

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 2019/2020:

President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill

Jnr Vice President: Dick Gillard

Secretary and Public Officer: Neville Dehn

Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: Dick Gillard

Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Peta Sharpley

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

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

MEETINGS

Thursday, 27th August at 7.30pm via [Zoom](#)

Thursday, 22nd October 7.30 pm (AGM)

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM
Baker Street, Windsor

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Vale: Alan Aldrich

Written by Jan Barkley-Jack
with help from the Aldrich family



Alan Aldrich, the boy who grew up in Newcastle amid friendly neighbours in bushland surrounds, was always a 'boy with a scheme and a plan', according to his family.

These characteristics were obvious when he was a valued President of Hawkesbury Historical Society. Alan fulfilled this role for three years, from October 2010 to October 2013.

I first met Alan in the 1990s when he joined the our Society and volunteered to help with the refurbishments of displays we were undertaking in the Society's old Museum, when artefacts were solely housed in what is now known as 'Howe House' in Thompson Square, Windsor. Together we attempted to modernise the Indigenous display near the entry of the Museum, and Alan's practical skills as a retired Design Draftsman were put to good use as we had only an old shop display cabinet to work with. Over the years Alan remained a volunteer at the new Regional Museum when the care of our artefacts was handed to Hawkesbury City Council and housed in a new purpose built adjunct to 'Howe House'.

His photography skills came into their own and he was an enormous help with the digitisation of the thousands of items in our collection. From a 'box brownie' camera in the 1950s,

Alan had become the owner of ever more sophisticated photographic equipment, and was an enthusiastic member of the Hawkesbury Camera Club and an early whiz at digital photography.



Alan Aldrich pictured with Kath Wilkins and Judy Newland whilst Chairing a HHS Meeting

Alan had long held an interest in Australian History since his school days, and loved to research. He made this aspect of the work of Hawkesbury Historical Society come to the fore when he became President, organising small group researching sessions at the Library and writing for our various Newsletters and Journals.

His first foray into publishing saw Alan's writings make a major contributor to our very first Journal in 2006, with an article entitled 'The Hawkesbury Museum and Information Centre', a piece which traced to the roots of the Hawkesbury Historical Society's setting up their Museum in 'Howe House' and its eventful journey through the 1960s. In our Journal's special bicentenary issue in 2010 when the district and the History and Heritage Societies marked the 200th anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship, Alan contributed several in-depth articles on John Thomas Bigge's volatile enquiry into Macquarie's leadership, and Macquarie's sad farewell to the Colony, as well as the foreword to the edition as President.



Alan Aldrich, President, receives Hawkesbury Historical Society Special Achievement Award in 2013 from Hawkesbury Council.

Alan was versatile. In the Society's 2015 booklet, *The Hawkesbury: a Handy History*, Alan contributed a chapter on 'Hawkesbury Railways' and he also maintained the Historical Society's website for many years. Though Alan and Ruth had moved from the district, Alan still kept in touch and helped at the Museum, and one of my most recent discussions with Alan was on research he was conducting for regular talks he was giving to the residents of the Centre where he and Ruth lived.

Alan married Ruth in 1969, and their daughter, Karen, was born in 1974, but Alan's life was dramatically changed just four years later when after a car accident, he found himself a paraplegic. As usual, Alan's view was to just get on with his life. He did additional TAFE courses in electronics, web design and IT. He was fiercely independent and he managed his own recovery and activities, including his mobility. It was

important to Alan to stay active and one of Alan's greatest contributions to the Hawkesbury district then followed from his well-known advocacy for disabled access to all community facilities. Alan was Vice-Chair of the Hawkesbury City Council Access Committee where he kept the Council well-focused on the important work of ensuring those with disabilities were catered for in Hawkesbury, carrying out the ongoing research of planned improvements personally.

Alan was an official volunteer photographer for the Paralympic Games, and one of his accolades was a Premier's Award in recognition of his 'outstanding volunteer service'.

Not only Hawkesbury Historical Society but the whole Hawkesbury district and beyond, was much the better for Alan's deep caring nature and many passions. Alan will be missed.

VALE: JEAN PURTELL 1928-2020

By Michelle Nichols



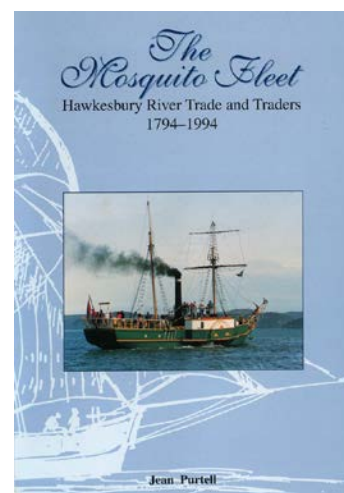
We remember local historian, Jean Purtell who passed away on 24 July 2020.

Jean grew up in Queensland, moved to NSW as a young woman and married Barry Purtell.

Jean developed a passion for Australian history and after her family moved to the Hawkesbury she became very interested in the local history. Her speciality was the boats and traders of the Hawkesbury River and wrote several books including *The Mosquito Fleet: Hawkesbury River trade & Traders 1794-1994*.

In the 1980s she wrote a newspaper column on local history. She volunteered for several years with the Oral History Project of Hawkesbury Library Service.

Prior to her move from Richmond, she donated copies of her research, historical photographs and books to the Local Studies Collection.



Letters to home

Cathy McHardy
August 2020

The past few months have certainly provided many of us with lots of time, time to ponder upon world events, clean out cupboards and maybe organise the family history that has been lying around waiting for that magic ingredient to be at hand.

Making the most of this opportunity, I commenced sorting through the belongings of my father's cousin Phyllis. I was intrigued when I came across a hand written poem with an attribution to a "Private L W Fray written from the trenches in France May, 1916". The poem commences with "You're looking tired and weary, and you feel you can't be cheery" and is reproduced below.

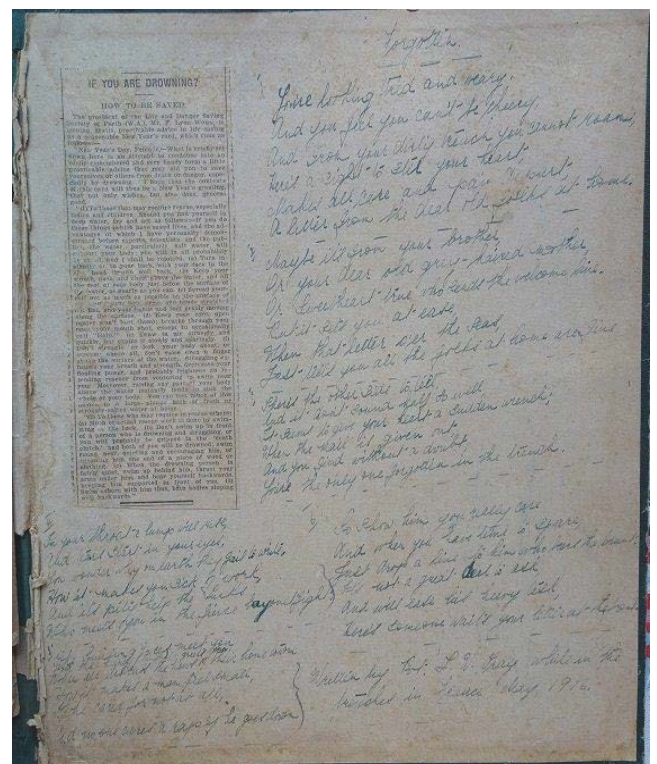
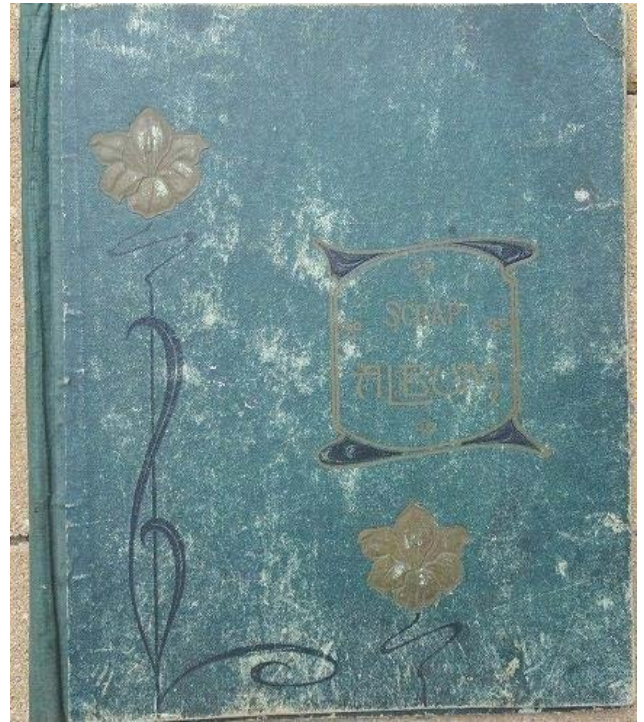
A search for these first few words on the internet revealed that the poem had been published in various newspapers in Australia and around the world. Sometimes published with a different title, author and/or date of composition, the poem appeared in diverse publications such as the *Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record* (Victoria) (1), the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express (NSW)* (2), the *Ontario Agricultural College Review* (Canada) (3), and the *Connecticut Campus* (USA) (4).

We shall probably never know the original author of this poem (incidentally, the family name 'Fray' does not appear in Australian nominal rolls for the First World War) but it was an interesting exercise to compare the versions of this poem.

The smiling faces meet you, and hearty laughter greets you,
When all discuss the news of their home town.
How it makes a man feel small if he's cared for not at all,
And no one cares a rap if he goes down.

So show him you really care, and when you've time to spare,
Just drop a line to him who bears the brunt.
It's not a great deal to ask, and will ease his heavy task,
There's someone waits your letter at the front.

Polygon Camp, Abbassia.



The poem 'Forgotten' found handwritten in family Scrap Album.

Forgotten

You're looking tired and weary, and feel you can't be cheery,
And from your dirty trench you cannot roam.
There's a sight to stir your heart, make all care and pain depart
A letter from your dear old folks at home.

Maybe it's from your brother, your dear old grey-haired
mother,

Or sweetheart true, that sends the welcome line.

But it sets you at your ease, when the message o'er the seas,
Just tells you all the folks at home are fine.

There's the other side to tell, and it don't sound half so well,
It seems to give your heart a sudden wrench,
When the mail is given out, and you find without a doubt,
You're the only one forgotten in the trench.

In your throat a lump will rise, and tears start to your eyes.
You wonder how on earth they failed to write.
How it makes you sick of work, and pity help the Turk
That bumps you in the next fierce bayonet fight.

While not wishing to draw parallels between the experiences of servicemen and women on the

battlefields of the First World War with our own predicament, reading these poignant lines brought to mind that corresponding with those from whom we are separated is vital to maintaining our own mental and physical wellbeing.

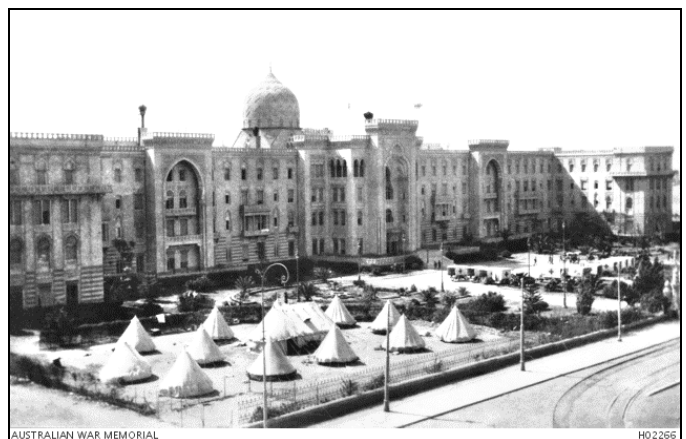
Reflecting upon the importance of staying in touch with others, 'staying connected' we would say in 2020, my thoughts turned to the soldiers whose letters were published in the local newspapers each week. In addition to the shared camaraderie of their fellow soldiers, it was often news from home that helped to support morale and get them through each horrific day.

Sadly, very little of the correspondence sent to the soldiers from Australia survived the conditions on the battlefields but we do have a very good record of letters to home published in newspapers across Australia.

One of the first letters to be circulated in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* was from Private Oscar D Ward son of Mr and Mrs Joseph W Ward, of 'Claremont', Windsor (5). His interesting account of the journey from Australia to England was written on the 22 November 1914 aboard the 'Euripides' as the troopship approached the port of Aden (now in Yemen) at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. The letter was published on Christmas Day. Private Ward served with the 1st Field Ambulance Army Medical Corps, 1st Australian Division.

His for three days when they wished they optimistic letter describes the incidents which interrupted a somewhat 'monotonous' trip including the outbreak of influenza as they crossed the Bight, the ceremonies involved in crossing the equator, the news of the encounter of 'HMAS Sydney' with the German 'Emden' in the Indian Ocean not far from the course of the 'Euripides'.

He commented that the troops had become "heartily sick" of the routine during the eight weeks training on the sandhills of Waverley, however, they were only aboard the ship were back in camp! They could not have imagined the terror and deprivations that awaited them on deployment in Europe and the Middle East.



The No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis, Egypt, formerly the Palace Hotel with encampment for Australian soldiers within the grounds. Many Hawkesbury soldiers were taken for here for treatment and recuperation after being wounded at the front.

[Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial HO2266]

Lieutenant Albert Leslie (Bert) Fitzpatrick (6), writing to his mother, Mrs Fitzpatrick of Windsor while recuperating at the Third London General Hospital, Clapham Junction after enduring ten weeks at the front, was well enough to explore the sights of London which he deemed to be "a wonderful place". He described his happy encounter with someone from home, Australian artist A H Fullwood, who not only had a son attending Hawkesbury Agricultural College but who knew his father J C L Fitzpatrick.

Newspapers from home were also eagerly awaited even if the news was weeks old when received. From Hawkesbury, Sydney or anywhere they were passed around from soldier to soldier until they just about fell apart. Private Victor J Cohen (7) was stationed in Heliopolis, Egypt where the No. 1 Australian General Hospital had been set up in the truly palatial, Palace Hotel. Cohen's marvellously playful sense of humour shines through when he asks the questions "Have they finished the North Shore Bridge yet?, stopped fighting in parliament?, trains run to time?". Some things have never changed since 1916, but at least the North Shore Bridge (Sydney harbour Bridge) was finally completed in 1932!

I would give a "bob" for a copy of the "Herald" or "Tele." Have they finished the North Shore bridge yet? and the railway station? stopped fighting in Parliament? increased duties on German Manufactures? interned any "Sl-ermans"? Trains run to time? Has Holman enlisted, or has he got cold feet?"

The Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 11 February 1916 p. 6.

Private Eddie Liddle (8) of the King's Regiment also depended on the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* to keep him connected with all the goings on in the Hawkesbury. "When I get hold of the "Gazette" I fairly devour it". He wrote to his brother in Windsor. He described the conditions in the trenches where every day was spent in waist-high water, mud and slime. He felt fortunate that, after enduring seven months in these appalling circumstances, he had not been wounded. He felt for the people of France and Belgium where townships had been reduced to a mass of ruins and the people left destitute. He drew comfort from his fond memories of the Hawkesbury where the loveliness of the girls would trounce any French Mademoiselle.

considerably, and... Taken on the whole, the French people are very sociable and nice, but as for their girls being the prettiest in the world, it is all my eye, for I have met many nicer and better built girls in Windsor. When I get hold of the "Gazette" I fairly devour it, for you know I still have some tender memories left in the old town.

The Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 3 March 1916 p. 2

For Private W F Fletcher (9) the letters received from home were the only thing that kept him and his mates

from becoming desensitised to the relentless pain and utter despair which surrounded them every day.

I sometimes think that only for the blessing of our home letters, we men would become hopelessly callous to suffering and bereavement, for the reason that we expect losses, and the fellows who are wounded bear their suffering with such splendid fortitude.

Private W. F. Fletcher, brother of Mrs. J. Bycroft, Windsor, writing from Gallipoli, under date 7th December, after expressing sincere sympathy at the death of Private Russell Bycroft, who was killed last August in one of the Lone Pine engagements, and who he expected to meet at Gallipoli, says.—“You will feel the loss far more keenly than I can realise here, where death is reaping a harvest every day, and men are falling right and left. I sometimes think that only for the blessing of our home letters, we men would become hopelessly callous to suffering and bereavement, for the reason that we expect losses, and the fellows who are wounded bear their suffering with such splendid fortitude, in fact, make light of the most serious injuries. Then

The Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 3 March 1916 p. 2.

Sometimes the mails were held up in both directions. For families in the Hawkesbury it had been a very anxious wait to hear from their loved ones over Christmas 1915. It was March before Mrs Gibson of George Street, Windsor heard from her son Geoffrey (10) receiving “quite a budget of letters” in one batch. Writing from Tel-el-Kebir (Egypt) on 16 January, Gibson wrote that he hadn’t had a letter from his mother since 28 November and that letters had been found next to an incinerator. The men responsible had been reprimanded for their lack of attention to duty.

Gibson also mentioned that he had been taking photographs and was able to have some of the films developed and printed sending them home in batches. I wonder if any of the images made it home to his mother?

It wasn’t until halfway through January that Private J R Bottle (11) of Comleroy Road received about twenty letters and his Christmas cards and parcels from home but was very pleased to receive them at last.

Using his left hand, Trooper Cecil Turnbull (12) managed to write a short letter to his family on 27 December 1915 after being wounded in the hand on the 15 December resulting in several fingers being amputated. His family had been anxiously waiting for news after receiving a brief telegram sent by the Red Cross.

My dear mother and sisters, — Just a few lines to say I have stopped a bullet at last. I was wounded on the night of the 15th December. The bullet cut my third finger off, and part of the palm of my right hand. It was a pretty nasty looking wound; but it is beginning to look all right now. It was like getting hit with a sledge hammer. I haven’t much use in my little finger, I don’t know if I will lose the use of it or not. I am having a fairly good time

in the hospital. I am in the big Palace Hospital in Heliopolis. It is a lovely place. That’s about all I can write, as it is a bit of a strain writing left-handed. Remember me to all over there, and don’t worry about me, as I am doing well. I will close with love from CESS.

For some families, the terrible message “killed in action” was conveyed to them by telegram many weeks before the soldier’s last letter arrived home. Private Charles Clifford (13), son of Mrs Clifford, of Mileham Street, Windsor, wrote to his brother, Harry from France on 23 August, 1917. Charles Clifford died in Belgium on the 20 September 1917. We can imagine the grief and anguish felt by his family when they read his final letter which arrived in their letter box in November.

Clifford wrote of his difficulty in writing “opportunities have arisen, but I seemed to be depressed, perhaps it was ennui. I would start to write, and throw it up in disgust”. There is a sameness about every day “although some are better than others; half my time I have no tally, and I can only find the date and day by inquiring when writing”. His father had passed away since he left Australia, and he remarked that if ever he returned home, he would still be expecting him to be around.

Often muddy and wet, conditions in the trenches often made the process of writing very difficult. Paper was in short supply and it was challenging to keep it clean and dry enough to mark with pencil or pen and sometimes soldiers used any paper they could find. Fred Arnold (14) wrote to his father John from France just after the German offensive in March 1918 in the last few months of the war.

In order to write this. I tore some leaves from a child’s exercise book I found in a deserted farmhouse. It is terrible to see people fleeing from their homes, but they have no alternative, because one of the big shells that are dropping here would blow a house to pieces, and there are plenty of them falling just now.

The best news a family could receive was the letter saying that their soldier would soon be on their way home. Following the news of the Armistice being signed on 11 November 1918, Urban Holland (15) wrote immediately to his parents in Windsor the next day.

Thinking you would be a bit anxious as to my whereabouts I sent mother a cable yesterday, greeting her on her birthday....I will (D.V.) soon be home again. I want to see those old green lanes of Windsor awfu’ (sic) bad. It is hard to believe that soon we’ll be wearing ‘civvies’ again.

The reality for many service personnel including Private Holland was that peace may have been declared bringing a formal end to the bloody conflict, but it would take many months and sometimes more than a year for repatriation to take place. Holland finally came home to his family in October 1919.

While methods of communications have greatly broadened beyond pencil and paper and the telephone, our need to interconnect with one another and society at large has in no way diminished. As it was during the First World War, the importance of “keeping in touch” in these current uncommon times must not be undervalued.

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Facebook Report

By Peta Sharpley

Our Hawkesbury Historical Society Facebook page is slowly growing. Please feel free to let your friends know about us, like our page and increase our community reach.

<https://m.facebook.com/HawkesburyHistoricalSociety/?ref=bookmarks>.

A snapshot in time of local Hawkesbury business from the Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Saturday 5 August 1899 (Trove).

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

P. FRASER, Watchmaker & Jeweller, George-st, Windsor. Selling 8 day American Clocks at 12/6. Best nickel alarms 5/. spectacles and eye preservers—cheap to suit the times.

H. AWKESBURY HOTEL, Wiseman’s Ferry. F. W. COLLISON, Proprietor. Beautiful locality. Rail and water carriage.

E. DWARD SANDOZ, Importer of Musical Cabinets, Watchmaker & Jeweller, George-st Windsor Any part of a watch made on premises.

J. OS. ALLEN, baker, confectioner and pastry cook. First-class catering for picnic parties, socials, &c Fresh pastry always on hand.

T. RY T M MASTERS for Groceries. All goods at Sydney prices. Only best brands kept in stock. TEA a speciality.

T. RY CLEMENTS, Windsor, for cups & saucers, green & gold, pink & gold, at 4/9 doz. Large alabaster lamps, 24 inches high, 2/6 each.

J. W. CHANDLER, Cabinet Maker and Undertaker, opposite Windsor Post Office, and Macquarie street, Windsor

C. ORDIAL and Aerated Water Factory, Glebe street, Windsor. W. BOXHALL, late of Sydney. One trial solicited.

The following post from *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, Saturday 4 August 1900 (Trove) had one share and reached 943 people.

Dressmaking
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.
Latest Fashions.

Mrs. W. C. Barker,
George-St. Windsor.

WINDSOR FLOOD RELIEF.

ALL Persons distressed by the recent Flood are requested to send in Full Particulars of their losses to MESSRS J T GOSPER, WILLIAM GOSPER, and BRINSLEY HALL, or to the undersigned at once.

R. B. WALKER,
Hon Sec.

Brickies, brickpits and brick making on the central ridge of Mulgrave Place, c.1796-1890s

By Jan Barkley-Jack

1 Government-owned brick pits:

1.1 Brickpit: Northern end of the ridge on the Government Precinct, probably 1790s onwards

The village and Windsor town development in the Mulgrave Place (Hawkesbury) district grew on the north-eastern end of the central ridge at Mulgrave Place in and adjacent to the Government Precinct located there from 1795. Most early buildings on the Government Precinct inclusive of its civic square (later called Thompson Square) were made of slab or boards with thatched roofs, but bricks were needed within the year, for the cellar and chimneys of the wooden Commandant's barrack. Since this was such an early build and relatively few bricks are indicated, they were probably either brought from Sydney by boat or made and burnt nearby. From about 1800 the area of the village was known as Green Hills and a government brickpit was definitely in use in that vicinity. There is no mention in documentary or pictorial evidence of its location but a possible site can be suggested by deduction.¹

At the end of his governorship in 1800 John Hunter left a written list of buildings that he felt were necessary for the colony and which, he would have constructed had he not been recalled. These included:

Two new stores, and a guard house, at the Green Hills at Hawkesbury; the stores were to be of brick, and the guard house to be a weatherboarded building...Much wanted for the security of the stores and grain at that distant settlement; bricks are begun to be burnt for that purpose.²

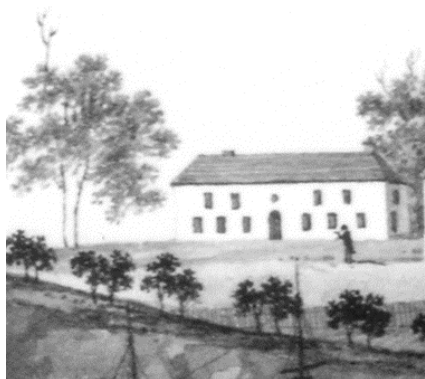


Figure 1: The schoolhouse and temporary Chapel at Hawkesbury, one of the brick buildings on the

Government Precinct on the central ridge at Windsor by 1804. **Source:** Detail, 'Settlement on the Green Hills', watercolour G. W. Evans, c.1809, Mitchell Library, PXD 388, Vol. 3, fol. 7.

Since thousands of bricks were needed for the foreshadowed government projects which Governor King carried forward, it would have been impracticable to ship them and so it is generally assumed they were made locally. Close to the site, below the Commandant's barrack (by 1800 reused as the Government House) was a hollow with a small watercourse that could have been convenient for a brickpit for the ongoing works for the civic square and beyond in the Government Precinct. To the east was the plentiful water supply of South Creek.

By 1803 King was reporting:

Built a brick granary at Hawkesbury, of the following dimensions-length 101 feet, breadth 25 feet, height to wall plate 23 feet (with three floors).³

The government buildings adjacent to and in the civic square that followed were of brick, like the 1804 two-storey schoolhouse and the new barracks, presumably with bricks from the established but unrecorded site. By 1807 at least one brick maker, John Brown (arrived *Barwell*) was known to be living on purchased land in the village of Green Hills, near the supposed government brickworks site which had almost continuous use for many years at this stage. Brown assigned 'his house at the Green hills' to George Guest for a loan of £71 to be repaid by Brown on or before the 23 December 1808. If Brown defaulted on the loan, his property was to be sold by the Provost Martial, along with any Stock he possessed. Brown, at that time, was building a farm house for Lieutenant Nicholas Bayly at what is today Richmond. John Brickfield (arrived *Hillsborough*) was another brick maker listed amongst the Hawkesbury entries in the 1806 census. It is likely that one or both had worked in the brick pit on the Government Precinct.⁴

1.2 Brickpit: Windsor, unknown site and uncertain ownership, deducted possible location, c.1804 onwards

Brick making was usually carried on close by the building site and local brickpits making bricks for private individuals, though in an unknown location were obviously necessary, particularly after Governor Macquarie mandated bricks as one of the desired building materials in the Mulgrave Place towns after 1810. This site may have been another government works selling bricks, or it may have been a private initiative, the need in the main generated by Constable Andrew Thompson who had been granted land and privileges in the civic Square, and bought land adjacent.

³ *HRNSW*, vol. 5, p. 163.

⁴ L. Sabine, *Old Register One to Nine: Assignments and other Legal Instruments*, DVD, NSW Lands Department and Department of Commerce, and NSWSA, 2008, book 2, p. 4, entry 24, 23 December 1807; C. Baxter, (ed.), *Musters of New South Wales and Norfolk Island 1805-1806*, A0310 p. 12 John Brown, A0306 p. 12 John Brickfield.

¹ J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: a new look at Australia's third mainland settlement*, Rosenberg, Publishing, Dural, 2009, pp. 103-106.

² *HRNSW* 4, p. 155.

He had built two large brick buildings just prior to constructing his two-storey brick brewery near South Creek by 1807.⁵

Many inns of style and brick construction were built in the northern end of Windsor from 1811 and William Heydon's weatherboarded inn, like so many others, was brick-nogged, so logically a brickpit continued to be needed in the northern section of the town. By 1815 advertisements were appearing in the *Sydney Gazette* selling bricks at Windsor when Lawrence May fell into debt.

in George street, commanding the front of a streets, also part of a Crown Grant.
Lot 4. Forty Thousand well burnt Bricks.
Lot 5. Household Furniture; comprising beds and bedding, cedar chairs, dining and other tables, ⁶

1.3 Brickpit: Rickaby's Creek, Windsor, 1816-1825.

Unfortunately whilst the number of bricks needed for various buildings in Windsor has often been discussed over the years in documents and newspapers, the brick makers and the location of the brickpits are not noted and can only in most early cases be surmised. The exception at Mulgrave Place was the brickpit prepared for the building of St Matthew's Anglican Church in 1816. The difference come in the fact that Governor Macquarie took a great interest in the build so the very literate organisers of the works, magistrate William Cox and ex-convict Storekeeper Richard Fitzgerald and jealous architects Henry Kitchen and Francis Greenway recorded details and controversy surrounding it.⁷

John Jones, a bricklayer of high talent, in 1816 was commissioned by William Cox to make 220,000 bricks for St Matthew's Anglican Church and took trouble to get an ideal brick making site near Rickabys Creek, even swapping his town allotment for the farm on which it was located. Jones recorded that he:

allowed upwards of 200,000 Bricks (exclusive of what he made by Contract) to be made off his Land for Government use being the best earth for Brick that this part of the colony can furnish.⁸



Figure 2: St Matthew's Anglican Church from Greenway Crescent as the road sweeps round to cross Cornwallis Bridge, showing the base of the hill below St Matthew's Anglican Church (right bottom) in the vicinity where the bricks were made for the church from 1816 on John Pugh's Farm, owned at the time by brick maker John Jones. The road was then known as the Richmond Road. **Source:** Daphne Kingston, artist, ink and wash, 1977.

In fact, the bricks have been observed to have 'a delightful mellow rosiness' and when the church was finished, the result caused Francis Greenway to comment:

In consequence of the attention of Mr Jones not only in making Bricks for the front but in carrying into effect the brickwork of Windsor Church such workmanship has been produced that would be no discredit to the Metropolis of England'.⁹

It would seem from Greenway's comments about Jones' roles that brick makers working in the brickpits sometimes also have served as brick layers and on site supervisors. Jones deliberately acquired the land beside Rickabys Creek just below the church so he could keep control over all processes. Henry Kitchen, who was blamed for using many inferior bricks and poor mortar, maintained that that only 171,319 bricks were actually delivered by Cox for the project at a cost of £1881 8s. It was said, many years later, but on good authority, that some bricks were made at 'The Brickfields' brickpit on the opposite side of Windsor, possibly the early ones in dispute. The Kitchen building when almost complete to the top of the walls was pulled down and the church restarted in 1818 with the superior bricks. The brick makers were John Skinner, John Linton and Elijah Cheetham working in 1816-1817 on ground beside 'the old road the Richmond', now Cornwallis Road.¹⁰

⁵ 'Settlement on the Green Hills', watercolour G. W. Evans, c.1809, Mitchell Library, PXD 388, vol. 3, fol. 7; *Sydney Gazette*, 11 May 1806.

⁶ *Sydney Gazette*, 24 September 1814, 8 April 1815.

⁷ I. Jack and J. Barkley-Jack, *St Matthew's Windsor: an Anglican Landmark celebrating 200 years*, Rosenberg Publishing, Dural, 2016, pp. 32-38.

⁸ W.L. Havard, 'Note on St Matthew's Church, Windsor', *Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society*, vol. 31, 1945, p.126; M.H. Ellis, *Francis Greenway: His Life and Times*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 3rd ed., 1973, p. 89.

⁹ Sydney Architecture, <http://sydneyarchitecture.com/HIST-EARLY/hist-Early006.htm>, accessed 20 November 2016; Havard, p. 127; A. McGregor, *A Forgers Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway*, New South Publishing, 2014, p. 243.

¹⁰ J. Ritchie, (ed.), *The Evidence to the Bigge Reports*, vol. 1, Heinemann, Melbourne 1971, p. 187; J.C.L. Fitzpatrick, *Those Were the Days: More Hawkesbury History*, NSW Bookstall Co., Sydney, 1923, p. 208; *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 5 December 1917; J.C.L. Fitzpatrick, *When We Were Boys Together*, first published in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* in 1908, and republished by Cathy McHardy in 2004, p. 31.

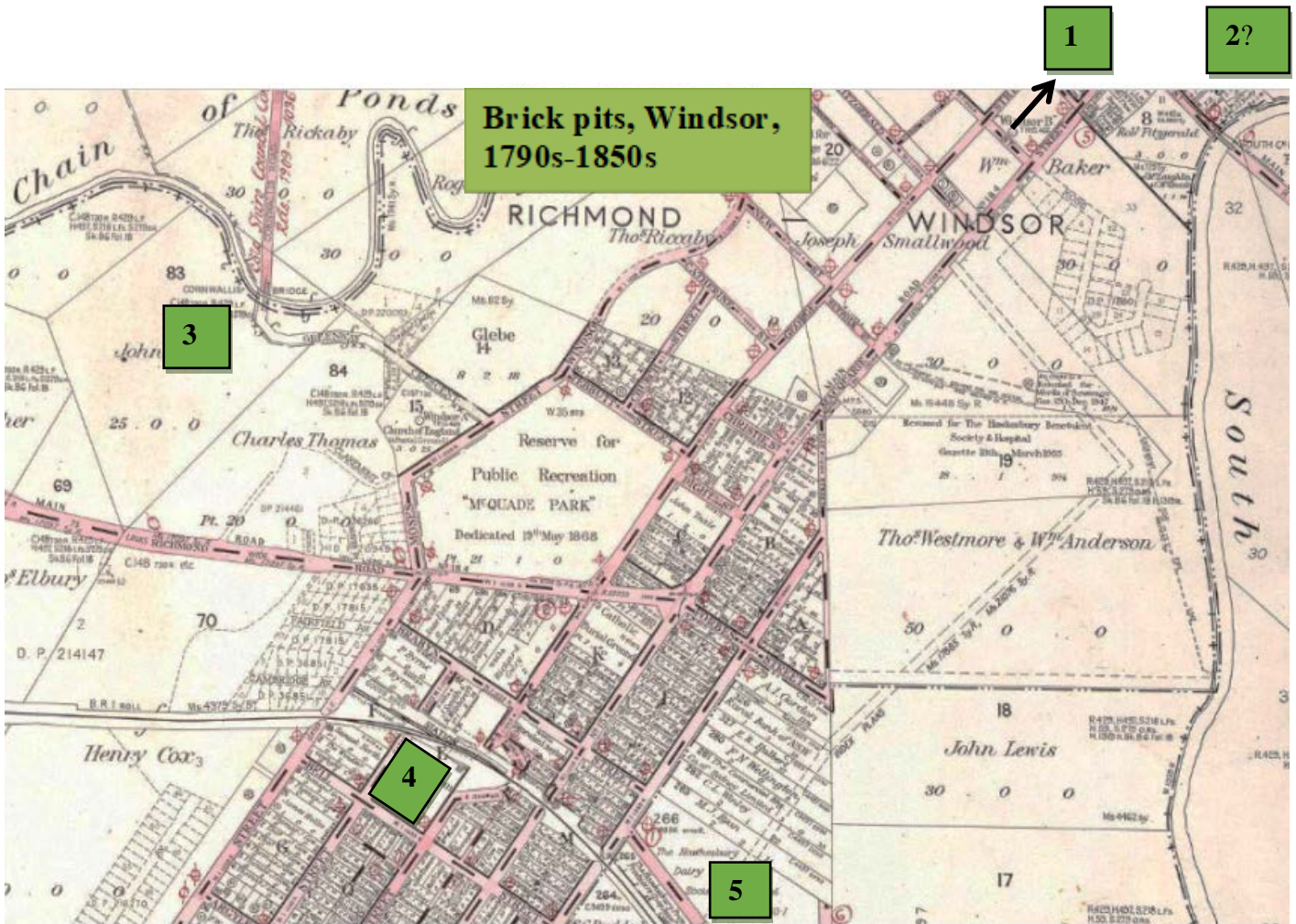


Figure 3: Map, ‘Town of Windsor and Adjoining Lands’, 4th ed., 19 September 1967. Windsor Sheet 1, Parent Collection, **Source:** Historical Parish Maps, HLRV, Land Registry Services, accessed 23 July 2020. Annotations added by Jan Barkley-Jack.

The general location of the Jones’ brick pit is not in doubt. Just as the road turns north and crosses Rickabys creek, there is a good water source on the northern part of John Pugh’s Farm, which Jones then owned. Skinner, Linton and Elijah Cheetham were brick makers for government projects in Windsor around this time, as part of the Brick Gang under the direction of Storekeeper Richard Fitzgerald who was also Superintendent of Public Works of Convicts and convict Work Gangs for the district. The exact number of brick makers is unknown. The clay was puddled and moulded in wooden rectangular prism-shaped boxes, removed from the moulds by sliding out the bottom of the box, and when sun-hardened were stacked before being fired in a kiln built around them. Only the unblackened bricks from the centre of the kiln could be selected for important constructions, like Macquarie’s Church.¹¹

The men employed at the church construction, including the brick makers were hutted near the site, whilst others lived in a government-owned hut near the entry to the town of Windsor or in a cottage rented from Richard Fitzgerald. The quantity of bricks the Gang of bricklayers was required to make in a day was 2,000, so in a week they would produce 10,000 bricks.¹²

There was no shortage of government buildings constructed of brick in Windsor by 1820:

Description	Materials	Length feet	Breadth feet	Height feet
New church	Brick	100	48	26
Prisoners’ barracks	Brick	92	24	23
Government hut	Logs	35	14	9
Granary & issuing store	Brick	53	25	24
Government granary	Brick	101	25	23
Old church & charity school	Brick	106	25	22
Military barracks	Brick	80	26	14

¹¹ Ritchie, (ed.) *The Evidence to the Bigge Reports*, vol. 1, p. 187.

¹² Evidence of Convicts, Richard Fitzgerald, Mitchell Library, Bonwick Transcripts, BT 1, pp. 344, 362.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Length feet</i>	<i>Breadth feet</i>	<i>Height feet</i>
Kitchen to military barracks	Brick	20	16	10
Government cottage	Stuccoed	72	32	9
Kitchen	Weatherboard	30	12	9
Hut in the garden	Weatherboard	33	30	9
Government stables	Brick	70	30	11
Office in Domain	Brick	31	17	8
Government hospital	Brick	86	20	9
Assistant surgeon's barrack	Logged, lathed & plastered	44	28	9
Kitchen to assistant surgeon	Do.	27	14	7
Gaol	Brick	60	42	11
Back shed to gaol	Brick	18	10	6
Watch-house to gaol	Brick	13	14	7
Mess-house for gaol gang	Brick	30	18	10
Gaoler's house	Brick	26	14	10
Gaoler's kitchen	Brick	22	14	8

Figure 4: Windsor: Public buildings, December 1820. **Source:** Report by Richard Fitzgerald, Mitchell Library, Bonwick Transcripts, BT 25, p. 5311.

Of these only the prisoners' barracks was near the developing southern sector of Windsor, but in the same period in that area there were many private dwellings of brick or which utilised bricks in part. Those bricks for private residences were mostly made at privately-run brick pits, in the southern area.

To be continue next issue

QUIZ 3

Do you know where these are to be found in Hawkesbury?

Jan Barkley-Jack

[All photos and sketches used are by Jan Barkley-Jack except where indicated].

1. This beautifully decorated glass ceiling



2. This stables



3. This font



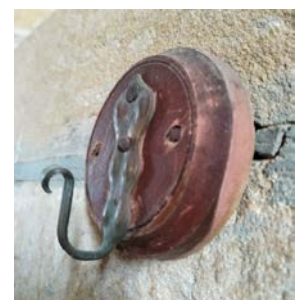
4. This shoe scraper



5. This diary



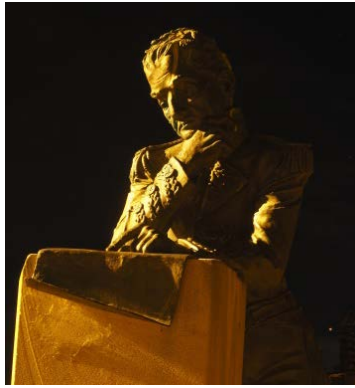
6. This candle-holder hook



7. This gravestone



8. This statue (Photo: Internet)



9. These 1794 farms



10. This home



11. This schoolhouse



12. This flood scene, 1986



13. This cottage



14. This entry, as painted by William Hardy Wilson



15. This graveyard



16. This signage about Hawkesbury's Aboriginal peoples



17. This iron lace



18. This mile stone



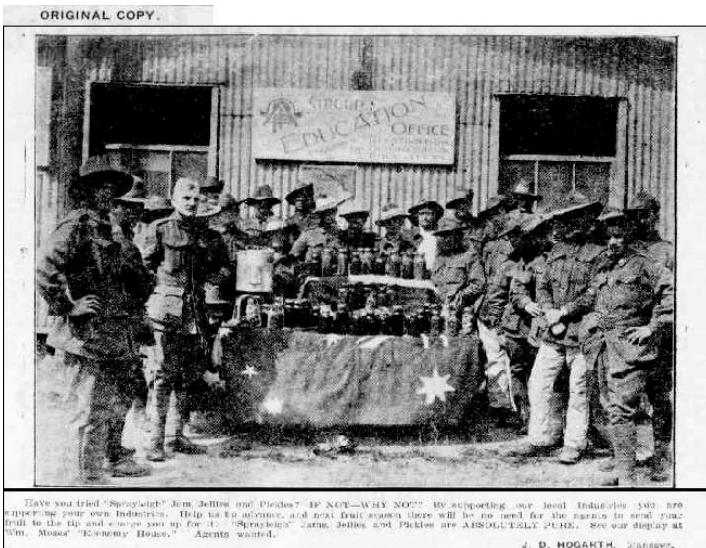
19. This market for the great Hawkesbury-bed race horse, Jorrocks. Photo: Ian Jack



21. This nineteenth century fountain



20. this 'education office' at the property once called 'Sprayleigh'



Answers: 1. in 'Belmont', now St John of God Hospital, North Richmond; 2. Behind old Police Station, Bridge Street, Windsor; 3. in St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor; 4. outside St John's Anglican Church, Wilberforce; 5. on the Tebbutt Farm, at the Peninsula, Windsor; 6. on the wall of St John's Anglican Church, Wilberforce; 7. in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Jersey Street, Richmond; 8. in McQuade Park, Windsor; 9. on the bend of Wilberforce Reach and York Reach, Pitt Town Bottoms Road, Pitt Town; 10. now part of Lynwood Golf Course, Pitt Town Road, Pitt Town; 11. Ebenezer Church; 12. The Terrace, Windsor behind the 'Doctors House'; 13. Corner of March Street and West Market Street, Richmond; 14. entry to the Macquarie Arms Hotel from Thompson Square, Windsor; 15. McGraths Hill; 16. in the grounds of 'Belmont', now St John of God Hospital, North Richmond; 17. on 'Howe House', now part of Hawkesbury Museum, Thompson Square, Windsor; 18. moved to the grounds of Hawkesbury Museum, Thompson Square, Windsor; 19. at Hawkesbury Race Course, Clarendon originally part of the property 'Clifton'; 20. Cattai Road, Pitt Town; 21. in Richmond Park.

ADDRESS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AN interesting address was given by the president of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, Rev. W. Carter, at the February meeting of the society, held in the Windsor School.

IN his talk on "Old St. Matthew's," Rev. Carter showed evidence of thorough preparation. He outlined the social conditions facing the Church—as an institution—in the eighteenth century. He also outlined the events which led up to the appointment of the first chaplain to the new colony.

With the appointment of further clergy came the necessity for building churches. Mr. Carter dealt with the vicissitudes which accompanied the building of St. Matthew's. He emphasised the good fortune of having this gem of Greenaway's art in our district.

An account of his visit to the headquarters of the Richmond River Historical Society, in Lismore, was given by Mr. D. G. Bowd. The information which he obtained concerning that extremely successful and well-run society will prove of great value to the young and developing Hawkesbury Historical Society.

The meeting decided to obtain a set of "Historical Records of Australia" to en-

able members to engage in research on various topics. An appeal to those interested to donate one volume, at a cost of 12/6, met with a ready response.

The following have made their contribution: G. Tindale, R. McLeod Morgan, A. G. Norman, J. Curtis, R. H. Blackley, Dr. W. Skinner, H. D. Burch, R. M. Arndell, Mrs. R. M. Arndell, E. Lambert, Mrs. D. G. Bowd, J. A. Wilkey, B. S. L. Deane, Miss L. Campbell.

In all, 34 volumes are to be purchased, and there is still the opportunity for other members, or well-wishers, to give practical support to this worthy project.

—Contributed.

Michael Nowland – A Troubled Life

By Dick Gillard

PART 2 – Norfolk Island

In Part 1 of Michael Nowland's story, we left him aboard the *Scarborough* en-route to New South Wales. A summary of his story to-date: -

- Michael's parents died when he was just an infant and he was sent to England to be raised by an Uncle.
- Arrested for stealing a horse and a bridal. Found not guilty of stealing the bridal, found guilty of stealing the horse at the February 1783 sitting of the Old Bailey and sentenced to death.
- At the September 1783 sitting of the Old Bailey, Michael's sentence was commuted to transportation for life to the American colonies.
- Michael was transferred to the ship *Mercury* which set sail for Georgia, America on the 2nd April 1784.
- Convicts seize control of the *Mercury*, however due to severe storms in the English Channel they were forced to seek safe haven in Torbay Harbour.
- Michael and about forty other convicts escaped. Michael was recaptured at Bath using the alias Michael Hill.
- Michael and a number of other convicts escaped from the Bath prison; however, his freedom was short lived when he was re-arrested in Bristol.
- Michael's sentence of transportation for life was re-instated in January 1786.
- Michael spent the next four years on the prison hulk *Fortune* working on important naval works at Portsmouth.
- Finally, in November 1789, Michael was transferred to the *Scarborough* for transportation to New South Wales.



Convict transport *Scarborough* by Frank Allen - Wikipedia

The *Scarborough* sailed from Portsmouth on the 19th January 1790 as part of the Second Fleet. 259 convicts were embarked for the voyage to Australia. The voyage was to take 160 days and it is believed that sixty-eight prisoners died on the voyage¹. Those convicts who did survive the trip were in extremely poor physical condition because of the treatment they received on the voyage.

Michael's memories must have come back to him of the debacle aboard the *Mercury* when the convicts mutinied and took control of the *Mercury*. Word was circulating amongst the convicts about seizing control of the *Scarborough*. It was fortunate that a convict, Samuel Burt, convicted of forgery, reported the planned mutiny:

On the 12th February, our ship having been separated from the Surprise transport, the Neptune being a great way ahead, and the sea perfectly calm, the convicts began to whisper from one to the other their mutinous intentions; the plot being communicated to myself. I readily agreed to the scheme, assenting to every proposal of plunder and murder, until as such times as I became completely master of the conspiracy, and ringleaders of it. I then apprised the captain of the ship, and the military officers, of the danger they were likely to encounter; and so thoroughly did my information prepare them for the business, that with little or no trouble the ringleaders were secured, and the scheme entirely frustrated. The particulars being enquired into, they made such confessions that human nature would almost shudder at the thoughts of. Several of them have been flogged with the greatest severity, and others of more dangerous description are at this time chained to the deck and it is supposed will be tried and executed immediately on their arrival in New South Wales.

Samuel Burt

The Annual Register of World Events 1790

- The fleet's naval agent, Lieutenant John Shapcote (travelling on the *Neptune*), boarded the *Scarborough*. Shapcote presided over an investigation culminating in the punishment of 17 convicts². It is doubtful Michael was involved in this planned mutiny.
- The *Scarborough* arrived in Port Jackson on 28 June 1790. Michael's stay in Sydney was short lived for on the 1st August 1790 he was one of 35 male convicts and 150 female convicts who sailed for Norfolk Island aboard the convict ship *Surprise*. Convicts were transferred to Norfolk Island from Port Jackson out of necessity as much as anything else to relieve pressure on the food resources of New South Wales. The *Surprise* arrived at Norfolk Island on the 7th August 1790 and it took several days for all the convicts to disembark as they could only disembark by boat.

Elizabeth Richards and Hannah Bolton were among the 114 female convicts from the *Lady Juliana* who were

embarked aboard the *Surprize* along with Michael Nowland. Elizabeth was convicted with Hannah Bolton at the summer Assize, Warwick, on the 4th August 1787 for burglary of the house of William Field of Birmingham. They were both sentenced to transportation for seven years. Elizabeth and Hannah travelled to Port Jackson on the infamous *Lady Juliana* arriving in Port Jackson a few days before Michael Nowland arrived on the *Scarborough*.



Justinian and Surprize standing in Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island, 23 August 1790, wash drawing from Journal 'A Voyage to New South Wales' by William Bradley, State Library of New South Wales

The population of Norfolk Island at 30th September 1790 numbered 718, comprising 228 male convicts, 239 female convicts and children and 197 free settlers.



A view of Queenborough on Norfolk Island, c.1804, attributed to John Eyre, Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales, DL Pd 397

Norfolk Island was in disarray when the *Surprize* arrived. Lieutenant-Governor Robert Ross had been placed in charge of Norfolk Island in March 1790. Following the wreck of *Sirius* and the stranding of its crew on the island, Ross proclaimed martial law for four months. His attempts to clear more land so that the convicts could grow most of their own food increased their discontent at the additional heavy work they were required to do. Lieutenant-Governor Ross was relieved of his position, returning to Sydney in December 1791.

Lieutenant-Governor Philip Gidley King returned to Norfolk Island on the 4th November 1791 aboard the *Atlantic*. King found that there was much discord on the island with him having to deal with complaints, bitter reviling and much back-biting. There was a severe shortage of skilled labour and sufficient tools to help build the colony. As there was no criminal court on the island, thefts were common as there was limited ways in which the perpetrators could be punished.



Philip Gidley King, c.1800
State Library of New South Wales, 54359256

King issued regulations in 1794 which gave encouragement to the settlers and he was willing to listen to their advice. Under King's direction, the island was self-sufficient by 1794 in terms of grain and had a surplus of swine which could be sent to Sydney

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

Norfolk Island was in its infancy when Michael and Elizabeth arrived. Accommodation was limited and they were expected to work long hours and then labour to provide substance for themselves. Michael and Elizabeth initially farmed a small portion of land at Cascades (Phillipsberg) on the east coast of the island. Michael had cleared "82 or 100 rods"⁴. On the 5th February 1791, Michael and Elizabeth were each provided with a pig approximately two months old⁴. This was followed by Michael receiving around the 1st July 1791 a hog⁵. Michael developed into an accomplished farmer and he was able to deliver to the Government Stores the following:

- 22nd September 1793 to 18th January 1794, 165 lbs of pork for 3 pounds 8 shilling and 9 pence⁶.
- 30th January 1794 to 10th May 1791, 73 bushels of maize for seventeen pounds twelve shillings and 10 pence⁶.
- 18th May 1794, 144 lbs of pork for three pounds 12 shillings⁷

On the 30th December 1796, Michael was granted 15 acres of land identified as Lot 87⁸. This was followed by a further grant of 15 acres on the 1st May 1797⁹.



Image courtesy of users.ncable.net.au

16th February 1794. It would appear that Michael had a special relationship with Lieutenant-Governor King. Michael held this position until mid-1799 when he and Elizabeth and family moved to Sydney. Michael and Elizabeth had four children:

- William born 11 April 1792 died 17th May 1792
- Michael born 18 May 1794
- Henry born 24 September 1796
- Elizabeth born 1798

Lieutenant-Governor King left Norfolk Island in 1796 for medical treatment and to brief the government in England. He returned to New South Wales aboard the *Speedy* on 26 November 1799 carrying the dispatch recalling Hunter. King did not assume command of the New South Colony until 28 September 1800.

One can only assume that one of the reasons that Michael moved his family to Sydney was this relationship he had with Governor King. This relationship will be explored in more depth in Part 3 of Michael’s story.

On Norfolk Island, Michael had turned his life around, and probably he was fortunate to have been sent to Norfolk Island rather than face the conditions that existed in the early life of Sydney Town.

References:

- 1 Free Settler or Felon – Convict ship Scarborough 1790 www.jenwillets.com
- 2 Michael Flynn, The Second Fleet: Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790 (Sydney: Library of Australian History, 2001), 43
- 3 Colonial Office 201 No. 9 page 28
- 4 Colonial Office 201 No. 9 page 39
- 5 Colonial Office 201 No. 9 pages 41/42
- 6 Colonial Office 201 No. 10 pages 223-227
- 7 Colonial Office 201 No. 10 pages 237 – 238
- 8 New South Wales, Australia, Land Grants, 1788-1963, Colonial Secretary, Grants and leases of Land Registered> 1788-1809.
- 9 New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Land Grants and Leases, 1792-1867.



Photograph of Michael Nowland’s Land Grant Norfolk Island courtesy of Grant Taylor

16



Photograph courtesy of fuzzyar – ancestry.com.au

The creek marked the boundary of the property of Michael and Elizabeth Nowland. Their farm is where the “Mutiny on the Bounty” show is now performed.

Michael was granted a pardon on the 12th December 1794 on condition that he did not return to England. Elizabeth’s 7year sentence had expired by this point in time. It was not long after receiving his pardon that Michael was appointed by Lieutenant-Governor King to the position of Overseer at Queensborough on the

Tennis in Richmond

Joy Shepherd is seeking photographs and information of any of the early tennis courts in Richmond.

Lawn tennis has been enjoyed by Australians since the 1870s. Although largely male dominated, females began playing in the Hawkesbury from at least the 1890s.

The Richmond Lawn Tennis Club was formally opened in 1891. Two courts were established by the club March Street.¹ Tennis became a popular sport and form of recreation, particularly after World War 2. Competition tennis commenced in the early 20th century and night competition tennis was also very popular.

In 1951 four tennis courts were erected in middle of the current Richmond Golf Course. They were part of a large project undertaken in 1948 by the Richmond Community Association. It was a working and dedicated voluntary group headed by Richmond Rural School Headmaster M C O (Nobby) Clark. Over the years four more courts were added and this became the hub of the very large tennis following for 20 years. It was then that the new courts were built in their present position at the entryway into Richmond.

Nev and Wendy Biddle have shared the above photograph from their family collection with Joy. It is believed to be taken at the Methodist Tennis Court in Paget Street Richmond in 1959. Some of the ladies have been identified but help is needed.

Opening of the Richmond Tennis Club.

Bright, genial weather favoured the Richmond tennis-players on their inaugural day, on Saturday last, and the formal opening of the Club passed off pleasantly and auspiciously. Nothing was wanting to ensure the perfect enjoyment of members and visitors, and if Saturday's event may be taken as a criterion, assuredly the Richmond Lawn Tennis Club is destined to become a pleasant and important factor in local sports. Tennis, as a recreation, should be encouraged among Australian people, for not only is it a game in which the chances of accident are reduced to a minimum, but one in which ladies can take part, and for this reason alone it should be fostered and encouraged by all who desire to see our sisters develop into robust and vigorous womanhood. Unlike their American sisters, the Australian girl of the period seems to inherit but little of the Celtic blood; or is it because lack of opportunity has warped their inclinations and debarred them from exhibiting the true characteristics of the Celts—instinctive vitality and love for out-of-door exercise—that they are rarely seen participating in anything that savours of physical emotion? 'Tis an enigma that perplexes us, so we will not venture an answer to the apostrophe, but will proceed to deal with something easier.

Two splendid tennis courts have been laid down by the Club, chipped and nicely top-dressed, and they are situated in March-street directly at the rear of the residence of Dr. Helsham, who by the same token, worked like a Trojan in laying out the grounds and getting everything in apple-pie order for opening-day.



Left to right: Ila Biddle, Mrs Barnes (christian name needed), unidentified, Mrs Pearce (christian name needed), Betty Ford, Faith Rose, unidentified and unidentified.

Can anybody help? Please contact Joy Shepherd E: joyshep1@bigpond.com.au

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¹ Opening of the Richmond Tennis Club. (1891, October 17). *Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW : 1888 - 1961)*, p. 5. Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72541188>