

Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

BMACHO acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The Social Status of English Migrants: Booth's Poverty Maps of London

Introduction

Class distinction flourishes in many parts of the world and even still exists in Australia to some extent. People of all classes came to Australia in the 19th century both willingly as emigrants looking for an improved life style, and unwillingly to be held in custody for terms of 7 or 14 years. Those of us who had such ancestors may well not know the social level of their predecessor(s) but if those descendants formerly resided at a known address in London then their original status might be ascertained quite easily.

Charles Booth

The ship owner and social reformer, Charles James Booth (1840-1916) (Figure 1) was the second son of Charles Booth and Emily Fletcher, affluent committed Unitarians based in Liverpool. [Charles Booth junior is not to be confused with the founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth (1829-1912), the second son of five children born to Samuel Booth and Mary Moss.]

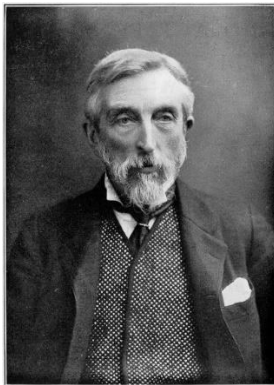


Figure 1: Charles James Booth



The poor of London

Charles Booth junior was a corn merchant who sent his son to the Royal Institution School in Liverpool until he reached the age of sixteen when he was apprenticed to Lamport and Holt's shipping company. In 1862 Charles joined his eldest brother Alfred in the commission business dealing principally in skins and leather. Using £20,000 inherited from their father, the brothers set up offices in both Liverpool and New York. Charles quickly became the

leader of the partnership although the name of the firm remained as Alfred Booth and Company. They diversified into shipping and they transported skins and leather between Latin America, New York and Liverpool.

In the late 1860s Charles Booth made a failed attempt to become the Liberal parliamentary representative for Liverpool and while canvassing for votes he encountered the squalor of some suburbs which led him to advocate for reform. His business work entailed frequent visits to London where in 1884 'he undertook to assist in the allocation of the Lord Mayor of London's Relief Fund, by analysing census returns'. He was convinced that the report of the analysis of that data exaggerated the extent of poverty when it reported that a quarter of London's population so lived.

Social Research

With many others, in 1886 he commenced research to establish the 'true' situation, work that extended until 1903 and which he mostly funded. Observations were made by investigators accompanying policemen on their beats around London and over 2,500 interviews conducted with business owners, workers, trade union officials, and clergymen of different denominations. The survey also gathered information on the 'unoccupied classes' and the inmates of institutions such as workhouses. Booth and his team of researchers visited almost every street in London to assess each household's class – an enormous task.

That work led to the publication of a book entitled 'Life and Labour of the People in London (London: Macmillan, 1902-1903)' issued in 17 volumes which were released serially over 15 years.

In 2016, the London School of economics Library acquired the Archive of Charles Booth's Inquiry consisting of over 450 volumes of interviews, questionnaires, observations and statistical information. It documents the social and economic life of London, highlighting all of its contrasts, complexities and contradictions. The archive also shows how Booth and his research team developed new methodologies and techniques in what is now recognised as a key milestone in the development of social research techniques.

Booth's research revealed that the true extent of the poor in London was even higher than had been reported previously, correctly being that 35% of the London population were living in abject poverty at that time.

Arising from that investigation were 'Maps Descriptive of London Poverty', a second series of 12 being produced in the 1898-99 period. Booth's maps were based on observations of differences in lifestyle and focussed on qualitative factors: food, clothing, shelter, and relative deprivation.



Figure 2: Charles Booth's poverty map of Lambeth, London

Subsequently Charles Booth's poverty maps were combined and that single map was digitised eg. Figure 2. In that form it can be searched for a particular address (top left), a key to the colour coding can be inserted on the left hand side via a button (bottom left), the map

can be changed via a slider (bottom middle) to reveal a current street map, and the map can be resized via buttons (bottom right).

For this work Charles Booth received many honours but he declined a knighthood.

In part Booth's research has been deemed not to meet modern standards, but his maps do allow assessment of the sort of life style led by 19th Century people living in a particular street in London. As the last batch of convicts reached Fremantle in 1868 these poverty maps are not going to be of use in assessing the social origins of convicts, but they do give an idea of the conditions formerly lived in by the many migrants from London who arrived in Australia between about 1880 and World War 1.

Peter C. Rickwood

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From the Editor

When one commences to research a topic it is very hard sometimes to stay focussed on the job at hand, the central thread. John Low once told me about "rabbit holes"! These are those

side stories that crop up along the way, which each in themselves comprises a whole new tale. In looking at the history of the *Regentville* estate at Penrith we could look at Thomas Jamison and his fortunes in the First Fleet, and the loss of the ship *Syrius*, then Thomas's son John Jamison, and the expansion of the colony of New South Wales. There are the experiences of the many who lived, worked or visited Regentville during its time, the construction and nature of the *Regentville* property and the mysterious fire. But what of the signatures on the artworks of *Regentville* – who were W Wilson, Conrad Martens and JS Clark and what were their stories? Straight away we have rabbit holes! So where to begin? Read on!!

Funding for heritage organisations is currently available for various projects from Museums and Galleries NSW and Transport NSW, details to be found in the following pages, along with how you can promote your organisation through the History Council's 2023 History Week program, *Voices from the Past*.

The BMACHO Blue Mountains History Conference is reported upon and we look forward to determining a theme and planning for the next conference in 2025.

An interesting contribution from Peter Rickwood this time explains the Poor Maps of London – one man's amazing attempt to document the true state of London in the late 1800s. This is an eye-opening account and worth further research by the reader.

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum are staging their inaugural *Blue Mountains Steam FunFest!* This will be a great day out for the family as a full day's activities will be available at the Museum site. The editor and family will be there so will be looking out for you!

Blue Mountains Family History Society has also advised of some of their up and coming events and welcome the community to participate.

BMACHO has revamped their *Calendar of Events* so take advantage of this opportunity to let us know what your organisation is up to.

BMACHO has also undertaken an inventory of assets which has revealed a number of items available for disposal. Details are provided later in the Newsletter.

So, plenty to learn, and information about things to see and do this Newsletter. Hope you enjoy the read! Remember, contributions are always welcome.

If the past cannot teach the present the world has wasted a great deal of time.

Russell Hoban, author

Regentville Rabbit Holes

Thomas Jamison

One could say that the story of the *Regentville* estate at Penrith came from First Fleet beginnings, as Thomas Jamison served as a surgeon's mate on HMS *Sirius*, embarking for Australia with the First Fleet in 1787. He was born in Ireland in 1753 to William and Mary (nee Fisher) Jamison. His early marriage in about 1775 was to Rebecca Young and three children followed, Mary, John and Jane. He studied to become a surgeon and decided to join the Royal Navy. He became a surgeon's mate on the newly named ship *Sirius* in 1786, which had been assigned to attend the First Fleet to New South Wales. The *Sirius* was originally the merchant ship *Berwick*, which was refitted out as *HMS Berwick* in early 1782 by the Royal Navy.

Jamison set foot in New South Wales in January 1788 with the Fleet under Captain Arthur Phillip, the colony's first governor. Shortly after their arrival, Phillip sent a detachment of guards, convicts and naval personnel, including Jamison to Norfolk Island to establish an ancillary colony on the island, purportedly to prevent the French laying claim to the island. Jamison was appointed as surgeon to the Norfolk Island colony, and he performed this role for the next decade despite being hindered in his work by a persistent lack of logistical support from Sydney.

On 19th March 1790, Jamison was amongst many who witnessed HMS *Sirius* with Captain John Hunter at the helm, shipwrecked on a reef near Norfolk Island. The ship was lost after it got into difficulties during a supply operation. Eleven months would elapse before another ship reached the isolated colonists. During his sojourn on Norfolk, Jamison lived with a mistress, Elizabeth Colley, by whom he had numerous illegitimate offspring.

Elizabeth Colley was born in 1765 and was found guilty in 1784 at the Old Bailey, London, of receiving stolen goods. Sentenced to 14 years transportation, she embarked for New South Wales on the *Lady Penhryn* in January 1787, arriving in the colony in January 1788 as part of the First Fleet. She had delivered a stillborn baby on 6 January 1787 while at sea. Colley was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Supply* in February 1788. She had five children there, thought to have been fathered by Thomas Jamison. She received a conditional pardon in 1797 and in 1801 was marked '*gone to England*', possibly with Jamison in 1799.

Jamison returned to New South Wales and after having gone to London to seek support, and came back to the colony on the *Hercules* in 1802 to become the principal surgeon to the colony in 1805. He established another relationship with a Susannah Please (alias Sarah Place) with whom he is believed to have had a child, Thomas Tristian Place, born in 1808. Susannah was sentenced to seven years transportation and arrived in Sydney in 1806 aboard the *William Pitt*. She eventually undertook a life-long relationship with one Thomas Newman and died in 1843.

Thereafter, Jamison was able to lead a small medical team which performed the colony's first successful vaccination of children against smallpox, and he also sought to set in place a system whereby surgeons could only be fit to practice in the colony following a test of their qualifications, citing former convict, surgeon William Redfern. He became a magistrate, and also a landowner, taking up 1,000 acres on the Nepean River, (later called *Regentville*) where he utilized assigned labour to raised livestock and grew crops. He was involved in the lucrative rum trade with John Macarthur and others and supported them in the overthrow of William Bligh. He had his own bone to pick with Bligh, who had refused him leave to return to England to bring his family out to New South Wales.

Jamison left Sydney for London in 1809 to safeguard his financial affairs and testify against Bligh at any legal proceedings. He fell ill during 1810, his condition deteriorated, and he died on 25th January 1811, and was buried in the graveyard of the Anglican Church of St Mary, Paddington Green, London. His original wife Rebecca, survived him by many years, seeing out her days living quietly in Ireland, dying in 1838. She was awarded a government pension as a result of the efforts of her son, Sir John Jamison, who had vigorously pursued her case with the relevant authorities. Thomas Jamison had also made provision for Elizabeth Colley and their daughters, in addition to his son born in New South Wales, mothered by Sarah Place.



Thomas Jamison



Loss of the *Sirius*, Norfolk Island 1790



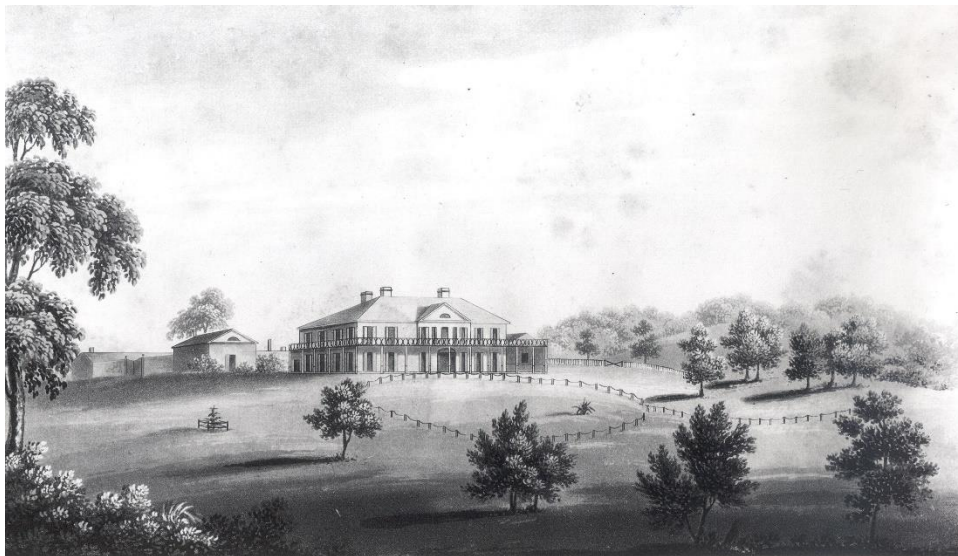
John Jamison

John Jamison

Thomas's son John, born to Thomas and Rebecca, was known as a physician, landowner and constitutional reformer. He was born in Antrim, Ireland, in 1776 and after a medical education at the University of St Andrews, he joined the navy serving in many parts of the world, including in the Napoleonic War. In 1809, he was instrumental in curbing a serious outbreak of scurvy in the Swedish navy. This work was carried out in the face of great

opposition and ignorance, and in May 1813 he was appointed a knight bachelor by the Prince Regent.

After an illness, Thomas Jamison sold all his NSW properties to his son John for 5 shillings! Upon the death of his father, John Jamison took possession of several grazing properties close to Sydney, including the 1,000 acre property near Penrith, together with some city property. He arrived in Sydney in the *Broxbornebury* in 1814 to look after his interests as the first titled settler, and soon became associated with the public and official affairs of the colony, accompanying Governor Lachlan Macquarie on his visit to the interior in June 1815. In 1817 he was one of the founders of the Bank of New South Wales. Despite Macquarie having some apprehensions due to Jamison's disruptive influences, Jamison was made a Justice of the Peace in 1819, but it was not until 1837 that he was able to take his seat in the Legislative Council.



Regentville 1833: by J Clark

Over the next few years, he progressively added to his Penrith estate, via grant and purchase. The actual site on which his villa was erected was on 600 acres purchased from the Reverend Robert Cartwright. Jamison at first lived in a cottage that had been constructed by his father but in 1823 he commenced to build a fine mansion that would be more appropriate to his role in colonial society. The house took at least two years to build, and Jamison named it '*Regentville*', in honour of the Prince Regent who had knighted him in 1813.

Regentville was a model property with vineyards, an irrigation scheme, and a woollen mill built about 1842. Governor Darling declared in 1829 that Jamison held the largest stake in the colony, by the 1830s having grazing runs on the Namoi and Richmond Rivers, about 11,000 acres (4452 ha) at Bathurst and over 18,000 acres (7284 ha) at Capertee.

He was a founder and president of the old Sydney Turf Club in 1825-27 and of its successor, the Australian Racing and Jockey Club formed in 1828. He was patron of the Hawkesbury Racing Club in 1829 and had his own racecourse at Penrith. He was a founder in 1822 and president for many years of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of New South Wales, he was one of the founders and a president of Sydney College (later Sydney Grammar School) in 1830, and a life member of the Benevolent Society. He was a Mason, and a keen observer of natural history.

He provided for his servants and tenants by establishing an Irish graveyard, now located in Jamisontown, and a Methodist chapel.

Sir John Jamison entertained lavishly both at his town house and at his country estate, always extending hospitality to visitors to the colony, for whom he arranged outings, picnics and other diversions. He hosted sumptuous parties and balls, supplied from the resources of

his own estate. He lived like a genial and prosperous English squire, earning by his unlimited bounty the appropriate title, 'the hospitable Knight of *Regentville*'.



Regentville 1835: by William Henry Wilson



Trade card for WH Wilson



Regentville 1838: sketch by Conrad Martens

Jamison chose a site on a rise with views across the Nepean River to Emu Plains. He cleared land and laid out a park around his house, put up fences, improved pastures, imported English horses for breeding, raised cattle and sheep, grew a variety of crops, fruits and vegetables, and planted a successful vineyard. He imported a steam engine in the 1830s to drive an irrigation pump. He also constructed a winery, a multi storied tweed/woollen mill, various cottages, a dam and many small farms let out to mostly Irish tenants (see Heritage Newsletter No. 86 May-June 2023 p. 9 regarding Joseph Douglass). In addition, the estate possessed a windmill, which may have been constructed by Jamison's father. He employed many convict labourers, and the property became almost a village in itself.

Although he cohabited with various women to whom he was not married, his title ensured his acceptance in polite society and amongst the many that he entertained were both the famous and the politically important.

He had a relationship with one Catherine Cain/Caine and one daughter was born in 1819 in Sydney. Another partner was Elizabeth Allott (Owen), to whom a son was born in 1825 in Parramatta.

However, in February 1844, shortly before his death, he married his housekeeper Mary Griffiths by whom he had already had two sons and five daughters. Thus, she was able to become Lady Mary Griffiths/Jamison. The eldest son, Robert Thomas (1829-1878), was a member of the first three parliaments under responsible government. John Jamison died on 29th June 1844, comparatively poor through the failure of the Bank of Australia, in which he was the second largest shareholder. He is buried in St Stephen's churchyard, Penrith. At his death in 1844, his wife Mary and their six children were left with very few assets. An attempt at sale of the property (1,500 acres) was made unsuccessfully in 1847. The family then moved to Penrith in 1853 after the marriage of daughter Rebecca.

The *Regentville* estate passed to his children and the husband of his daughter Jane, William Russell, managed the estate. The land was gradually sold off in separate parcels, following an acrimonious inheritance dispute.

Mary died at Hunter's Hill in 1874, aged 74.

Regentville – the seat of John Jamison

The grand mansion of Sir John Jamison was described by the many who travelled nearby or passed through its doors, as a noble mansion, the palace of *Regentville*, the seat of Sir John Jamison, a handsome stone edifice, a splendid mansion. Its shortcomings were also noted in that it stood on a rise out of sight of the Nepean River [perhaps this is in error – opinion seems to vary!], and a lack of shade with the surrounding land having been completely cleared. Another declared it was as uncomfortable as one would expect from a sailor and a bachelor, and the bed bugs were most disconcerting!

Jamison employed a great many workers during the building phase as well as for the ongoing operation of the property. His employees included house servants and cooks, a blacksmith, a millwright, a stonemason, a cooper, several carpenters, a dairyman, a ploughman, a tanner and a superintendent. Jamison reserved his arable river flats for tenants, often former convicts. Most tenants worked at other jobs to supplement their incomes from *Regentville*. Jamison was a hard task master, as many discovered, including a younger Henry Parkes in 1839-40, who claimed that food and accommodation were poor. Parkes worked there in Jamison's later years, when Sir John's fortunes had dwindled. Jamison died in 1844 and within a few years the place had gone to rack and ruin.

Generally, such large estates were in decline during this period, with the end of convict labour. The estates had outlived their time and more specialized agriculture was on the rise with more inland grazing, as large pastoral stations were opened up out west. Gradually the estates were subdivided as land was in demand for housing and smaller farms, with needs relating to town services and goods.

Regentville was built of grey freestone in two storeys of Grecian architecture with a cellar underneath, the foundation stone being laid on September 9th 1823. Cedar woodwork and marble fireplaces were significant features. It had a central building and two wings. It was advertised for sale in 1847, to be sold by auction by Mr. Lyons at his mart on Tuesday the 21st December, and was described as being:

..... substantially built of stone, with a tasteful Colonnade in front and on each side, surmounted with an Iron Balcony from which there is a delightful prospect of the adjacent country. It contains an Entrance Hall and 15 Rooms: Drawing-rooms 1, Dining 1, Breakfast 1, study 1, Library and Cabinet, 9 Bed-rooms. The principal stair-case is also stone built and circular. A wash-house and laundry are attached, and there are spacious cellars under the House.

THE RIGHT WING consists of an immense coach-house, with store above.

THE LEFT WING contains the Billiard-room.

THE OUT-OFFICES are also stone-built. and consist of two kitchens and a bake-house, communicating with the house by a covered way, a servants' hall and seven bed-rooms adjoining; the whole being under one roof. All the above offices are contained within an area of 180 feet [55mj square, enclosed by a substantial stone wall about 10 feet high. In the rear of the foregoing, adjoining the wall. are the handsome stone stables, which consist of one ten-stall and one four-stall, with three large boxes and two harness-rooms. The lofts are over the whole of the above stabling The stable yard is enclosed by a

paling [fence], and contains also three loose boxes, slab built, with loft over them. At the back lies the garden covering about four acres, full of choice fruit trees, etc, and containing the gardener's house. In the rear of the garden, a shed is partitioned off, and railed in to accommodate about thirty colts; it is well secured by a substantial fence, and has a paddock attached, which contains stockyards and drafting yards.

Row housing was constructed for the workers of the woollen mill which were later purchased in the 1930's by the Addicott family who renovated and converted them into a single dwelling.



Regentville Workers' Terrace

After the Jamisons

An approximate timeline is as follows, which demonstrates the demise of the property:

- 1844 - John Jamison dies.
- 1847 - *Regentville* offered unsuccessfully for sale.
- Mary and children left *Regentville* in 1853.
- The mill manager is known to have lived in *Regentville* at some time.
- Early 1860s leased by Frederick Bell for use as a lunatic asylum until 1863.
- 1863 leased as Abel's Family Hotel.
- From 1865 – John Shiels catered for tourists at *Regentville*, leasing as Shiel's Family Hotel and holiday guest house.
- 1869 – fire destroys the property. Shiels testified that he had tried to get rid of the lease, which still had 10 years to run, and had under-insured the house.
- 1876 - Thomas J Jamison gave 2 acres for a school site about ¼ of a mile from the ruins site in what is now Regentville the suburb.
- 1879-80 – from this time the majority of the land was sold off.
- 1914 land from the old estate was bought by George Jessup who established a dairy.
- 1933 Jessup sold his land to Thomas Stein who continued the dairy.
- 1950s – the property was sold to the NSW government.

The fire

The fire of 1869 which destroyed the mansion (by then known as Shiels Family Hotel) occurred in mysterious circumstances. The details of what happened on the night of the fire in May 1869 were recorded during an inquest into the incident, it occurring between midnight and 1am.

The fire broke out in the upper storey. There were only two maids in the house at the time of the fire, Martha Wilcox and Ellen Hogan, who were woken by the sound of crackling in the adjoining room. They rushed outside just in time, where they saw the flames. One old man, Robert Chapman, was asleep in an adjoining building, and Mrs Shiel's mother Eliza McLean was also asleep in a rear building. Both Martha and Ellen assured the court that all candles had been extinguished before they went to bed.

Many local residents and farm employees arrived but all they could do was watch as the house was destroyed, and many said that they could not see how the roof of shingles covered with iron could have caught alight naturally. It was completely gutted with only the main walls remaining standing. A pianoforte and some minor furniture articles were rescued by the onlookers from the ground floor, but all other contents were destroyed. Mr Shiels was away in the Mountains at his Woodford property (now the Woodford Academy) and Mrs Shiels was staying with a friend in Penrith. An assessor had been at the house that day listing all the contents for an auction which had already been proposed for a week later to dispose of the household furniture, lease license and goodwill of the hotel. The inquest heard from Martha Wilcox that some furniture had been removed from the house to Woodford but that this was a common occurrence. The fire appeared to start in the area of the laundry, but the two women heard nothing untoward before the fire started. One Dr Willmott was heard to mention that the fire '*should have occurred about three months ago*', and that this would have suited John Shiels who had just paid his insurance premium. When questioned John Shiels went to great lengths to explain that he was drunk back up at Woodford the night before. He made suggestions about others who might have had a grudge against him, and how he had always warned Martha Wilcox about her candles. The court concluded in the inquest that "*.... the house was wilfully and maliciously set on fire by some person or persons unknown*"

The archaeological remains

In 1879 when the land was finally sold, the stone and the remains of the house were withheld from the sale. The remaining buildings were demolished, and the stone re-used in a number of buildings and road works in and around Penrith, such as street gutters, and in the Red Cow Inn. Butcher William Dent utilized some of the blocks for his property *Ormonde* in High Street, and when demolishing the rafters of the mansion he found a bottle of gold and silver coins hidden in a wall cavity.



Regentville ruins in 1920s

In 1928 a photograph was taken of the ruins of the house that showed sandstone walls over two metres in height and rubble, still in place. It seems likely that removal of materials through to about the 1960s continued, until an amusement park was built on the site (now gone).

Archaeological excavations were conducted by the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology of the University of New England and the Department of Archaeology of the University of Sydney and lasted from 5th to 25th May 1985. Direction was jointly managed by Graham Connah and by Judy Birmingham. Overall, the conclusions revealed nothing particularly new which could not be sourced from historical research of the site.



A Royal Australian Historical Society group visits the site in 1929



Regentville ruins 2002

Today, only the house's cellars and drains survive, along with some meagre sections of its masonry walls. Sir John's tweed mill has disappeared, too, but the overgrown terracing of the estate's vineyard can still be discerned.

However, a wealth of written diaries, some photographs and sketches, and several newspaper articles exist where historical research can reveal the premises in all its glory and illustrate how the operation of an early agricultural property and seat of luxury living were able to be established so early in the colony.

The area around and including the small rural village of Regentville was gazetted as a suburb in 1970.

The artists

Early sketches of the house were commissioned in the 1830s by a variety of artists, including J Clark, Conrad Martens and William Wilson, and these have been depicted in this article.

J Clark - there is little information available. There are several artists around by this name during the period, both in London and Sydney, but they do not fit the time frames for when the *Regentville* picture was created in 1833. One John Heaviside Clark (1771-1863) was known as an aquatint engraver and landscape painter, working mainly in London, but his biographical dates vary somewhat in different sources. He was known to carry out work on Australian landscapes through sketches done by other local Australian artists, including John Lewin.

Conrad Martens was born in 1801 to Austrian parents in London. By 1816 he was determined to pursue a career as an artist studying landscape painting. In 1832 he joined HMS *Hyacinth* on a three-year voyage to India as a topographical artist. Near the end of 1833 he joined HMS *Beagle*, where an artist was required to replace the ship's artist Augustus Earle who had fallen ill. While on board Martens struck up a lifelong friendship with Charles Darwin. Martens left the *Beagle* and arrived in Sydney 1835, where he found his pictures were appreciated in Sydney. He found constant employment and decided to remain. He went on to become one of the most proficient, prominent and prolific landscape artist in the colony. In late 1851 Martens sailed to Brisbane then travelled back by road across the Great Dividing Range to the Darling Downs, then south through New England to Sydney. En route, he lodged with squatters and pastoralists, drawing their houses and properties, and hoping for commissions. Martens died from a heart attack as a result of angina in 1878.

William Henry Wilson was an illustrator and wood-engraver who came to Sydney in 1828 where he took up premises as one of the few commercial artist-engravers in the town. Born in about 1795 in London he came to Sydney as a free settler in 1828, in the ship *Arab*, at the age of thirty-three. Wilson arrived with his wife Elizabeth (Richardson) and four children in steerage. He had a studio in George Street Sydney and was soon advertising. William and Elizabeth went on to have 5 more children in Sydney. William died aged 75 in 1867 at his residence, 394 Pitt Street South, Sydney.

Conclusions

So, a wealth of stories came from examining the subject of *Regentville* mansion, and even that covered above is the tip of the iceberg for each aspect. Many other directions could also be taken, such as examining the employees on the estate like Henry Parkes and Joseph Douglass. We could delve deeper into the loss of the *Sirius*, or the farming practices on the *Regentville* estate. We could look more closely at Thomas's medical career or look at John Jamison's political career. The list goes on! But for now, the above rabbit warren more than fills the pages of this Newsletter!

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William H. Wilson b. c.1795: Wikitree

William Wilson: British Map Engravers 2000

William Wilson, 1795–1867 (aged 72 years): Australian Royalty, Genealogy of the colony of New South Wales

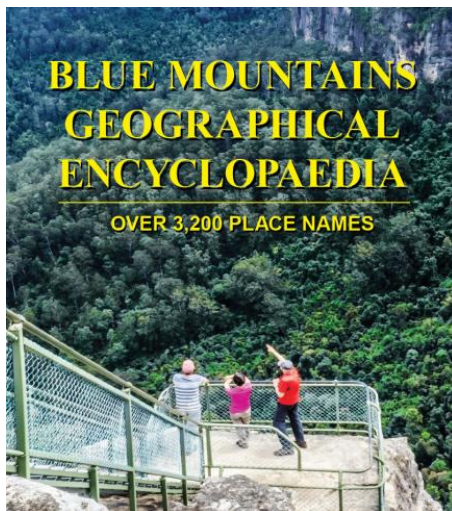
William Wilson, Engraver, &c.: Australian Prints and Printmaking

Book Review: *Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia*

By Brian Fox, Michael Keats and Yuri Bolotin – the Bushexplorers

How did the Hippocrene Falls get their name? What is the real story behind Singajingawell Creek? Who constructed The Squeeze at Medlow Bath and why?

Learn the answers to these intriguing questions and hear many more stories at a special 'Meet the Authors' event at the National Parks & Wildlife Service Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, on Saturday **15th July 2023 at 11 am.**



Hippocrene Falls

The event is to celebrate the release of the latest expanded edition of the *Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia* by the Bushexplorers. With over 3,200 names, this book is a must-have, whether you are a bushwalker, Blue Mountains resident or just curious about our history.

After the authors' talk, the Bushexplorers and authors Brian Fox, Michael Keats, John Fox and Yuri Bolotin will be on hand to answer your questions. This launch will also include a display of rare Blue Mountains maps as a means of illustrating some of the geographical place names.

Coffee and tea will be served. There is plenty of parking at the centre and Blackheath Railway Station is a short invigorating 15-minute walk.

This is a free event, but bookings are essential. Register online with Eventbrite.

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE OF *HERITAGE* is Friday 25th August 2023

Community events & updates

Blue Mountains Family History Society

The following activities are planned by the group:

- The next Blue Mountains Family History Society meeting will feature Ian Kendall with a presentation "*DNA: I have my ethnic ancestry, what can I do now?*" Members and visitors are welcome.

When: General Meeting 10.00am on Friday 14th July 2023

Where: At the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, 160 Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Cost: Free – and no need for bookings.

- During Family History Month in August the guest speaker will be Emily Hannah from State Records NSW. In addition, Vicki Edmunds from Blue Mountains Libraries will be presenting the Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards for articles submitted to "The Explorers' Tree" magazine in 2022.

Members and visitors are welcome.

When: General Meeting 10.00am on Friday 11th August 2023

Where: At the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, 160 Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Cost: Free – and no need for bookings.

Blue Mountains History Conference 2023

Wonderful to catch up with everyone at the BMACHO Conference on 6th May! And good to see lots of networking going on. The Conference was opened by Trish Doyle MP, Blue Mountains, who is known in Parliamentary circles as the "Train Lady", due to her support for community railway enthusiasts.



The presentations were quite interesting as we travelled along the railway through the Blue Mountains region from the 1850's to the early 1900's. Doug Knowles took us across the Nepean River at Penrith via the construction of the various bridges over the river which were lost to floods, and in particular the current rail bridge which dates to 1907, and the various navvie camps for workers who worked on the line. Mark Langdon took us back to the 1860's and the various lives of the Hartley Vale Railway Station, which served the shales mines in Hartley Vale near Lithgow, which ceased operation in 1914.

We were then taken out to Oberon by Greg Bourne who gave us the history of the Tarana to Oberon branch line which served the Oberon timber industry from 1884, and following its closure in 1923, subsequent efforts by the community up until the present day to conserve the line and reopen a section from Oberon back to Hazelgrove for tourist traffic.

David Griffiths related the history of the Richmond to Kurrajong Pansy Line, a popular walking tour with the community today. The line operated from 1926 to 1952, and there are many remnants of the line to be seen along the old rail route today.

From 1883, John Britty North operated a system of incline railway lines and branch lines down from Katoomba to his various mines in the valley below. Phil Hammon gave a very entertaining presentation, *Steam, Rails and Rope*, in regard to how these operated and the technicalities of getting heavy loads up and down the incline with steam, cable and horses.



Trish Doyle MP



Rod Stowe



David & Jenny Griffiths



Kerima-Gai Topp & John Brock



John Merriman & Stephen Davis



Kate O'Neill

Filling the gaps were Carolynne Cooper of the former Transport Signal and Communications Museum at Kurrajong, who told us about collecting railway memorabilia, and Keith and Mike from Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum with a story of the renovation of a refrigerated rail van which sits today in all its glory at the Valley Heights Depot. And last but certainly not least Kate O'Neill from the Woodford Academy drew some railway insights from the diary of Ettie McManamey, with a look at the social side of the railways and how significant it became in the lives of the Blue Mountains community.

What a journey! And notwithstanding some serious IT issues on the day which were beyond our control, a good time was had by all, and a few laughs were shared at the hazards of the digital world!!!

The raffle was won by Grant Holmes, who scored himself some lovely railway books, and trade tables provided plenty of other reading material for purchase and a chat.

Looking forward now to our next Conference in 2025.

Patsy Moppett

Springwood Library re-opens

The impressive refurbishment of Springwood Library is now complete and the doors to the new, light-filled space opened to the public on Monday 1st May 2023. To mark the opening of the upgraded new building, a Grand Opening event was held on Saturday 6th May.

We can now explore the redeveloped building, which features a range of upgrades that have resulted in a modern and welcoming library environment for the community, including new reading and study areas, meeting rooms, and an accessible lift. Stately, full-height windows on the south façade of the building also provide wonderful views over the mountains and allow more natural light to enter the library. The building also incorporates a brand-new Customer Service desk on the ground floor for Council enquiries.

Springwood Library is now also open seven days a week with extended hours: 10am to 6pm weekdays, and 10am to 4pm on weekends.

Blue Mountains Mayor Mark Greenhill has said:

Springwood Library is an important and much-loved, local branch of Blue Mountains Library. These upgrades have transformed the building into a modern and more accessible space for our community The new library building completes the redevelopment of this dynamic cultural precinct in the heart of Springwood, following the opening of the Blue Mountains Community Theatre & Hub in 2015.



Springwood Library is one of six branches of Blue Mountains Library. Other branches are located at Blackheath, Katoomba, Wentworth Falls, Lawson and Blaxland. The project was funded through the Western Parkland City Liveability Program which is a key commitment under the landmark Western Sydney City Deal between the Australian and NSW Governments and the eight councils of the Western Parkland City. Funding for the new fit-out was also provided by the NSW Government Public Library Infrastructure Grants, through the State Library of NSW.

For information on Blue Mountains Library locations and services including the new extended opening hours at Springwood, visit: www.library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

History Council of NSW: History Week 2023

History Week is the annual, state-wide celebration of History organised by the History Council of New South Wales.

History is often about giving a voice to people and events from the past, or about listening for voices in the historical record and amplifying the voices of storytellers.



The History Week theme for 2023, *Voices from the Past*, is an opportunity to engage with the histories of those who were often voiceless in the past such as women, migrants, workers, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sometimes these voices were once heard but now sit forgotten in archives. At other times they have been ignored or all but erased.

This History Week from **2nd to 10th September 2023** the History Council of NSW invites members to consider how we have – or haven't – listened to voices from the past.

Members can apply through the HCNSW to host History events relating to the annual theme. Previous events have included talks and lectures, behind the scenes tours and heritage trails, exhibitions and radio features, film festivals, open historic houses and gardens, book sales and launches.

In 2023, History Week will be launched on Friday 1st September at the NSW Premier's History Awards, an event run in partnership with the State Library of NSW, with other History Week events commencing on Saturday 2nd September.

You and your organisation can take advantage of the week and promote your organisation by hosting an event that you create, by hosting a History speaker through their Speaker Connect program and/or attending the NSW Premier's History Awards at the State Library of NSW and the History Council's Annual History Lecture. Your event will form part of the HCNSW's media campaign and be promoted in the History Week 2023 Program Event Calendar on their website. If you record your event, they will also feature it on their YouTube channel.

History Week events are open to public audiences. However, all organisations or individuals wishing to host a History Week event or take part in the History Week Speaker Connect program must be current members of the History Council of NSW. The History Council relies on the financial support of its members to deliver its annual programs.

Further information is available by contacting them at programs@historycouncilnsw.com

Transport Heritage Grants Program 2023

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), and supported by Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW).

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is run on an annual basis to support organisations in the NSW community by preserving, exploring and promoting the history of our state's heritage transport.



The 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program opened on 20th June 2023 and **closes on 8th August 2023 at 5pm.**

Applications are being accepted from heritage organisations and individuals in four categories:

- Restoration, reconstruction or preservation of a heritage transport item (organisations only);
- Exhibition, education, publication or interpretation of an event, item/s or person/s that will promote heritage transport (organisations only);
- Study, consultation, report or review that will assist in managing a heritage transport place or item;
- Projects with outcomes improving audience development, accessibility, and inclusion.

Applicants can apply for grants up to \$15,000. One grant of up to \$50,000 will also be awarded each year.

The 2023 Guidelines and Application Form can be found by visiting the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) website:

Any queries may be directed to the RAHS Grants Officer at grants@rahs.org.au

The Transport Heritage Grants Program is funded by the NSW Government and administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society with the support of Transport Heritage NSW.

Museums & Galleries of NSW - Volunteer Museum Grant Program – Small Grants

The Small Grants Program (Round 2) aims to meet the short-term, collection-based requirements of community museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces. There are no set categories for funding, and applications for a broad range of projects will be considered.

Museums & Galleries of NSW

Supported by the



Previous Small Grants have funded the purchase of computer cataloguing software, exhibition mannequins and display cases, oral history recording equipment and archival storage items. Small Grants are open to museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces (with object collections and displays) with up to two full time paid staff members (no more than 70 hours of paid staffing per week) as well as museum networks such as AMaGA Chapters. Amount available: Up to \$2,000.

Round 2 closing date: 10th September 2023.

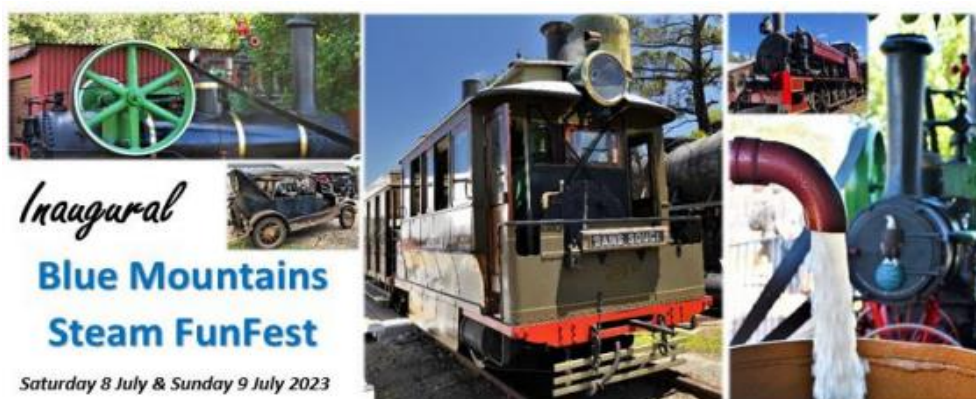
Applicants must contact M&G NSW to discuss their project, and they must read the 2023 guidelines before applying for this grant. Staff are available to provide advice on writing grant applications, developing a project, budgeting and sourcing appropriate consultants. First-time applicants and those unfamiliar with grant-writing are encouraged to get in contact for detailed and ongoing assistance.

Enquiries can be directed to: Museum Coordinator: Ph: 0411 742 665, Free Call: 1800 114 311 (regional only) or email: alicen@mgnsw.org

The Volunteer Museum Grant Program is a Create NSW devolved funding program, administered by Museums & Galleries of NSW (M&G NSW) on behalf of the NSW Government

Blue Mountains Steam FunFest

On Saturday 8th July and Sunday 9th July 2023, the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum and Valley Heights Steam Tramway are presenting the inaugural *Blue Mountains Steam FunFest*, with support from the Campbelltown Steam & Machinery Museum (CSMM) and the Model T Ford Club, at the Valley Heights Rail Museum. On both days, booked tickets will include rides on both the Sydney Steam Tram 103A and trailer, and also on the Valley Heights Mixed, with 'Stevo' leading — the first time ever that both will be running in public operations on the same day.



Also on display will be a range of steam powered machinery provided by the CSMM, and the Model T Ford Club will have some cars on display. They are planning some live music too. Come along and experience a day full of Steam Fun!

Tickets include:

- Museum Admission.
- Rides on the 130 year old Sydney Steam Tram and the 124 year old Steam Train.

- View the display of various steam powered machinery provided by the Campbelltown Steam & Machinery Museum.
- Display of prized cars by the Model T Ford Club. Some of these cars are just as old at the Steam exhibits that will feature in this first time event.

Be a part of this historic event which they hope will be an Annual Event in the calendar. Pre-booked tickets are essential.

For bookings and further inquiries please visit their website www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info
Or email: publicity@valleyheightsrailmuseum.info

BMACHO Calendar of Events

BMACHO has always prepared a Calendar of Events until recently. After a short break we are reintroducing the service for Members.

For addition to the Calendar of Events, Members should provide:

- the date/time of the event
- the name of the event
- the organisation holding the event
- the booking details where relevant
- contact details such as email, mobile etc

The event may simply be your monthly meeting and if you have a guest speaker, their name and presentation. Members could also provide your days of regular opening to the general public, and any special events. It is a way of "claiming the date" and may avoid clashing of dates between organisations.



Closer to each event you can provide more detail for BMACHO to email to Members and for uploading to the BMACHO and Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail websites and posting to both Facebook pages.

Please send information by the 20th of each month (or 12 months ahead if you have the information - you can always update if and when necessary). We will circulate the Calendar of Events on the 21st of each month.

Jan Koperberg

Information to be provided to: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

BMACHO items for sale

A recent inventory of BMACHO assets reveals a number of items available for disposal, as follows:

1. EQUIPMENT FOR SALE – make an offer

Dell Vostro/1520 Laptop

Serial No: CN-0T816J-12961-01V-04A5
Service Tag: 1207QRK1
Express Service Code: 5152631041
Windows 7 Pro OA installed
Product Key: Q478K-RB7H7-MC6QV-4JHBQ-BXCV3

Nikon Coolpix P50 Digital Camera with User's Manual, re-chargeable batteries and charger

8.1 mega-pixels, 3.6 x zoom. Camera in Lowepro bag with battery charger and camera/computer USB cord, all stored in a "Zak!" bag.

2. PUBLICATIONS - hardcopies available at DISCOUNTED prices

Journal Issue 3 (2012))	
Journal Issue 5 (2014))	
Journal Issue 6 (2015))	
Journal Issue 7 (2017))	All reduced to \$20 per copy (from \$35)
Journal Issue 9 (2019))	
Journal Issue 10 (2021))	
Journal Issue 11 (2023)*)	
Occasional Papers – <i>Heritage & the Internet</i> (2012))	
Occasional Papers – <i>Artefacts</i> (2016))	Reduced to \$10 per copy

*Journal Issue 11 incorrectly paginated, but all content intact.

Postage:

- Equipment – NA: collect from Jan by purchaser.
- Publications – the above prices do not include postage.

For expressions of interest contact Jan Koperberg, Correspondence Secretary, at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update

BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. The last of the 2019 brochures can still be collected at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres. The brochure is currently being reviewed and is not to be reissued until funds are available.

Reminder: It should be noted that due to a number of reasons such as Covid, fires and floods, some of the venues displayed on the current brochure may no longer be available. Two in particular are the Leura NSW Toy and Railway Museum at Leura and Ambergmere Restaurant at Little Hartley.

It should also be noted that Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust (BMERT) have changed their website and email address and although this cannot be updated as yet on the brochure, it has been updated on the Trail website (see below).

Should any business wish to be considered for inclusion in the next brochure, as a place of accommodation or an eating house along the trail route, please contact BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see <http://heritagedrive.com.au> or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail

To find out more about BMACHO visit <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypanra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Website: <http://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 City Library; 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; Eleanor Dark Foundation - Varuna Writers' House; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Historic Site, NPWS NSW; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; 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; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum; Woodford Academy Management Committee; Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

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

Committee: The management committee for 2022-2023 (from March 2022) is: Rod Stowe (President); Patsy Moppett (Vice President), Patsy Moppett (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Membership Secretary), Jan Koperberg (Public Officer/Correspondence Secretary/ Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Roy Bennett, Fiona Burn.

Finance sub-committee: Jan Koperberg, Fiona Burn, Ian Kendall.

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.