bosworth Streets which were described at the time as “impassable”. [13] From our vantage point over 150 years later is difficult to understand why there would be such fierce opposition to town improvements. Understanding the factional dynamics of the time would be a study in itself, but then as now, the members of governments at all levels may be divided into often discordant groups.

In 1891, he sold up the family home with the intention to set sail early the following year on a visit to ‘the Old Country’, England. A presentation was made at the Commercial Hotel owned by George Cobcroft (now R G McGee’s) of an illuminated address produced by John Sands of Sydney which depicted some of the important buildings of Richmond on which he had worked over the years.[14] I often wonder if this beautiful memento of his time in Richmond has survived down the years?

The address was beautifully illuminated, and executed by Mr. John Sands. It bore, amongst other things, representations of the Post-office, the Presbyterian Church, the Church of England Parsonage, and Rev. Dr. Cameron’s residence, all of which buildings were erected during his business career by Mr. Crisford.

Excerpt from the report of the presentation of a beautifully designed illuminated address to Caleb Crisford on the occasion of his leaving for England. *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 7 January 1892, p. 2.

The evening, chaired by his great friend William Mitchell was attended by many of the esteemed gentlemen of the district including Colonel Holborrow, Reverend J Kinghorn, Mr E Campbell and George Cobcroft. An evening of speeches and songs was reportedly enjoyed by all in attendance although there were several notable exceptions including Dr James Cameron.

On his return to Australia, Caleb settled in Strathfield near his daughter Blanche who had married Arthur Woodhill in 1895.[15]

Caleb was a frequent visitor to the town of Richmond until his death in October 1909, aged 87 years. Described as a “genuine, loyal and true friend”, his obituary was written by his lifelong friend, William Mitchell who spoke of his “wonderful vitality for his age”. Perhaps his ethos of keeping an active mind (and body) paid off ensuring a long and energetic life. He was known for his many acts of kindness, helping out some families when they found themselves in financial strife.[16]

He was interred in St Peter’s Cemetery, Richmond with his wife Marianne who predeceased him by over thirty years as well as other members of his family. Thankfully so many examples of his craft may still be found in the town today.



Grave of the Crisford family, St Peter’s Cemetery, Windsor Street, Richmond. [Cathy McHardy, 12 June 2023] St Peter’s Burial Register lists the deaths of Ada (1885), Caleb (1909), Elizabeth (1889) and Mary Ann (1875). The stone also lists several other family members.

References:

- [1] Miscellaneous Immigrants Index 1828-1843. State Archives Collection. <https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/permalink/f/1ebnd11/INDE X87048> See also Reels 2654 and 1301.
- [2] Disposal of Immigrants per ‘Florist’. State Archives Collection retrieved 6 February 2026 from <https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/permalink/f/1ebnd11/INDE X85448>
- [3] *Hawkesbury Herald*, 19 December 1902, p. 19. *Reminiscences of Richmond* by Cooramil. Retrieved on 10

- February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66353065>
- [4] *Reminiscences of Richmond: From the Forties Down*, Cathy McHardy (ed), 2010, p. 186.
- [5] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [6] *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 1866, p. 7. Richmond. Retrieved on 10 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13124753>
- [7] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 10 November 1900, p. 1. Richmond School of Arts. Retrieved 8 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85851797>
- [8] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 19 November 1887, p. 3. Richmond – Progress. Retrieved on 9 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66377534>
- [9] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 9 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [10] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 4 July 1891, p. 5. St Peter’s Church Jubilee. Retrieved on 7 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72540333>
- [11] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 7 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [12] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 7 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [13] *Australian, Windsor and Richmond and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 28 February 1874, p. 7. Richmond Municipality. Retrieved on 5 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/70660035>
- [14] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 January 1892, p. 2. Presentation to Mr Crisford. Retrieved on 8 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72547462>
- [15] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 November 1893, p. 4. Richmond. Retrieved on 7 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72544268>
- [16] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 13 November 1909, p. 2. The Late Caleb Crisford. Retrieved on 5 February 2026 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85866135>

## BE SURE NOT TO MISS

the

General Meeting for the  
Hawkesbury Historical Society

and our speaker Julie Perry and her talk on:

**“I wouldn't look into your mother's ancestors  
if I were you”**

**Thursday, 26 February – 7.30pm**  
at

**St Andrew’s Uniting Church Hall**  
25W Market Street, Richmond

**PARKING** is available next door.  
Entry via West Market Street

# Hawkesbury's limestone millstones: further insights from Norfolk Island

by Anne and Les Dollin

Our scientific investigations in 2024–2025 of the two Singleton Family millstones at Kurrajong revealed an astonishing story! (See our article in Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter No. 164, June 2025.) We discovered that these millstones were cut from limestone from an ancient coral reef, and that they were almost certainly quarried by the earliest British settlers on Norfolk Island.

We presented our findings in detail in a free eBook that is available from our Singleton Mills website: *Limestone Millstone at Kurrajong, NSW – linked with Norfolk Island's First Settlement*.

Now, our new analyses of some ruins and artefacts on Norfolk Island have revealed much more about the history of the Hawkesbury's rare limestone millstones!

## New insights from Norfolk Island

The first British settlement on Norfolk Island was established in 1788, by 22 convicts, seamen and officers from the First Fleet. They sailed to Norfolk Island just weeks after their arduous eight-month journey to Sydney.<sup>[1]</sup> There, using unfamiliar types of stone and timber, they succeeded in building a thriving colony, including flour mills that were more effective than those that had been built by that time in Sydney. Later, mill components, including millstones, were brought to Sydney to provide sorely needed support to the milling industry developing there.<sup>[2]</sup>

Just after the launch of our first eBook, we received an exciting offer. Frank and Valerie Holland, from our Kurrajong–Comleroy Historical Society, planned to visit Norfolk Island and they offered to take photographs there for us. We eagerly gave them a detailed list of requests and suggestions. The Hollands returned with over 200 excellent photographs, and they generously gave us full permission to use these images in our research.

We then spent three months analysing the Hollands' photographs, along with historic maps, archival documents, archaeological reports, and LiDAR scans of the island, and discovered even more about the Hawkesbury limestone millstones at Kurrajong.

### 1. A last-surviving millstone

Hundreds of millstones would have been quarried by convicts on Norfolk Island for the flour mills that

operated during the First and Second Settlement periods (1788–1814 and 1825–1855). These millstones were cut from limestone formations on the island.<sup>[3]</sup>

Surprisingly, only one millstone is known to have still survived on Norfolk Island! A description of this millstone was presented in an earlier report by Jackson and Forbes.<sup>[4]</sup>

Using Frank Holland's photographs, we were able to write a much more comprehensive description of this millstone and compare it with the limestone millstones at Kurrajong.

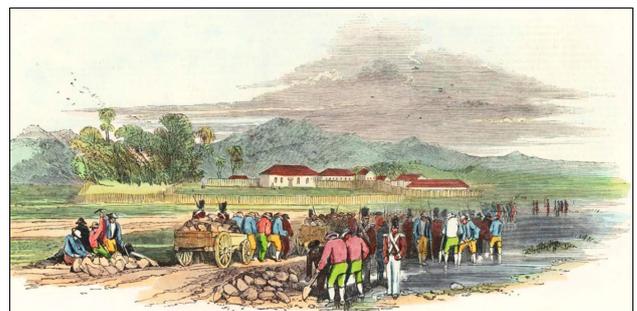


The last limestone millstone known to survive on Norfolk Island. Photograph by Frank Holland.

The Norfolk Island millstone was unfinished and had never been used in a mill. This gave insights into how Kurrajong's millstones would have looked when they were first cut in the quarries. We also examined some interesting defects in this stone, and the effects that prolonged water erosion had on this millstone.

### 2. The limestone quarries

The limestone on Norfolk Island was extensively quarried by the convicts to construct buildings, roads, headstones, and dripstones, and to make lime. This arduous work was often seen as an effective way to punish the convicts. The most compact grade of limestone was used to cut decorative building stones and water-filtering dripstones, and to make millstones. The best beds of this stone were found in offshore reefs, and convicts had to stand up to their waists in seawater to cut this limestone.<sup>[5]</sup>



An 1847 wood engraving showing convicts cutting stone on Norfolk Island and teams of convicts hauling wagons laden with stone from a quarry. National Library of Australia.

We investigated the extent and locations of Norfolk Island's limestone quarries using historic maps and modern LiDAR scans. The Hollands' photographs colourfully illustrated some traces of these quarries that can still be seen.

### 3. The Second Settlement watermill

The picturesque ruin of a convict-built, 1828 watermill, stands in a lush green valley in Arthur's Vale. This was one of many flour mills on Norfolk Island that would have used limestone millstones. Sadly, little remains of the hundreds of flour mills that were built in Australia in the early 1800s. So, this Norfolk Island ruin provides valuable insights into the mill-building techniques that were used during this period of Australian history.

Using the Hollands' photographs, along with an excellent archaeological report by Wilson and Davies,<sup>[6]</sup> we were able to digitally reconstruct this old watermill. Further investigations using LiDAR scans revealed the extent of the millpond, and the mill races that were built for this mill.



As part of our digital reconstruction of the 1828 Norfolk Island watermill, we showed how the building may have looked in the 1830s, based on historic records. (Left), photograph of the watermill ruin in 2025 by Frank Holland. (Right), artist's impression of the watermill by Anne Dollin (some features generated by AI).

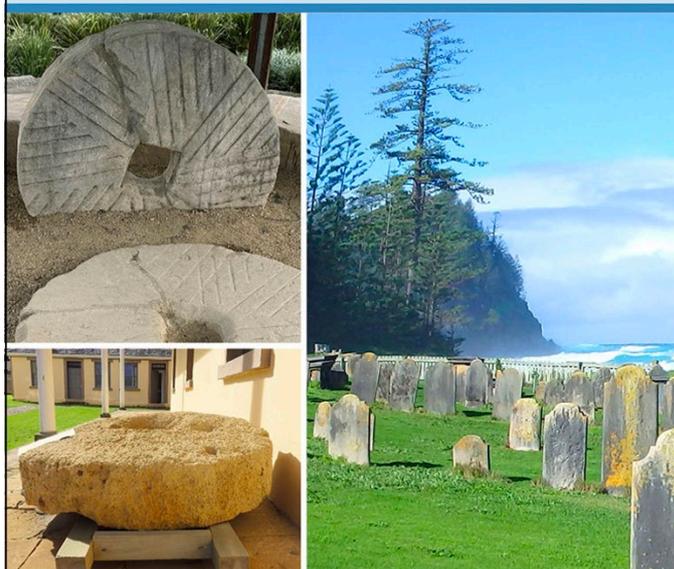
### A deeper understanding of our limestone millstones

Our analyses of these artefacts and ruins on Norfolk Island have provided a deeper understanding of the background behind Hawkesbury's rare limestone millstones. These millstones represent a tangible link between the thriving 1800s milling industry that developed in the Hawkesbury and its earliest roots in the milling technology on Norfolk Island.

We have presented the full story of this latest study in a free, 37-page PDF eBook: *Limestone Millstones at Kurrajong, NSW – Part 2: Investigating their Norfolk Island Origin*. To download this eBook, please visit our website: <https://www.singletonmills.com/>

## Limestone Millstones at Kurrajong, NSW

### Part 2: Investigating their Norfolk Island Origin



By Anne and Les Dollin

This eBook, explaining our latest research on Hawkesbury's rare limestone millstones, can be downloaded from our Singleton Mills website.

### References

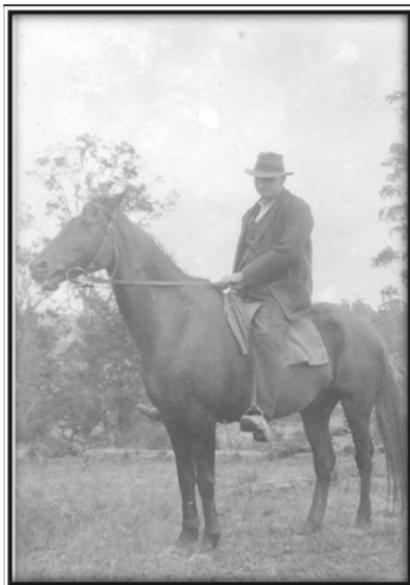
1. Historical Records of NSW, volume 2, pp 547–548.
2. Flour Mills of the First Norfolk Island Settlement: 1788 to 1814. <https://www.singletonmills.com/norfolk-island-first-settlement-mills.html> Retrieved 17 January 2026.
3. Journal of Philip Gidley King while Lieutenant-Governor of Norfolk Island and Letter to Mrs Gov. King, 1791–1796, Trove: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-26005434/view?partId=nla.obj-26038525> Image 146. Retrieved 17 January 2026.
4. Jackson, G and Forbes, P (ca. 2024) A mill stone on Norfolk Island. [https://www.academia.edu/110253405/A\\_Mill\\_Stone\\_on\\_Norfolk\\_Island](https://www.academia.edu/110253405/A_Mill_Stone_on_Norfolk_Island) Retrieved 17 January 2026.
5. Bunbury, Thomas (1861) Reminiscences of a Veteran, volume II, Charles J. Skeet, London, page 314.
6. Wilson, Graham and Davies, Martin (1983) Norfolk Island. The archaeological survey of Kingston and Arthur's Vale. Department of Housing and Construction. Australian Government Publishing Service.

# A CHAPTER FROM THE TUCKERMAN FAMILY

## Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman

As written by Philip Tuckerman

**Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman** (2<sup>nd</sup> son of Prosper and Maria) was born at Ipswich, QLD on 11 January 1861. At the age of two years, he came with his parents and elder brother, Cyril to this district, and they settled at the old homestead known as “Forest”, overlooking the Forest cricket ground.



Stephen Adolphus on his favourite horse

He married Mary Louisa Johnston on 27 August 1884 at St Stephens Presbyterian Church, Parramatta by the Rev. J. Patterson. Mary, born 24 October 1864 at Lower Portland was from a well-known Lower Portland family. Together they had five children: Jessie May (Mrs. Herb Brown, Ebenezer), Alma (Sackville), Ida (Mrs. Herb King, Ebenezer), Ada (Mrs. Walter Brown, Ebenezer) and Hannah (Mrs. Gabriel B. Brown, Sackville). There were 15 grandchildren.

Ebenezer) and Hannah (Mrs. Gabriel B. Brown, Sackville). There were 15 grandchildren.



Herbert Walter King and Ida Tuckerman – 21/10/1911



Walter Johnston Brown and Ada Victoria Tuckerman – 27/4/1914



Gabriel Bradley Brown and Hannah Tuckerman



Ada Victoria Tuckerman c1911

Stephen Adolphus was a farmer and orchardist after his marriage. They settled on the well-known property on

the Hawkesbury River at Sackville with a stone home where they lived for many years.

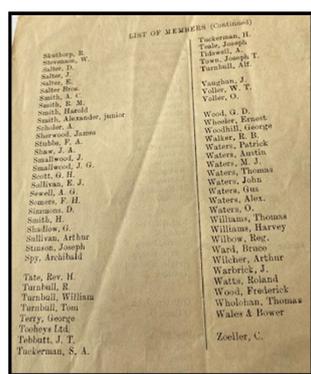
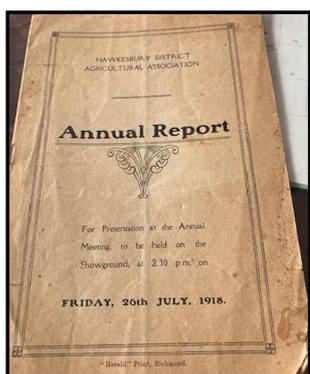
In 1910/12, Stephen bought the adjoining property from his brother, Cyril. On moving to Windsor in 1885, Uncle Adolphus leased the old homestead at Sackville and property along the river (about 414 acres) who had been left the farm property in his father Stephen's will, to his nephew Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman (son of Prosper) for many years. Stephen Adolphus worked in the orchards and employed many of the family, particularly those of his brother, James Ewing Tuckerman's family.

When Adolphus died in 1918, Stephen Adolphus bought the property on the river from Adolphus' widow, Mary and her two sons, Claude, and Hollis for £8,000. On 18 May 1929, Stephen sold this property to his only son Alma for £4,000. Alma demolished the old home and stables and built a brick home on the site.

Stephen Adolphus was a successful orchardist using modern methods to produce some of the best citrus in the district. However, during the past 9 or 10 years he had been living in retirement at the fine stone residence erected by his son, on an eminence practically opposite the old Gospel Hall at Sackville.

Stephen took a leading part in public affairs for many years and was a friend and advisor to many of the people amongst whom he lived. His reputation was that of a very friendly, forthright, and upright man who was highly respected by all who knew him. He possessed strong political views, took a keen interest in politics and was an ardent supporter of the National Party.

He was a Justice of the Peace, a Councillor and member of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association for many years. Following is the 1918 HDAA Annual report cover together with a list of members.



He was a good sportsman and a prominent cricketer in the early days of the Hawkesbury Cricket Association. He was an all-rounder and a noted fast bowler, with some of his amazing feats with the ball, recalled by older hands. He was also a Member of the Sackville Cricket Club A Grade team which were Premiers 1907-1910.

He also had a keen interest in tennis. He was a good churchman and served as a warden at St Thomas Church of England, Sackville for many years.

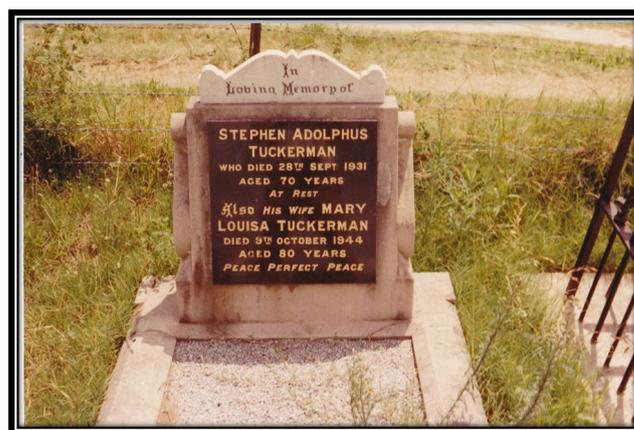


The old tennis courts in Tuckerman Road



Forrest cricket ground

Stephen Adolphus died on 28 September 1931 aged 70 and his wife Mary Louisa died on 9 October 1944 aged 80. Both are buried at Sackville Reach.

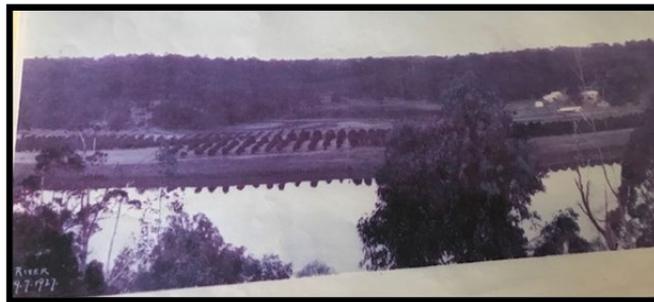


Grave site at St Thomas Church cemetery in Sackville Reach

It is safe to say that "the people of the Hawkesbury district were shocked and surprised" when the news went round on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 1931 to the effect that Mr. Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman of Sackville had passed away at his late residence that afternoon, shortly after 2 o'clock, aged 70.

Except for the fact that he suffered from rheumatism, Stephen had been enjoying comparatively good health for a man of his age, for he had reached the allotted span of three score years and ten. Indeed, he was present at the service at St Thomas' Church, Sackville on the Sunday, and a few days previously had expressed the opinion that he would live another 10 years; but "in the midst of life we are in death."

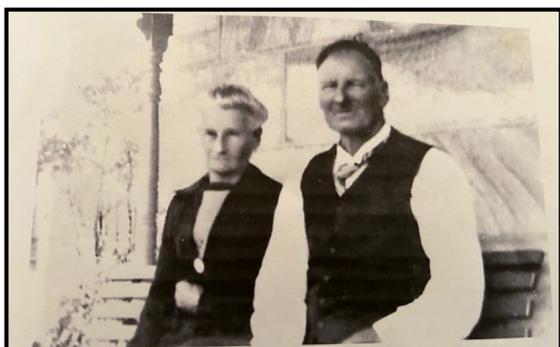
He rode his horse around his paddock on the Monday morning, as was his usual custom, and after lunch sat on a box near his packing shed chatting cheerfully with a traveller who happened to come along. Mr. Tuckerman was holding the reins of his horse, which was grazing nearby, and expressed the opinion that "the rain of the weekend would do good", when he gave a gasp and fell from the box. Mrs. Tuckerman and her sister (Mrs. Jackson) were immediately notified, but the deceased had suffered a fatal seizure and was dead before they arrived on the scene.



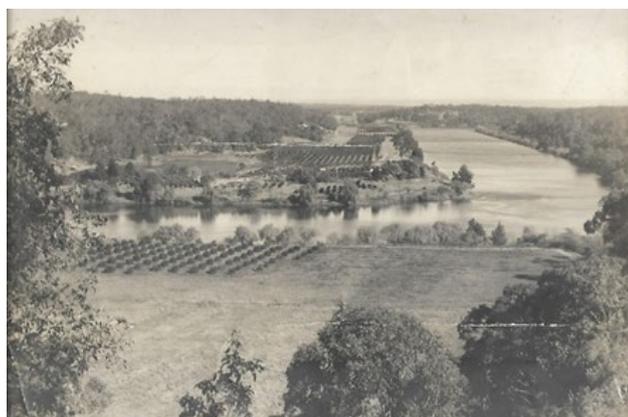
Aerial view of farm property taken July 1927 from other side of river



Alma Tuckerman guiding the plough and horses at Sackville Reach watched by his father Stephen Adolphus Tuckerman. The following photo was published in the Sydney mail August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1921.



(Above) Stephen Adolphus and Mary Louisa sitting on the verandah of their home at Sackville, originally owned by his father Prosper Tuckerman, and (below) the old home as it stands today 2020.

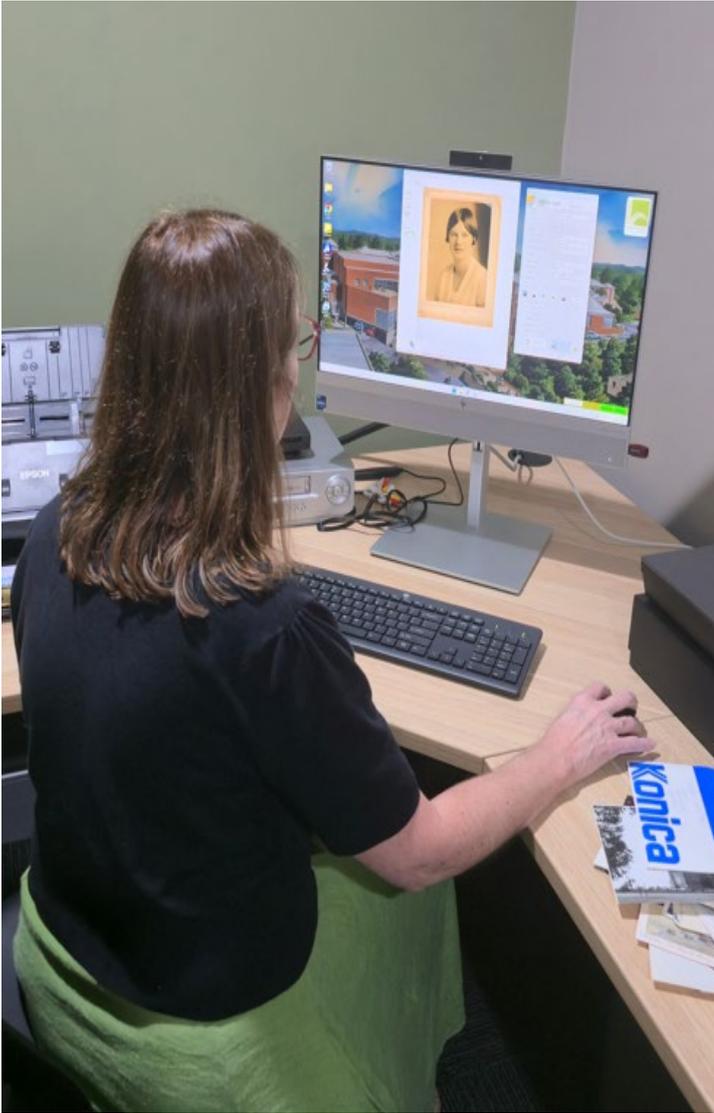


Sackville farm across the river from Mud Island on the bend looking back to Sackville Ferry.



Old homestead and packing sheds with pumpkins on the roof in 1949 flood. The building at the rear of the sheds was made of stone and built by convicts. ■

# NEW DIGITISING SPACE OPEN FROM 16 FEBRUARY



Do you have bundles of holiday snaps, Christmas get togethers or boxes of old family photos that you would like to have in a digital format?

Get excited, Hawkesbury Library Service's brand new technology hub, with digitising equipment, will be available to use from Monday 16 February at the Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor.

The Digitisation Studio will be available for Library members to book and it is absolutely free.

Equipment includes a professional flatbed scanner, a multi-scanner for 6x4 prints plus a slide scanner, all aimed at improving technological and digital opportunities for all ages. There is also equipment which may be used to digitally convert videos, cassettes and DVDs.

Instructions are provided and the space can be booked for up to 2 hours during our opening hours with your Hawkesbury Library card. To make an appointment phone (02) 4560 4460.

If you are not a member, it is free to join. Pop in or join via our website:

<https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>

This new space was made possible through grant funding from the NSW Government under the Public Library Infrastructure Grant program.

**Michelle Nichols**

Local History Librarian | Hawkesbury City Council

**Hawkesbury Motor Garage**  
OPP. ROYAL HOTEL, WINDSOR  
EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS, DUCO SPRAY PAINTERS, OXY-WELDERS.  
ELECTRICAL PARTS FOR ALL CARS.  
THE LARGEST STOCK OF TYRES, TUBES, SPARES AND ACCESSORIES IN THE DISTRICT  
WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK TO GIVE SATISFACTION  
**CARL CLEMENTS,**  
Proprietor  
PHONE: 141, ANY HOUR  
CHEVROLET, BUICK, OLDSMOBILE, G.M.C. AGENTS.  
AT YOUR SERVICE DAY OR NIGHT



Hawkesbury Library Service

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Friday 6 February 1931



# Hawkesbury Historical Society Bookshop

located in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum  
8 Baker Street, Windsor NSW 2756

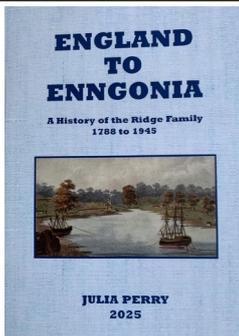
The Hawkesbury Historical Society has an interesting variety of books in our Bookshop with an emphasis on people in earlier times in the Hawkesbury and nearby Nepean and Blue Mountains areas.

The books can be purchased directly from the Museum Bookshop in the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Windsor or online: [www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org)

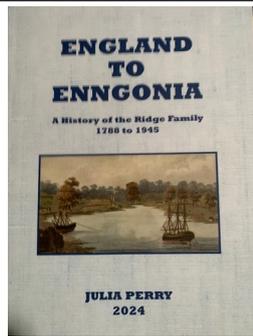
You may also like to visit the **Museum** which houses the Society's collection.

**See the new bookshop area where you can sit comfortably and access our books.**

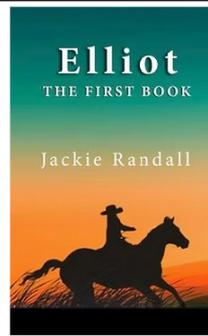
A preview for each book is available on the Society website: [www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org)



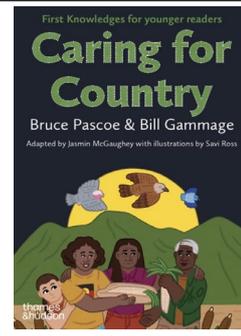
\$58



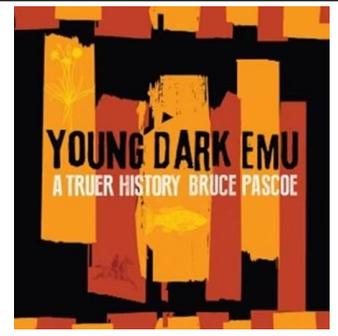
\$45



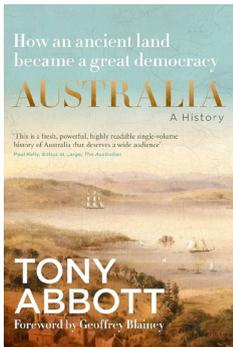
\$18



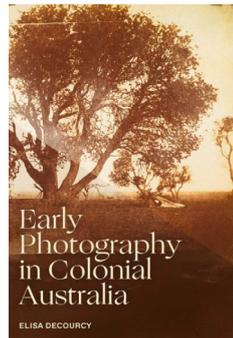
\$30



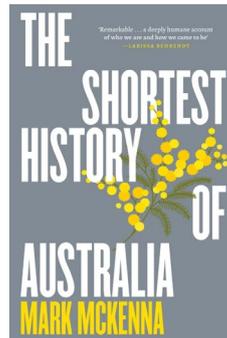
\$25



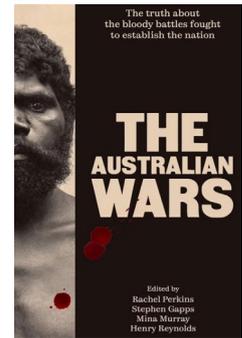
\$50



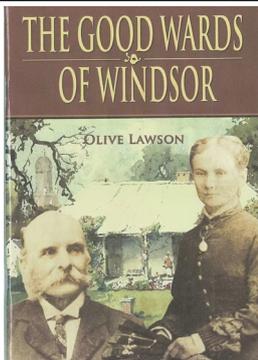
\$40



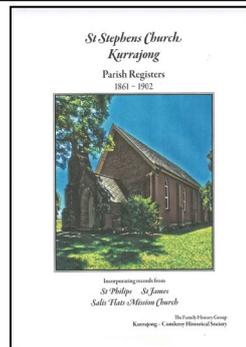
\$45



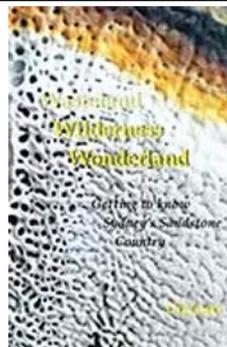
\$58



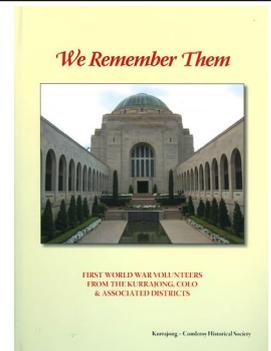
\$14



\$27



\$30



\$35

The above titles are just some of the books currently on offer in the Bookshop.

Further titles will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

Please visit the Society's Bookshop in the Museum or check out what's available online at:

[www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hawkesburyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Happy Reading!**