

Heritage

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Sydney's Postal Services and the General Post Office

The present Sydney GPO was one of a number of post office premises in Sydney over time. Australia's first post office was established on 25th April 1809 in part of the home of Isaac Nichols in lower George Street.

Isaac Nichols was a farmer, ship owner and public servant, born to Jonathan and Sarah Nichols at Calne in Wiltshire, England in 1770. He was convicted of stealing in 1790 and sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in NSW on the *Admiral Barrington* in 1791. After a few years he was appointed chief of convict gangs, and after his sentence expired, he received a grant of land at Concord. He sought to establish a successful farm, and also erected several inns, one in lower George Street. He also acquired land at the hospital wharf and established a shipyard there. In 1809 he was appointed superintendent of public works and assistant to the Naval Officer.

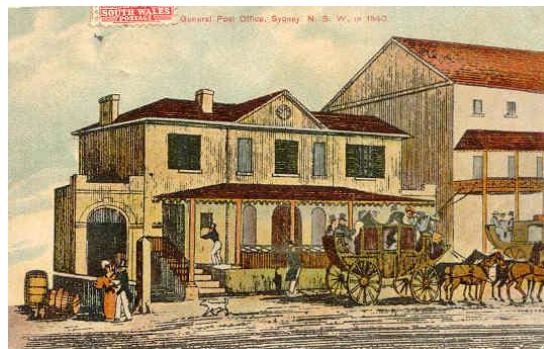
To attempt to halt the practice of persons fraudulently obtaining mail from incoming vessels, he was made the colony's first postmaster in the same year, a position he held until his death. Governor Lachlan Macquarie then appointed him principal superintendent of convicts. When Nichols sought leave to retire from this post in 1814 Macquarie spoke appreciatively of his great vigilance and unremitting attention to duty.

Nichols had married Mary Warren in 1796, and after her death by drowning in October 1804, he married Rosanna Abrahams. Rosanna bore him three sons, two of whom he sent to England to be educated.

When he died on 8 November 1819, the Sydney Gazette spoke of his devotion to his public duties, his worth as a farmer, his contributions to the improvement of colonial gardening, and of his activities as a shipowner. His obituary stated that "*it will doubtless be universally admitted that his exertions, duly appreciated, have been highly beneficial to the colony in her infant state*". He died aged 49 and the funeral was attended by several Magistrates, and other Officers of the Civil Establishment, and a long train of friends.

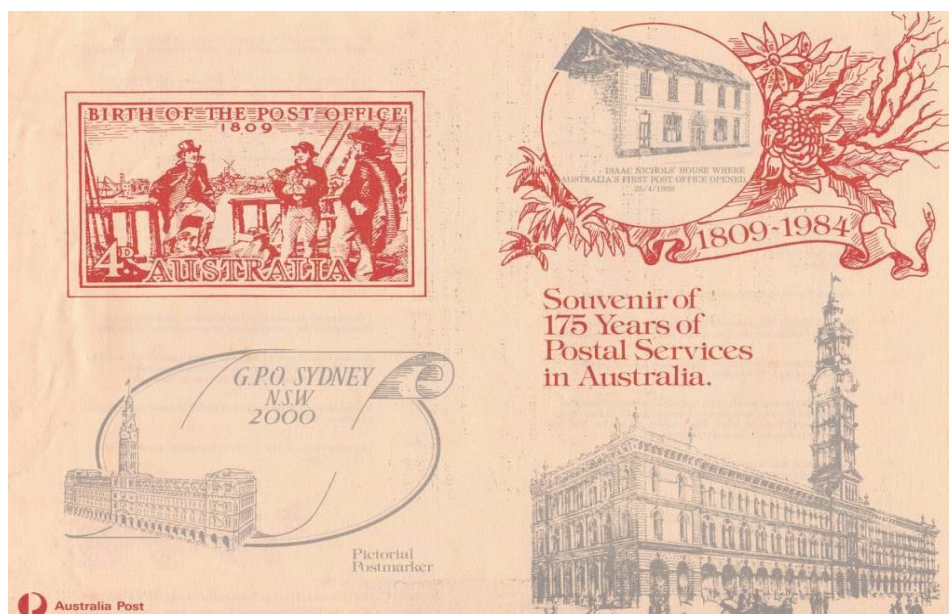


Isaac Nichols



Post Office 1840

Following Nichols' death, the post office was moved to the Naval Officer's house in 1820, located in the Wharfinger's Hut on King's Wharf. George Panton conducted business as postmaster there until he removed the post office to his own house on Bunker's Hill (in the Rocks). This move was not popular and by 1825 the post office was again at King's Wharf. In 1826 the post office was moved to the Sheriff's office in Bent Street at the rear of the Department of Public Instruction building.



1984 celebration flyer

In 1828 it was moved to the right wing of the Customs office in George St. Despite several alterations to the George Street premises, by 1851, a special Board of Enquiry established by the colonial government, had concluded that *"the building [is] very ill-adapted for the business required to be carried out in it..."*. Further alterations were added in an attempt to



A Charles Kerry postcard



An early post card

relieve some pressure on the mail service, but nevertheless, the lack of amenities was a source of complaint by workers and one staff member in 1853 described how *"the stench in this room is at times so unbearable as to hinder us materially in the performance of our duties."* Continued rapid growth and population rise, particularly in NSW had placed significant strain on postal services and the post office building itself, becoming by then a public and government concern due to its gross overcrowding, and concerns that the system of handling mail was rapidly descending into the danger of collapsing entirely. In 1830 the Sydney GPO was moved to part of the former police office in George Street (designed by Francis Greenway), the site of the current GPO. By 1845 it occupied the entire building. James Raymond had become the postmaster in Sydney in 1829, and in 1835

Raymond was appointed the first Postmaster General of NSW. Raymond pioneered pre-paid postage in 1838, using an embossed cover. The first stamps were issued in Britain in 1840, and by 1850 NSW and Victoria issued the first adhesive stamps in Australia. This eventually superseding the embossed cover.

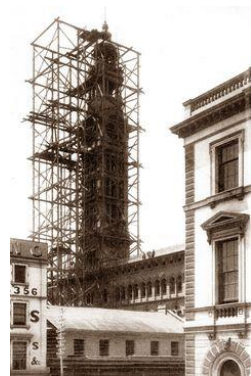


Stage One 1872



1898 additions

The volume of mail and staff continued to grow so that in 1862 it was decided to erect the present building. During the construction of the present GPO, postal services were moved to temporary specially erected timber premises at Wynyard Square in 1863. The new GPO building was constructed in two stages beginning in 1866 and was designed under the guidance of Colonial Architect James Barnet. The designs which he had begun in 1863 were completed and submitted for approval in February 1865. Political changes however led to delays for the excavation and foundation works, and tenders for the building's main construction did not go out until October 1866. On 17 December 1866, it was announced that builder John Young was awarded the contract. Early progress proved to be a slow and difficult process, particularly due to the need to enclose the Tank Stream running below the foundations and to ensure construction would not affect adjoining buildings.



Tower construction 1885



1890's

Composed primarily of local Sydney sandstone, quarried at Pyrmont, the primary northern façade has been described as “*the best example of the Victorian Italian Renaissance Style in NSW*” and stretches 114m along Martin Place, making it one of the largest sandstone buildings in Sydney. The basis of the design of the new building was of an Italian Renaissance palazzo, incorporating Florentine and Venetian elements in its composition. It has a vaulted colonnade, originally conceived as a means of relieving overcrowding in the nearby St Martin's Lane. Adjacent shops were later demolished and Martin Place opened. The initial Martin Place was the section between George Street and Pitt Street, officially opened in 1892, and was named in honour of Sir James Martin, the three times Premier of NSW and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW. It was later closed to traffic in stages from 1971.

The first stage of the new building was opened from George Street in 1874, halfway along Martin Place to Pitt Street. The second stage was opened in 1887 through to Pitt Street. In

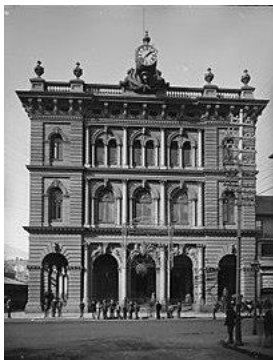
1927 a seven storey extension was erected behind the GPO on the old courtyard area. In 1942 a further nine storey extension was built behind the GPO in Pitt Street.

Whilst construction of stage two progressed smoothly, the initial unveiling of what would become denigrated as the Pitt Street "*caricatures*" in 1883 caused great controversy throughout the city. The sculpture features of the work were designed as "*a series of high relief figures...illustrating aspects of contemporary colonial society in a realistic manner to signify the integral place of the General Post Office in colonial life.*" The controversy over the spandrel figures resulted from their comical references to real-life personalities (including Barnet himself). Realistic portrayal was contrary to the established practices of classical allegorical figures such as those used in the first stage of the GPO. The controversy significantly affected Barnet's reputation.

In 1891 a clock and bells had been installed in the tower. The first George Street clock, with Roman numerals in the centre indicating the hour, was not liked because its single face could not be seen along George Street. By 1880 the clock was replaced by the present projecting clock with its three faces. When the clock tower was constructed there was a drawn out dispute over the type of bells to be installed - traditional heavy bells or a lighter tubular variety. In a dispute which ran from 1887-1891, the bells and clock intended for the tower, originally designed by Tornaghi, were declared by Barnet to be sub-standard. This was due to a disagreement between Barnet and Tornaghi over the choice of bells.

Eventually, a new set of conventional bells was selected by Barnet and installed by a rival clockmaker, Henry Daly. Cast into the metal of the hour bell are the initials H.P. This was a tribute to Sir Henry Parkes. The bell was often dubbed Great Parkes or Great Harry, in the style of Old Paul (at St Paul's Cathedral) and Big Ben.

In 1942 the clock and bells were dismantled and placed in storage as a wartime precaution. The original sketches for the design of the building by the Colonial Architect, James Barnet, did not include a clock tower. It was added in the later stages, and it was these 1890s drawings that were used to identify and label all the parts for dismantling. The clock itself was sent to the Government Stores depot at Shea's Creek, Mascot, while the bells were put



George Street façade



1942 clock removal

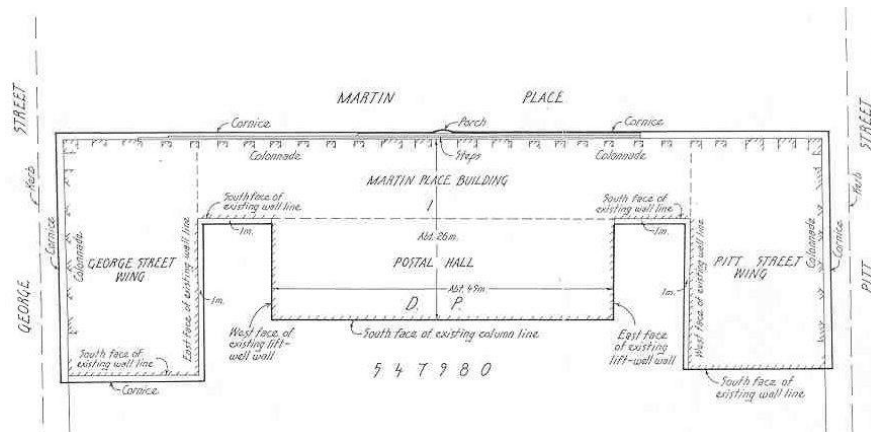


Sydney GPO

into storage at Sydenham. When the clock was not replaced after the danger passed there was a bid by Queensland Country Party MP Mr Corser to have it moved to Maryborough, which had no town clock. There was a push to have the clock replaced in time for the Queen's visit in 1954, but still nothing happened. In fact, reconstruction did not begin until 1963. A strange thing was discovered when workmen went to replace the hour bell. The word *ETERNITY* had been written in chalk under its rim. There was no mistaking the copperplate lettering, which was that of the eccentric evangelist Arthur Stace. How he had gained access to the bell remains a mystery.

However, in 1964 the tower clock and bells were restored in Sydney in time for the Anzac Day services that year. The bells finally rang out again on April 25 at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, held below at the cenotaph.

As far back as 1865 the Postmaster General position had become a ministerial portfolio in the NSW colonial parliament. In 1975 the Postmaster General's Department was abolished and became a statutory authority as Australia Post.



1993 Heritage Council Floorplan

Grand general post offices from the 19th and early 20th centuries provided a range of essential services for major cities. Even today they serve as the official point(s) from which road distances are measured. But as their once-imminent importance was eroded by later technological and communications revolution, and these huge buildings, in search of a new purpose, were inevitably converted to luxury hotels. The Sydney GPO building served as the headquarters of Australia Post from its completion until 1996. The GPO was then privatised and leased out as part of the disbursement of assets by the Federal Government of Australia. It was refurbished through the work of Sydney-based architectural practice Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners and subsequently the building housed shops, restaurants, hotel rooms, and the foyer of two adjoining tower blocks. The refurbishment was completed in September 1999 to coincide with the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. The reworking of the interior retained the vast majority of the building's highly significant wrought iron and coke breeze arched structure. Large spaces in the upper levels were subdivided into hotel rooms. A 1920s building that housed the main postal hall enclosed by the Victorian era building was demolished, the 1922 Postal Hall was reconstructed, and a long span steel frame and glass roof structure added to seal a large atrium for the hotel. Some of the original internal courtyard facade elements demolished for the 1920s building, were also reconstructed. The scaled back day-to-day counter postal services are now located on the George Street frontage and the outlet is known as the Sydney GPO Post Shop. The old General Post Office post boxes and Poste restante services ("remainder post" - is a service where the post office holds the mail until the recipient calls for it), are now located in the Australia Post site in the Hunter Connection, on the corner of George Street and Hunter Street. Despite significant internal alterations and additions, the façade has remained virtually unchanged and is listed both on the Commonwealth Heritage List (formerly known as the Register of the National Estate) and the NSW State Heritage Register, as recognition of its architectural and social significance to the history of Australia.

The General Post Office in Sydney is of National significance due to its association with the development of an integrated national postal and telecommunications system after federation. It was the venue for three conferences on the subject in the period 1896-1900, the last of these meetings drafting the Commonwealth legislation under which the national system was created.

In March 2017 Australia Post sold the premises, one of Sydney's most historic buildings, to two Asian businessmen, despite concerns raised in a heritage report it had itself commissioned the previous year and never made public. That report had stressed the benefits of keeping the GPO in Australian ownership. It also reiterated that the Sydney GPO

had occupied the site since 1830 and the current building "has defined the heart of Sydney's central business district since 1874".



From Pitt Street



Fullerton Hotel

The new owners had plans for multi-level retail shops which raised questions over the use of existing open space and the protection of heritage elements. Australia Post sold the property – subject to final regulatory approval, for \$150 million. In a statement, Australia Post said: "Crucially, the entire building remains heritage protected – an important factor when considering the sale – and the existing post office will continue to operate under a lease that remains in place until 2096".

On 18th October 2019 the former GPO began another chapter, opening as the Fullerton Hotel Sydney, refurbished, remodelled and facade refreshed.

Patsy Moppett

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Index

Sydney's Postal Services and the General Post Office	1
Editorial	7
A Legacy of the Pilgrim Inn	7
Captain William Henry Cromarty – a family tragedy	13
Ebook Review: A Century on Track	15
Trove extracts	16
The longevity of Playground equipment in the Blue Mountains	17
What's in a name - antimacassar	21
Roads to COVID recovery	22
History Hound	24
2020 War Memorial Funding	25
Blue Mountains Gazette	25
GBM Heritage Trail update	25



Food for thought Editor's note

This Newsletter talks about PEOPLE! Although we cover topics such as the Sydney GPO, the Pilgrim Inn and war memorials, we also cover stories which include achievements and tragedies which have taken place over time, relating not just to people from our local region but beyond.

Early postal services in Sydney were invariably undertaken in someone's home. Isaac Nichols established the first post office in his premises in George Street from 1809 for 10 years. He was one of those enterprising convicts made good.

The Pilgrim Inn at Blaxland tells the wider tale of the Levey family from 1821, through the successes and tragedies of the family, including their convict heritage.

Captain William Cromarty led a largely uneventful but creditable life until the death of both he and his son, trying to retrieve the boat from the steamer *King William*, at Port Stephens in 1838. His courageous widow then carried on to run the small store serving passing whalers and fishermen for many years. She was known for her kindness.

Andy Macqueen shares the experiences of three generations of his family devoted to bushwalking and camping in the mountains.

The story of the two airmen killed in 1940 at Glenbrook is revisited, when we also remember the sacrifices made by other servicemen overseas at that time. So sad that they were lost in a domestic incident.

And lastly this Newsletter is about YOU and for you! You the reader and how by clinging to our heritage culture we have coped with the COVID situation, and how the wider community has pulled together to protect each other, the young and the vulnerable, just as happened in our colonial history. The above-mentioned stories tell of the ups and downs people experience but show that there is always a way forward.

Legacy of the Pilgrim Inn, Blaxland

Blaxland's most important building is purported to be the Pilgrim Inn, which is now a fragile ruin adjacent to the McDonald's carpark (adjoining the Mobil Service Station) on the Great Western Highway at Blaxland, accompanied by interpretive signage which identifies its provenance. An enlarged historic photograph of the inn is located on the wall inside the restaurant. The State Government heritage inventory sheet for the site describes the significance of the remains:

The main area of archaeological potential and surviving remains of the building are situated in the car park. Only the topsoil was removed for this construction and archaeological monitoring completed at the time indicates that several features survive at lower levels in the



The early Pilgrim Inn



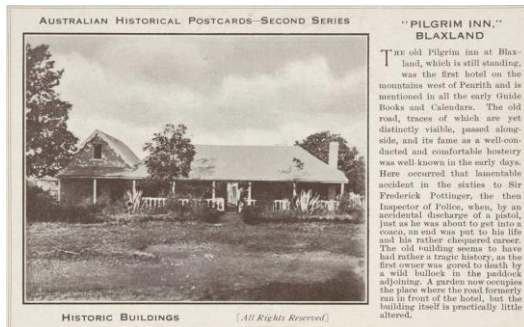
Mrs Martindale's sketch

soil profile. They include a cellar and a well, and possibly some sandstone flagging. The main remains of the building complex visible above ground consist of three standing masonry walls which include openings for a door and a window. These have been

conserved by means of structural supports and capping of the tops of the walls with an acrylic mortar to prevent damage by rainwater. The walls are fenced off from the carpark with an explanatory plaque. An historic display about the inn was included in the [McDonalds] restaurant [at one time].

This building, which was in bad repair as late as the 1950s, was supposedly built in the late 1820's. It was a "gracious hostelry surrounded by cedar verandahs, covered in shingles and with a large well and extensive stables". As the first major inn on the road over the mountains it was known throughout the colony.

The plaque on the site today at Blaxland reads: *These walls are all that remain of the Pilgrim's Inn (Circa. 1825-1830). It was nearby that the notable colonial policeman Sir Frederick Pottinger was fatally wounded in 1865.....*



Early postcard



1934 RAHS visit

The land was a grant to one Barnett Levey, who was the first Jewish free immigrant in the colony. He named his land Mount Sion Estate, whereon he built the inn in about 1826. By 1828 a four-roomed weatherboard house, outhouses, piggery and stable had been erected and the property was put up for sale. Once Barnett was bankrupted the property was sold to John Wood, who subsequently leased it to James Evans. (The international cricketer Edwin Evans was James' son and was born at the Pilgrim Inn). The building appears to have operated as a licensed inn from 1830 and was known as the Pilgrim Inn from 1832. In that year, new road improvements (Mitchells Pass) were reported to be passing behind the Pilgrim Inn and requiring removal of the stables, stores and fencing. The new road proposed sought to excise the inn from some of its outbuildings. Investigation of the situation on behalf of John Wood had William Cordeaux commenting: *The proposed new road cuts the waters of the Brook Kedron from the main body of the land. The road destroys or occupies the principal part of the good land in the Valley of Jehosophat through which it runs.* John Wood made the following comments on the property he had purchased: *The names seem ridiculous, but they were the names given by Mr. Barnett Levey before I purchased same.*" However, confusion reigns supreme as ever, with a letter from GE Bunyan to the Nepean Times in 1953 suggesting that the ruins we see today are in fact of the second inn on the site, the first being burnt down in the 1830s. A second inn was built on the site in the 1840s by the William brothers. The Williams brothers were accidentally killed within six months of each other, both being shot.

The Pilgrim Inn was later bought by John Outrim Wascoe in 1857 and in 1869 it closed as an Inn, with the lease being held by various people over time. The Inn had achieved dubious fame in 1865 when Sir Frederick Pottinger, Inspector of Police, fatally (and accidentally) shot himself while boarding a moving coach outside the inn. Subsequently the William Deane family bought the site in 1873, living there through several generations until a bushfire destroyed the buildings in 1968.

Many street names in the Glenbrook area such as Levy, Barnet, David, Tabor, Kedron, Carmel, Benjamin, Olivet, as well as Mount Sion Park are testament to Barnett Levey's Jewish heritage and his brief time in the Blue Mountains.



1968 after the fire



Secured site today



Old chimney base

So, who was Barnett Levey?

The Levey Family

Barnett's father was Moses Lyon Levey, who was born in England in 1758 and died there in 1813. Moses and his wife Deborah never came to Australia. They had eight children, three daughters (Francis born 1783, Hannah born 1802 & Rebecca born 1804), and five sons. The daughters also do not appear to have come to Australia. The sons however, all emigrated to Australia, one way or another. These sons were a mix of convict, merchants, bankers, importers, philanthropists, a madman and a theatre entrepreneur. Their lives were full of ups and downs, with a melting pot of success and sadness. The transportation of the eldest son, Solomon, in 1815, appears to have triggered a family migration which was to have a significant impact on the commercial and cultural development of the early New South Wales colony.

- **Samuel Levey** was born in 1791 at Whitechapel, London. He was the eldest son of Moses Lyon Levey and Deborah. Samuel was convicted for stealing clothing and transported to NSW for life on the *Lord Hungerford* in 1821, being reported as a "bad character", having an alias, John Lee. He had served 4 years in the hulk *Bellerophon*, prior to transportation. In July 1822 his name appeared on a list of prisoners assigned for work, but by March 1823 he was a prisoner in Sydney gaol, considered to be insane. The Provost Marshall's report suggested that both the family and the public considered Samuel to be a madman, as he had been accosting his brother's wife. His brother Solomon offered to cater for all his expenses for a private apartment, and he was transferred to the Asylum at Castle Hill. In 1824 he ran away from there and stayed with friends in Sydney. In the 1825 Muster he was listed as an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum in Parramatta, although always being cared for by the family. He died in August 1872 at Macquarie Street at the age of 81 years, and his estate was bequeathed to his nephew Solomon, son of his brother Philip.
- **Solomon Levey** was the 2nd son of Moses and Deborah. He was born in 1794 at Whitechapel, London. Solomon arrived in Australia in 1815 on the *Marquis of Wellington* as a guest of his Majesty, having been sentenced to transportation for seven years for the theft of 90 lbs of tea and a wooden chest, which he had denied. He received an absolute pardon from Macquarie on 8th February 1819 and three days later married 14 year old Ann Roberts, daughter of William Roberts, a wealthy emancipist. Two children were born of the marriage, a son John in November 1819, and then a daughter Jane Ann, (apparently not Solomon's child). Jane was listed in the February 1821 monthly return for children admitted to the colonial orphanage named the Second Public School in Sydney. Jane died in 1822. Subsequently the marriage did not last, and Ann took a lover and ran away but died of maltreatment in 1824. Solomon never married again. Solomon warned the public through the Sydney Gazette not to extend any credit to his wife. He soon became busy amounting a thriving business and entering into real estate. He was a storekeeper, ship broker and agent. He had sealing interests with a base in

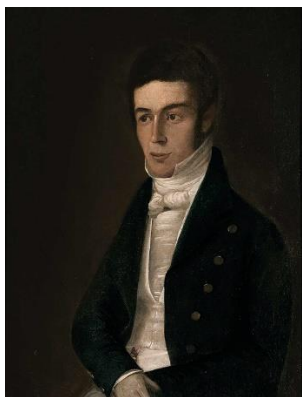
Tahiti, was a partner in a water mill at Liverpool, owned a rope factory, and held grazing and land grants. He became a proprietor of the Bank of New South Wales and joined other respectable citizens (emancipists) in a request to be admitted to jury duties. He was a generous supporter of benevolent and religious institutions, and a trustee for the Sydney Public Grammar School. In 1825 he joined with Daniel Cooper taking over the Lachlan and Waterloo Co., where they were able to pursue Solomon's already expanding export and shipping activities. Due to a shortage of cash, their company minted their own bank notes, defying the power of the new Bank of New South Wales's cash reserves.

In 1826 he returned to London with his son on the ship *Mangles* where he was arranging immigration for a number of free settlers, including several family members such as his brothers Isaac and Philip. Also, in 1826 they took over the properties of captain John Piper, and by 1828 were the colony's largest owners of stock. In 1829 Solomon met Thomas Peel (a relation of Sir Robert Peel), and with him he became a partner in the establishment of the Swan River settlement in WA. Through Peel's mismanagement the venture failed, and Solomon lost a fortune. Solomon died in October 1833 in London aged just 39, just before the final collapse of the venture. Solomon was known as "*a man of upright character and kindness a shrewd pioneer businessman and able financier an economist of great foresight and an outstanding immigration agent for Australia.*"

The Sydney Monitor, on 18th February 1834, stated: "*we are extremely sorry to hear of the death, in London, of Mr. Solomon Levey, merchant, formerly of Sydney. Mr. Levey was universally respected. Considering the nature of our society, no man had fewer enemies. He was a great lover of New South Wales, and strove, according to his views of its prosperity, to promote its welfare. He objected to political interference as premature, and therefore never took part in Colonial politics.*"

- **Barnett Levey** was the 3rd son of Moses and Deborah. He was born in London in 1798 and emigrated to Australia on the *John Bull* in 1821 to join his emancipist brother Solomon. He was the first free Jewish settler to the colony. He opened a store in George Street in February 1825 and married Sarah Emma Wilson in June that year. By August he had been appointed an auctioneer. Through his storefront, Levey also established one of the colony's first lending libraries. From 1826, Barnett Levey interested himself in the cultural activities of Sydney, singing regularly at concerts and small theatres. Soon he became interested in banking. In January 1826 he was present at the foundation meeting of the Sydney Banking Co. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 266, and of No. 260, and built a flourmill, a wheat store and a windmill.

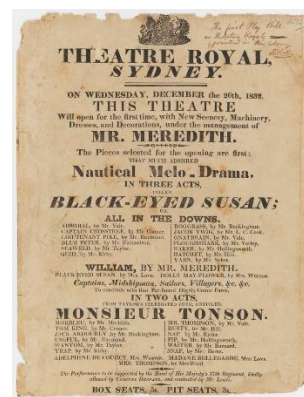
He became a merchant and then in 1828 set about establishing the first permanent theatre in Australia. Through his successful older brother Solomon, Barnet had acquired a warehouse on George Street. He had grand plans to expand this into his Colchester warehouse at the rear, a five-storey complex, with a windmill on top and, inside, *a large space for the purpose of dramatic representation*. Other entrepreneurial colonists thought Levey's grandiose building plans were suspect and there were few investors in the project, so he changed tactics. He erected a temporary structure at the rear of his George Street property, attaching a hotel, the Royal, at the front to help pay for the venture, and opened several of the warehouse spaces as the Royal Assembly Rooms.



Barnett Levey



Theatre seal



Theatre poster

The first entertainment license for the Theatre Royal was issued in 1829. This was withdrawn by Governor Darling, who deemed the colony's *"prison population...unfit subjects to go to plays"*, and Levey was forced to sell up in December 1830. A temporary stage was then erected in the saloon of the hotel and, under the subsequent patronage of Governor Bourke, Levey opened his theatre, Governor Bourke issuing a license in 1832. Unfortunately, by then he was bankrupt and no longer owned the building. The former mortgagee Daniel Cooper (business partner of his brother Solomon) arranged to complete the theatre space and finish the hotel in the front. In 1833, Barnett finally had his new Theatre Royal, the first real theatre in Australia, on land at the rear of the Royal Hotel, seating about 1000 people. Barnett advertised for partners in January 1834, and in February Joseph Simmons joined in the management.

Initially business was good. Unusually for the times, Barnett promoted the dress circle as the best part of the house, where he charged from two to five shillings for seats. As a venue, however, it had its ups and downs, as the pit was often the scene of disruption, and the cause of much complaint. Thereafter, Levey mostly ceded control of the theatre to lessees, and faced the prospect of further competition when, in mid 1836, Joseph Wyatt announced plans to open a second theatre (ultimately the Royal Victoria). However, in September 1837 the Gazette reported that: *The stage manager of the Sydney Theatre, we understand, has found it absolutely necessary, in order to enable him to conduct the business of the house with anything like propriety, to stipulate for the entire exclusion of Mr. Barnett Levey, the proprietor, from behind the scenes, it being found that his presence and interference is anything but conducive to the prosperity of the drama.* Barnett died a few days later. His widow Sarah, with the assistance of her step-father Jacob Josephson, briefly and unsuccessfully tried to keep the theatre running, finally selling out to Joseph Wyatt. Unfortunately, the theatre burnt down in 1840, it would have stood where Dymocks bookstore now stands at 428 George Street.

Barnett Levey had built Waverley House in 1827, the first house in the Waverley district, a two-storey residence in Georgian style near the later Bondi Junction. Levey became one of the first building promoters when in 1830 he erected cottages in Waverley Crescent. The house later served as a convent and subsequently as a school for destitute girls and later as a boy's school.

In August 1830 he had received a grant of 640 acres (259 ha) in the Blue Mountains, adding to this in 1835 when he received a further 320 acres (130 ha) at Glenbrook; he called the mountain grant Mount Sion, and on it the Pilgrim Inn (Blaxland) was built. The property did not remain long in his possession because he always needed money for new ambitious plans.

Barnett was not a particularly good businessman. He was quick-tempered and litigious and his liking for drink rapidly increased. The result was deterioration in discipline in the theatre, and there were quarrels with the actors over money. Sick,

tired and worn out by his efforts to make the theatre pay, Barnett Levey died on 2 October 1837, leaving a widow and four small children in poverty. In October 1837 the Sydney Times, stated that: *“to his spirit and perseverance are the public indebted for the introduction of theatricals into New South Wales”*.

The Australian published the following: *“Mr. Barnett Levey, who emigrated to this colony a number of years back, and who first introduced theatricals, died early yesterday morning, only forty years of age. He has left a widow and four children to mourn his loss. His remains will be interred in the Jewish Burial Ground this morning, and we believe they will be followed to their last home by many of his friends.”*

He was buried in the Jewish section of Devonshire Street cemetery and the headstone was eventually moved to Botany cemetery with all the other stones to make way for the railway. His wife Emma died at Dawes Point in 1873.

- **Isaac Levey** was the 4th son of Moses and Deborah. He was born in England in 1798, and married Dinah Emanuel (nee Davis), a widow, in 1825. He arrived in Australia in the ship *Hercules* in cabin class in 1835, accompanied by Dinah, his four children and his mother-in-law Maria Davis, just after the death of his brother Solomon, having inherited part of his brother's amassed properties. He operated a general importing business in George Street, investing in *“large and handsome buildings”* in Sydney, particularly in Wynyard Square. In 1837 he was a Member of the Sydney Synagogue Committee and became a court bailiff. He offered from his George Street store a range of goods such as Manchester and muslin. He offered photographic services by GB Goodman and began to sell real estate. His own land holdings expanded, owning land at Hunter's Hill, Bungonia, Newcastle, Yass and Scone, as well as purchases he undertook for family members. In 1850 he was one of the four trustees for a grant of land for a schoolhouse for members of the Jewish faith. In 1853 he was elected president of the York Street Synagogue, their *“esteemed and liberal president”*. He was a valued contributor to many charitable institutions, and his obituary suggests he would be sadly missed. He passed away in 1860, aged 62 years, and was buried at the Devonshire Street Cemetery with his wife Dinah, who had predeceased him by 8 days.



Isaac Levey



Devonshire Street Cemetery 1901

- **Philip Joseph Levey** was the 5th child of Moses and Deborah, born in 1799. He arrived with his wife Leah and their 7 children as steerage passengers on the ship *Andromeda* in December 1843. Three more children were born in the colony. They began their life in Sydney in George Street, establishing a furniture warehouse looking glass and artificial flower manufacturing business. He moved into several premises in George Street over time, working with his brother Isaac, also including bedding and upholstery in the business. Philip died aged 63 years in 1862 at his premises in York Street, and was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery. His

remains were subsequently relocated to Rookwood where his wife had been buried in 1869.

Conclusion: It could be assumed that Barnett followed his brothers Solomon and Samuel to Australia as a measure of family support for his convict brothers, particularly Samuel. They were subsequently followed by their other two brothers and other family members, as later arranged by Solomon. Although Moses and Deborah never came to Australia, the younger generation was obviously a close knit one, who lived and worked together in their new country, seeing a measure of both prosperity and unfortunate circumstances in their lives, and at times exerting significant influences on the development of the colony of New South Wales.

Patsy Moppett

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Captain William Henry Cromarty – a family tragedy

Captain William Cromarty, 50, and his 16-year-old son William, died in a boat accident on 1st September 1838 at One Mile Beach, and their remains are buried near Tahlee in the old, hidden graveyard on the northern shore of Port Stephens.

Cromarty had been asked to search for the boat belonging to the steamer *King William*, which had been lost in a gale. They found the boat at One Mile Beach. Cromarty, his son William, an assigned servant and a native, accompanied Cromarty and they walked to the beach, carrying oars, with the intention of bringing the boat into harbour. They took no provisions as they thought they would only be some 3-4 hours. This was the last that was seen of them. Ships arriving in the harbour were asked if they had seen them, with no result. A native called Bill Wicki was sent to search along the shore, returning some hours later with Cromarty's boots, young William's shoes, and the servant's hat. The boat was described as being bottom upwards on the beach, with three oars lying a short distance off. Cromarty's snuff box was found, but no traces of the bodies were discovered. It is thought they were swamped when trying to launch the boat from the beach, but this will never be known.

His gravestone reads:

Here lie buried such remains as were found of the bodies of Capt William Cromarty, aged 50 years and William, his son, aged 16 years, who having left their homes on the morning of September the 1st, 1838, accompanied by an assigned man servant and an aboriginal native, for the purpose of recovering a boat which had been cast ashore at the heads.

[They] were no more seen having perished it is supposed in launching it through the surf.

William Henry Cromarty was baptised at South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland on 25th November 1788, born to William and Elizabeth Cromarty.

He later married Cecilia "Sissy" Brown at South Ronaldsay on 26th November 1815. Cecilia was born circa 1794, in St Margaret's Hope, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland.

The arrival in Sydney in September 1822 of William Cromarty as a crewman of the brig *Fame*, owned by Simeon Lord, signalled the start of a dynasty which continues in Port Stephens today.

Captain Cromarty was then Master of the vessel “*Sovereign*” and in 1824 he decided to settle in New South Wales. He and his wife lived for a time in Newcastle.

In 1825, the brig *Fame* changed hands, Cromarty became Master, and the ship traded between Sydney and Tasmania, Port Stephens and Newcastle, trading with the Australian Agricultural Company.

Subsequently, Cromarty’s wife, Cecilia and three children arrived from Scotland in 1824. At this time William was a pilot of the Port of Newcastle. Having succeeded William Eckford, he was also engaged to sound and chart the Manning River (which proved unsuccessful). After receiving a serious injury while piloting a vessel, Cromarty then resigned in 1833.

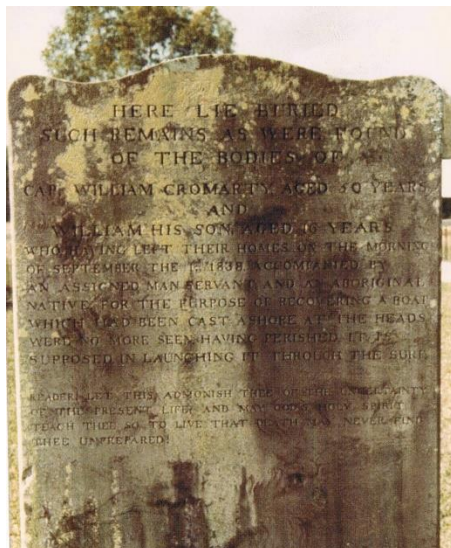
In 1830, Australian Agricultural Company Commissioner Sir William Edward Parry, had described a visit to Captain Cromarty:

Dr. Nisbet went over to see Mr. Cromarty, a settler, to endeavour to arrange with him to go up the Myall with one of our boats to look for cedar, of which there was a great quantity purchased by the company formerly from Mr. (Simeon) Lord, and of which Mr. Cromarty knows more than anybody else, having been employed by Mr. Lord.

Cromarty is an honest man, a rare avis here, and is desirous of paying us in this way for any services we can render him.

Cromarty is commemorated today as an early settler whose unsuccessful attempt to chart the Manning River paved the way for John Armstrong and John Guilding's notable contribution to our understanding of Australian topography.

Cromarty received a grant of 340 acres near Booral from Sir Ralph Darling for “*efficient services rendered to the Government*”. Finding the grant land on the north side “*unsuitable*”, that location was exchanged for one near Karuah and when this in turn was in conflict with plans of the Australian Agricultural Company, it was again exchanged for an area at Salamander Bay, on a long finger of land poking north-west into the harbour, i.e. Soldiers Point. With his wife, two sons and three daughters, they established a homestead and he named the property “*Ronaldsha*”. A small garrison of soldiers had been established here previously in about the late 1820s to try to prevent escaped convicts from Port Macquarie crossing the narrow section of Port Stephens en route to settled areas further south. William and Cecilia had 11 children: Cecilia, Elizabeth, Nelly, William, Mary, Magnus, John, and 4 other children. Following Cromarty’s death in 1838, the original land grant was established in 1845 in the name of his surviving son, Magnus Manson Cromarty.



Headstone of Captain William Henry Cromarty

His wife, with Magnus and three daughters, stayed on at Soldiers Point, where they kept a small store for passing whalers and fishermen. Soldiers were still stationed near the Cromarty land to protect the family from escaped convicts, and the area eventually became known as Soldiers Point. Mrs Cromarty must have been a lady of outstanding courage and

resource as Magnus was only nine in 1838 and the area was very isolated and lonely. Mrs Cromarty was renowned for her kindness. At one time two escaping convicts, intent upon robbing the store, were treated to a meal by Mrs Cromarty, and were so ashamed, they left without attempting the robbery. Mrs Cromarty died in 1862 of natural causes, and was buried at Johnny's Well, as storms prevented the crossing to Tahlee where her husband's remains had been taken. Her headstone can still be seen on a hillside looking out towards the heads.

In 1913, when the new Australian Government made plans to build a Naval Base for submarines on the shores of Port Stephens, the Government purchased land near Corlette. They also resumed a larger area of land to the west, including that area previously awarded to Captain William Cromarty (but later granted to Magnus Cromarty). That total area of land remained in Australian Government hands until 1 January 1955, when it was sold to Port Stephens Council.



Grave of Cecilia Cromarty

The *Clans of the Coast* festival is held each year in Port Stephens, with more than 180 years of Scottish history in Port Stephens being celebrated. One pioneer remembered is Captain Cromarty, who was the first large landholder in the bay.

Patsy Moppett

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Ebook Review: A Century on Track

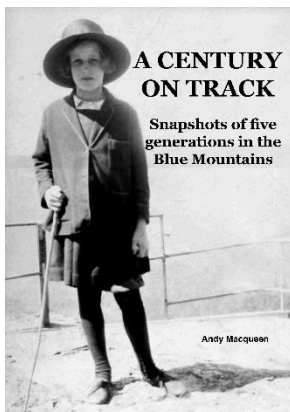
By Andy Macqueen

In 1987 I moved to the Blue Mountains from the Northern Territory, with my wife Liz and our three children. Since then I've done a lot of bushwalking, been active in conservation and outdoor education, and written several books and papers to do with the cultural history of the local natural areas.

My love of the Mountains, and natural areas in general, didn't just come out of the blue. As a teenager and young man—before I left for adventures in the Territory—I was engrossed with bushwalking and canyoning and participated in conservation campaigns.

The seeds were planted before that, however. My parents were fond of camping and walking. When I was a youngster, we went on numerous camping trips, often up and down the coast, but also in the Mountains.

My parents' own attachment to the Mountains emerged well before they were married in 1937. Starting in 1921, when she was eight, my mother used to holiday annually with her mother at *Yabba Yabba* in Blackheath. From 1932, she stayed in Wentworth Falls and Leura with her husband-to-be and his siblings. And so it went on. Every year there were walks on the tracks and visits to lookouts. And all along my mother took photos and kept diaries. I still have those photos and diaries.



*Andy Macqueen's Mother,
Margaret Stapledon*



Countless other families have long attachments to the Blue Mountains. Gundungurra and Darug people have deep associations going back thousands of years. I thought however that my own family's story, common-or-garden as it is, might be worth telling because of the photographic record.

I have therefore produced an illustrated account my family's doings, starting from 1921. It is a 60-page ebook (in pdf form) with 100 images and supporting text, spanning from 1921 to 2019. Most readers will not care much about my family history per se, but the book may be of interest from the local history viewpoint, particularly as it applies to our amazing walking track network.

Andy Macqueen

The book is currently viewable and downloadable free at:

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2680243228/view>

Trove extracts

Two killed in Air Force crash

NLA: Tweed Daily, Friday 2nd August 1940

Sydney, Thursday: A Wirraway training plane from an R.A.A.F. aerodrome crashed into the side of a precipitous gully three miles south of Hazelbrook on the Blue Mountains this morning. The two occupants were killed. The victims were Pilot-Officer Harry Thomas Hopwood [*sic*] (26) of Mosman, and Sergeant Vincent Charles Monterolo [*sic*] of Wentworth. Both were married.

The Pilot-Officer was burnt with his plane and the sergeant was hurled from the plane to his death.

Investigations by police and flying officers suggest that the plane lost its bearing in heavy mist and that when Hopwood descended to get his position the plane was in a valley enclosed by thickly timbered hills. Before altitude could be gained the plane crashed into the cliff.



Vincent Monterola



Harry Hopgood

Many people who heard the plane said the engine appeared to have developed a fault. Residents of Railway Parade Hazelbrook, whose homes overlook the valley, heard a crash about 10.30am. Two brothers, Harley and Irvine James, were first on the scene. They said the plane had torn through trees for about 400 yards. Portions of the plane were hanging to broken trees and petrol from the machine had set the trees alight. Remains of the machine were still burning when they reached it.

The body of the officer was still seated in the remains of the cockpit. The body of the other occupant was found some distance away.

Mount Victoria News

Katoomba Daily – 2 January 1937

Mr W C Brown, of Fitzgerald Street, Katoomba, who passed away on Friday last, lived at Mount Victoria before he went to reside at Katoomba. The land on which his cottage at the Mount stands is part of which has been known as "Browntown" for many years. Two brothers, James & George, also own cottages. Their grandmother took up 40 acres of land over 100 years ago, and "Browntown" is part of that area.

The railway line, when it came to Mount Victoria, passed through the land.

Mr Brown was known as one of the best carriage painters in New South Wales. Mount Victoria residents express sympathy for the widow and brothers.

Blackheath Stockade

New South Wales Government Gazette – 4 July 1848

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 30th June 1848:

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that the stockade at Blackheath has been appointed a place at which male offenders, under order or sentence of transportation, or under any order or sentence passed in pursuance of the provisions of the Act of the Governor and Legislative Council, intituled "*An Act to substitute other punishments for transportation beyond the seas*", shall be detained and be liable to be kept to hard labour.

By His Excellency's Command,

E Deas Thompson

The longevity of playground equipment in the Blue Mountains

Introduction

In the early 20th Century Harry Phillips took numerous photographs in the Upper Blue Mountains which he published in his many books. Here the interest is in the detail within a Harry Phillips' photograph of playground equipment in Blackheath (**Figure 1**) which is in his book *Beautiful Blackheath*¹, and particularly in the swings shown in that photograph.

(That equipment is in Jubilee Park on the corner of Leichhardt & Prince Edward Streets).

Swings

At the time that Harry Phillips took that photograph the swings were suspended from a very large frame which is divided into four bays each housing two swings. The seats of those eight swings were attached to ropes which are unusually long for such in children's playgrounds.

The appearance of that equipment in 2020 is shown in **Figure 2**.

The apparent angle between the end support legs of the frame for those swings is 12° in both **Figures 1 & 2** so those frames have been photographed from about the same position. Hence the position at which Harry Phillips once stood was re-occupied recently - or near enough - in order to take **Figure 2**.



Photo: Harry Phillips, mid-1930s

Figure 1: Captioned "Playground" it is in Jubilee Park, Blackheath

[It is north of Park Lane but only a c.7m into the park - blue circle in **Figure 3** - and almost opposite the boundary between 2 Park Lane and 30 Prince Edward Street.].

Those frames are so similar in appearance that - fairly conclusively - they appear to be the same device.



Photo: Peter Rickwood 31 May 2020

Figure 2: Swings in Jubilee Park, Blackheath in 2020

In 2020 the middle two bays are empty and now the remaining four swings are attached to long chains.

In both **Figures 1 & 2** the frame is seen to be positioned roughly at right angles to the road that slopes from right to left in the background (Prince Edward Street, which is more obvious in **Figure 2**) - and hence the frame was/is aligned parallel to the E-W section of Park Lane. Additionally, the position of the brick shelter shed relative to the frame is similar in both photographs but in **Figure 2** it is partially concealed by equipment and trees although it can



SixMaps © Spatial Services (2020)

Figure 3: The blue spot marks the approximate position from which Figures 1 & 2 were taken

just be discerned to the left of the modern slippery dip (a type of helter skelter) and on aerial photographs (**Figures 3 & 4**). Those relative positions suffice to indicate that over the years the frame has remained in the same position which is understandable as to move such a massive metal structure would be a difficult, and no doubt expensive, task.

Date of Photography

(a) Development of Jubilee Park

Blackheath was gazetted as a Municipality on 12 December 1919 and validated on 12 October 1920² so it is likely that installation of playground equipment was undertaken by that new organisation. Although initially that area may then have been planned for a park the 1932 aerial photograph (**Figure 5**) shows that apart from paths almost no development had occurred by that later year.



SixMaps © Spatial Services (2020)

Figure 4: Aerial photograph taken in 2020



David West collection

Figure 5: Aerial photograph taken in 1932

The land on which Jubilee Park is located is designated Section 13, Lots 6-9 (**Figure 4**) and the playground was established on the eastern side in Lots 8 & 9 which Blackheath Municipal Council acquired on 13 April 1935 and 9 July 1935 respectively³.

[Council did not acquire Lots 6 & 7 (**Figure 4**) until 22 November 1945⁴.]

That eastern parcel of land was still undeveloped in 1935 for it was reported at a Council Meeting that "Council has or will have in the near future, possession of a new park area. To prepare the area would only necessitate the clearing of the low scrub ... and provide suitable small tree guards."⁵

That description accords with the conditions seen in **Figure 5**. On 6 May 1935, townspeople planted trees but seemingly there was little else there at the time of the formal opening and naming of Jubilee Park⁶. Harry Phillips took that photograph of the swings (**Figure 1**) after a true playground had been developed but the date of that remains to be discovered.

(b) Beautiful Blackheath books

Even if the publication date of a particular book is known the photographs therein cannot be assumed to have been taken in that year. Notoriously, Harry Phillips almost never dated his many publications but his book *Beautiful Blackheath, Blue Mountains N.S.W.* has a clue to its age in the attribute: "H. Phillips, Photographer, Printer & Publisher, 99, Victoria Avenue, Willoughby, N.S.W."

Harry moved his family from Katoomba to Willoughby in 1922 and remained there until 1941 after which he did not publish anything else before he died on 20 April 1944⁷ so *Beautiful Blackheath* was issued between 1922 and 1941.

Harry Phillips reprinted those of his books that sold well and currently five distinctly different editions of *Beautiful Blackheath* are known. While many photographs are in all five versions some are not; the order of images within those books was not constant and their number differed so that the page totals are 20, 22 or 24 - but none were numbered. Three issues were about 32 x 21.5 cm. in size but two were wider being about 32.5 x 26.5 cm and on p.5 of each there is a photograph captioned "New Lookouts, Pulpit Rock" which opened on 14 December 1935 so the wider issues must post date that. One of those wider books has pencilled on cover "Easter 1938"⁸ and the other is marked "Printed at Northwood Printing Works for H. Phillips, Photographer & Publisher. 99, Victoria Avenue, Willoughby," and it has a red accession stamp with "[illegible].... Library NSW 15 May 1940"⁹. Harry Phillips' photograph "Playground" is only in those wider issues (on p.10 if you count the pages) so it had to have been taken before Easter 1938 - most probably in 1936, 1937 or very early in 1938. The exact date on which a particular photograph was taken can only be gleaned from the records kept by the photographer or from an inscription on the back of separate print and such prints produced by Harry Phillips are rather rare these days - more specifically, a print of his photograph of the playground has not been discovered.

Conclusion

What this research has revealed is the surprising age of the framework of those swings - 82-84 years. But today there are strict OH&S regulations governing children's playground equipment so in the intervening years a softer material has been placed beneath the swings and their number has been reduced to four but, curiously, they have not been spaced out one swing per bay. Moreover, the remaining seats are designed for infants not juniors such as are to be seen using the swings in Harry Phillips' photograph (**Figure 1**). But I recall that in the 1980s there were seats similar to those in **Figure 1** and my children used to get the swings to go at least as high as the children have them in that early photograph, and sometimes they stood too - but there were few concerns about child safety in those days.

What would be interesting to learn is whether there is an older piece of playground equipment anywhere in the Blue Mountains.

Peter C Rickwood

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- ² p.114 in Yeaman, J. (editor) (1976). *Historic Blackheath. A community service project of the Rotary Club of Blackheath 1975: 1976.* 382pp.
- ³ Certificate of Title, Vol.963 Fol. 142, Sec. 13 Lot 8, dated 20 February 1890; Certificate of Title, Vol.963 Fol. 143, Sec. 13 Lot 9, dated 20 February 1890.
- ⁴ Certificate of Title, Vol.1041 Fol. 106, Sec. 13 Lots 6/7, dated 30 November 1891.
- ⁵ King's Jubilee. Tree-planting at Blackheath. *Katoomba Daily* 25 April 1935, p.2, col.2.
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- ⁷ NSW Death Registration: 8343/1944. Henry Phillips. Registration Place: Chatswood; Deaths. PHILLIPS. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 April 1944, p.10, col.1; Death. PHILLIPS. *The Blue Mountains Advertiser*, 28 April 1944, p.3, col.3.
- ⁸ *Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc.*: PT 131.09/06.
- ⁹ Mitchell Library Q 919.445/3.

The Technical Side

What's in a name - antimacassar

The antimacassar is all about oil, male vanity and sailors!!

An antimacassar is a small cloth draped over the back or arms of chairs, or over the head or cushions of a lounge, to prevent soiling of the permanent fabric underneath. Antimacassars are also used on the seat headrests of commercial passenger vehicles, such as trains, buses and aircraft to extend the life of fabrics and also to prevent the spread of head lice (apparently)! They were installed in theatres, from as early as 1865.



Airline seats



Recovery of an old chair



Busline seats

The original antimacassars date back to the 19th century and were specifically to fend off macassar oil, a common hair treatment for men at the time. The oil was supposedly imported from the district of Macassar on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, and was commercially advertised from 1809 as a men's hair tonic *infallible in promoting an abundant growth and in maintaining the early hue and lustre of the hair to the extent of human life*. Brylcream had the same effect in the 20th century!

The utility is evinced by preserving the hair from falling off or changing colour, and its elegance by producing the most smooth and beautiful gloss ever known. Thus to the fairest and most amiable part of the creation it must prove an invaluable advantage, its virtues being so great an auxiliary to heighten their charms.

In the early 1800s a Mr Alexander Rowland of Hatton Garden in London, invented an *unguent for the hair*. He claimed it was based on sweet oils imported from Macassar or Makassar, a seaport on the island of Celebes (now Sulawesi in Indonesia). It was basically oil from the seeds of a tree that these days is believed to be *Schleichera oleosa*, the kusum tree or Ceylon oak, with the addition of olive oil and other oils, but was not necessarily from Macassar, as the tree grows in Nepal and India.

In Victorian and Edwardian times desperate housewives began to cover the arms and backs of their chairs with washable cloths to prevent the fabric coverings from being soiled. Around 1850, these started to be known as antimacassars.



Victorian antimacassars



They were usually made of stiff white crochet-work, but in the 1860s they became simpler and softer, usually fabric embroidered with a simple pattern in wool or silk. They often had elaborate patterns, in matching sets for the various items of parlour furniture. At first, they

were simply ordinary cloths, but subsequently became quite elaborate, using a variety of techniques such as crochet or tatting, or were simply purchased.



Early English sailors



The modern sailor



Use in children's clothing

Interestingly, the name also refers to the cloth flap or collar on a sailor's shirt or top, with the large shoulder covering designed to catch drips of Macassar oil from the hair, especially when the sailors wore their hair in pigtails. However, where sailors before the early 1800s time did not have that feature on their uniforms, sailors today still maintain the collar on some rank and file uniforms – even though they now shave their heads! Tradition dies hard!!!!

Patsy Moppett

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What are antimacassars? www.wisegeek.com

www.worldwidewords.com

Community events & updates

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS 27th AUGUST 2020



CORONAVIRUS
Covid-19

Roads to COVID recovery

As the COVID19 threat eases, individuals and organisations are slowly getting back into the swing of things. Each organization is undertaking their own interpretation of government advice, and many are being particularly conservative as a safety measure. Better to be safe than sorry!

As museums, historical societies and heritage groups reopen, BMACHO will attempt to keep you up to date with specific members' activities. Where BMACHO has not been advised of progress within your organization, please contact your group's Committee. Some information available at the writing of this Newsletter is as follows:

BMACHO: Has commenced its monthly meetings, with the first being at Springwood on June 5th. Our Blue Mountains History Conference has been rescheduled for Saturday 8th

May 2021, so pencil in that date! Our team coordinators for the next 12 months are as follows:

- Heritage Newsletter Editor – Patsy Moppett
- Blue Mountains History Journal Editor – Peter Rickwood
- Membership Secretary/Public Officer/Calendar Editor – Dick Morony
- Correspondence Secretary – Jan Koperberg
- Grants Officer – Kate O'Neill
- BMACHO and GBMHT website co-ordinator – Jan Koperberg
- BMACHO and GBMHT Facebook Co-ordinator – Jan Koperberg
- BMACHO and GBMHT Instagram Co-ordinator – Kate O'Neill
- Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee – Fiona Burn, Suzanne Smith, Jan Koperberg, Kate O'Neill, Patsy Moppett
- Blue Mountains History Conference 2021 sub-committee – Patsy Moppett, Summar Hipworth, Rod Stowe, Jan Koperberg, Phil Hammon
- Events and venue organiser – Suzanne Smith

Glenbrook: The History Walks program recommenced on 6th June, so contact Doug Knowles for further information on 02 4751 3275, as bookings are essential.

The Convict Project (Great North Road): All sections of the road are now officially open to visitors. As restrictions on travel and assemblies are further lifted, they will post information on new events and trips. www.convicttrail.com.au

Hobby's Reach and Blue Mounts Historical Society: Due to the ongoing COVID19 restrictions, the Society has been closed, but reopened on Tuesday 23rd June 2020. Opening days and hours are the same as always, but there will be strict protocols in place in keeping with the CovidSafe management plan lodged with NSW Health. It goes without saying that if you feel unwell or are suffering even the very mildest of cold or flu-like symptoms, please do not attend.

The Annual General Meeting was postponed and is now set down for Saturday 10th July 2020. To ensure compliance with COVID19 requirements, it is essential - if attending - to RSVP by 8th July via email or phone. This situation is regularly being reviewed. Please keep checking their web site at www.bluemountainhistory.com for updates.

National Trust: As advised by Rod Stowe, President Blue Mountains Branch, the National Trust Board has determined that all 2020 functions and activities should be postponed including those associated with the 75th anniversary celebrations. Consideration is being given to the re-opening of **Everglades House and Gardens** and **Norman Lindsay Gallery**. This will be dependent on whether it is financially viable to open each property and what steps may be necessary to comply with government guidelines. At this stage, the Trust has decided that face to face Committee and Branch meetings should not be conducted nor should volunteers attend properties. Accordingly, the Branch conducted its first "Zoom" meeting in May and will continue to meet remotely until the current health emergency recedes. www.nationaltrust.org.au

Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society: The group had to cancel their March General Meeting and postpone the April Pansy Tour. As of 30th May, all other planned activities are on hold until further notice. Please check their website for updates. www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

RAHS: The RAHS advises that they are currently making changes to the layout of History House that will allow researchers to use the library resources and enable them to facilitate workshop events. They will also be announcing some good news on new online resources that will be available to members shortly. www.rahs.org.au

Museums & Galleries NSW: MGNSW advise that, for NSW, the opening of museums and galleries has been scheduled for step two of the Federal Government's 3-Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia. MGNSW has provided a comprehensive resource which addresses ways and means to guide your museum or gallery towards a safe

reopening. The document includes links to official Government advice; developing a timeline and strategy for re-opening; precautions to make your space COVID safe; ways to support staff and volunteers; and links to useful resources. Museums & Galleries of NSW is also conducting a survey of museums, galleries and Aboriginal Cultural Centres within the state to ascertain the economic and operational effects that the shutdown and continued restrictions are having. See www.mgnswn.org.au

Libraries: Libraries are already planning the task of reopening, with state, territory and local governments indicating an easing of restrictions in the coming weeks. Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has created a strategic checklist which includes information on staff support, services that need to be phased in (or out), communications planning, and safety precautions. Contact your local library to ascertain their plans.

Scenic World: Whilst the Government has announced regional travel is allowed from 1st June, Scenic World was able to confirm their reopen date as 26th June 2020. Their reopening plans have been formulated through the current Government guidelines and restrictions to ensure they open safely and deliver the best visitor experience for guests. Further information is available via their website and social media. www.scenicworld.com.au

Woodford Academy: The venue is closed until at least 30th June. Please contact the Academy for further updates. Email: woodfordacademy@gmail.com

Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway: The museum hopes to reopen to the public from 1st August 2020, one day per week. Pre-booked tours only with names and contact details (phone or email) provided by all visitors as part of the booking. Tour groups will be limited to nine (9) for the time being. www.statemine.org.au
Email: statemine@lisp.com.au

The above information is provided by BMACHO as it comes to hand but be aware that things are changing day to day. Websites have been provided above where possible to enable readers to keep abreast of COVID heritage recoveries.

Stay safe, and we hope to catch up with everyone soon!

Patsy Moppett

History Hound

Some people have not been idle during the virus shutdowns!! Keith Painter, author, experienced bushwalker and Individual BMACHO Member, has created a series on his Mountain Mist Books website called "**Blue Mountains History Hound**" where he can make available various articles, some too big for historical society newsletters and too small for books, and others which will be rewrites of items he has had in newsletters. During the past 25 years Keith has been researching bushwalking tracks and other Blue Mountains History, he has found a few mysteries, and sometimes one find has raised further questions.

Keith feels it has been his privilege to have solved a number of these mysteries, found answers to questions and, on a few occasions, rewritten our understanding of some aspect of local history. Some of these topics will be covered in Blue Mountains History Hound reports.

The reports will be in PDF format for you to download. Please respect the fact that they are copyright and do ask him if you want to reproduce anything.

The first article went live in mid May:

- History Hound No. 1: *What lies beyond Dunn's leap?*
- History Hound No. 2: *Where is the Lieutenant Moberly plaque?* This article relates to Keith's article in BMACHO Newsletter (Issue 66) about the banquet in 1899 to open the Govetts Leap track.
- History Hound No. 3: *Where is Mount Victoria's Fern Cave?*
- History Hound No. 4: *The Mystery of Diggers' Bridge.*
- History Hound No.5: *Did a printer's mistake name a waterfall?"*

Patsy Moppett

The link to the downloadable PDF files is as follows:

<http://www.mountainmistbooks.com/blue-mountains-history-hound.asp>

If you would like to be notified when a new History Hound is posted please email Keith at greatguides@mountainmistbooks.com

Note: The website also contains details as regards all Keith's other publications and their availability.

War Memorial Funding 2020

A new round of funding is now available for war memorial conservation projects in NSW. In response to stakeholder feedback in light of the COVID19 situation, the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs has adjusted the NSW Government's Community War Memorials Fund biannual application rounds.



Woodford's Memorial Park



Village of Neville



Bathurst Army Camp, Kelso

The application dates in 2020 are:

- Round 1: Opened Saturday 25th April 2020 (Anzac Day) – Closes 5pm Monday July 27th 2020.
- Round 2: Opens Wednesday 11th November 2020 (Remembrance Day) – Closes Thursday 11th February 2021.

Therefore, Round 1 is currently open. Eligible organisations can apply online for grants of up to \$10,000 to conserve local war memorials in NSW. Funds can be requested for conservation advice or for physical work to care for war memorials.

Further information about the Community War Memorials Fund can be found on the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs website at <https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/community-war-memorials-fund/>

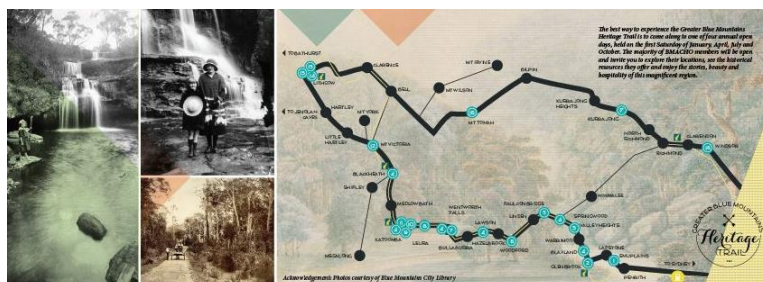
Blue Mountains Gazette

Blue Mountains History Society advises that they have been gifted bound volumes of past Blue Mountains Gazettes and they are retaining complete years' worth from 1963 to date (as far as possible - there are a few gaps, of course).

However, they have a lot of excess volumes, mainly from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000-2015s (in some cases multiple copies). They are generally bound in monthly sets.

If you or any of your contacts might be interested in some or any of the volumes, please contact the Society at bmha@bluemountainshistory.com

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. At present participation in the Trail is partially on hold due to the corona virus situation, and activities are of course limited. The Trail is normally an ideal activity for the kids and grandkids, be it in the school holidays or any weekend! The 2019 trail brochures can still be collected at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres which have remained open.

*If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email the BMACHO Secretary at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au
For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see heritagedrive.com.au or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail
To find out more about BMACHO visit www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au*

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Penrith. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
 2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
 3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.
- One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

Affiliations: BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Publications: BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

Membership: The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow – Eskbank House Museum and Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society Inc; The Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum; Woodford Academy Management Committee; Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Dr Peter Rickwood & Dr Robert Strange.

Committee: The management committee for 2020-2021 (from March 2020) is: Rod Stowe (President); Patsy Moppett (Vice President and Newsletter Editor), Fiona Burn (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith (Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Jan Koperberg (Correspondence Secretary), Summar Hipworth, Kate O'Neill, Roy Bennett.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, and Suzanne Smith, Kate O'Neill, Patsy Moppett.

Blue Mountains History Conference sub-committee: Patsy Moppett, Jan Koperberg, Summar Hipworth, Phil Hammon, Rod Stowe.

Disclaimer: views and opinions expressed in Heritage originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.