

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, except June and August - 2pm. Venue - all meetings at Parish Hall, St Matthew's Anglican Church, Moses Street, Windsor (parking adjacent in paddock), except for June to be held in the Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Library.

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Ted Books

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HHS Collection Committee

Carol Carruthers and Elissa Blair (Museum representative)

Publications Committee

Jan Barkley-Jack, Ellen Jordan, Cathy McHardy and Jan Readford

2023 MEETINGS

Thursday, 27 April – 7:30pm

Saturday, 24 June – 2pm

Saturday, 26 August – 2pm

Thursday, 26 October – 7.30pm AGM

Parish Hall, St Matthew's Anglican Church, Moses Street, Windsor except for June 2023 to be held at Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor.

Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2023
at 7.30pm

Please note this change in date, from that previously advertised, is due to unforeseen circumstances.

Speaker: Michelle Nichols

Topic: Mary Stewart's photo albums

Meeting Venue:

Parish Hall

St Matthew's Anglican Church
Moses Street, Windsor

(Parking available in paddock adjacent to Parish Hall)

and via Zoom

(details provided separately)

CONTENTS

- Presidents Report 2
- William George Henry Freame, author, historian and orator... 3
- LEST WE FORGET: Hawkesbury's Fallen Heroes 6
- The General Cemetery once proposed for Windsor 7
- Tebbutt's Observatories..... 9
- John Tebbutt – to go online..... 11
- Back to Tebbutt's Sky-Watching Astronomical Evening Invitation..... 12



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2023

Hello all,

The 2023 Australian Heritage Festival is now underway and continues jam packed with events for you to enjoy until Sunday 14 May. This year is a rare opportunity for you to explore the program and find things you would like to attend, because uncharacteristically, Hawkesbury Historical Society will not be seeking your help to run our own events.

We shall only be participating indirectly this year with Ted Brill kindly agreeing to take the Hassall Family Reunion group on a short tour of Windsor and to the grave of Jonathan Hassall in St Matthew's Anglican Church on 8 May.

Jonathan was one of the sons of missionary Rowland Hassall who preached at Ebenezer Church in 1808. Jonathan's life was short but it is very relevant to this district and helps fill in some of our local history about place names. Born in 1798 in Tahiti, Jonathan grew up in the district of Parramatta where his father preached, and in 1819 married Mary Rouse who had grown up in Rouse Hill House. His main grants were at Bathurst until he sold 'Matavai' there to his brother James.

The family moved to Berkshire House near South Creek on the Richmond Road. This property had been bought by Richard Rouse from the wife of Governor Bligh supporter, Martin Mason, and further consolidated with other land. It was on the south-west side of South Creek, and the area around it became known as Berkshire Park. Caroline Thornton thinks that perhaps it was named after the County in England where the Rouses had married. The family's wooden house stood opposite to a 'new' one built for Mary and

the children after Jonathan died, aged only 37 years. It was a very sad day as Jonathan was said to have 'been in a deranged state of mind' at the time he drowned in South Creek, near the Richmond Road. His body was found floating on the opposite side of the creek.* If we have any Hassall descendants in our Society, I am sure that the tour and grave visit will be of interest to you in particular.

The guest speaker whom we welcome warmly at our next meeting will be Michelle Nichols. You may not have heard, but Michelle's mother died recently and Hawkesbury Historical Society sends to her and all her family our deepest sympathy at this time.

Enjoy all aspects of the Heritage Festival and please remember the next meeting of the Hawkesbury Historical Society will be held in St Matthew's Anglican Church Centre in Moses Street.

References:

- ** Australian Royalty, online.
- ** Australian Dictionary of Biography.
- ** C. Thornton, *Rouse Hill House and the Rouses*, self, North Sydney, 2015.
- ** *Sydney Herald*, Death Notice of Jonathan Hassall.

TRACING ANCESTORS: CONNECTING CULTURES WORKSHOP



Learn about what resources can be used to trace your Indigenous family history. Presented by specialised First Nations family history staff from the State Library of NSW. Presented as part of 'Shared Stories' the theme for the Australian Heritage Festival.

THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023
11AM-1.30PM



FREE
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
02 4560 4460
hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com

Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street Windsor 2756

William George Henry Freame, author, historian and orator

Cathy McHardy – April 2023

Praised by Parramatta historian James Jervis as being “possessed of a wonderfully narrative mind”, by the time of his death in September 1933, William Freame had become a much-respected orator, author and local history researcher.

Over the span of his sixty-six years, Freame contributed over one thousand articles, poems and letters to the editor which were published in such diverse publications such as the *Nepean Times*, *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, *The Hawkesbury Herald*, *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, *The Marrickville Express*, *The Catholic Press*, *The Evening News (Sydney)*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Freeman's Journal*, *The Land* and *The Wingham Chronicle*.

His obituary published in the *Cumberland Argus* on the 21 September 1933¹ and the tribute by James Jervis² detail his early life, his love of exploring and his affinity with the written and spoken word.

Born in Geelong, Victoria on 27 November 1867, the son of William Henry Freame and Ellen Jane (nee Coker), the family moved to Melbourne when Freame was in his teens, as his father had organised an apprenticeship in painting and decorating for his young son, which it seems was not to his liking.

Freame, however, had displayed an aptitude for writing and historical research at an early age and far preferred a life of wanderlust. There was nothing he enjoyed more than roaming around the countryside on foot, a solitary figure making notes about the places and buildings he visited. Over his lifetime he covered vast distances thinking nothing of walking from Parramatta to Melbourne if that was where he wanted to go.

The Freame family moved to the Parramatta district of NSW in the late 1890s and it was not long before this energetic free spirit commenced his long-standing series of contributions to local history research. He was one of the earliest members of the Australian Historical Society (now Royal Australian Historical Society) and a foundation member of the Parramatta Historical Society.

Initially rambling around the Parramatta district, Freame then turned his attention further afield, taking the time to document the burials in many of the early cemeteries from the Hawkesbury to the Campbelltown district including Windsor,



The indefatigable author, historian and orator, William Freame.
Cumberland Library Local Studies Collection

Wilberforce, Ebenezer and Richmond. Taking his pad and pencils with him on his journey, he often sketched the buildings and landscapes he observed along the way.

Freame had particular interest in the Hawkesbury and its ‘Macquarie’s Five Towns’. His contributions to the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* commenced in September 1901 with an article on St Matthew’s Church of England, Windsor. He also supplied articles on many other topics including the Reverend Samuel Marsden, the poet Charles Harpur and Margaret Catchpole.

Of Charles Harpur, born in Windsor in 1817, Freame wrote³:

He was the first to give us word pictures of what he saw around him — of pioneer conditions, and nature in its primitive aspects. In his day we had no artist to reproduce upon canvas the life and scenery of his time; but he has given some pictures to us. He painted the gum trees in the night watch standing around like a spectral world.

In November 1902, he made a comparison between Windsor, Richmond and Parramatta bemoaning that more was not being done to attract visitors to the historic Hawkesbury towns⁴. His words ring true even today...

Windsor is from every view an interesting place to visit, but very little is done to bring it under the notice of the touring public. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of men and women visit Parramatta yearly, because it is a well-advertised place. I make so bold as to say that as an historic centre, Windsor is far more interesting than the former town, and a very large percentage of those people who visit Parramatta would visit Windsor as well if they knew its historic importance.

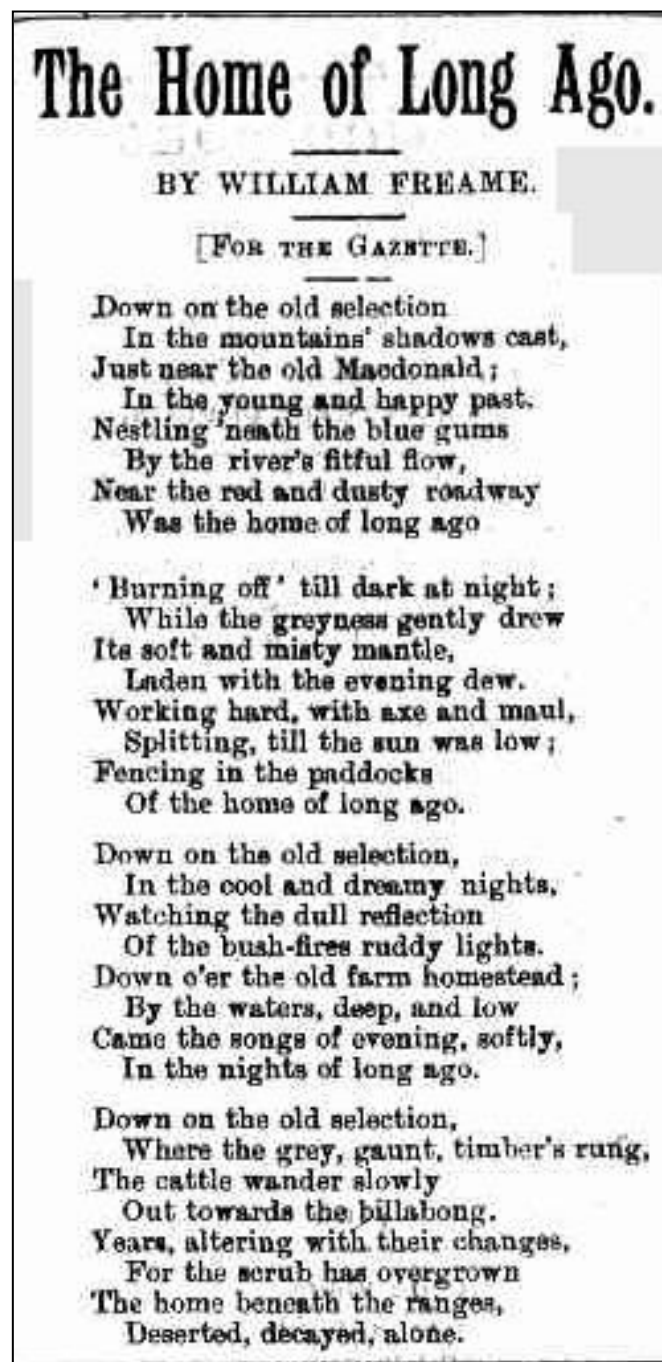
In 1925, the *Cumberland Argus* published this lovely appraisal of his many and varied talents⁵:

This month, he [William Freame] will have completed 28 years as a regular contributor to "*The Cumberland Argus*". Probably, there is no other writer who has so intimate a knowledge of the history of Parramatta and district bounded by the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers. Of latter years, he has developed into a successful story and descriptive writer on the Sydney press. An all-round, useful resident of many activities; a pleasing platform speaker; and a witty conversationalist, William Freame wanders through life with a smile for everyone.

Not everyone was so enamoured with the estimable Mr Freame. In September 1927, a terse comment from George G Reeve was published in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* taking him to task regarding some inaccuracies in his so-called historical account of Solomon Wiseman and his exploits on the lower Hawkesbury⁶. Reeve remarked that there were parts of his narrative:

...which are not in accordance with historical fact, but the above corrections will do to maintain my purpose of the distortions of history frequently made by many writers claiming to be historical writers, and the careless ways and loose manner of the recording of facts. I trust Mr. Freame will take the criticism in a friendly manner, as it may help him to avoid pitfalls in the future.

In addition to his historical writings, Freame also published several booklets including 'The Amateur Tramp', 'Early days of Liverpool' and the 'Nepean Dictionary of Dates' as well as works of poetry including 'The home of long ago'. Freame presents a romantic view of life on a selection, lamenting the eventual abandonment and deterioration of the settler's old home⁷.



From the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 20 December 1902, p. 15.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86216595>

Taking the time to write letters to the editor of newspapers, Freame commented on current events or provided corrections to the other author's published articles of an historical nature. He was also keenly interested in local government affairs and served as an alderman on Prospect and Sherwood Municipal Council (later known as Holroyd, now Cumberland Council) for 25 years including several terms as Mayor.

By November 1928, ill health was beginning to curtail his activities. The leading citizens of Parramatta, lead by the Mayors of Parramatta and Holroyd, organised a social evening in the Jubilee Hall adjacent to the Parramatta Town Hall where he was presented with a fine illuminated address⁸.

Freame was the recipient of many accolades and compliments and in reply modestly stated that “for the first time in my life, I feel I am unable to express myself”⁹.


A prolific and indefatigable writer, Freame was still contributing to the local press until May 1933 when illness and hospitalisation prevented him from doing so. William George Henry Freame died in Randwick Hospital on the 19 September 1933 and was buried in St John’s Cemetery, Parramatta beside his wife Lillie Elizabeth (daughter of gold miner John George) whom he had married in Victoria in 1889. Their only son William Clive who was born in Victoria in 1890, died in Westmead, NSW in 1947.

References:

- (1) *Cumberland Argus*. 21 September 1933, p. 6. Obituary Mr William Freame
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107795819>
- (2) *Cumberland Argus*. 21 September 1933, p. 6. A Tribute to the Late William Freame.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107795822>
- (3) *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 27 September 1902, p. 1. Charles Harpur.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86221600>
- (4) *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 1 November 1902, p. 1. Windsor Impressions.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86221429>
- (5) *Cumberland Argus*. 7 August 1925, p. 7. Mr William Freame
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/103762904>
- (6) *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 9 September 1927, p. 9. Mr William Freame
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85951670>
- (7) *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 20 December 1902, p. 15.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86216595>
- (8) *Cumberland Argus*. 22 November 1928, p. 6. Mr William Freame: Social and Presentation
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107103435>
- (9) *Cumberland Argus*. 8 November 1928, p. 10. “For others he laboured”.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107102377>

Additional Information from:

Men of Parramatta published by the Parramatta and District Historical Society in 2000 includes an article by Terry Kass entitled William Freame – Historian.



MR. A. D. FOWLER,
OUR NEW POSTMASTER.

MR. FOWLER, who succeeds the late Mr. J. A. Dick as Post and Telegraph Master at Windsor, is a native of Campbelltown, and second son of the late Daniel Fowler. He started his career in the Government Service at Campbelltown, and his first appointment after serving his probation was at Bungendore, where he remained for a period of 4 years. Then he was appointed to Jerilderie, and for 17½ years was in charge of the Post and Telegraph Office there. From Jerilderie he came to Windsor, and we hope that his association with this district will be as long and as agreeably pleasant as was that of his predecessor. Below will be found an account of a pleasing function which took place at Jerilderie prior to Mr. Fowler's departure, and which goes to show how popular he was there.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 24 February 1900 (Trove)

Lawn Tennis.

A **SPLENDID** lot of Lawn Tennis Balls, Shoes, and other requisites, at a Sacrifice, at **DYER & CO'S, George-street, Windsor.**

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 24 March 1894 (Trove)



LEST WE FORGET

Hawkesbury's fallen heroes

When Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914, and started recruiting volunteers for the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) six days later, Hawkesbury locals were quick to heed the call.

Among the earliest local recruits were:

R M Beveridge	Lt Herbert Holland
Pte Blumer	Reg Holden
Lt M Bowley	R B Hughes
R N Bradshaw	Tom Jenkins
E Cambridge	E Kemp
Capt Bowman Douglas	Jack Laraghy
Cecil Eather	Pte Longworth
Frank Eather	Lt MacWhirter
HMAS Emden	Pat Molloy
Dr Piero Fiaschi	Alex Teale
Dr Fullerton	Reginald Threlfall
Fred Hayes	Oscar Ward
Mervyn Green	Lt Harold Watkins
Dr Helsham	Nurse A Wright
Dr (Major) Helsham	
Students of Hawkesbury Agricultural College	

More than 600 locals enlisted in World War I, with most of the earlier enlistments heading to Egypt. Around 100 didn't make it home. Their deaths were recorded as a result of the war.

A number of local soldiers who died while serving overseas are listed on headstones in the Hawkesbury area.

One of the earliest World War I casualties was Captain William Bowman Douglas, 3rd Battalion of Richmond, NSW.



Captain William Bowman Douglas

Roy Charles Streeter's death is recorded on his mother, Maria Streeter's grave at the Windsor Catholic Cemetery. He died at Gallipoli on May 19, 1915.

Pte O'Brien fell at Passchendaele Ridge, France on October 4, 1917. His mother erected a memorial plaque at St Matthews Anglican, Windsor. The plaque says, "In loving memory of Pte Alfred (Harold) O'Brien, D Compy, 21st Battalion AIF KIA at Passchendaele Ridge France 4 Oct 1917 Aged 23 years. Peace perfect peace, erected by his loving mother.

Sgt Staunton Hope Johnston of Ebenezer died while in active service on May 11, 1918. He died on the Mount of Olives and is listed on a family headstone at Ebenezer.

Source:

<https://www.hawkesburyphoenix.com.au/hawkesburys-fallen-heroes>



LEST WE FORGET



The General Cemetery once proposed for Windsor

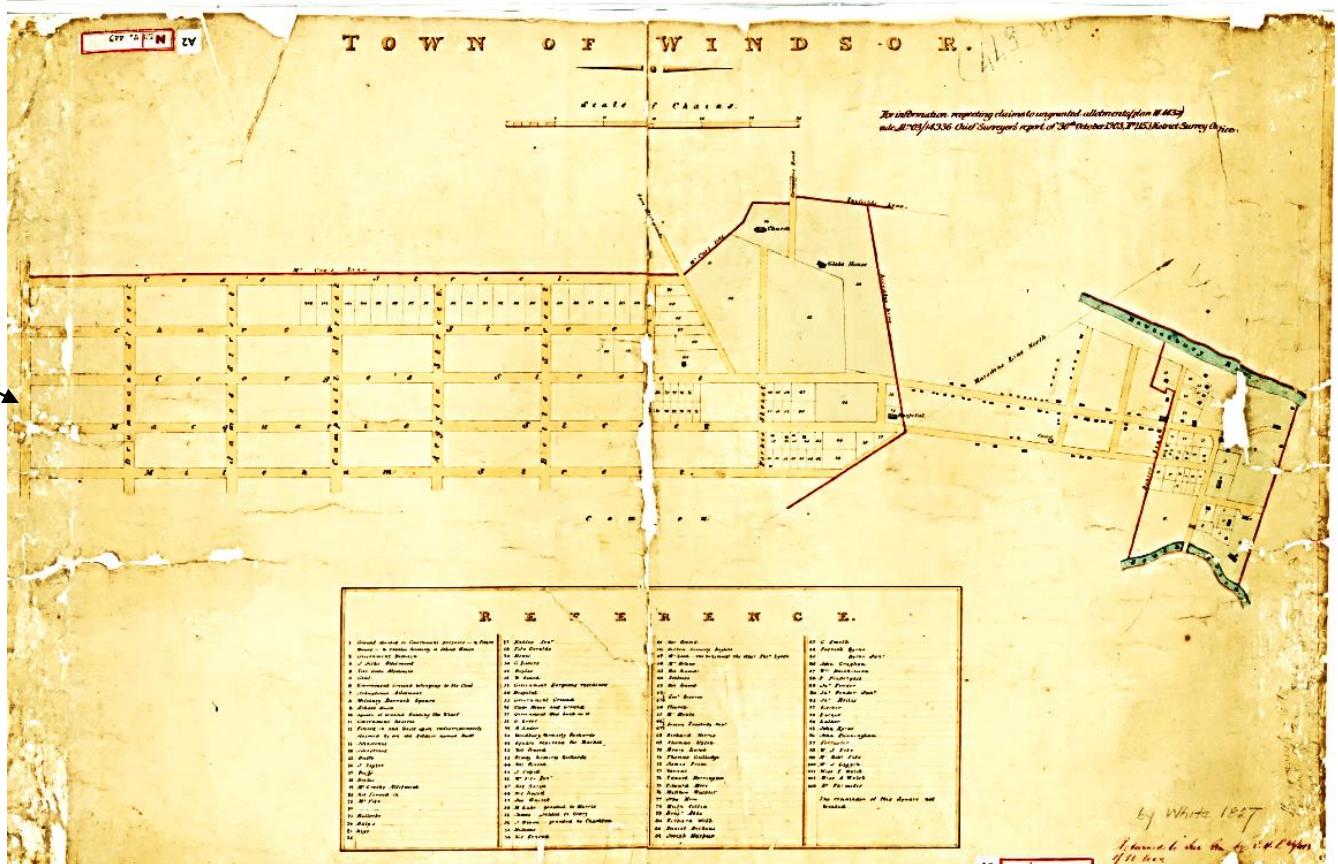
By Jan Barkley-Jack

In December 1810, Governor Macquarie announced he would build a town, to be named Windsor, around the existing village of Green Hills on the ridge of the central reach of the Hawkesbury River. It was to be part of a plan for flood-free towns built in Mulgrave Place and others elsewhere.

additional blocks were created around other sides of the village as well. It was to be the biggest of all the towns Macquarie began in the district.

Of course, the land to the south of the village wasn't utilised immediately. Land on the new blocks between Bell and Argyle Streets first went on sale in the 1850s, and brick housing continued along George and Macquarie Streets across several blocks including the extant 'Elm Cottage' and 'Glenroy' sitting opposite each other in George Street today.¹

It was not until 1863 that the first sod was turned to commence the railway line, and it was officially opened on 29 November, 1864, celebrated by a



'Plan of the Town of Windsor'.

Blue arrow indicates the site of the proposed new General Cemetery for Windsor beside the edge of Macquarie's town.

Source: Surveyor White, 1827, NSWSA, maps SZ523, SZ524 and Surveyor Thompson, 1827, Map SZ 526.

Macquarie had Surveyor John Meehan draw up a plan of his new town of Windsor in 1812. It stretched from Thompson's old Brewery site on South Creek beside Wilcox's Farm, to beyond the end of the Green Hills Village near today's Tebbutt Street. In fact, Macquarie had been extravagant and designed the town to go way beyond Tebbutt Street. Within this new area he designed a 'great square' and church, as well as six long blocks stretching down to present-day Ham Street. The town was to be four blocks wide and thus encompass twenty-four new blocks south of the existing village. Some

banquet and ball, at which the governor Sir John Young presided. The railway impacted on Macquarie's plan for a large undivided Windsor all the way to Ham Street, as it split the town in two, skirting close to the northern row of graves in today's Presbyterian cemetery.² The town's division by the railway line caused the suburb known as Newtown (which became South Windsor) to grow. Only very gradually into the twentieth century had the land sold right back through the blocks of

¹ Research of Jan Barkley-Jack, owner of 'Glenroy' 1998-2014.
² The Rev. James Steele, *Early Days of Windsor N. S. Wales*, online.

Macquarie's town, so Ham Street had remained the most southern part of Windsor and Newtown for a long time.

As with all town development spanning decades, the cemeteries filled and ideas began to circulate about the need for a new General Cemetery. Beyond Ham Street there was nothing but a few huts scattered in the bush, so the idea grew of placing the new cemetery there.

The cemeteries in the town area were all to be closed, for the new cemetery would have sections for all denominations and serve all of Windsor. Its inception was floated several times in the late nineteenth century but never gained much traction. Three sites were suggested. The first, dedicated on 2 December 1887 was several blocks south of the railway between George and Macquarie Streets. The Presbyterians, for example, were allocated 1 acre, 1 rood and 34 perches in this location, but it never proceeded.³

Another site was proposed on the continuation south of George Street, immediately beyond Ham Street (the limit of the envisioned Macquarie Town of 1810) of 19 acres, 3 roods and 39 perches. This location was out of flood reach and had money injected by the Municipal Council to fence and clear the site in 1895, but was halted with the objections from the privately-run Grammar School opposite (now the two-storey house near where the road divides to become George Street and Macquarie Street). A third site was then suggested of 18 acres, 3 roods and 16 perches, dedicated on 24 July 1897, on the eastern continuation of Ham Street itself. No works were ever carried out on this site and no burials were made.⁴ All sites are now housing.

So, the second site became the favoured one, but just a week following the dedication of the final location for the General Cemetery in Ham Street:

The piece of land some time ago set apart for a General Cemetery, situated opposite the Grammar School, and on which Council spent a considerable amount of money, has been split into two blocks, and these are to be sold on Wednesday, September 1.⁵

³ Letter to the Reverend P. Fitzgerald, reference no. 87/ 1255, 2 December 1887, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives, provided by Sue Pacey, Archivist/Librarian, Ferguson Memorial Library, Archives of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and The Presbyterian Church of NSW.

⁴ Steele, online

⁵ *Windsor Richmond Gazette*, 31 July 1897.

Obviously the people of Windsor didn't have their heart in the idea of a new General Cemetery. Bizarrely, when the Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) Amendment Act 1966 Report was submitted at the local Council meeting in 1967 by the Department of Local Government, the never-developed General Cemetery in Ham Street was still included in the listing.⁶

The Presbyterian Cemetery in South Windsor was the nearest cemetery to the proposed location of the new cemetery, and so their response was of interest. Following the initial site located for the General Cemetery in 1887 in Newtown, the Reverend P. Fitzgerald was notified that the Presbyterian sector of the new area would be 1 acre, 11 roods and 34 perches in size.⁷

By June 1897, two Trustees, John Dick Smith, a local storekeeper and Brinsley Hall, a farmer, signed a 'Declaration of Trust' to be additional Trustees to cover 'the Church site, the Manse site and the old Cemetery' in Windsor, with no mention of the proposed plots in the General Cemetery. They were ratified at the Meeting of the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury.⁸ The following year, the Trustees elected for 'the Presbyterian portion of the new cemetery at Windsor' were William Walker a Windsor solicitor, George Robertson a Windsor Contractor, John Dick Smith a local storekeeper, Brinsley Hall a Windsor farmer, and James Adam Dick, the postmaster at Windsor. James Dick, subsequently withdrew as the number of Trustees proposed exceeded the statutory limit and the four remaining names were gazetted on 18 June 1898.

In 1912, when Trustees William Walker and James Dick had died, their elected replacements were Robert Bruce Walker a solicitor, and Isaac Newton Woods, a contractor, who were elected to act alongside the familiar names of George Robertson, John Dick Smith and Brinsley Hall. Their appointment was gazetted on 24 April 1912, now being listed as the Trustees for 'the portion of the General Cemetery at Windsor, dedicated 10 July, 1897', set apart for Presbyterians.⁹

⁶ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 October 1967, in *Hawkesbury People and Places Cemeteries*, online.

⁷ Letter Department of Lands, 11 January 1888, ref. no. 87/1255, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives.

⁸ 'Declaration of Trust', 8 June 1897, An Extract Minute from the meeting of the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury at Granville, 30 June, 1897, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives.

⁹ 'Declaration of Trust', 6 April 1898, An Extract Minute from the meeting of the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury at Parramatta, 13-14 April 1898, Letters, 4 May 1898 ref. no.

It would seem the reluctance to spend money on the grounds of the current, old Presbyterian Cemetery is explained in the ongoing beliefs from 1887 to 1912 that a new Presbyterian Burial Ground was being supplied to supersede the old, despite ongoing indecision. The problem of the poor state of the old cemetery continued for more than 20 years, with finally one relative of a family buried there losing patience. John Stewart, a veterinary surgeon at Randwick wrote to the church:

The mills of the Lord grind slowly. Truth but not more slothfully than the efforts of the Church. I have now been 12 months trying to do a deed to beautify... My dear Sir what are you going to do about this? Your charge of graveyards are a disgrace to the intelligence. I make [this] offer to try and permanently set in order the Presbyterian Cemetery at Windsor...¹⁰

At this time there was no minister currently presiding at Windsor, so the Reverend H. Whittle at Richmond had been contacted. The Property Trust admitted some cemeteries were as John Stewart had observed, but put the responsibility back onto the Windsor Trustees, who unstatedly seem to have been in charge of the old cemetery as well as the new proposed one over many years. The Trustees in 1938 were Henry Robertson, Robert A Campbell, Brinsley Hall, Lewis Stuart, H.S. Johnston. A.C. Johnston and the minister in charge.¹¹

Little was reported about a General Cemetery for Windsor after that. What the ongoing problems for the current Presbyterian Cemetery served to show, however, was that the problems were faced by all denominations, exacerbated by the indecision. The wider district of Windsor obviously never warmed to the idea and the proposal for a new General Cemetery died quietly and has remained buried. ■

98/2012, 12 May 1898 and 18 June 1898, Letters 28 February 1912, 6 March 1912, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives.

¹⁰ Letter, 4 April 1938, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives.

¹¹ Letters, 7 April 1938, in Ferguson Memorial Library Archives.

Tebbutt's Observatories

By Kelsey McMorrow – Acting Curator,
Hawkesbury Regional Museum

Next month Hawkesbury Regional Museum will launch its inaugural digital exhibition based on the famous local astronomer John Tebbutt F.R.A.S.

Exactly 170 years earlier, in May 1853, John Tebbutt first began to study the night sky. He continued to make all of his astronomical observations outdoors or from the verandah of his family home in Windsor, until he built his first observatory 10 years later. In fact, Tebbutt built four observatories in total, the first in 1863 and the last in 1894.

1863 OBSERVATORY

John Tebbutt's first observatory was built near the family residence. It was a simple building constructed of white-painted pine wood, with a slate-tile roof.

The building featured a transit room, where Tebbutt made observations to determine local mean time. There were two brick piers in the room which were used with a mount for a transit instrument, which Tebbutt purchased in 1864. Near the piers, there were slits in the roof and walls, allowing Tebbutt to make observations of the sky with the transit instrument.

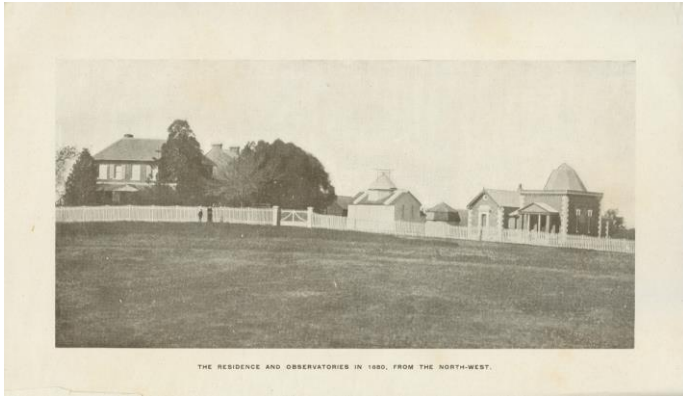
A set of stairs in the transit room led up to a tower containing the equatorial room. This room had a conical revolving roof with two shutters that opened to reveal the sky. A refracting telescope that Tebbutt had purchased in 1861 was mounted in this room and used to observe comets, lunar occultations of stars, and eclipses of the moons of Jupiter.

Sadly, following extensive white ant damage, the building was demolished sometime in the early 20th century.

1874 OBSERVATORY

In 1872, John Tebbutt purchased a new refracting telescope, allowing him to see greater detail. Although the telescope was initially installed in the equatorial room of the 1863 observatory, the room was soon determined to be too small. This led Tebbutt to build a new observatory in 1874 that could house the new telescope. Similar to the first

observatory, it also featured a revolving wooden roof, covered with canvas, and containing shutters to view the sky.



The Peninsula estate, with the residence on the left and observatories on the right. The small rotund building is the 1874 observatory. (From Tebbutt, 1908.)

1879 OBSERVATORY

In 1879, John Tebbutt built a new, much more substantial and ornamental observatory. An example of classical Georgian architecture, it was constructed of brick and featured several rooms.

As well as the office and equatorial room, there was also a prime vertical chamber (used for latitude observations) and a transit meridian room (used for time observations). Both rooms contained piers for a transit instrument and included nearby slits in the roof and walls for examining the sky.



Tebbutt's 1879 observatory (right) and 1863 observatory (left). c.1900. Photographer unknown. Courtesy State Library Victoria

1894 OBSERVATORY

In 1886, John Tebbutt purchased a new, much larger, telescope – 8 inches (20.3cm) in diameter. This was the largest refracting telescope owned by an independent Australian astronomer during this period. The new telescope was soon installed in the 1874 observatory but was found to be an uncomfortable fit. Several years later (and after a

white ant infestation), Tebbutt finally decided to replace the 1874 observatory with a larger (5.5m diameter) brick version. It was topped with a revolving iron roof, containing two long shutters. Construction of the building began in 1894 and was completed in 1895 – it was the last of Tebbutt's observatories and still stands today.



Tebbutt's 1894 observatory (left) and 1879 observatory (right) with Tebbutt pictured at left. (Both observatories survive today). c.1900. Photographer unknown. Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

Today, only Tebbutt's 1879 and 1894 observatory buildings survive. These impressive and fascinating buildings will soon be available to explore in a virtual tour, as part of an online exhibition on John Tebbutt by the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.



John Tebbutt's 1879 and 1894 Observatories. 1916. Photographed by O'Brien of Windsor. Hawkesbury Regional Museum

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JOHN TEBBUTT to go online!



Tebbutt in front of his 1863 observatory. Date and photographer unknown.
Courtesy Hawkesbury Library Service

It was in his Windsor observatories that John Tebbutt made discoveries that were to bring him world renown, including the sighting of two comets in 1861 and 1881.

He conducted regular, systematic observations, and published his results in many letters and reports. Recognition of Tebbutt's outstanding contribution to world astronomy continued after his death, with the bestowing of his name on a lunar crater by the International Astronomical Union (1973) and on the first \$100 note (1984).

The Hawkesbury Historical Society collection, under the care of Hawkesbury Regional Museum, includes historically important objects such as the celestial globe used by John Tebbutt, his handwritten recordings, family documents and heirlooms.

These amazing objects and the history and findings of John Tebbutt will come together in our first completely online exhibition.

It will contain a history of John Tebbutt and his work through objects and images, interviews with family members and experts (find out why he turned down the offer to become Government Astronomer) and a virtual tour through his observatories.

The launch of this online exhibition (with accompanying museum display) will take place on Sunday 21st May in conjunction with the Museum Open Day and 15th Birthday.

Details are below.

Hawkesbury Regional Museum Open Day

Sunday 21 May

10am – 4pm

8 Baker Street, Windsor

Come and help us celebrate Hawkesbury Regional Museum's 15th birthday with a family fun day!

There will be activities for children, music, tours, food and lots more!

Join us also for the launch of the new online Tebbutt exhibition at 11am

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY WITH A HISTORICAL TWIST!

Celebrating Hawkesbury Heritage

www.hawkesburymuseum.eventbrite.com



SUNDAY 21 MAY | 10AM-4PM | 8 BAKER STREET, WINDSOR

Come and help us celebrate Hawkesbury Regional Museum's 15th birthday and International Museum's Day, with a family fun day!

There will be activities for children, music, tours, food and lots more!

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY WITH A HISTORICAL TWIST!



www.hawkesburymuseum.eventbrite.com



(Founded in 1956)

Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 293 WINDSOR NSW 2756

ABN 91 099 233 587

INVITES YOU TO COME AND ENJOY ONE OF THEIR PERIODICAL
'BACK TO TEBBUTT'S SKY-WATCHING ASTRONOMICAL EVENINGS' AT THE HISTORICAL TEBBUTT'S
OBSERVATORY IN PALMER STREET WINDSOR ON SATURDAY, 22 JULY 2023, STARTING AT 5:30 PM



The sky will be seen through modern Telescopes provided by local astronomy enthusiasts. **The original 8" Grubb Refractor Telescope, installed in 1888 by John Tebbutt Astronomer, will also be open for inspection** and a tour of the grounds will be led by the present John Tebbutt. Given a clear sky we will observe the Moon in its First Quarter, view the craters on this our closest celestial neighbour. Venus, will be visible in the N.W. sky. Lower than the bright Venus will be a fainter Mercury (be there at 5.30pm to see Mercury). Higher up will be Mars. Many well-known star clusters, double stars and nebulae will be visible.

Wear warm clothing against the winter chill and bring a torch covered with RED cellophane. A copy of Astronomer John Tebbutt's beautiful "Astronomical Memoirs" book, in which the author recounts his long years of work at the Windsor Observatory, will be given as a gift to each family or single adult.

Please Note: Bookings and payment are essential prior to the event as only 40 participants can be accommodated.

The event will proceed in all but severe rain.

Booking's email: secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com or phone 0410 498 944.

When booking by email please give full name, number of people, a contact number and bank payment reference.

To avoid the disappointment of being denied entry, early bookings and pre-payment are essential.

Payments to ANZ Account - Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.:

BSB: 012874

Account: 227709583

**Costs: Family \$15. This cost includes supper (children to be provided with poppas) & a free book
Singles \$10 p.p. Including supper & a free book**

For further enquires please contact Sean sflavin_32@bigpond.com

or telephone Sean: 0438 289 222

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