

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.

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Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

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Neville Dehn, Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Cathy McHardy, Rebecca McRae, Jan Readford and Oonagh Sherrard

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, 23 February – 7:30pm *

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, 23 February 2023 at 7.30pm

NEW MEETING VENUE

Parish Hall

St Matthew's Anglican Church

Moses Street, Windsor

(Parking available in paddock adjacent to the Parish Hall)

and via Zoom

(details provided separately)

SPEAKERS

Christopher Reeves, Hawkesbury City Council's new Heritage Officer, will introduce himself and talk about his important work with the preservation of history in the Hawkesbury.

Elissa Blair will talk about exhibition plans for Hawkesbury Historical Society's collection in Hawkesbury Regional Museum in 2023.

CONTENTS

- Presidents Report 2
- All Australian Journeys Queensland based Tour of the Hawkesbury 3
- Family history reveals the location of Mrs Chisholm's Windsor School . 4
- The Hawkesbury Women: Ann Green, Server, Considen, Blady (nee Cowly?)(Part 2) 7
- Call out to all researchers and writers of Hawkesbury history 12
- Roller Skating in the Hawkesbury 12



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 2023

Hi everyone

This year we are working to get back into full stride as a growing, active Society, conducting our General Meetings as much in person as is possible. I know that some of our valued members cannot, for various reasons, attend personally, so we are keeping the zoom facilities going. Our Committee Meetings will continue with zoom.

We are still holding our General Meetings on the 4th Thursday nights in February, April and October, and on the 4th Saturday in the months of June and August. One big difference for members to note is that we are trialling meeting in the Parish Hall of St Matthew's Anglican Church in Moses Street, Windsor. It has roominess, fresh air ventilation, toilets, kitchen, easy roomy parking and other facilities we need. Only the June meeting will be conducted as a trial in the Tebbutt Room.

St Matthew's Anglican Church has been in our minds recently. Two more 200th anniversaries will have recently been celebrated there by our first meeting. Just 13 days out from 1823, on 18 December 1822, the Reverend Samuel Marsden, the Principal Colonial Chaplain, came to the new St Matthew's Anglican to perform its consecration ceremony. The church was a special project of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, and he had been trying to get it consecrated before he left the colony so that he and Elizabeth could attend the ceremony. The Macquarie's had long left the colony by the time the consecration was held. In his usual lively and meaningful way, rector, Chris Jones, conducted the 200th anniversary special service late in November, with a welcome to

Country from Darug tribal members, a sermon by the Archdeacon, and a talk by myself on behalf of Hawkesbury Historical Society (see article in this newsletter). Peta Sharpley and I conducted a very well received burial ground tour following the service.

The second 200th anniversary takes place at the same church on 17 February 2023, which may be around the time you are reading this welcoming piece. On this day Daniel Barnett was buried in 1823. Some of you may recognise Daniel's name as a First Fleeter and one of the initial 22 settlers who took up farms in Hawkesbury in the summer of 1793-1794. These facts alone make Daniel Barnett important in our colonial period history. Yet his story is so much more interesting and his funeral so much more historically important.

Barnett was tried at Winchester in July 1783 for 'stealing 2 iron grapplings and 1 Iron Creeper, valued at 10 shillings'. This was in pre-NSW times, so when he was found guilty, he was sentenced to be transported to America and actually set sail aboard the 'Mercury' in March 1784. During a convict mutiny on board 'Mercury' just as the ship sailed, Barnett and almost all other convicts escaped. Retaken, he was put in Exeter gaol and then sent to the 'Dunkirk' hulk along with others, including two future Hawkesbury settlers, Richard Davis and John Fenlow.

It was in this period that America stopped accepting British prisoners and NSW was decided on as a new penal colony. The trio came to Mulgrave Place (Hawkesbury) early in 1794 as Richard Davis and John Farlow had known John Owen, one of James Ruse's networkers, for they had been tried in the same court on 10 September 1793 and had been held there together. For almost thirty years, father and son, both Daniel Barnett, farmed at Pitt Town.

Perhaps Barnet(t) was pronounced in a slightly French fashion in the south of Britain, who knows, for in the St Matthew's Burial Register his burial recording is in the name of 'Barney'. Whatever the reason, Daniel Barnett's funeral has special significance at St Matthew's. His was the third burial after the church was consecrated but the first burial service conducted in the new church. Memos in the Register note that 'this corpse was the first brought into the body of St Matthew's Church, attended by many of the

Cont'd Page 4

All Australian Journeys Queensland-based Tour of the Hawkesbury District

22 and 23 January 2023

Conducted by Jan Barkley-Jack,
Peta Sharpley and Ted and Sue
Brill

This tour was most successful, although our Hawkesbury Historical Society tour guides had to be very flexible and inventive as it turned out. At 8.30am on Sunday 22 January, it was pouring with rain. Not the start we had hoped for, unfortunately. We drove to the hill top at Wilberforce Park and St John's Church and gazed not at the river and Pitt Town beyond, as we had hoped, but at a cloud of mist and fog that blanketed the area.

This meant Jan's talk was given on the coach, but about half of the 19 people on the tour were brave souls who rugged up and walked across to the oldest remaining schoolhouse in Australia. Much of the original detailing still exists on the building's residence on the lower storey and the Schoolhouse/chapel on top. The details of the build are sketchy because it is not known when the construction actually started, but the completion stages were 1818 to 1820. The Macquarie Schoolhouse and temporary chapel, and the Blacket designed St John's Church, were added to the New South Wales Heritage Register on 20 August 2010. They form a rare and important state heritage-listed area. It was too wet to walk through Wilberforce Cemetery but Peta Sharpley gave a history of the Cobcroft family as we studied the Cobcroft vaults from the coach.

Undaunted we went on to historic Ebenezer Church, the oldest

remaining church still in use in Australia, now part of the Uniting Church. There, a cheering cup of tea and scones awaited, organised by Ted and Sue Brill through the wonderful woman's committee. Ted answered questions about the cemetery. Jan gave a talk in the church about the pressing coincidence of Governor Bligh's removal from office illegally by the military in January 1808, and the possible linkages with the church being mooted amongst his supporters around that very time.

After a quick discussion, because of the rain and that predicted for the next day, together with the coach captains, we decided to improvise an afternoon tour of Richmond Burial Ground, 'Glenroy', South Windsor and Thompson Square and Hawksbury Museum, instead of the tour we had planned for the next day. The cemetery tour of the old burial ground at Richmond was the starting point of the afternoon as several of the group had relatives buried there. Luckily the rain eased and we found the Eather and Huxley graves, as required, and the search was enjoyed by the numbers who left the coach. Peta had kindly gone on ahead and organised her lovely house, 'Glenroy', for an unplanned tour which was a great hit! On we went to the Hawkesbury Regional Museum where Hawkesbury Historical Society's collection is housed and a quick tour of Thompson Square.

On Monday morning we visited, as scheduled, St Matthew's Anglican Church and graveyard, before the coach group announced how happy they were with the tour, and how enjoyable it had been despite the rain. Hawkesbury Historical Society's coffers were enhanced by a net profit of over \$500, so we three guides were also pleased.



Jan Barkley-Jack (pictured left) at St Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Richmond



All Australian Journeys tour guide/coordinator, Vicki Daff, is pictured (above) next to the bus at Glenroy. Vicki's husband, Andrew, was the coach driver.

Sunny skies finally!



The Queensland tourist group travelling with All Australian Journeys visit (pictured left and below) St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor



Jan Barkley-Jack (pictured left) talks about Foundation Stone at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor

...Continued from Page 2.

oldest inhabitants of these parts'. Daniel Barnett's grave is marked by its original, small anthropomorphic gravestone and footstone, very typical of early small farmers in the district, on which is recorded his son's 'filial love'. It is located closer to the church than earlier small farmer burials in the western sector, diagonally out from the church's western corner.

Please do come to our Thursday, 23 February General Meeting in person if you can at 7.30pm. Elissa Blair, whom you all know from Hawkesbury Regional Museum will be taking us through some of the exciting ideas for our artefacts in the exhibitions planned. Also, Christopher Reeves, the new Heritage Officer at Hawkesbury City Council is coming along to speak to us about something dear to our hearts- the preservation of history as heritage items, where they still exist. Christopher is facing a mammoth task as he tries to reconcile several unfinished Heritage Studies to get maximum protection for the vast array of important Aboriginal, Colonial and later items still extant within the Hawkesbury City Council area.

Along with a yummy supper, it all sounds like the makings of a great evening. See you there!

Cheers,

Jan Barkley-Jack

SPECIAL NOTICE

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING
VENUE FOR FUTURE
HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MEETINGS**

**Parish Hall
St Matthew's Anglican Church
Moses Street, Windsor
(Parking in adjacent paddock to Parish
Hall)**

See front page for latest meeting notice.

Family history reveals the location of Mrs Chisholm's Windsor school

by Lyn Stewart

Mrs Chisholm's school in Windsor is not a subject that her biographers have dwelt upon. Nevertheless this celebrated lady of Australian history was instrumental in establishing a new Catholic girl's boarding school in Windsor in 1841, the same year that she became involved in the welfare of migrant women arriving in New South Wales. In May of that year, the boarding school opened in Windsor under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. Advertisements first appeared at the end of April and continued into May in the *Australasian Chronicle*, Sydney's Roman Catholic newspaper.¹

"WINDSOR CATHOLIC BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES

In this establishment Young Ladies are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, history, plain and fancy needlework, for twenty pounds per annum. Washing, ten shillings per quarter. No extra charges or notice required on leaving the school. Payments to be made quarterly and in advance. The profits, if any, are devoted to charity, and the domestic comfort of the young ladies is ensured by the kind and gratuitous superintendence of a lady who visits the school daily.

Reference can be made to the Lady Abbess, St. Mary's Convent, Sydney; to the Reverend Mother of the Novitiate, Parramatta; Mrs Captain Chisholm, Windsor; the Reverend Dean Brady; or to any of the Roman Catholic Clergy."

The lady supplying the gratuitous superintendence was Caroline Chisholm, identified in the advertisement as Mrs Captain Chisholm. Her captain husband had returned to duty with the British army in India while she and their young family awaited his return in New South Wales. An active parishioner, Caroline Chisholm was also instrumental in setting up St Patrick's Orphan School in Windsor at the same time as overseeing the girls' boarding school. She was the Directress and Secretary



The Mileham Street schoolhouse pictured in the publication 'St Matthew's Catholic Church Windsor' on page 31 as being of St Joseph's School.

of the Orphan School and not surprisingly, it too was a boarding school.ⁱⁱ

My interest was tweaked, when I discovered that, in the very same advertisement concerning funds for the orphan school, one of the donors to the fund was one of my Murphy family. "Miss Murphy", donating five shillings, was listed as being at the "Catholic seminary". I jumped to the wrong conclusion that she was living in a place where Catholic priests were trained. There was no such seminary in Windsor at the time, and none since. No, the seminary, I discovered, was likely to be the girls boarding school superintended by Mrs Chisholm. Recall Gilbert & Sullivan's *Mikado* with "three little maids" who "come from a ladies seminary". Miss Murphy, one of five Murphy sisters who arrived in Sydney in January, was residing at the Catholic Boarding School for Young Ladies. She may have been employed as a teacher at the school.

But, which of the five Miss Murphy sisters donated the five shillings? There was no way of knowing. I had found one of the sisters, Catherine Murphy, in the 1841 census. It was taken in March 1841. She was listed as "head of the household" in a house in Mileham Street, Windsor.^{iii,iv} There were six occupants, all Roman Catholic, with four of them being adults and two children. Two of the adults were not born in the colony. Catherine had been described as a "nursery governess" on her immigration record. My thought was that perhaps the house in Mileham Street was to be

the girls' boarding school opening in May. At the time of the census (March), perhaps the two children at the address were orphans in the care of the women, including Miss Catherine Murphy.

I searched newspapers on Trove for mention of the school. In July 1841, a letter to the editor of the *Australasian Chronicle* compliments the operation of the school as providing education for daughters of middle class Catholic families.^v

"Government schools provide education for the poor", so the writer says, while "the excellent schools of Mrs Davis and Miss Troy provide for the children of the wealthy." Through this school, "now parents of the middle ranks of life have an opportunity of giving their children a respectable, solid and useful education." The writer, self-styled "Erigena", describes the schoolhouse as well adapted for the purpose, "standing on rising ground outside the town, it is well aired and retired." The writer also claims that no "mercenary motives" drive "the charitable, enlightened and highly respectable ladies" conducting the school. One, "the wife of a military officer, has ample means independent of the seminary; and the other, who has recently come to her assistance, possesses a large fortune". Any profit from the school fees will go to support the orphan children.

The wife of the military officer is undoubtedly Caroline Chisholm. The identity of the wealthy woman who came to her assistance is another question. I believe that Mrs Sarah Scarvell is a possible candidate. I discovered her in a family history written by Mary Lang.^{vi} Sarah Scarvell is also linked to the Murphy sisters. Sarah's sister Mary was married to a cousin of the Murphy sisters, Roger Murphy. Sarah Scarvell and Mary Murphy were the only children of Edward and Winifred Redmond. Edward Redmond, an Irish emancipist, was a successful Sydney trader, who had endowed his two daughters, and their spouses, with considerable property. He and his son-in-law Roger Murphy, were Roman Catholics, both particularly generous in

their support of the building of St Mary's Church (later cathedral) in Sydney. Sarah had married John Larking Scarvell, and their large family lived at the McGraths Hill end of Pitt Town, not far from Windsor. Sarah Scarvell was a church-going Roman Catholic who regularly attended mass in Windsor. Her husband John had retired from the sea and, on his marrying Sarah, never had to work for a living again. Edward Redmond died in 1840 leaving his wife and daughters independently wealthy. Sarah Scarvell donated £1 to the orphans' school fund. "Mrs Scarval" [sic] and "Miss Murphy" are both listed in the same list of subscribers.^{vii}

Perhaps the Church already had plans for a new school. An existing Roman Catholic schoolhouse in Windsor was advertised for sale in February 1840.^{viii} It was in a central part of George Street Windsor. It consisted of just four rooms and was apparently not suitable for what the Church was planning.

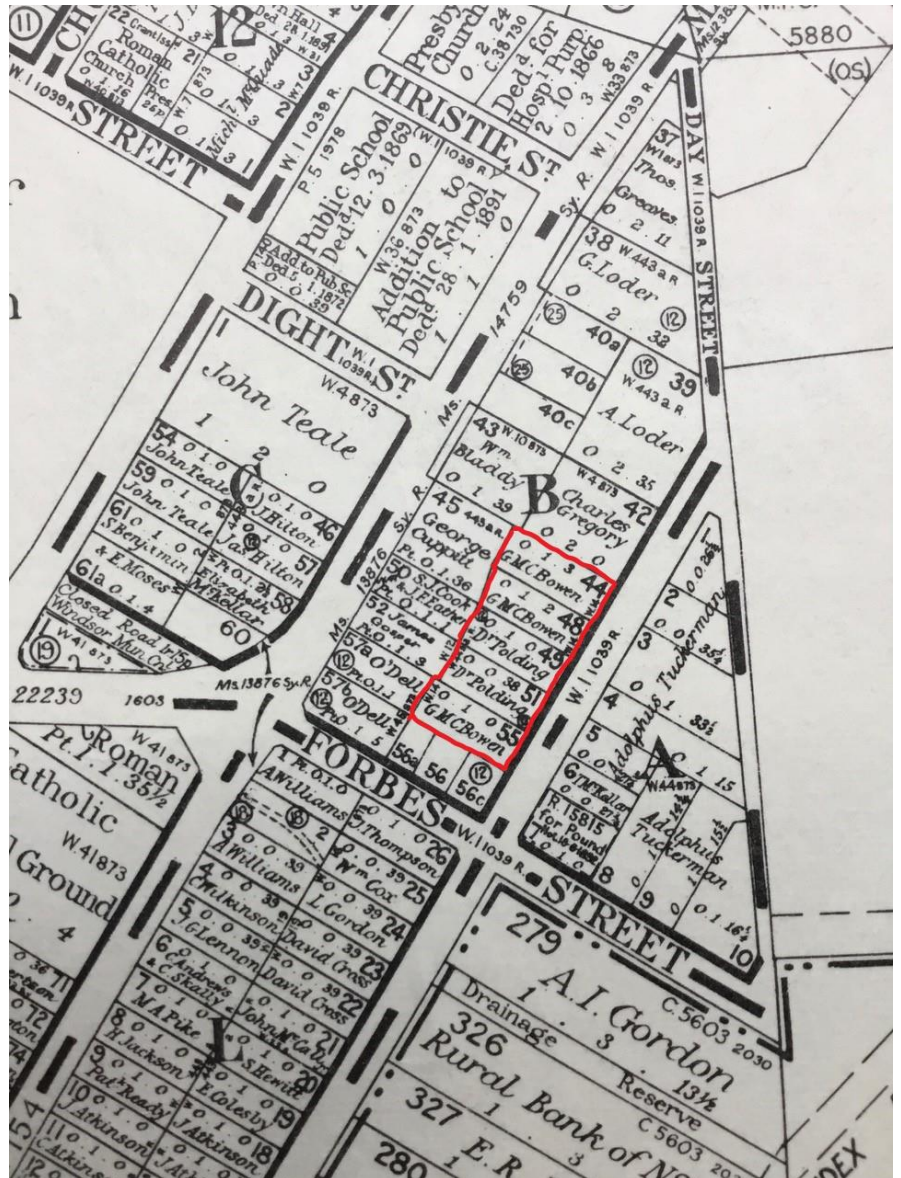
I searched for any mention of a house in Mileham Street that might have been advertised for sale in the 1830-41 period. There was one in 1836, apparently owned by a Mrs Bowen and it was to be auctioned on 30th March that year. The description was as follows:

"... a strong-built residence situated in Mileham Street, Windsor, nearly completed (by Mrs Bowen now returned to England). The land includes three Town Allotments of quarter acre each, and parts of two others, altogether about one acre. The house consists of two large and lofty sitting rooms, four bed-rooms, hall, verandah and cellar. There is a roomy kitchen with stone flagging, oven and conveniences, a coach-house, and four-stall stable. The garden is completely trenched, well manured and stocked with choice fruit trees and grape vines."^{ix}

The Old System Vendors Index at the NSW State Archives gives the

1836 vendor as Susan Bowen and the purchaser as George M. C. Bowen. He was Susan Bowen's own son,^{x,xi} thus the three town allotments plus parts of two others came to be in his ownership.

My next newspaper search was to see if he might have sold all or part of the land prior to Mrs Chisholm opening the Catholic boarding school. Mileham Street did come up by way of an entry in the New South Wales Government Gazette on 11 March 1842. Two allotments in Mileham Street had been sold to the Right Reverend John Bede Polding and he, through his solicitors, was applying to the Court of Claims for the deeds of title. Many land transactions had occurred regarding land that had been granted by the governors of New South Wales years earlier, but the owners did not have the benefit of land title deeds. The Court of Claims was set up to wade through a



A section of the 1967 Department of Lands Windsor map

huge backlog. Claims were submitted to the Court for ownership and title deeds, not just by the original grantees but also by people who had purchased or inherited part or all in the decades since the original grant. Claimants had to provide any and all evidence they could regarding the previous ownership of the land in question. Bishop Polding, head of the Roman Catholic Church in New South Wales at the time, gave the trail of ownership of the allotments in Mileham Street. He bought allotment 51 from George M. C. Bowen and listed two previous owners prior to Bowen. He did the same for the neighbouring allotment number 49, stating there had been three previous owners, the most recent being John Bullivant.

The clearest evidence of Bishop Polding buying the two allotments is a Department of Lands map of 1967. It shows Dr Polding having owned lots 49 and 51 in Mileham Street with George Bowen owning neighbouring lots 44, 48 and 55.^{xii} Those five lots are surely the five potential lots identified in the 1836 advertisement for Mrs Bowen's house. See map on previous page.

By December 1841, Caroline Chisholm was busy with the Home for Female Immigrants in Sydney. Nevertheless her links with the boarding school in Windsor continued. An advertisement identifies it as a "Catholic Primary Boarding School" with the contacts being the Reverend Farrelly in Sydney, Mr Duncan at the Chronicle and Mrs Chisholm at the Immigrants' Home in Bent Street.^{xiii}

By mid-1842, Caroline Chisholm had relocated her household to the outskirts of Sydney at Petersham. A Mr and Mrs Cosgrove were to take over the boarding school at a new "more commodious location".^{xiv} The numbers attending the school had grown and the Mileham Street address was no longer sufficient. The Cosgroves had been teachers in Sydney. With their move to Windsor, Mrs Cosgrove enhanced the educational opportunities for young ladies attending the boarding school. She added music, drawing and dancing as subjects while she hired more teachers with the relevant skills.

In summary, the house utilised by Mrs Chisholm for the ladies boarding school was on a block of land in Mileham Street purchased by

Bishop Polding. A publication of St Matthew's Catholic Church Windsor provides two photographs of a house. The text suggests the house to be the Catholic Convent in Macquarie Street.^{xv} The other photograph is named as St. Joseph's Convent. St. Joseph's Convent is identified elsewhere as being in Mileham Street.^{xvi} The two photographs are of the same building. A chapel built alongside the house is visible in both photographs. The description of Mrs Bowen's house in 1836 (above) is consistent with these images notwithstanding renovations that took place in the 1870s. Renovated for the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, the house was utilised by them as both a home (convent) and a school. There is no little doubt that this house was built as Mrs Bowen's home and subsequently, in 1841, became the girls' boarding school under Mrs Chisholm's superintendence.

From Windsor street maps of today, it appears the site for the original school in Mileham Street is now occupied by a Police Station.

Lyn Stewart is the author of *Searching for Margaret Murphy, from Tipperary to New South Wales. A Murphy family history*, self-published, 2019.

ⁱ *Australasian Chronicle*, 29 April, 1 May 1841, advertisement p1.

ⁱⁱ *Sydney Herald*, 4 May, 1841, advertisement p3.

ⁱⁱⁱ 1841 Census, State Records of New South Wales, Return 206, Item X951, page 31, Reel 2223.

^{iv} Lyn Stewart, *Searching for Margaret Murphy, from Tipperary to New South Wales – A Murphy family history*, 2019, p17, p136-138.

^v *Australasian Chronicle*, 24 July, 1841, p2

^{vi} Mary Lang, *Home was here*, 1987, Sydney.

^{vii} *Sydney Herald*, 4 May, 1841, advertisement p3.

^{viii} *Australasian Chronicle*, 11 February 1840, advertising.

^{ix} *Sydney Herald*, 21 March, 1836, advertisement p4.

^x Old System Vendors Index 1825-1986, Index 56, Bowen, page 217

^{xi} Australian Dictionary of Biography, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bowen-george-meares-countess-1810>, accessed August 2022.

^{xii} Town Map of Windsor, NSW Department of Lands, 1967.

^{xiii} *Australasian Chronicle*, 25 December, 1841, advertisement p1.

^{xiv} *Australasian Chronicle*, 26 July 1842, advertisement p2.

^{xv} *St Matthew's Catholic Church Windsor*, 1840-1990, page 30 and 31.

^{xvi} <https://www.hawkesbury.org/name/st-josephs-convent-windsor.html> accessed November 2022.

THE HAWKESBURY WOMEN

Ann Green, Sever, Considen, Blady (Nee Cowly?)

Part 2

By Richard Gillard

In Part 1, we traced the story of Ann from her birth until she arrived in Sydney Cove aboard *The Lady Penrhyn* on 26 January 1788. During the voyage, Ann had an affair with the Captain, William Server, and was pregnant by the time *The Lady Penrhyn* arrived in Sydney Cove. Ann must have been in a crisis as William Server sailed *The Lady Penrhyn* out of Sydney Cove on 5 May 1788 bound for China. There is no record of any financial assistance that William left to sustain Ann during the pregnancy. Ann gave birth to a baby girl whom she named Laetitia Green. The registration papers show the father as William Server. Laetitia was baptised on the 9 November 1788 in Sydney¹¹.

Sixteen months after the birth of Laetitia, Ann and Laetitia were placed aboard the *HMS Sirius* for transportation to Norfolk Island¹². The *HMS Sirius* left Sydney Cove on 7 March 1790, arriving at Norfolk Island on the 13 March 1790. Unfortunately, *HMS Sirius* was shipwrecked on a reef on the 18 March 1790 as it was loading stores to take back to Sydney¹³.

Immediately on arrival on Norfolk Island, Ann formed a relationship with the surgeon, Dennis Considen. Denis had travelled with Ann on *HMS Sirius* to Norfolk Island. There is no record of Ann and Dennis marrying even though a mass marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Richard Johnson in November 1791 on Norfolk Island. There were no records kept of the marriages.

Dennis Considen had arrived in Australia as surgeon on the *Scarborough* as part of the First Fleet and was assigned to Norfolk Island to be surgeon on Norfolk Island. Ann became pregnant to Dennis and late in December 1790, Ann gave birth to a daughter, whom they named Constance.

Dennis did not have a good relationship with the Lieutenant-Governor of Norfolk Island, Major Robert Ross which eventuated in Dennis, Ann and daughters Laetitia and Constance returning to Sydney Cove aboard the *Queen* in December 1791.

The relationship between Ann and Dennis became fractured over the ensuing months and on 31 March 1793, Ann married William Blady, even though she was heavily pregnant with Dennis Considen's child¹⁴.

Ann gave birth to William Considen on 1 May 1793 just 31 days after her marriage to William Blady. This birth must have had a major impact on the marriage of Ann to William Blady as he may not have wanted anything to do with someone else's child. William was only 35 days old when Ann handed him over to William Considen, along with Constance Considen. Dennis Considen left Sydney Cove aboard the sailing vessel *Kitty* on 4 June 1793 with his children. The *Kitty* sailed via Norfolk Island, Cape Horn, St. Catherine's, and Rio De Janeiro, arriving in the Cove of Cork, Ireland, 5 February 1794¹⁵.

Dennis Considen, whilst he was in the colony 'proclaimed himself to Sir Joseph Banks as the colony's pharmaceutical pioneer; 'if there were any merit in applying these and many other simples to the benefit of the poor wretches here, I certainly claim it, being the first who discovered & recommended them'¹⁶. Dennis was recognised in 1904 for his pioneering work in the Colony with *eucalyptus oil* by having Joseph Maiden, government botanist of New South Wales, dedicate *Eucalyptus consideniana* to Dennis's memory.

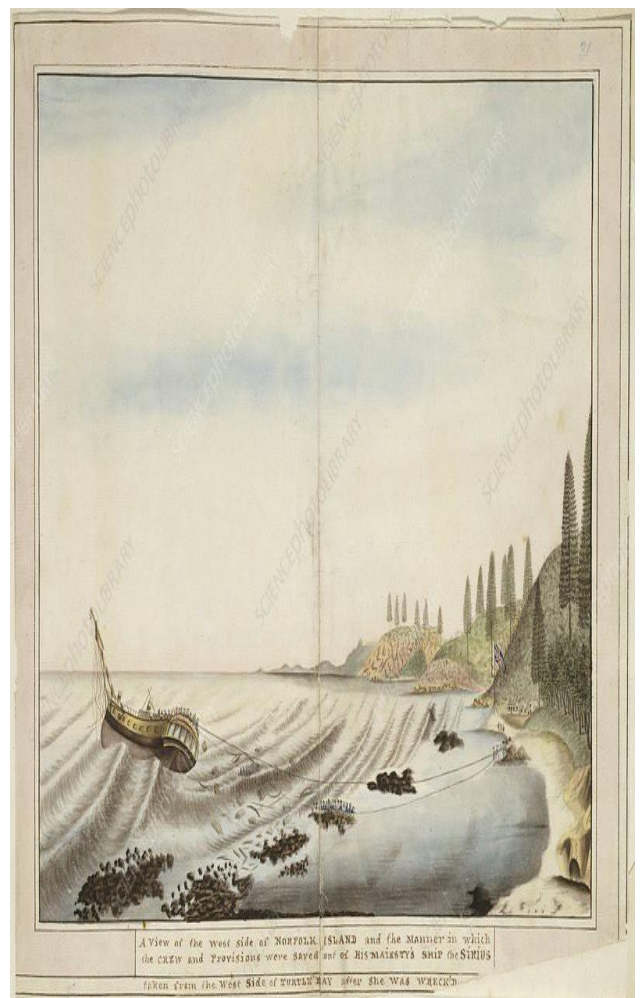


Figure 6. Wreck of HMS Sirius, 1790, artist unknown, Natural History Museum, London/ Science Photo Library, C016/5265, <https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/569893/view/wreck-of-hms-sirius-1790>, accessed 22 August 2022.

Dennis raised his two children in Ireland and England until his death on 29 December 1815. Ann was never to see her children again and must have wondered over the remaining years of her life what had happened to them.

Her daughter, Constance Consider, married a William Butt on 22 August 1823. Constance had two children, Margaret Constantia Butt, born 1825, died 1828 and Mary Butt, born 1827 and died 1905¹⁷.

William Consider, Ann's son, became a Captain in the East India Company in 1827. He was to live the rest of his life in India, marrying Catherine Meisselbach on the 17 March 1831. They had one child, details of which are unknown at this time. William died in 1848 in Dehra Dun Uttaranchal, India¹⁸.

Ann's marriage to William Blady was to provide her with a sense of security for which she had longed. William, at the Carlisle Assize, Cumberland on 7 August 1790 was sentenced to seven years transportation and was transported to Sydney Cove aboard the *Britannia*, arriving in Sydney Cove in October 1791.



Figure 7. Land grant to Ann Blady, 50 acres, Mulgrave Place 1 May 1797, NSW Land Registry Services | HLRV (nswlrs.com.au), Parish of St. Matthew Edition 2, accessed 25 August 2022

Green Hills (Windsor) on 6 September 1809²⁰. This allotment was made to William because of the continual flooding of the South Creek, enabling William and Ann to move to higher ground.

A further land grant of seventy acres at Richmond Hill was made to William on 1 January 1810.²¹

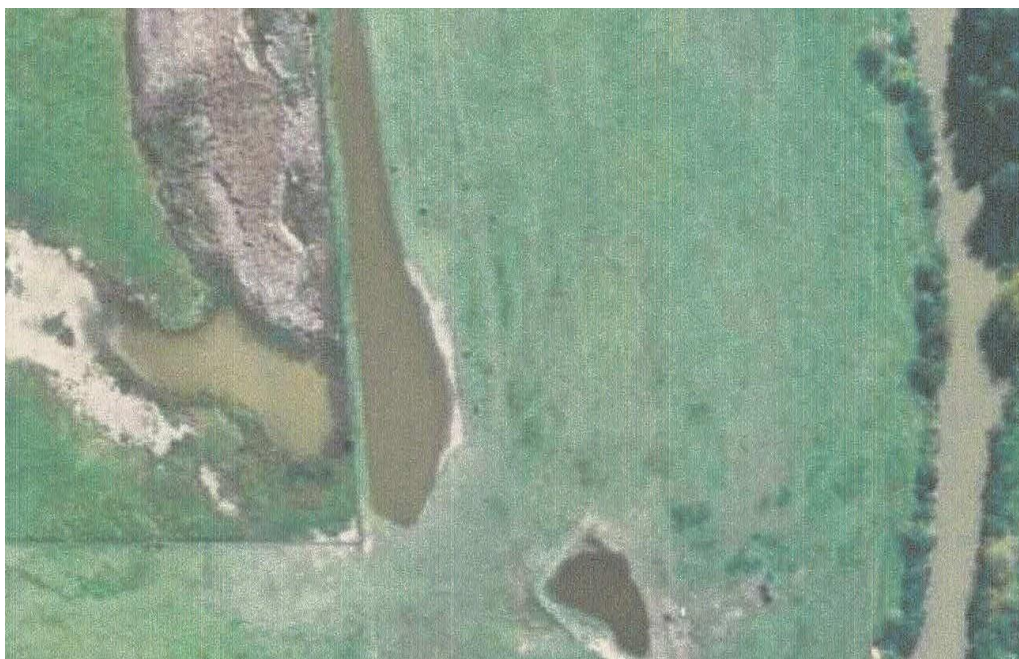


Figure 8. Google Earth, image of Ann Blady's land grant, Mulgrave Place, accessed 3rd September 2022.

On 1 May 1797, Governor John Hunter granted Ann 50 acres of land at Mulgrave Place¹⁹. Ann was only one of a small number of women who were granted land by Governor John Hunter in the early days of the colony. One wonders if her association with prominent men in the early days of the colony influenced John Hunter in his decision to grant Ann the land.

William in his own right received a small land grant of thirty-nine & 3/4 rods in

Green Hills (Windsor) on 6 September 1809²⁰. This allotment was made to William because of the continual flooding of the South Creek, enabling William and Ann to move to higher ground. A further land grant of seventy acres at Richmond Hill was made to William on the 1st of January 1810.²¹

Jane Anne Blady was born to Ann and William on 7 January 1795 at Parramatta. Her brother, Thomas Blady was born on 6 June 1797 and was baptised on 9 July 1797 at St. Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta.

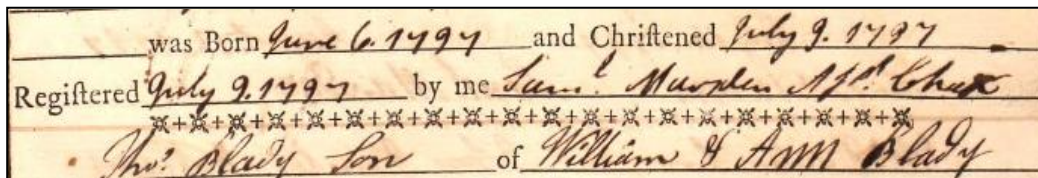


Figure 9. Ancestry.com.au, New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta, Baptisms, 1790-1966 for Thomas Blady, accessed 7 November 2022.

In 1799, two teenage Aboriginal boys were murdered by five Hawkesbury settlers. The settlers, Ed Powell, Simon Freebody, James Metcalf, William Timms and William Butler were sent to trial on 14 October 1799. On 18 October 1799, William Blady was called as a witness. His recorded testimony follows:

William Blady being duly sworn deposes that about six weeks ago he was out Duck Shooting and met a Native called Major White and one called young Jemmy (the latter said to have been killed by the Prisoners) and another Native whose name is to the Witness unknown came up to the Witness armed with spears that White enquired if the Witness had got any Ducks-the witness answered he had not and asked White why the Natives- were angry with the white Men-that they answered they were angry with white men and particularly with the soldiers that White then showed an intention to throw a spear at the Witness by poisoning it towards him that the Witness thereupon stepped back and guarded himself against a Tree-when he discovered another body of Natives making up to him the first of whom he well knew to be called Major Worgan and of him he asked why the Natives were angry with the witness-that such Worgan replied they were not angry with him for he was a very good fellow but the Soldiers were very bad-the former party now joined the latter and they all went off at a little Distance from the Witness apparently to consult together after which the Native Charley returned to the Witness and asked him if he was going home-that through fear he answered "No"-the said Natives then all departed together and the Witness soon after went home where he was informed by his wife that the same Natives (Seventeen in Number) many of whom she knew and described to her Husband had robbed and plundered the House of the Witness and taken away with them everything they thought proper.

*Question by the Court. Q.-Do you know the reason why the Natives are so angry with the white men and soldiers?
A.-No except by report I have heard of a Native woman and child being killed by a Soldier but do not know the reason why they were so killed²².*

Ann must have been frantic by the time William arrived home. To have to face 17 Aboriginal armed warriors by herself and her three young children, fearing for their lives, as the Aboriginals stole everything they could from the house. This event would have had a lasting impact on Ann. William did have a good relationship with the local Aboriginal tribe and this is the reason he was not killed.

Anne's daughter, Laetitia Green was married to Roger Twyfield on 8 November 1804. Roger had been tried at the Salop Lent Assize, Shrewsbury on 12 March 1785. Roger was found guilty of stealing twenty-four pounds weight of tallow. The sentence imposed on Roger was death, however, this was commuted to seven years transportation. Roger arrived on the *Friendship* as part of the First Fleet. There is no record of Laetitia and Roger having any children.



Figure 10. The brig Active, redrawn by Auckland artist, Richard Horner, 1988, accessed 3rd Sept. 2022.

Jane Anne Blady married Richard William Ballard at Windsor on 5 October 1812²³. Little is known of Richard Ballard, the only details being in a letter found in The Colonial Secretary Papers which state that he was "mate" aboard the brig *Active* which had sailed from Bengal, India²⁴. The *Active* had arrived in Sydney Cove on the 29 January 1812.

Governor Macquarie's diary entry for Wednesday, 29 January 1812 noted:

*Wed. 29th. Jany. 1812—
The Brig Active anchored this Evening in Sydney Cove from Bengal via Port Dalrymple – having left the former Place in Sepr. last²⁵.*

A daughter, Jane Anne Ballard was born to Jane and Richard on the July 1813. Within a brief period, the care of young Jane Ballard had been given over to her grandparents, Ann and William Blady by Jane and Richard. It is apparent that Richard wished to return to Calcutta, India, taking his wife Jane with him. It is not known whether Jane intended to return to Australia and reunite with her daughter Jane. Whilst in India, Jane gave birth to a son in Bombay, who may have been still born, as his death is recorded as 16 August 1816 in Bombay.



Figure 11. Jane Ann Johnston (nee Ballard) 1813 - 1901, date and owner of photograph unknown, photograph accessed from Hadware Ancestry web site, 13 October 2022.

Jane was never to return to Australia as she died in Bombay 6 September 1817 at the age of 22 years. This is evidenced by the fact that the Census of 1828 showed 15-year-old Jane Ballard as being housekeeper to William Blady.²⁶

Jane's daughter, Jane Ann Ballard, married John Johnston on 24 January 1833 in Windsor. John had arrived in Australia as a 4-year-old, with his parents, Andrew, and Mary Johnson in 1802, settling in Portland Head. Jane and John were to have three girls and 4 boys. Ann had passed away before these children were born.

Mystery surrounds Ann and William's son Thomas. The 1814 Census shows Thomas as being an apprentice to a Thomas Blades?²⁷ On 10 February Thomas was granted 60 acres of land at Windsor.²⁸ It is uncertain if Thomas worked his land grant because on 14 July 1819, Thomas left for Calcutta, India aboard the sailing ship *Mary*²⁹.

No record has been found of Thomas returning to Australia and no other records related to Thomas have been found.

Ann's 50-acre land grant backed onto South Creek and would have been inundated by the Hawkesbury River floods of 1799, 1800, 1806 and 1809 as flood waters from the Hawkesbury River backed up into South Creek. On 6 January 1801, William was a signatory to a petition from settlers on the South Creek, Hawkesbury, re losses sustained because of the 1800 floods³⁰. After the 1809 flood, Ann and William had no option but to obtain food from the Government Store at Windsor to sustain them until they could replant their fields³¹.

The continual flooding of their property finally took its toll on Ann and William, and they moved to the small block of land William had been granted in Windsor. By this time William had been made a constable and as a result he received a salary and rations which helped with their sustenance.

On 20 April 1811, Governor Macquarie employed Ann as housekeeper at the Government House property, 41 George St., Windsor on a salary of twenty pounds per annum³². Ann was to remain in employment at Government House until 31 July 1813³³.



Figure 12. Old Government House, Windsor, Hawkesbury Library Service, Image 006431.

It is not known when Jane and William Ballard left for India as no record can be found of their leaving Sydney Cove. Ann retired from being the housekeeper at Government House, Windsor at the end of July 1813 so that she could care for baby Jane whilst Jane and William sailed to Calcutta.

Ann passed away on 3 September 1820. At the time of authoring her story no record has been found as to where she was buried.

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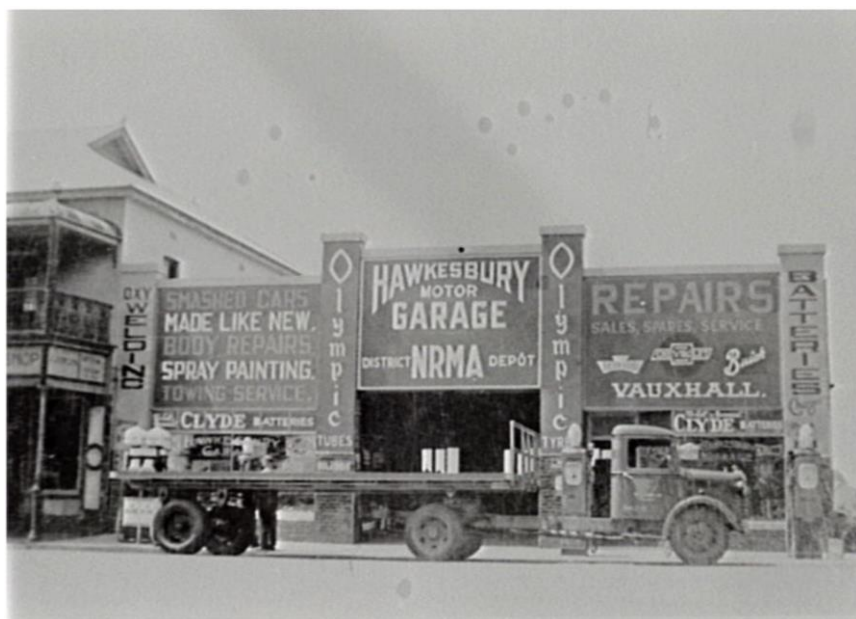
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Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 14 October 1942 (Trove)

Call out to all researchers and writers of Hawkesbury history

Hawkesbury Historical Society provides two avenues for writers of local history to present their research.

[Our newsletter](#) is produced five times a year and is capably edited by Jan Readford. The Society was established in 1956 and over the past thirty-one years since the commencement of the publication in the 1980s, over 150 newsletters have been produced rendering a substantial body of work with a wealth of information and investigation.

Jan is keen to hear from anyone with an article, long or short on any aspect of the district's history including family stories, place names, events and curious tales. Without the valuable contributions of members, there would be no newsletter.

Contact Jan for further details –
jan54@bigpond.com



[Our articles in the Hawkesbury Gazette newspaper...](#)

Local societies including the Hawkesbury Historical Society, Hawkesbury Family History Group, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, Colo Shire Family History Group, National Trust Hawkesbury Branch and Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society have been providing articles for the Hawkesbury Gazette newspaper for more than 12 years and have contributed over 420 to date, which is truly a remarkable effort.

The current editor of the newspaper, Matthew Lawrence is keen to continue this worthwhile project which promotes both the history of our region and the societies themselves. He has pledged to provide a half page for text and image in each print issue and to publish online as well - <https://www.hawkesburygazette.com.au/>

The project is off to a great start with the first article by the Colo Shire Family History Group being included in last week's Gazette. Five local societies have promised to participate in this valuable project. Hawkesbury Historical Society will be contributing for the month of May.

I would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to participate by authoring a short article of about 480 words in length or have an outline of an article which just needs some editing. Help can also be provided in locating a suitable image.

Contact Cathy McHardy for further details -
cathy@nisch.org

Roller Skating in the Hawkesbury

Cathy McHardy cathy@nisch.org

October 2022

Almost one hundred years before the Windsor Skatel opened in Brabyn Street in December 1960 (1), the roller-skating craze swept across the country after being brought to Australia from the USA by adventurous entrepreneur George Selth Coppin in 1866.

Surprisingly, the history of wheeled skated dates from as early as the 1760s (2). A Belgian, Joseph Merlin is usually credited with developing this wheeled device probably derived by attaching wheels to skating boots in place of the blade.



Plimpton's new and improved roller skate courtesy of the National Museum of American History - https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_673420 retrieved 30 October 2022

From the first official patent in 1819 by a Monsieur Patibledin who made a pair of skates with four in-line metal rollers attached to a wooden platform which was then strapped to the shoe, the design of the skates has continued to improve and evolve (3).

Up until the early 1860s most roller skates were produced with variations on the in-line wheel design with various forms of braking attachments. In 1863 James Plimpton showcased his vastly improved skates which placed the four wheels in the paired configuration still evident today (4). This improvement allowed for smoother turns and the ability to skate in the reverse direction.

Reputedly the roller-skating craze was introduced into Australia, firstly in Melbourne by flamboyant Melbourne entrepreneur George Selth Coppin in 1866 (5) having seen the sport in action in New York and had undertaken instructions from William H Fuller of Boston (6).

Coppin, a man of amazing energy and vision being at various times throughout his life a comedian, actor, entrepreneur, politician, and philanthropist he was always keen and ready to support a new venture. He is also credited with establishing and promoting hot air ballooning in Australia.

Not only did Coppin intend to encourage the establishment of rinks across the country, he sought to exploit a potentially lucrative business opportunity by applying for a patent for his "Patent Roller and Ice Skate" in March 1866 (7). His roller skates were distributed widely and sold for 30 shillings per pair.

Amid great fanfare, Coppin presented Mr W H Fuller, the "champion skater of the world" who had travelled from Boston for the purpose of "inaugurating skating in the Australian Colonies by his wonderful performance on Roller Skates" (8).

The Herald (Melbourne) reported by June 1866 that the "Skating Rink has now become firmly established as a fixed place of amusement, and during the winter weather a better means of obtaining exercise could not well be devised. That the "rink" has become popular is shown by the numbers who have joined the clubs; and now the skaters are more familiar with the use of the roller-skates, they are better able to keep perpendicular" (9).

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
GRAND OPENING NIGHT.
MONDAY, September 3, 1866.
LARGEST SKATING RINK IN THE WORLD.
Teacher and Manager of the Rink.. Professor TAYLOR.

Monthly subscription tickets, price £1 10s., can now be obtained at the Theatre and J. H. Anderson and Son, Music Warehouse, George-street; Messrs. Elvy and Co., and Henry Cole, Bookseller, George-street. Single admission to the Rink, 2s., and 1s. per night for use of Skates.

Dress circle, 4s.; stalls and pit, 2s.; upper circle, 1s.; gallery, 6d. Visitors to the dress circle, stalls, and pit, will have the entree to the Rink. Programme of entertainments and full particulars will be duly announced.

Extract from *The Empire*, 28 August 1866, p. 1. Retrieved on 21 September 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60598896>

The craze didn't take long to catch on as newspapers across the country carried reports of this fantastic new form of exercise. Only a few months later in August 1866, the tender was advertised for the first rink in Sydney at the Prince of Wales Theatre (10) which opened on the 3 September boasting that it was "the largest rink in the world".

JOHN HAGEN,
MANUFACTURER
OF
ROLLER SKATES
AND
TURNER IN GENERAL.
 Skates in stock, great variety, all sizes, or made to order at shortest notice and reasonable prices.
 Country orders attended to. Discount allowed to Skating Rinks.
 Billiard Balls faithfully adjusted and stained.
FANCY EMPORIUM,
313, GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

Extract from *The Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser*. 25 March 1876, p. 414, Advertising. Retrieved on 5 October 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162647112>

In Yass NSW in 1869, even the Court House (with special permission of the magistrate) was utilised as a makeshift skating rink providing an unusual venue for a demonstration of skating with opportunities for public participation. Skates were to be provided free of charge (11).

Coppin was unable to corner the market on his "Patent Improved Roller Skates" and there was a proliferation of imitations by manufacturers such as John Hagen of Sydney which was impossible to counter.

A six days' roller skating march has lately been concluded in New York. The winner, a lad of 18, made 1090 miles in 142 hours; the second made 1025; the third, 1022; the fourth, 1000. There is great astonishment in sporting circles at the number of miles scored.

Extract from *The Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser*. 30 May 1885, p. 1120. Epitome of News. Retrieved on 6 October 2022 from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/163275571>

In some countries roller-skating had taken on all the energies of an extreme sport with the *Sydney Mail* reporting in 1885 that a skating marathon had been concluded in New York where a "lad of 18, made 1090 miles" in 142 hours" (12).

During 1870s rinks opened around the country often taking over Masonic Halls and Schools of Art. Newspapers of the day report the popularity of rinks in St Mary's, Penrith, Katoomba and Parramatta. In most rinks, hire fees for the

skates were included in the admission price so it wasn't necessary for everyone to own their own pair. Advertisements for second hand skates began to emerge in the newspapers often stating "used once" in the sales blurb. By the 1890s rinks were popping up everywhere in towns and cities across the country.

The first mention of skating in the Hawkesbury is from *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette* which had just commenced publication in the district. The edition of 28 July 1888 carried the exciting news of the opening of the rink by the "well and favourably known" Mr Hesford (13). The issue of the 4 August included the advertisement for Hesford's Skating Rink Windsor which will open in the afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays and Fridays (14).

SKATING RINK.—We understand that Mr. Hersford, who is well and favourably known in Sydney, Parramatta, and elsewhere, intends to establish a skating rink in Windsor. The hall of the School of Arts will be utilised, and as the floor will be carefully attended to in the interim, a first-class rink should be made. As a manager Mr. Hersford is all there, and patrons may rely on being well treated. We believe that the days on which the rink will be open will be Tuesday and Friday of each week.

Extract from *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 28 July 1888, p. 4. Local and General. Retrieved on 30 September 1888 from
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72557553>

HESFORD'S
SKATING RINK,
 WINDSOR,
 OPEN NEXT
Tuesday & Friday

Afternoons	-	-	-	-	3 till 5.30
Nights	-	-	-	-	7.30 till 10

Extract from *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 4 August 1888, p. 5 Advertising. Retrieved on 5 October 2022 from
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72557568>

John Hesford was the head of a theatrical family who hailed from Western Australia. Hesfords had made a name for themselves in musical theatre and Vaudeville in Sydney and Melbourne. Back in the Hawkesbury, towns nearby to Windsor such as Riverstone and Richmond didn't miss out on all the fun with Hesford's rinks also being established in these locations during 1888.

Not everyone was carried away by the craze. A correspondent reporting in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* of the 4 August 1888 was so scathing in his condemnation of the raucous sport that he (or she) felt compelled to pen a poem on the subject conceding however that "the onlookers had all the best of the fun, and laughed until their very buttons burst" (15).

ON THE SKATES.

Hear the thunder of the skates, roller skates,
 How my soul so supersensitive their row infernal
 hates !
 When I'm half-a-mile or more,
 From the door,
 Comes that deafening, maddening rolling
 Of those wheels upon the floor—
 That maddening, monotonous, reverberating roar
 Of the skates.

Extract from *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 4 August 1888, p. 1. Topics of the Day. Retrieved on 10 January 2023 from
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72557581>

The damage rendered by hundreds of rotating metal wheels scraping and rolling across the timber floors of the various public buildings can only be imagined. Some may have needed replacing when the craze died down when the venues were returned to their previous uses.

During 1888, Mr J O'Brien also opened a rink in his Union Hall in George Street, Windsor (16). This hall was replaced by O'Brien's Building in 1930. The advertising that the hall was "eminently suitable for skating" and that O'Brien "had at hand a large supply of the most improved skates".

SCHOOL OF ARTS
SKATING RINK,
 WINDSOR,
 Afternoons - - - - 3 till 5.30
 Nights - - - - 7.30 till 10

UNION HALL
 SKATING RINK, WINDSOR.
 Afternoon, 3 till 5.30 ; Night, 7.30 til 10.
 OPEN NEXT TUESDAY AND FRIDAY.

SCHOOL OF ARTS
 SKATING RINK, RICHMOND,
 OPEN NEXT MONDAY.

Extract from *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*. 11 August 1888, p. 5. Advertising. Retrieved on 10 January 1888 from
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72557605>

By the beginning of the First World War in 1914 the frenzy for roller-skating had subsided. Whether the concerns about the imminent war weighed heavily on the nation or simply the fad had run its course - I am not sure. Another possibility was that moving pictures were gaining in popularity and competed with other forms of entertainment and recreation such as skating for business. WWI was closely followed by the Influenza Epidemic in 1919 which closed many public places and restricted the movements of citizens.

Over the intervening years until the opening of the Windsor Skatel in 1960, the popularity of the sport waxed and waned. In 1957, an open-air rink was opened in Brabyn Street, Windsor by Charles F Main after a similar proposal was refused by Windsor Municipal Council in 1952 (17). This rink was the forerunner of the Windsor Skatel, but that is another story...

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W. Sullivan & Co.,
Windsor-st., Richmond.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Saturday 30 September 1883 (Trove)



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