

KURRAJONG ~ COMLEROI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kurrajong ~ Comleroi Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the growth of interest in the history of the Kurrajong district, the area west of the Hawkesbury River bounded by Bilpin and the Grose and Colo rivers

THIS ISSUE**4 Blaxlands Ridge history**

A summary of the presentation Les Dollin gave at the Australia Day breakfast regarding the history of Blaxlands Ridge. He also included the early history of the vineyard where the event was held.

5 Esther Gray's sketch

Frank & Valerie Holland received a sketch of the Kurrajong Mill by Esther Gray during the presentations on Australia Day. Joy Shepherd provides some detail on both Esther and the sketch.

7 Kurrajong Heights helipad

Philip Chapman's daughter chanced upon plans drawn up in the 1940s for a helicopter service to outlying areas of Sydney including Kurrajong. There appears to be very little information on this subject in the public domain so hopefully this article might help to jog some memories and bring further detail to light.

8 Edward Robinson

Edward Robinson arrived in the colony in 1791 and proved to be such a successful farmer that he was regarded with the same esteem as John Macarthur and Samuel Marsden, yet he died with outstanding debts. This article gives a good insight into the highs and lows of our early pioneers of the district.

12 Dates for your diary

Final reminders for this issue:
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL for the Parliamentary Tour on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013. Booking contact: Suzanne 45 677 410

The Colo excursion planned for Tuesday, 9 April which will explore the environs of the Upper Colo.

Australia Day at Remo's Winery

KATH MCMAHON

A great Australia Day breakfast celebration was experienced by members and friends of the KCHS. Gathered at Remo's Winery on Blaxlands Ridge Road were sixty members and guests who were treated to a beautiful breakfast and accompanied by Aussie music provided by Kathie McMahon, Sonia Bennett and John Coombs. Steve Rawling, the MC, contributed two entertaining songs set to the poems of Syd Sheldon.

Les Dollin gave a most interesting talk on the early land grants in the immediate vicinity of the venue, specifically the area of Blaxlands Ridge Road and Comleroy Road. He emphasised the role in the early settlement of the farming families whose descendants still reside in the Kurrajong district, such as the McMahons and the Hennessys.

The highlight of the breakfast was the presentation of the Society's Australia Day awards. The recipients were Frank and Valerie Holland and Margaret and Ron Rozzoli in consideration of their combined organisation of the 2010 bicentennial celebration of Governor Macquarie, his role in the planning and naming of the five Macquarie towns and his regimental visit to the hills of the Kurrajong district in 1810. The celebrations culminated with the vice-regal dinner held at Loxley on Bellbird Hill in November 2010.

Frank and Valerie were further recognised for their leadership over five years, as president and secretary, with the first award to be offered by the Society of honorary life membership. Valerie was secretary for seven years. As a team they not only provided leadership and commitment to a variety of projects but also researched information greatly contributing to the history of the old mill site on Mill Road.

President John Cooper thanked Frank and Valerie on behalf of the Society and presented them with a framed reproduction of the mill, sketched by Esther Gray in about 1890, when it is thought she was aged sixteen. This sketch is still in the hands of Esther's grand-daughter Rachel Sorby.

Continued page 3



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

Some of the many who enjoyed the breakfast at Remo's.
Foreground L-R: Pat O'Toole, June Blackmore, Val Birch & Wanda Deacon.

President's Corner

No sooner had the Christmas/New Year period passed when our thoughts and planning turned to the Australia Day breakfast.

I had earlier visited Remo's Winery & Restaurant to negotiate the menu and cost with the next step of placing our notice in the November-December newsletter. We had received some negative feedback but as time went on it was decided to continue.

For the benefit of newer members I will outline some of the great decisions and procedures established by the Society's forebears. KCHS had established the principal of holding a breakfast on Australia Day which would be KCHS' premier event of the year. It decided to create an 'Australia Day Award' for a recipient that had done some outstanding work for the Society. Merit Award certificates are also given on the day to thank members for their contribution to some project or such that they had done. This day had been a great success for some years except for last year when it was arranged that we join with the Lions Club in McMahons Park and no awards were presented.

A new committee was elected at the 2011 AGM and with planning already in place the status quo remained. In early 2012 the committee decided to re-establish both the Australia Day Breakfast and the awards.

The committee recognised that the Macquarie events of 2010 were the brainchild of the committee, and what great events they were. It was also acknowledged that the people mainly responsible for those events should be rewarded for their efforts.

Moving on to the planning of Australia Day 2013. The awards committee was re-established and the planning became the responsibility of these members.

The day started at 9 a.m. with everyone singing our National Anthem to the music provided by our musicians specially arranged for the event. The MC, Steve Rawling, commented that it was the largest gathering of members and their guests ever.

A buffet breakfast then followed with around twenty dishes accompanied by Remo's red and white wines produced from the grapes grown on his property and also juices. From my observation while watching many return visits to the buffet, I'd say it was 'pretty good tucker'.

Next on the agenda was Les Dollin with a very detailed history of the property that Remo's winery is on. Kathie McMahon/Nolf gave a talk on the property and Joy Shepherd put together a wonderful display of photos on the past owners.

Steve asked Ron and Margaret Rozzoli to step forward to receive their Australia Day award certificate for their work in the staging of the Macquarie re-enactment play and the president presented them with the award.

Steve then called Frank and Valerie Holland forward and they were presented with their Australia Day award certificate for the work they had done for the Macquarie events. They were both requested to remain while the president presented them both with a copy of a sketch done by Esther Gray of Singleton's Mill. Frank took the opportunity to address the gathering with his ideas of the past and a few thoughts on the future.

We also presented Remo and his son Omar with a certificate of appreciation for the effort that had put into the day. Remo was also celebrating as he had started work in Australia on Australia Day fifty years ago.

Finally I would like to thank the committee: Suzanne for her work on the phone and computer, Marguerite for the planning and bookkeeping, Steve for his work on the awards subcommittee and as MC, Kathie for her work on the awards subcommittee, organising the music as well as her history talk, Les for his great history lesson and Joy for the wonderful photos, and lastly my wife Carolynne for her work in producing a certificate that the Society can use in years to come.

On a sad note Ian O'Toole was not able to attend the breakfast because of ill health. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society Incorporated

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www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

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Continued from front page



John Cooper presenting Ron & Margaret Rozzoli
with their certificate



John Cooper presenting Frank & Valerie Holland
with their certificate

Kathie McMahon gave an interesting talk focusing on the history of Remo's property. In 1892 the property was sold by ballot to William Macham Hornery. William cleared the property and built a house which was later destroyed by fire. William's grand-daughter Carol Roberts was present at the breakfast. In the 1950s the property was sold to Jesse Shepherd. Several descendents of Jesse also attended the breakfast and photos from the families KCHS collection were on display. When Jesse died he left the property to his wife Gladys, née Case, and Gladys then sold it in 1973 to Geoff Miller. Geoff held this property together with part of the neighbouring property which had belonged to Edward Hennessy re-surveyed to the present acreage. It was Geoff Miller who constructed the house on Edward's property where the winery now stands. The property changed hands in 1982 and eventually was sold back to Geoff Miller who sold it on to Remo in 1992.

When Remo was presented with a certificate of appreciation for the breakfast he gave an entertaining account of his arrival fifty years ago in Australia and his career in the restaurant business which eventually brought him to the Kurrajong.



From the Editor

You would have noticed prior to arriving at this point in the newsletter that the page count is more than usual, twelve instead of the regular eight. The committee has taken the decision that when warranted the extra cost of printing is preferable to omitting articles which members and readers should be kept informed of as well as keeping each article as brief as possible.

The extra page count might seem minimal to most readers but it is in effect a fifty percent increase in the size of the newsletter. I would like to hope that when it is decided that a twelve page edition is needed informative, interesting and varied content is forwarded to enable me to keep your reading experience enjoyable.

This is a good time to remind all members and readers that if you have anything which you think is relevant to the newsletter and our readership would be interested in please forward it to me either via mail or the email address below. Regardless of the page count I cannot ensure you any forwarded material will be published but what some might consider mundane others could find to be gems.

The article in this issue regarding the helipad and development at Kurrajong Heights is a good example. I had been staring at a couple of empty pages for a number of nights wondering how to fill them when I picked up an email from Joy Shepherd forwarding to me something forwarded to her by Philip Chapman, forwarded to him from his daughter Marion.

I realised at once that the subject required coverage in the newsletter so set about trying to find further detail to help me put together an article the members would find informative. I didn't have much luck finding anything on the subject and due to time constraints decided I would use the material Joy sent as the basis for the article and do further digging after this issue goes to the printers.

A visit from the ladies in the family history group, who I am helping with the compilation of the book on the records of St Stephens, confirmed that this subject is little known and was quite a revelation to them.

Regardless of the subject if you think it worthy of inclusion in the newsletter please forward it to me.

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History of Blaxlands Ridge Settlement

LES DOLLIN

Summary of Les' presentation at the Australia Day breakfast

Blaxlands Ridge Public School

The first school at Blaxlands Ridge was a provisional school that opened in 1892. It later became an official public school.

Blaxlands Ridge Post Office

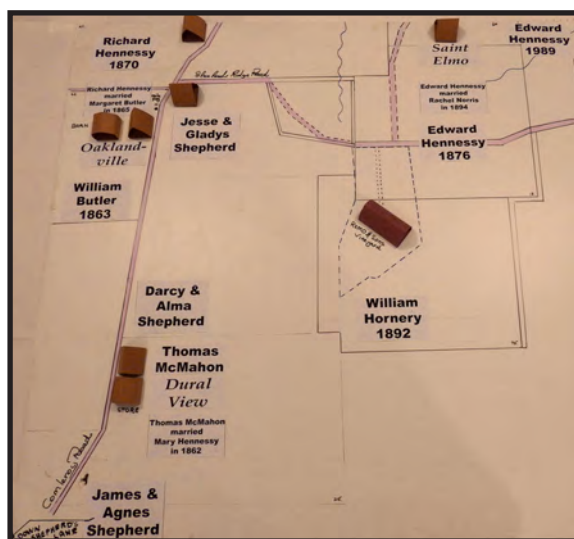
A post office was established at Blaxlands Ridge in December 1900 in the Ward family private home called *Belvidere*, located next to the school. KCHS member Wanda Deacon is a descendant of the family that owned the post office.

Wanda Deacon's step-grandfather was John Rudschies, better known as John Richards. He was the original owner of the property next to the school and his name appears on many of the old parish maps. He died in 1899 at his residence *Belvidere*. Harrison Ward bought the property. His son Claude Ward later ran the post office with his wife Esmeralda.

Other Early Pioneering Families of the Area

Richard Hennessy married Margaret Butler in 1865. As a wedding present Margaret's father, William Butler, gave them land on Comleroy Road which they named *Oaklandville*.

Richard Hennessy's sister, Mary Hennessy, married Thomas McMahon in 1862. Their property was known as *Dural View*. Thomas had a licence to sell wine to the drovers from a little store on the property while his wife, Mary, made cabbage tree hats for the drovers.



Plan of Remo's ten acre property



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

Les Dollin's presentation was appreciated by all present

James and Agnes Shepherd were early settlers who lived down a road now known as McMaho's Road. James Shepherd owned a bullock team, used to cart the logs up to Fred Upton's bush saw mill. An old post marks the spot of the old bush mill.

James and Agnes' sons later took up properties nearby. Darcy and Alma Shepherd lived on the *Dural View* property and Jesse and Gladys Shepherd lived on the neighbouring property.

A Kind Act at Blaxlands Ridge Public School

According to Noel Bridge, his sister Veronica and Roy Miller, former students of this little country school, the children walked to school, from as far as Cedar Ridge. Some were bare foot. Veronica said she wore sandals.

Noel Bridge said that the children had no toys to play with. One year the teacher, Mr Allan Knight, asked all the children in the school to write down a list of three Christmas presents they would like to receive from Santa Claus. Mr Knight went to the trouble of purchasing one of the three presents selected by each pupil. On the last day of school, as a special treat, each child received a present on behalf of Santa. Noel Bridge received a toy train set. This kind act, which made all the children so happy, is still appreciated today. The teacher, Allan Knight, later went on to become a local councillor serving the community.

Early History of Remo & Sons Vineyard on Blaxlands Ridge

The northern section of Remo and Sons Vineyard is on Land Portion 13, Blaxlands Ridge. Richard Hennessy took up this selection in 1876 but it was later transferred to his brother, Edward. Portion 13 was a forty acre block of land obtained from the Crown on Conditional Purchase of one pound per acre. It had to be fenced and improved and lived on in the late 1800s. Edward Hennessy also took up two adjoining blocks, 60 and 137, in 1889. Edward's combined 120 acre property was called *Saint Elmo*. It was named by his wife, Rachel, after her favourite romantic novel.

The southern part of Remo and Sons Vineyard is on Land Portion 75, Blaxlands Ridge. William Hornery took this up as a home selection in 1892. KCHS member Carol Roberts is a descendant of this family.

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Esther Gray's sketch of the Kurrajong Mill

JOY SHEPHERD

Esther Gray was born 1875 to Rev. Maurice and Mrs Emily Gray. She was a much loved only child, particularly adored by her father.

Rev. Maurice Gray moved to the parish of St Stephens in 1891 and the small family were installed in the Rectory. In 1898 Esther married Arthur Dunston who had built the magnificent *Westbury* in readiness for their family life together. St Stephens was on Blady Grass Hill and *Westbury* on the next, Lookout Hill, which virtually became an extension of the church. It seemed like the perfect marriage, Arthur being the strong and quiet one and Esther the outgoing and social side of the partnership.

They raised a family of five girls and two boys: Emily, Marjory, Sylvia, Adeline, Eva, Maurice and Lefric (Joe). Over the years there were many joyful baptisms and marriages at St Stephens, the family boasting four generations of marriages there. The wedding receptions were held at *Westbury*.

The sketch of the water mill at Kurrajong has only recently come to light. Rachel Maegraith, née Sorby, the youngest of Sylvia's children was raised at *Westbury* and was a third generation member to marry there. She emailed a copy to her old school friend Kathie McMahon. The sketch is apparently in the possession of Rachel's son and this is a photographic copy.

According to Rachel her grandmother did this sketch when she was about fifteen years old which dates it at about 1890. She must have been a little older than that as the family did not come to Kurrajong until she was around sixteen. At this stage we have not been told anything more about her artistic works.



Photo: Carolynne Cooper

John Cooper presenting Frank & Valerie Holland with a sketch of Singleton's Mills by Esther Gray

Family History Group recognised as 'Heritage Heroes'

The Minister for Heritage, the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, honoured twenty-five individuals and organisations at the eleventh annual NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards on 11 December.

The Society's president, John Cooper, announced during the Back to the Kurrajong event held in October that the members of the Family History Group had been recognised as worthy recipients of this award in recognition of their contribution toward heritage advocacy in the local area.

The awards provide a unique opportunity to recognise the very important work that volunteers undertake to support heritage conservation throughout NSW. The awards were first introduced in 2002 to recognise local community-based volunteers and heritage organisations in conserving NSW heritage.

"Those honoured exemplify the enormous amount of work and energy put in by volunteers in the heritage space and showcase their passion and energy to make a difference. It was wonderful to be able to honour each individual and group who received 'Heritage Heroes' awards this year and I thank the NSW Heritage Council for their support of this important awards programme." Ms Parker said.



L - R: Joy Shepherd, Valerie Birch, The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Carolynne Cooper & Wanda Deacon

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Kurrajong Heights helipad

CHRIS UPTON

Philip Chapman forwarded to the Society an extraordinary plan to set up a helicopter transport service to Kurrajong including a plan for the development of Kurrajong Heights. His daughter Marion chanced across them while doing some research at the NSW State library.

They were published on 24 November 1955 in *Building: Lighting: Engineering* a newsletter of the Master Builder's Federation of Australia. They were designed by Florence Mary Taylor and Francis Graham Hood.

Notes in the legend indicate that the proposed site was east of the Kurrajong Heights Hotel; 32 - To Kurrajong Heights Hotel and 11 - To Mount Victoria.

The comments on the page state, "The scheme shows a country residential centre that could be developed as a distant suburb supplied by helicopter services. Guest houses, flats and private residentials are provided, and also shopping, sports and community centres. A shopping centre on the hills, where people could buy all their produce by car or helicopter service, take refreshments in comfort and enjoy the extensive and beautiful scenery, is a project well worth considering by anyone of enterprise. All these would be less than 20 minutes from the City of Sydney, instead of the four hours by rail and bus service."

The proposed inclusions for the community centre include:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 18 - Recreation centre | 25 - School |
| 19 - Picture theatre | 26 - School playground |
| 20 - Tennis courts | 27 - Bank |
| 21 - Rest retreat | 28 - Shopping centre |
| 22 - Ice skating rink | 29 - Garage |
| 23 - Swimming pool | 30 - Library |
| 24 - Riding school | 31 - Post office |

The plans for the City of Sydney base had the helipads on the roofs of Bond Stores and warehouses at Darling Harbour near Millers Point. The comments on the page of this plan state, "The helicopter service suggested by Mrs. Florence Taylor and Francis G. Hood were designed about 12 years before their time. The last time they appeared in "Construction" was February 26, 1947—eight years ago. It is a scheme, the advantages of which are just beginning to be realised, for suggestions are now coming forward by companies prepared to enter into the helicopter-bus or helicopter taxi service that will include Sydney to Kurrajong in their curriculum as here designed."

This was a plan not just to service Kurrajong but other outlying areas as well. "Many holiday centres and country retreats could be reached within a quarter to half an hour, were a helicopter taxi-cab or taxi-bus service, radiating from the proposed

helicopter flat-roofed terminal overlooking Darling Harbour, installed, as suggested years ago by Florence M. Taylor and Francis G. Hood. This would enable a whole lot of motor cars and buses to be taken off the streets and would in return reduce the tedious land journeys. Services like these would minimise the upkeep of roads.

The helicopter service goes from Sydney to Mona Vale or Berowra, to Kurrajong Heights, Katoomba, Penrith, and back to Sydney, or it could continue to Camden, Campbelltown, Bulli, Waterfall, Sutherland and back to Sydney, with alternative routes from Camden and Liverpool to Sydney, or Campbelltown, Bulli and Sutherland if so desired."

The text of the article finishes with, "Imagine what a helicopter service would mean to our G.P.O. At present a truck system from the G.P.O. adds to street traffic congestion; then it proceeds to railways or ships, where wharves' convenience is considered before all else. After reaching its destination it goes by surface truck again to a local office. The cost, with labour to man trucks and trains being as high as it is, the price must be terrific compared with the straight routed, light and quick shuttlecock action of a 'copter landing and picking up from the tops of post offices at either end. It is a wonder this economy hasn't appealed to our P.M.G. long ago."

Reference

Florence Taylor & Francis Hood, *Development of Kurrajong for Helicopter Service*, Building Lighting Engineering (24 November 1955 pp 32 35). Mitchell Library microfilm MAV FM4/10758.

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Edward Robinson

TRIUMPHS & TRAVAILS OF A PIONEER

BETTY & GREG UPTON

Readers who enjoyed Jennifer Stackhouse's article on the noteworthy gardens on Powell's Road, Bilpin, may be interested to learn that the Bilpin Powells and *The Millstone* editor, Chris Upton, have one significant thing in common: an ancestor, Edward Robinson, convict per the *Admiral Barrington* which arrived at Port Jackson in 1791, one of the nine ships comprising the Third Fleet.

One of Edward's five daughters, Mary, married Edward Powell II who had been born at Cornwallis near Richmond in 1798 and who was Arthur Barclay Powell's grandfather. Edward's son, Edward William Alexander Robinson was Chris Upton's three times great grandfather through his mother Betty, nee Robinson.

Edward had been employed as a servant to Mr Wilkinson at the Theatre Royal in York when he, Edward, was arrested and charged with grand larceny. He had committed fifteen offences from Leeds to York from June 1787 to April 1789: fourteen were thefts of small silver articles and one was books.

He was tried on 25 July 1789, found guilty, sentenced to hang, was reprieved by Royal Mercy and had his sentence commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales, "... or some one or other of the islands adjacent." After spending a total of twenty months, first in York gaol and then on the hulk *Lion*, he was transferred to the *Admiral Barrington* which sailed from Portsmouth on 27 March 1791 and arrived at Port Jackson on 16 October 1791.

Mary, or Mary Ann Harrison was aged about seventeen years when she arrived in the colony as a convict on a seven year sentence aboard the *Mary Ann* in July 1791. Both Edward and Mary would have been transferred on arrival to Toongabie along with all able convicts at that time on Governor Philip's orders for essential work to be carried out on the farms producing food for the colony. Edward and Mary formed a lasting common law relationship and the first of their seven children, daughter Elizabeth was born there. The remaining six were all born at Wilberforce.

In December 1794 Edward was granted a conditional pardon. Also at that time he received a thirty acre grant on the Hawkesbury River at Mulgrave Place, later renamed Windsor. This land was located on either side of today's Freemans Reach Road, in the vicinity of the sharp bend half a kilometre

north from Wilberforce Road. He proved to be a very successful farmer; as well as providing for his growing family and his many servants both convict and free, he added considerably to the colonial stores of wheat and beef.

Jan Barkley-Jack (2009) notes that in 1800 Edward had twenty-four pigs and between 1802 and 1805 he acquired 102 sheep. This flock grew to 132 in 1806 and Edward's vision as a sheep breeder is evident in his responses to a questionnaire issued by Governor King. Edward was a member of a small select group of around a dozen sheep breeding pioneers in the colony at this time, which included John Macarthur and Samuel Marsden.

In September 1802 Governor King granted him 100 acres to be held in trust for his children. This property was fronted by Robinsons Lagoon, the name was later changed to Bushells Lagoon. This land was located between today's Kurmond, McKinnons and Lock roads at Wilberforce. In 1809 he received a grant of eighty acres at Upper Nelson. This land was located on the southern side of today's Rouse Hill shopping centre, between Windsor Road, Sanctuary Drive and Cradle Avenue at Kellyville Ridge. The historic property *Mungerie House* sits on the site.

With two other local landowners, Henry Baldwin and Matthew Locke, he was appointed a trustee for Phillip Common in Wilberforce. In the same year, 1805, his second son, Edward William Alexander, was born. His first son, Robert, died sometime before 1810.

Over the years Edward was approved to hold licenses to retail beer, wine and spirits both in the Hawkesbury district and in Sydney. While maintaining his Wilberforce properties and farming enterprises, in 1805 he purchased the lease of a block of land and premises at what would now be about No. 5 York Street in the town of Sydney. Mary lived there with her growing daughters and son Edward William who was apprenticed to a wheelwright at an early age. Edward named the house the *York Races* and it proved a lucrative investment as a hostelry. Mary died there on 24 February 1810 after a long illness and was interred in the nearby burial ground, now the site of St Andrews Cathedral. Edward sold the *York Races* in 1812.

Probably as a result of losses experienced following the two devastating Hawkesbury floods in 1809 and also possibly his mourning following the loss of Mary, Edward sank into debt. In February 1811 he leased his premises in York Street, Sydney to Joseph Salter for £150 per quarter as well as transferring his liquor licence to Salter for five shillings. Three months later Edward was sued by the executors of Andrew Thompson's estate for £26/3/2 for a promissory note issued but not repaid, presumably for goods Edward received on credit from Thompson's store at Windsor. A year later William Watkins and George Lane, of Sydney, sued Edward for £15 for "...work and labour done but not paid for." At this time Samuel Terry sued Edward for £60/6/6 being the balance unpaid for money lent and goods sold and delivered to the value of £100/15. Samuel Terry was known as the 'Botany Bay Rothschild', an ex-convict who through various ruthless means including deception, cunning and preying on the financially desperate, amassed a huge fortune and became the colony's wealthiest person. It seems this debt to Terry was to remain and grow with Edward for the remainder of his life.





Words and Pixels

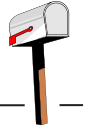
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Letters to the Editor



The last grant of land to be enjoyed by Edward was one made by Governor Macquarie about January 1816 and consisted of, "... eighty acres or thereabouts situated at the Curry Jong Brush ... on the Cumleroy Road [sic]." In today's terms it was opposite the turn-off to Wilberforce signposted as the Slopes Road and it was named *The Spring*. Edward did not have long in which to enjoy ownership of this land, the grant was not formalised until August 1819 but he would have moved onto the land without waiting for bureaucracy to catch up and record the event, a common practice in those days.

As well as being a successful farmer, Edward Powell I, father of Edward Powell II who married Mary Robinson, conducted the Halfway House on the Parramatta Road, a very popular and well-run inn and hostel. This inn was later renamed The Horse and Jockey and was still listed in the July 1995 Sydney telephone directory. Edward Powell died here in 1810 and was buried on the property.

At some time in 1819 Edward Robinson took up a license to conduct the Halfway House as accommodation for travellers and the public in general. He died there on Tuesday, 6 June 1820 and was buried in the Devonshire Street cemetery.

The ultimate success of his farming and innkeeping enterprises has been left in some doubt. According to a very telling phrase in a character reference issued on behalf of his son Edward William, dated 4 April 1826 and signed by William Cox, John Brabyn and Archibald Bell, all of whom comprised the Bench of Magistrates at Windsor, "... Mr Edward Robinson was a very old and respected resident in these districts who died embarrassed and whose lands were seized by his creditors."

At the time of his death Edward's debt to Samuel Terry still remained. Terry, as was his way, pursued this to the very end. In December 1820 Terry was granted administration of Edward's estate, and probate was granted to him for, "... goods chattels credits and effects" estimated to "... not exceed five hundred pounds." It appears that Samuel Terry may have claimed Edward's last remaining possessions to settle the outstanding debt, but he did not get Edward's lands which were passed on to his children.

References

J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: A New Look at Australia's Third Mainland Settlement 1793-1802* (Dural: Rosenberg, 2009).

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Thank you for the copy of the article which will be appearing in the next issue of *The Millstone*. How wonderful, I always love reading about the Powell history. This has come at a sad time for me as my father Jim (James Edward Powell) passed away on 14 November this year.

The large estate around today's Powells Road was owned by Jim's grandfather, Arthur Richmond Powell. He had 1,100 acres, it was known as *Old Tamah*. Dad remembered walking to Bilpin school with his siblings. There were very few vehicles on the road in the district during that period. He remembers the trucks going up to get the logs from his grandfather's property. Dad said that Archie Powell had a sawmill at the foot of Cut Rock, this must be the picture of the sawmill you have in the article, with the names Morris and Powell. When dad married mum Thelma Cobden in 1950, he built a house with his brother Noel on dad's property at Mt Tomah, but when his father A. B. died five years later he sold it and bought his father's property known as *Halcyon*, 2230 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin and lived there ever since.

Dad was born in the same room he passed away in. His family ensured that his wishes were carried out, he was nursed and cared for by his family and friends until he passed peacefully in his home.

I hope this bit of information has helped with the Powell history. I have been going through some of dad's things and found a fascinating book called 'Kurrajong' by Vivienne Webb and would love to get a couple of copies. Do you have any information on this book or know how I would go about doing this?

Thank you again Chris and a merry Christmas to you and your family.

ANNETTE DULSON

10 December 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE

As the book Annette would like copies of is out of print it would be a heart-warming gesture if any member who might have a spare copy, or one that they no longer feel a need for, can pass it on to her. If you are able to help her postal address is:

2204 Bells Line of Road
 Bilpin. 2758

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PHONE: 14

Windsor & Richmond Gazette
 2 May 1951

January's higher than average temperatures and widespread bushfires have been reported to be a recent phenomenon. These excerpts from newspaper articles from the 1820s and 30s show that we have endured these trevails for generations, and regularly.

The heat, and hot wind of Saturday last, excelled all that we ever experienced in the Colony. On board the Volage, in the shade, the thermometer was 106°, and on shore it was, in some parts of the town, 100°, and in others 104°. To traverse the streets was truly dreadful; the dust rose in thick columns; and the N. W. wind, from which quarter our hot winds invariably proceed, was assisted in its heat by the surrounding country being all on fire—so that those persons, who were obliged to travel, felt themselves encircled with lambent flames. Sydney was more like the mouth of Vesuvius than any thing else. Sunday, however, brought a change of wind, since which the weather has been somewhat more endurable.

During the extensive and frightful conflagration that occurred in the woods Saturday last, the house occupied by Mr. Milsom, an industrious settler, in Neutral Bay, at the North Shore, was consumed. Mr. M. was from home at the time, and his wife and five children were on the spot, destitute of the assistance of a man servant. The whole of the property was destroyed, and the inmates, especially Mrs. Milsom, with difficulty escaped with their lives, though Mrs. M. was much burnt. Never before was any thing equal to the devastation which the fire has effected; the grass is destroyed for miles upon miles, and the trees are continually falling, to the danger of the traveller beneath, from the effects of being burnt at the roots. Mr. Wollstonecraft's lovely retreat at the North Shore has shared in the ruin which many poor people have experienced, the fence and huts of the men being destroyed, though the cottage escaped uninjured. It is feared that cattle in this neighbourhood have been burnt to death, as many head are missing. We have just heard that a poor man was burnt to death on Saturday, at Kissing Point, in endeavouring to save his little all.

The Sydney Gazette
29 November 1826

THE WEATHER.—Saturday was one of the hottest days we ever remember. The recent rains having saturated the earth, the atmosphere was impregnated with an aqueous vapour not unlike steam issuing from a boiler, while the sun poured down all the fury of his heat. It was dreadful. Man and beast groaned beneath the oppression, and numbers of working oxen dropped down dead on the public roads. In the evening, as usual, we were relieved by a "brickfielder", a stiff southerly gale, wafting health and vigour upon its blessed wings. On Sunday night, we were visited by a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and hail. The lightning was magnificent beyond description, spreading over the whole canopy of heaven, and assuming a thousand varied forms. The storm broke heaviest over Parramatta, where the artillery of the skies roared and cracked in deafening peals, making the very houses totter.—We have not heard of any accident.

The Sydney Gazette
21 February 1832

COMLEROY ROAD.

EMPIRE Day was one to be remembered for many years by young and old, for one and all seemed to enjoy themselves. Too much praise cannot be given to the teachers who joined forces and made such an enjoyable day; the youngsters were all smiles, and well they might be, for there was a plentiful supply of dainty cakes, etc., and prizes that would delight the eye of the old as well as the young. The teachers, Messrs. Dingwall, E. Will and Miss Colvin must be complimented by the parents for obtaining such nice prizes. During the morning patriotic songs were sung by the children, and recitations were given by some of our coming elocutionists in very good style. Several foot-races were run during the day, and some really nice prizes were given. The teachers were assisted in arranging the sports by Messrs. Fred Norris, C. Lark and Ted Hennessy.

The Misses Ethel McMahon and E. Quinn were appointed joint hon. secs. and Miss M. Wholohan hon. treas. in connection with the Waratah dance in aid of the R. C. Church to take place in the Comleroy School of Arts on the 17th inst. In such capable hands it is sure to be a success.

A very enjoyable social evening was spent in the School of Arts on Empire night by several Comleroy residents, there being some very good talent present and some very good items were rendered. Mr. A. Anderson and Mr. Dingwall sang several songs each, which were all much appreciated. Mr. C. Lark sang a comic song and caused much laughter. The music was tip-top: Mrs. Dingwall, Miss Kent and Miss E. McMahon (piano), Messrs. C. Lark and C. E. Will cornet and violin. There were several dances, amongst them being a few fancy ones. After a taste of the good things provided by the ladies all sang God Save the King, and then wended their several ways home, having spent a very enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Hennessy on the birth of a baby girl. Mr. Hennessy is managing a dairy farm at Howe's Valley for his father.

Mr. Fred Norris has purchased the property owned by the late Mr. George Turner at The Slopes.

The Windsor & Richmond Gazette
13 June 1908



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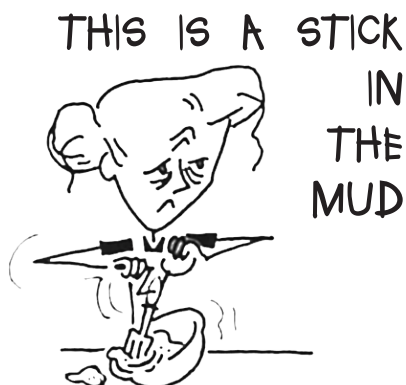


Photo courtesy: Jim & Betty Ezzy

AUDREY

The inscription on this photo reads, "To Aunty and Uncle from Audrey." It was sent to Florence and Pud Hough from Florence's niece Doris.

Audrey is the young girl. Her mother, Doris Adams, was a grand-daughter of William and Charlotte Dunston and her father had the surname McGrory. He was a tailor and the family lived in Albury.



Be careful how you tease it! The poor thing's so worn to a frazzle with beating, frying, grilling (not to mention washing up) that it will probably chase you out of the kitchen with its eggbeater. Pity it can't relax and serve a big, rustling, energy-loaded breakfast of Kellogg's Corn Flakes instead. Then everybody would be happy.

**FRESH
IDEA!**

If your family has been missing out on all the fun, flavour and food value in Kellogg's Corn Flakes, why not start making up for lost time—tomorrow morning?

The Australian Women's Weekly
17 October 1956

Bellbird Echo corn shed



Horses having their morning feed at the old corn shed opposite the Bellbird Echo guest house. The shed was built off the ground to stop rodents from eating the corn and by allowing the air to circulate underneath it would prevent the grain from rotting.

Thought to have been taken circa 1940s the photograph was forwarded to the Society by Kathie McMahon. It featured in the Society's 2008 publication 'Glimpses of the Kurrajong'.

DR REX STUBBS OAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Hawkesbury City Council in February 2011. Its aim is to develop interest in the history of the Hawkesbury region by supporting individuals researching and interpreting its history.

The scholarship funds the attendance of two people to the RAHS state conference and a two year membership of the Society.

It is available to residents of the Hawkesbury LGA, members of historical groups within the LGA and volunteers of the Council's cultural services (museum, gallery & library).

Opens 1 June 2013 and will close 31 August 2013. The winners will be announced during NSW History Week in September.

The 2012 award was won by Mrs Laurie Forth for her publication 'Margaret Catchpole, Her Life and Her Letters', making a significant contribution to the recorded history of colonial women in the Hawkesbury district. Congratulations Laurie.



For further information and an entry form visit
www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/cultural/dr-rex-stubbs-oam-memorial-scholarship

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 20 March

NSW STATE PARLIAMENT VISIT

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

This escorted tour has been organised for Wednesday, 20th March and includes a history focused morning tour, sandwich luncheon and an afternoon Parliamentary sitting time.

We shall leave as a group on the 8:07 a.m. train from Richmond station. All members and their friends are welcome.

Booking contact: Suzanne 45 677 410

Monday, 25 March

KCHS GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Radio Museum, 842 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills. After the meeting Ian O'Toole will give a talk on the history of AWA, it being their centenary year, followed by a short film. After a break for supper we will then view a rather special film which follows the path of the Colo River from its upper reaches.

All members are welcome to attend and cost of supper is \$2. Enquiries can be directed to Pat O'Toole 4573 0601.

Tuesday, 9 April

COLO EXCURSION

This event will explore the environs of the Upper Colo including a church and grave site. After morning tea we will visit some Gosper graves and then onto the Upper Colo Bridge for a talk about the Duffy timber mill and how the bridge

was built. We will then proceed to the site of Hannah Hayman's wine bar.

Lunch will be provided at Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre with a photo display and talk on the millet cutters, broom making, Bullocks and Gees Wharf. During the afternoon we plan to visit the old post office with a further talk about the riverboat trade, ending our day at the old road and War Memorial site.

Please gather at the Comleroy Road telephone exchange just beyond the Blaxlands Ridge Road turnoff at 9 a.m. sharp. Cost is \$15 which includes morning tea and lunch. Bookings and payment to: The Secretary, PO Box 174, Kurmond, NSW 2757. Enquiries can be directed to Wanda Deacon 4729 2034.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members

AILEEN MONTGOMERY

JAMES MONTGOMERY

DENNIS RYAN

JUDITH TOMLINSON

Valerie's BOOK REVIEW



FOOTSTEPS ALONG THE RIDGE

The first 125 years of Kurrajong East Public School. This school is located in the small community of East Kurrajong; this area occupies the ridge known as the Bull Ridge.

The book, published in 2003, traces the story of the school from its beginning, through several moves, fires and closures. Known by different names, first Buttsworth Swamp opening in 1878 and after numerous changes in 1922 it was known as East Kurrajong Public School. Some years later, due to departmental convention, it became known as Kurrajong East Public School.

The school and families provide the story of a rural community when life centred around orchards and farming at the turn of the twentieth century. The chapters follow the history decade by decade giving a good insight in the way of life along the Bull Ridge.

For family historians it has plenty of information to help trace the pioneer families and others. It includes the 1878-1879 and 1900-1901 Electoral District Rolls of the men eligible to vote for members of the Legislative Assembly of NSW.

Members are welcome to borrow books from the library. The Society's website has a list of available titles in the archive section.

Requests can be made to
Valerie Birch vbi52680@bigpond.net.au



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- Winner Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Male Entrepreneur of the Year, Paul Maher, 2012
- Winner Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Sustainability in a Business Exclusive of the Environmental Industry, 2012
- Highly Commended Western Sydney (WSABE) Award for Excellence in Hospitality, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist in Excellence in Sustainability, 2012
- NSW Business Chamber Awards finalist for Business Leader, Paul Maher, 2012
- Winner Excellence in Tourism, Western Sydney Excellence in Business Awards, 2011