

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Covering all of the Hawkesbury West of the River, from North Richmond to Berambing, Bilpin, Grose Vale to Colo, including Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach and Bowen Mountain.

A History of the Kurrajong Mills & Singletons Reserve Site

(This article is based on a Conservation Management Plan & Report by Vanessa Hardy 2017 for Hawkesbury City Council)

The history of the Kurrajong mill site following European arrival in the area, includes a number of uncertainties in that there are no historic plans of the location. Benjamin Singleton arrived in 1792 as a young child with his mother and brother Joseph as free settlers on the ship the *Pitt* along with his father William, a convict. An older brother James arrived in 1809. It was around this time that Benjamin (probably with James) built a water mill on Little Wheeny Creek.

It is estimated he built this as early as 1810. By 23 March 1816 Singleton's mill was being advertised for sale in the *Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* as "a complete overshot water-mill, and 100 acres of good land, known by the name of the Kurrajong Brush... being built on the Wheeny Creek." The farm was said to be bounded by Wheeny Creek to the east and the mountains to the west and the mill was "capable of grinding 40 bushels of wheat daily and there being no mill within a considerable distance, it will have constant work". The mill wasn't sold but was let to John Town up until 1819.

Following a forced sale by the Provost Marshal the mill was bought by William Hutchinson, Daniel Cooper, George Williams and William Leverton in 1819. These four were also in co-partnership with at least two other men, in the 'Lachlan and Waterloo Flour Mills'. William Leverton died in 1824 and the mill was auctioned and again rented by John Town. At that time it was described as having an adjacent weather-board house and a pair of French burr mill stones. This mill has been called the 'upper' mill, presumably because it was up stream of the other mill built on the creek.

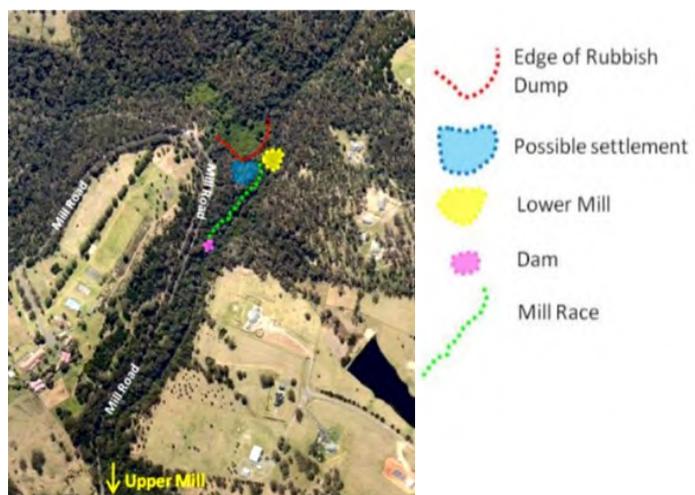
In 1820 as recorded in his request for a land grant Samuel Leverton Snr. was said to be renting a mill on Little Wheeny Creek. In 1833 "A Return of Manufactories, Mills, Machinery, Mines, and Quarries, in the Districts of Hawkesbury" was compiled for the Colonial Secretary. It shows that a total of

nine mills were operating in the district including two listed at Kurrajong, owned by John Town. It is not certain when the second mill was built, but likely before 1824 as two mills were recorded in the *Sydney Gazette*

The southernmost mill site ('upper mill') was reported to be an overshot mill and called the 'Speedwell'. The other site ('lower mill') was an undershot mill called the 'Wellington'. A Parish Map from 1893 of the area is based on earlier maps of land grants and shows grants including two mill sites one showing as 'Leverton's mill' (William Leverton) and that it was bought 'of the Provost Marshall'. The second site north along Wheeny Creek is labelled 'MILL' and J Doyle 25 acres. Samuel Leverton Senior and Junior have adjacent land parcels. This demonstrates that the 'Leverton's mill' site is outside the current boundaries of Singletons Reserve. This suggests that the mill site within the reserve (the 'lower mill') is the one constructed second. (For map and grant details see *The Millstone* May-June 2016 page 1 & 3 *Singleton's Mills* by Frank Holland. Also *The Millstone* Sept-Oct 2016 page 4 *Early Roads to Singletons Mills* by Les Döllin.)

A number of different owners operated the mills until around 1858 when they appear to have ceased operation. Even after this, the area would have been used for different activities. A description of the mill from 1842 includes a single pair of French burr millstones, a smutting machine and a dressing machine. It appears there may have been a fire or other event at Wheeny Creek that damaged the lower mill and house in 1902. It has also been suggested that while under the ownership of John Town a 'fine six-roomed house' was erected next to the lower mill (*Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 3 November 1922 p14.) the remains of which were still visible in 1922.

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Aerial Map Mill Site Kurrajong (Sydney University Report 2009)

President's Report

Well at last there has been a slight easing of restrictions and we were able to hold our AGM at Panthers North Richmond. Twenty-two members attended, which is a little down on previous years but good given the circumstances. I think everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and have a chat.

Steve Rawling stepped down as Vice President and Millstone editor. We thank Steve for all the work he did in these roles. He remains on the committee. Terry Murray also stepped down from the committee and thanks to her for her time on the committee.

The Vice President position was filled by Airdrie Martin after a ballot. All other positions were returned unopposed. After the meeting, Frank Holland offered to fill the one remaining committee position and the committee enthusiastically accepted his offer. See the full list adjacent.

We were also able to hold the Merroo/Camp MacKay Tour on Saturday 24th October. Kurrajong saw the first serious rain for at least a month on this day - so we claim credit! The rain wasn't heavy enough to be a real problem. It just meant we had to pop the umbrellas up a few times. Sixteen people attended and had an enjoyable stroll around the large precinct. Val Holland was kind enough to provide the guiding around Camp MacKay.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club on Saturday 19th December. The choice of using the club was partly influenced by COVID 19 restriction on numbers allowed at a private residence, but also to save the work normally required of committee members and others. Bookings are required. We hope to see a large turnout!

Our society birthday party is on again on Australia Day 2021 and marks our 20th. We are planning some special treats. Stay tuned.

David Griffiths

Enquiries: President David Griffiths Mob: 0498 646 899
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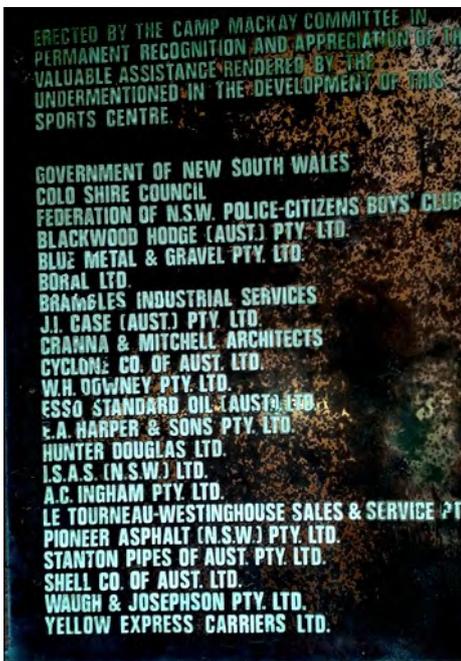
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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au



A copper plaque at Camp Mackay reads: *Erected by the Camp Mackay Committee in permanent recognition and appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by the undermentioned in the development of the Sports Centre.* The list makes for interesting reading of the organisations acknowledged.



A sundial memorial in Richmond Park reads: *In appreciation of 49 years of continuous service to the Hawkesbury Community by the Rozzoli Family Jewellers 1946 – 1995. Erected by Richmond Chamber of Commerce*

In memory of K-CHS member the late Ron Rozzoli

The Kurrajong Mills & Singletons Reserve (cont. from p 1)

In 1919 the area was claimed for soldier settlement, so it is assumed that parts of structures and other materials that were remaining may have been taken and reused. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* also records that two millstones were recovered from the area and re-used as part of a war memorial as the base for a machine gun. Although one was a top and one a 'nether' stone they were not a pair. It was assumed that the upper stone that was dug out of the creek when excavating for a bridge across Mill Road, was from the top mill and the lower stone found 'buried below the second dam site' was from the lower mill. Various owners of the area are recorded in the 1920s and 30s. The Reserve appears to have been returned to Crown Land to be used for recreation sometime in the 1930s.

The remains of the millrace and other features such as the mill pond were recorded in an Archaeological Survey & Report by University of Sydney students under the supervision of Dr Martin Gibbs with assistance from K-CHS member Les Dollin. The survey undertaken in 2009 identified four separate areas associated with the lower mill site, namely: The mill pond area consisting of deliberately cut boulders bounding "a sloping open space on the west bank" of the creek. There are also the remains of a stone wall presumed to be the end of the millrace. A pond required to address the inconsistency of water flow, an essential part of the mill operation and areas that appeared to be associated with quarrying stone.

The mill race is described as "approximately 200 metres long and consists of a channel dug into the side of a natural hill at varying elevation". It was also noted that the ends of the channel are now indistinct and it is difficult to gauge its original depth due to the present day compacted soil. This was confirmed in the 2017 inspections undertaken by Heritage Consultant Vanessa Hardy. "The race would have been lined, presumably with timber, although no trace of this was located. It is likely that slope wash has deposited soil within the base of the original race. Parts of the dry stone wall that forms the wall of the race are eroded".

The site thought to be the lower mill location is on the west bank of Little Wheeny Creek. There are two areas of eroded stonework, including two large flat pieces of sandstone which possibly define the two corners of a structure. The earth behind these stones forms a relatively flat terrace. There is also a large erosion gully which leads directly into the creek. It is possible that this gully originally functioned as an outflow channel, returning water used in the mill to Little Wheeny Creek.

In summary the evidence at Little Wheeny Creek has the potential to contribute to our knowledge of early Nineteenth Century industrial sites that were important to the developing colony along with knowledge of technological adaptations. Singletons Reserve also has local value in demonstrating the progression of land title from private land grants through to a soldier settlement and a Crown Land Reserve. It shows the changing use of land in the area.

The mill site itself is associated with Benjamin Singleton who was a significant figure in the development of the colony of NSW. He was involved in exploration to the Hunter Valley and is remembered in the name of the Hunter Valley town of Singleton. The site therefore has significance at a State level for its association with the Singleton family and the potential to further reveal the contribution that Benjamin and his brothers made in construction and operating mills throughout the Hawkesbury and assisting with the important task of securing a food supply for the early colony.

The mill site also has importance for the local community and in particular K-CHS, with members Frank Holland and Les Dollin having undertaken extensive research relating to the site and a keen interest in its preservation, prompting consultation with HCC. The original millstones retrieved from the area form part of a public display in Kurrajong Village and a depiction of them is used as the Historical Society's logo.

Refs: 1. *Conservation Management Plan* by Vanessa Hardy - A Report prepared for Hawkesbury City Council September 2017. 2. University of Sydney Archaeological Report under the supervision of Dr Martin Gibbs – *Preliminary Site Report October 2009 - Little Wheeny Creek Mill Site Kurrajong NSW*.

Acknowledgement note: *Singletons Reserve* is located in Mill Road, Kurrajong NSW. Gazetted by the NSW Geographical Names Board in September 2012. The name commemorates the construction and operation of two water mills by brothers James and Benjamin Singleton on Little Wheeny Creek between 1810 and 1816. The work of K-CHS members Frank & Valerie Holland and Les Dollin along with HCC submissions initiated this eventuality.

It has been recommended that Singletons Reserve be listed on Council's LEP and that an application be made to list the mill site and associated areas of archaeological potential on the State Heritage Register (SHR). *At this point in time it is understood that the application, through Council, for State listing of "the Singleton Watermills Archaeological Site" has passed the first hurdle with the State Heritage Office and is being progressed".*

Suzanne Smith



Singletons Reserve

Inspection October 2016

L-R: Craig Johnston
Parks Project Officer HCC
Mary Cross
Consultant Archaeologist,
Vanessa Hardy
Director & Principal
Archaeologist
(Cultural Heritage).

Image: Les Dollin Collection

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THE FOUNDATION OF KURRAJONG HEIGHTS

The foundation of Kurrajong Heights by the Douglass family through the construction of *Ivy Lodge (Lochiel House)* is well documented, particularly through the book "*Ivy Lodge (Lochiel House) and the Foundation of Kurrajong Heights, New South Wales*", Christopher and Deborah Hallam 2018. (Copies are available from K-CHS Members Library). It is interesting to go back to the founding family, the Douglass family. Leaving *Ivy Cottage* aside for perhaps another article, it is interesting to document the founding family. The second important building, *Douglass Cottage* (the Kurrajong Heights Post Office) is also worth revisiting. Text for this article is taken from the above book, with many of the photographs reproduced from the K-CHS archives.

The Douglass Family - The family of Joseph and Mary Douglass can be seen in the following table.

	Born	Died	Married
Joseph Douglass	1782 Co Down Ireland	21.9.1865 N.Richmond	c 1804 Co Down Ireland
Mary Orr Burgess	c1782 Co Down Ireland	21.12.1857 Kurrajong	c 1804 Co Down Ireland
Mary Jane	c1805 Ireland or Scotland	8.2.1856 Richmond	1825 Matthew Gibbons 10.9.1855 Christopher Norris, Windsor
Orr	c1806 Dumfries Scotland	21.12.1882 Sydney	28.11.1831 Catherine Paxman, Richmond 15.7.1839 Catherine Staples, Windsor
Eliza	23.7.1810 Dumfries Scotland	3.11.1872 Surry Hills	9.2.1827 William Norman, Windsor
James	8.3.1812 Dumfries Scotland	24.11.1854 Richmond	12.12.1836 Sarah Sherwood, Richmond
Margaret	c 1814 Airdree, Kirkcudbright Scotland	1901 Sydney	26.1.1830 Ezekiel Thurston, Richmond
Joseph	9.9.1824 Kurrajong	25.1.1894 Meranburn	6.3.1849 Mary Elizabeth Howell, Vale of Clwyd
John Burgess	4.4.1826 Kurrajong	30.12.1904 Waterloo	29.8.1851 Eleanor Jane Keenan, Crown Ridge
Sarah	9.4.1829 Kurrajong	1866 Hargraves	6.8.1850 Cuthbert Cowling, Richmond

The second youngest child, John Burgess Douglass, inherited the family farm and he and his wife Eleanor (Keenan) continued to operate "Ivy Lodge" as a guesthouse. They had eight children, born between 1854 and 1866:

William	born 1854	William (1854-1939), the oldest, remained in The Kurrajong. He was born at <i>Ivy Lodge</i> and lived there until it was sold in 1868. The family then moved to <i>Ardrey</i> on Hermitage Road. The property extended to become <i>Frankfield</i> . In 1876 William married Louisa Merrick, at Richmond. Louisa (1844-1927) was the fourth daughter of John and Eliza Merrick, farmers, of North Richmond. They set up home in <i>Frankfield</i> , where they had six children. William's father John lived with them at <i>Frankfield</i> until his death on 30.12.1904, at Waterloo. William and Louisa's children were Reginald Albert (1877-1965), Eleanor Mary (1878-1905), Harold Darcy (1880-1961), Florence Nina (1888-1966), Carl Stanley (1885-1969) and Gertrude Alice (1887-1959).
Louisa	born 1.4.1856	
Ellen	born 28.11.1857	
Francis	born 10.8.1859	
Arthur	born 5.8.1861	
John	born 29.5.1863	
Frederick	born 23.4.1865	
Albert	born 5.10.1866	

The photograph below was taken at *Frankfield* in about 1897, showing the family, with William and Louisa in the centre, Harold Darcy, Eleanor Maud and Reginald Albert across the top and Gertrude Alice, Carl Stanley and Florence Nina along the bottom. A family tradition seems to have been started when the last four of the children became known by their second names, D'Arcy, Alice, Stan and Nina. The children attended the Kurrajong North Public School after it opened in 1882. The family were all heavily involved with St David's Presbyterian Church, with the girls all teaching Sunday School there. (Cont. page 5)





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The Foundation of Kurrajong Heights cont.

As a member of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Society, William received awards for service to the Society, and in 1901 joined with his good friend Henry Pitt to form a Kurrajong Progress Association, of which he (William) became the first president. Henry Pitt owned and operated the Wheeny Creek Post Office and Store (*Goldfinders*). William was made a magistrate (JP) in 1903, and is frequently mentioned in the local social pages.

In 1903 there was an outbreak of typhoid in the area. Nellie (Eleanor Maud) caught it when nursing a neighbour and was admitted to Hawkesbury Hospital, but after appearing to recover and leaving the Hospital, she had a relapse and died singing Sunday School hymns with her mother. Louisa died in July 1927. Will continued to live at *Frankfield* with his unmarried daughter Nina until he died at *Frankfield* on 25 April 1939, leaving the property to Nina.

William's daughter Alice (Gertrude Alice, 1887-1959) married Henry Pitt's son George Alan Pitt (1887-1962). They had three sons, Russell Douglas (8.9.1917-2007), Harold Noel (15.2.1920-1999) and Alan Frank (23.3.1923-1945). After service in World War II, Noel (Harold Noel) Pitt married Betty Alice Culey in November 1948. Their first child was born on 14.1.1950 and was christened Susan Deborah. Deborah (Hallam) until recently was joint owner of *Lochiel House* with husband Chris.

Douglass Cottage

Joseph Douglass's son John built *Douglass Cottage* in 1867. However, it was at a transitional stage in his life when he wanted to move on. John placed an advertisement in the Sydney Mail on 16 November 1867, wishing TO LET or SELL both *Ivy Lodge* and *Douglass Cottage*. The latter was described as: "the new House now being completed containing 10 rooms, spacious verandah round three sides, commanding magnificent views..." This description confirms that the colonial-style verandahs *round three sides* were part of the original design, and were not added later, in response to local colonial conditions.

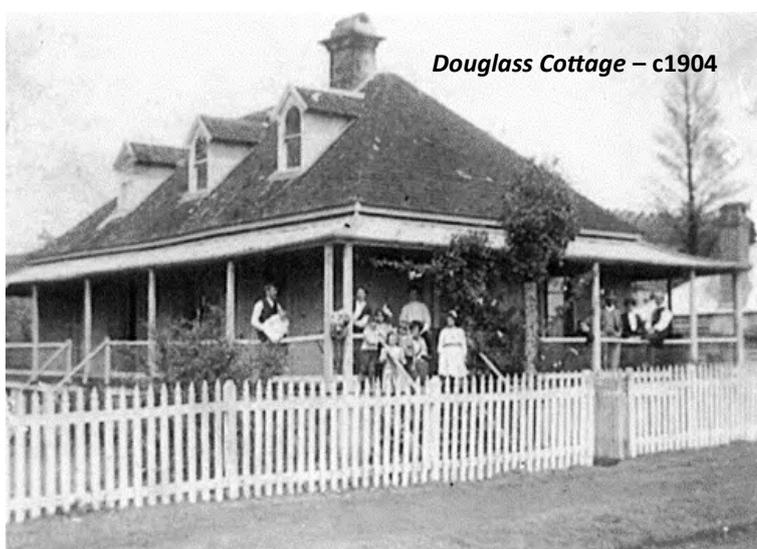
When George Bowman purchased the property, incorporating both *Ivy Lodge* and *Douglass Cottage*, the use of the latter is not clear, apart from having the potential to be a ladies' boarding-school.

After the subsequent transfer of the property by George Bowman to his daughters and their husbands, James and Andrew Cameron in 1875, *Douglass Cottage* was used as a residence by Andrew and Mary Ann Cameron. However, they were ill, and both died in 1876. The shares in the property that had belonged to Andrew and Mary Ann were then transferred to James. *Douglass Cottage* was then used by James as a manse and sanatorium for visiting clergy. A subsequent notice in the Sydney Morning Herald of 9th November 1878 advertised: "KURRAJONG HEIGHTS – Furnished COTTAGE to LET with attendance. Apply to Mrs Leidich, Post-office, Kurrajong Heights, or to Rev J Cameron, Richmond."

On 20 February 1907 the whole property (*Lochiel House* and *Douglass Cottage*) was transferred from Mary Bowman Lamrock – the daughter of James Cameron and wife of James Lamrock – to Thomas Walker. By that time, Thomas Walker was the Post-Master next door in *Lochiel House*. The Post Office was transferred from *Lochiel House* to *Douglass Cottage* in April 1918. The building was subsequently referred to as the General Store and Post Office.

The Foundation of Kurrajong Heights by Chris Hallam is to be continued in The Millstone January - February 2021

The book is available for purchase via the K-CHS website: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>



Sister Lucy Kathleen Boughton - One of the many ANZAC Stories from *We Remember Them*

"Nurse Lucy Boughton, well known in the Kempsey region, has been accepted for service in the field hospitals in Europe and leaves Sydney on an early date ...her many friends wish her a safe return." *The Macleay Chronicle* 5 May 1915

Family Notes: Lucy was born in the Richmond area of NSW in 1879 to parents Samuel and Jane, nee Matherson Boughton. Her father Samuel Boughton was a well-known identity having been an alderman on the Richmond Borough Council for many years. In 1893 he was appointed engineer in charge of the Richmond Waterworks, a post he held until his death in 1910.

Saumuel was a prolific writer and wrote under the nom de plume of *Cooramill*. He completed over 100 instalments of his *Reminiscences of Richmond* published in the Hawkesbury Herald from March 1903 to October 1905.

Karoola, the Boughton family home, was situated at North Richmond on the Grose Vale Road. Lucy and her sister Jessie who grew up in the area, later established the *Karoola* Private Hospital at East Kempsey NSW, of which Jessie was matron. Lucy was thirty-five years old when she enlisted in 1915.

Nurse Lucy Boughton was on active service for over four years and served for two years at Harefield Hospital, England, one year at Rouen, six months at a clearing station in Belgium and a year at Abbeville. "Those who knew Lucy Boughton when on the Macleay will be delighted to learn that a recently issued military order announces that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to award the Royal Red Cross decoration to Sister Lucy Boughton, now at No. 3 Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France. Sister Lucy Boughton, who has had a long and strenuous term in war hospitals, is highly spoken of by all the returned men who came in contact with her abroad; and the general verdict is that she richly deserves the distinguished recognition now accorded her." *The Macleay Chronicle* 27 February 1918.

On her 1919 return to Australia, Lucy was welcomed at Kempsey railway station by a large crowd, with speeches and bouquets, in acknowledgement of her services to wounded soldiers that had won her such distinction.

The above extracts are from: **We Remember Them - First World War Volunteers from the Kurrajong, Colo & Associated Districts**. The publication was funded by the Federal Government's Centenary of Anzac Grant Program, made available through the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The hardcover book is a beautiful 215 page publication honouring the service of many from our Kurrajong region. A 2015 publication of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, the book is available for purchase by donation or borrowing from the K-CHS Members Library <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

Note: Further research reveals, Lucy Kathleen Boughton is listed as having trained at the Prince Henry Coast Hospital where she gained her Registered Nursing Certificate. The 1930 NSW State Nursing Register has Lucy listed as residing at 3 James Street Chatswood, with her sisters Jessie and Eva, also listed on the same register as Registered Nurses. All of whom mention is made of as young children in a Windsor & Richmond Gazette article, Saturday 7th December 1894. (Also see page 91 of *We Remember Them*).

The Australian Army Nursing Service Post WW1

The Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), with 2498 professional female nurses, along with more than 700 other Australian nurses working overseas with allied services, provided nursing care and performed a myriad of other medical, administrative and non-nursing roles during WWI. On Armistice Day, when soldiers ceased fighting, the medical services did not stop work. The Spanish flu pandemic sweeping the world was particularly dangerous to the young adult group. With thousands of soldiers hospitalised, military nurses' skills were vital in managing the feared complication of pneumonia. They were not immune themselves with a number dying of Spanish flu along with the soldiers. Several military nurses had also died during the war, some only days before the Armistice. Even after many military hospitals had closed, work for Australian military nurses continued. They were usually required for duty on the ships transporting convalescing soldiers back to Australia. Many then of course later took up the baton and served in our city and regional hospitals across all States.

In 1919 and 1920 the AIF demobilized most AANS members. Historians believe the returning AANS set the standards for Australian hospital nursing following the war. Many branched out and pioneered other fields such as infant welfare, repatriation nursing, industrial and school nursing with others opening nurses homes. While some were entitled to pensions, many others struggled financially, mentally and physically throughout life.

Ref: Australian Army Nurses after the 1st World War - When the Soldiers Return: November 2007 Conference Proceedings, St Lucia, Queensland. (See AANS Database)

Suzanne Smith

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Luckenough built in about 1840 has links to Thomas Higgins and the story below. This photo was taken in 1907 with Marie McMahon, second from the left, who was married to James Edward McMahon, John and Mary's grandson.

Thomas Higgins (1792 - 1839)

The *Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society* began with research into the McMahon Family who lived at Kurrajong North and also along Comleroy Road. John and Mary McMahon settled at Kurrajong North, on a property they called *Luckenough*, where they raised their children.



However this is not the start of the story. If it were not for Thomas Higgins encouraging his younger sister, Mary, to come from Ireland to the Colony, and by bequeathing her his 50 acre Kurrajong North property, then the McMahons might never have lived here.

So who was Thomas Higgins? Thomas was born in Rathkeale, Limerick, Ireland in 1792. In 1815 he was convicted under the Insurrection Act of 1796 for being "idle and disorderly" and was transported for seven years. He arrived in Sydney on the *Surrey* in December 1816.

The 1820 Census shows him as employed by Sir John Jamison of *Regentville* near Penrith. Having gained his "Ticket of Leave" he stayed in the Penrith area. In July 1824 he married Sophia Field (1807-1871) at the original Christ Church, Castlereagh by the Reverend Henry Fulton. Sophia's father, a soldier who came with the Second Fleet, had an original grant of 100 acres at Castlereagh.

The 1825 Muster lists Thomas as a landholder in the Evan district (the area near Castlereagh), and it is assumed that he was farming the land. Then, in 1827, he purchased 50 acres in North Kurrajong which had been a grant to Thomas Hinton. Although owning the land, Thomas and Mary continued to live at the property in Evan, as indicated by the 1828 Muster. In 1832, Thomas donated a small portion of his Kurrajong property to the Church of England for a school. This became the first school in the area and was built on the corner of Bells Line of Road and what was to become Hermitage Road.



The Kurrajong Hills Church of England School

In 1830 Thomas branched out into a new venture by purchasing the *Dog and Duck* hotel in Haymarket, Sydney. This hotel was in George Street to the south of Christ Church St Lawrence, near what would become Central Station.

Now living at the hotel, his business thrived. In a short time he owned at least four Sydney pubs, including the *Daniel O'Connell*, all in the Haymarket, which had become a popular area for inns.

In 1836 he added to his property portfolio by purchasing 100 acres on Comleroy Road, just north of East Kurrajong Road. However, Thomas had become associated with the Collits, the hotelier family of Hartley Vale and originally from Castlereagh, where Higgins would have known them. It seems that with their encouragement, he decided to move westward. In 1837 he purchased 900 acres adjacent to Milburn Creek in the Bathurst District, but working as a stockman on one of the Collits' properties near Canowindra. It was while working there on 26th July, 1839 he was killed by falling from his horse.

Strangely he had written his Will only the day before. It begins "*The last will and testament of Thomas Higgins, formerly of Sydney but now of the Lachlan River in the said colony. I, Thomas Higgins, as aforesaid being sound in mind but weak in health and constitution and well knowing that all mortals must die do make this, my last will and testament in manner and form following...*" To his sister, Mary he bequeathed the 50 acre property at "Curry Jung" together with three cows in calf, his horse "Captain" and a cart and harness. Mary and John McMahon had arrived in Sydney only six months earlier in January, 1839. The 100 acre property on Comleroy Road Thomas left to his son John, who was only eight years old at the time of his father's death, and his heirs in the male line.

Thomas was buried in a grave yard on *Belabula Station*, near Canowindra. His widow, Sophia who was left with five young children, married James Collits in 1840 and lived in Forbes until her death in 1871.

Jennifer Griffiths

References: Ancestry Public Family Tree of Carolyn Jessie Cooper of Adelaide
 "Time Gents: Australian Pub Project" <https://timegents.com/2013/05/06/the-dog-duck-george-street-sydney-1815-1891/>
 "The Collits Family" by Herbert J Rumsey F.S.G. Sydney Morning Herald, 6 August, 1932 p.9

Dates for Your DIARY

Attention K-CHS Members & Friends

The K-CHS events listed are subject to the COVID-19 pandemic distancing requirements and the limits placed on group numbers attending events at the time. An email will be sent to members by President David Griffiths informing of any changes or view updates at:
<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

K-CHS Christmas Gathering 5pm Saturday 19th December 2020

Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club
 1530 Bells Line of Road

Bookings essential: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Christmas fare.

The bar will be open for drinks (alcohol & non alcohol at own cost).

Enquiries: Secretary Marguerite
 Ph: 4576 1371



Annual K-CHS Australia Day Breakfast
 will be a special 20th Anniversary event
 All welcome

Diary in 9am Tuesday 26th January 2021
The Hut Bowen Mountain Park

Further details will appear on the K-CHS website
 & in the January/February 2021 Millstone Issue

The Kurrajong – Its History & Natural History

By A Musgrave PART 4

The southern boundary of the Kurrajong is the Grose River which lies about 6 miles from *Glen Cuffe* Farm. From the main Grose Vale Road the Vale of Avoca Road leads out to a lookout on a hill overlooking the Grose River. Here a trig. station, Burrellow T.S. has been recently erected, which according to my aneroid barometer is at about 800 feet. Looking up river glimpses of the distant mountains can be seen and peering down into the river we see large sandy pools alternating with rocky outcrops. In the mid-distance a large rocky hill acts as a barrier between the waters of the Grose and the Burrellow. The early explorers noting that the river was very difficult to negotiate. Louisa Atkinson in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 January 1861, refers to the Avoca road to the lookout ...*after passing by farms and grazing land, the road runs for the last few miles through country reminiscent of the Sydney district, the ground flora consisting of Burrawong palms and many similar coastal plants.*

The Northern boundary of the Kurrajong is the Colo River. Here the district has passed from rolling hills to wild sandstone gullies, their summits rising about 625 feet above sea level. If we proceed north along Comleroy Road and turn off at the Blaxland Ridge junction, we come eventually to the Putty, Singleton Road. As we near the valley of the Colo River the road winds down the hillside affording fine views of the settlement of Central Colo. Near to the bridge here, the road from both Lower Portland and Upper Colo, junction with the main road. Plane trees growing near the bridge make for an attractive Autumn picture, while to the right rocky sandstone cliffs tower above the river. Gazing further up the valley, farms and orchards take advantage of any arable land. Crossing the river and continuing for some miles we ascend a spur from which views of the mountains to the west can be seen. Here at a height of 500 feet, through the trees, small farms tucked away in the sandstone hills and along the river flats can be seen. These settlements present a very different appearance to the wide open landscape one associates with The Kurrajong.

Conclusion: In the Mitchell Library Sydney, is a bound volume of newspaper cuttings from the pen of the late Sam Boughton of the Waterworks, Richmond. A. Musgrave acknowledges the articles as “*containing a great deal of information about the early history and development of the Richmond-Kurrajong district*” and references them in his research paper for The Australian Museum Magazine, 15 December 1953.

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