

# BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY JOURNAL

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations



Issue 12

June 2024

*photo: Brian Fox*

**Cover photograph:** *Bonnie Doon, 33 Moore St., Glenbrook*

# **Blue Mountains History Journal**

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# BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY JOURNAL

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## CONTENTS

Editorial	Peter C. Rickwood	iii
Francis Bertie Boyce (1844–1931), Archdeacon of Sydney, and resident of Blackheath.	Peter C. Rickwood	1
The Civilian Life of Robert Henry Reynolds (1834-1913)	Peter C. Rickwood & Joan E. Steele	15
John Colquhoun Dunn (1862-1947) of Glenbrook	Michael Keats, OAM & Brian K. Fox	35
Signature Rock graffiti, Alice Louisa Cave, Porters Pass, Blackheath.	Brian K. Fox	45
A noteworthy WW2 Red Cross volunteer at Blackheath - Miss Mary Huie (1896-1945).	Peter C. Rickwood & Joan E. Steele	53
BMACHO, foundation, aims and objectives.	Jan Koperberg, OAM	63
Cumulative List of Published Issues 1-11		67

## EDITORIAL

Issue 12 contains seven papers; four of which relate to the activities of individuals, each of whom at times resided in a village in the Blue Mountains but whose involvements in the respective areas were only partially known prior to these papers.

The first and second papers relate to well known 19th Century pioneers. The first is about the 'leisure' activities of Archbishop Bertie Boyce who had a 'country' home in Blackheath and wrote the first substantial guide book to places in the Upper Blue Mountains. Paper two concerns a veteran of the Crimean War, Captain Robert Henry Reynolds who had many investments in the Blue Mountains. Importantly, he was involved in the foundation and operation of the Gladstone coal mine at Leura and the Katoomba coal mine in conjunction with the renowned John Britty North. He also had multiple residential properties on the western side of the railway line in Blackheath and 'opened' up that area for housing .

The third paper deals with the late 19th and early 20th Century development of Glenbrook by John C. Dunn a pioneer builder in that area.

In paper four Brian Fox has explored an unusual aspect of Blue Mountains History by describing the graffiti carved into a large slab of rock at Blackheath about a century ago; also he has attempted to identify some of the 'culprits'.

Paper 5 concerns Miss Mary Huie, a little known Blackheath resident who volunteered for the Red Cross in WW2 and worked to the extent that after her death a memorial plaque was erected on a rock in Memorial Park, Blackheath.

The final contribution is an explanation by Jan Koperberg of the aims, objectives and activities of BMACHO the organisation under whose auspices this journal is published. With the passage of time since 2006, much of that information has become 'lost' to many current Blue Mountains historians so a new account is most needed.

The first issue of the Blue Mountains History Journal was published in August 2010 and then, more or less annually, subsequent issues were released until this twelfth issue. As well there have been two publications of Occasional Papers.

For the convenience of readers, at the end of this issue there is a cumulative list of the papers that were published in Issues 1 to 11.

Extracts from Issue-12 may be reproduced provided that the source is fully acknowledged.

Dr Peter C. Rickwood,  
Editor



# Francis Bertie Boyce (1844–1931), Archdeacon of Sydney, and resident of Blackheath.

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## Abstract

Canon Francis Bertie Boyce preached in the Western Districts from 1869 and although he passed through Blackheath on his way over the mountains he never mentioned the village. From 1884 his parish was in Redfern, Sydney but somehow by 1887 he had acquired enough knowledge about the Upper Blue Mountains to be able to write an authoritative guide book. He started acquiring commercial property in Blackheath in 1886 but his long time residence, *Boscobel* was not purchased until 1894, however he may have rented it for a number of years before that. On his death in 1931 the eldest son Judge Francis Stewart Boyce inherited *Boscobel* and in turn his widow in 1940 and their sons in 1957. But the sons never really connected to Blackheath yet their sister Merrill did being an Ambulance driver in Blackheath during WW2. The history of *Boscobel* and of the Boyce family are detailed.

**Key Words:** Boyce, Blackheath, *Boscobel*, Guide Book, Blue Mountains

## Introduction

Some aspects of the life of the multifaceted cleric, Archdeacon Francis Bertie Boyce were covered

- in his autobiography (Boyce 1934) [which was revised just before he died in 1930 and published posthumously in 1934],
- in a short biography (Cable 1979)
- and most recently in a small book by Withycombe (2018).

Those sources focused partly on his church activities, and mostly on his social achievements, so they provide little information on his family and his connections with Blackheath.

This account is an attempt to redress that imbalance by collating what information has been located that is likely to be of more interest to those wanting knowledge of his Blue Mountains involvement.

[Also see Rickwood (2008) & Halbert & Ellis, 2020, pp.154-158].

## Early Travelling

On 21 December 1868 Francis Bertie Boyce was ordained Deacon at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney and assigned to providing the pastoral care of the residents of the Western Districts. Either late that year or early in 1869 he rode a horse to Bathurst taking three days for the journey (Boyce 1934, p.16) and not taking advantage of a train ride to Mount Victoria despite the railway having opened in May 1868. In the Western Districts he travelled extensively to preach at outlying settlements, riding on horseback and using a second horse to carry his luggage. He was ordained a priest on 19 December 1869 (Cable 1979) and would have assumed the title Canon which he preferred to be called

even after becoming Archdeacon on 6 December 1899 (Boyce 1934, pp.79-80). At Blayney he met Caroline Stewart (Boyce 1934, p.19) whom he married on 5 July 1871 at Rockley (Boyce 1934, pp.46-47). He made several trips across the mountains before he was reassigned to a position in Sydney in 1882 e.g. November 1872 (Boyce 1934, pp.52-53), February 1881 (Boyce 1934, p.66), April 1882 (Boyce 1934, p.70). But in his autobiography not once did he mention Blackheath in connection to those journeys nor did he state the mode of transport except that it was the train for a crossing in an unspecified year (Boyce 1934, p.100).

### Guide Book

Bertie Boyce, as he was often informally addressed, was assigned to a parish in Pymont in April 1882 (Boyce 1934, p.70) and then to St. Paul's, Redfern in July 1884 (Boyce 1934, p.75). It seems likely that around those years he would have taken holiday breaks in Blackheath and nearby villages to have become sufficiently well acquainted with the landscape in the upper Blue Mountains to feel able to author a guide book for tourists (Boyce 1887) (Figure 1).

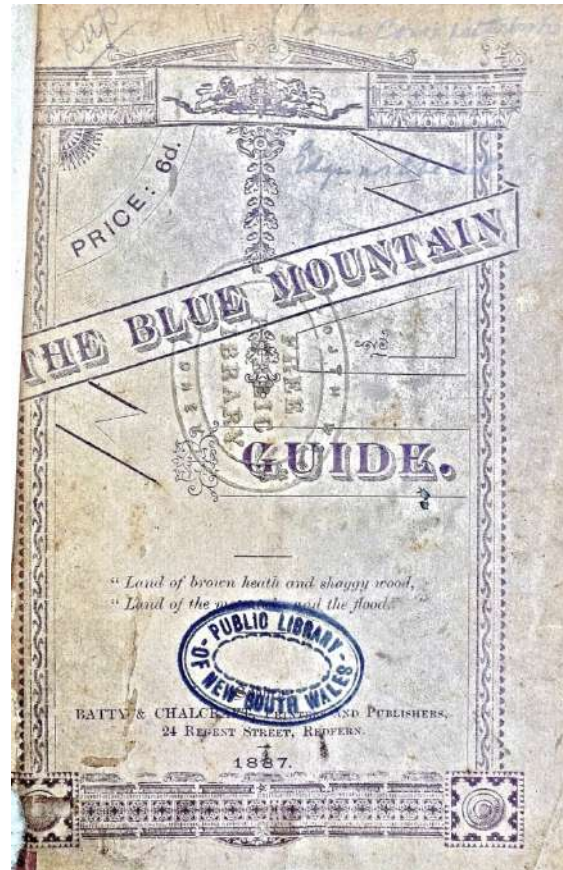
[Curiously that guide book was published anonymously (see Boyce 1887) and 'Blue Mountain' in the title technically signifies Lawson.]

Boyce's guide book is full of the first descriptions of various natural 'sights' and subsequently he was quoted as having said

"The Guide was hated in Katoomba because it showed Blackheath to be the true and best centre of the Mountains." (Anonymous, 1920a).

Moreover the contents of that book demonstrate that while he was about 40 years old Boyce was still fit and able to explore in places like the Megalong Valley which others have found very daunting (e.g. Halbert & Ellis 2020, p.19).

The historical significance of that guide book is hard to over inflate for it was only



Boyce (1887)

**Figure 1.** Dilapidated cover of the rare guide book by F.B. Boyce.

predated by issues of the Railway Guide (1879, 1884 & 1886) which provide rather short descriptions of a few features easily accessible by train travellers.

In his subsequent publications on the Blue Mountains, Bertie Boyce got involved with correcting some of the text on the plaque mounted on the wall that used to be around the Explorers' Tree at Katoomba (Boyce 1888) and with debunking the myths about the surveyor who discovered Govett's Leap (Boyce 1921, 1922 & 1931).

### Blackheath Real Estate

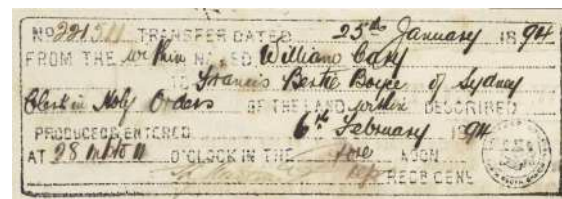
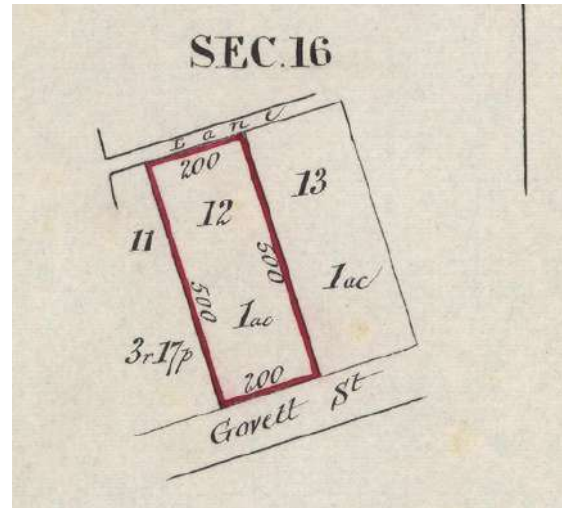
It is evident that Bertie Boyce became fairly affluent for not only did he purchase many parcels of land in NSW but he also issued mortgages on some. His earliest land holding in the Blue Mountains was Portion 140 in the Brasfort area of western Wentworth Falls which he acquired on 2



May 1884 (CoT 1884a) and on-sold on 29 January 1886.

On 26 February 1886 he bought property in Blackheath on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Govetts Leap Road (CoT 1879) and sold it on 28 December 1888. That land became subject to a complex sequence of subdivisions and sales several of which involved Boyce. John Francis Cripps bought *Victoria House* which was on part of that land (Diogenes 1892) and built hoping to transfer some of the licensed facilities from *The Hydora* (Gardner's Inn) to the new building. At the end of September 1892 the building was nearing completion (Anonymous, 1892a) and a licence was sought in December (Anonymous, 1892b). However an appeal by the Temperance Movement successfully blocked the granting of an additional liquor licence to Cripps (Yeaman 1976, p.62) and a second application by Cripps in May 1893 also failed (Anonymous, 1893a). So when completed the building was unable to be used for its intended purpose and was opened as a Coffee Palace, a boarding house and a private billiard saloon (Yeaman 1976, p. 194) with Mr. T. Giblett of Hartley Vale as the licensee (*sic*) (Anonymous, 1893b). However the Coffee Palace did not operate for long under this proprietor for it was advertised "To Let"... "Rent £4 4s a week" in October 1894 (Anonymous, 1894b). It was purchased by Canon Boyce and he kept it unoccupied because of his objection to a third licensed hotel in the town (the *Hydora* and *Ivanhoe* already existing) (Withycombe 2018, p.104). So when H.J. Collier's shop in Station Street was destroyed by fire on 26 June 1895 (Hatswell 2005, p.251) Collier speedily negotiated a lease of this unused building in which to run a general store; later he purchased the building from Boyce and held the site until 1933 at what became known as "Collier's Corner" (Rickwood 2005, pp. 267 & 269).

At an auction held in Blackheath on 12 April 1884 (CoT 1884b,c) William Cary bought Lots 11 & 12, Sec. 16 between the northern side of Govetts Leap Road and Pascoe Lane (Figure 2).



CoT (1884c)

**Figure 2.** Lot 12 in Govetts Leap Road & Boyce's acquisition in 1894.

The first indication of the use of that land is on Michael Boyd's sketch map drawn in c.1936 but detailing the occupants / owners in about 1890 (Boyd 1947) (Figure 3). Boyd drew a large block on the NE corner of the intersection of Prince Edward Street and Govetts Leap Road with the name Boyce written within it, moreover he drew a building as well which shows that development of sorts had taken place but when between the purchase of the land in 1884 & the supposed presence of a building in 1889 is not known. The plot sketched was actually the two lots owned by Cary (CoT 1884b,c) and it is on Lot 12 that the house was/is located. As Boyce did not own land there in 1890 he must have had a long term lease of those two lots from some date between 1884 and 1889.

[Boyd drew that map on a page of a 1936 desk diary so it was from memory after about 50 years. Essentially it contains information that is no more reliable than ‘hearsay’ so the details need to be substantiated and so far that has not proven possible in relation to the date of Boyce’s occupation of the house he bought and named *Boscobel* !]



(Boyd 1947)

**Figure 3.** Part of a sketch map of Blackheath dated 1889-1890.

It was not until January 1894 that Boyce purchased Lot 11 (CoT 1884b) & Lot 12 (CoT 1884c; [Figure 2](#)) from William Cary. To the building already there Boyce proceeded to have “extensive additions and improvements” made which were well advanced by February 1894 (Anonymous 1894a); and by August 1894 he had named the house *Boscobel* (Walker Bros. 1894; Withycombe 2018, p.101) ([Figure 4](#)).

In 1911 Bertie Boyce acquired a narrow strip of land from the owners of Lot 13; it was just 19¼ perches in area (486.9 m<sup>2</sup>) and 16 feet (4.88 m) in width (CoT 1911) but the reason for that curiously small addition is not known.



photograph courtesy of Mr. Alan Cottee.

**Figure 4.** *Boscobel*, 118 Govetts Leap Road, April 2022.

After Bertie Boyce’s death in 1931 his eldest son Francis Stewart Boyce inherited the slightly enlarged Lot 12 on which was *Boscobel* and in 1934 he added land on the western side (CoT 1934) so that the shape changed considerably (CoT 1939). Judge Francis Stewart Boyce died in 1940 and the property went to his widow Norah Leslborderie (or Lesley) Boyce (CoT 1939). When she died on 5 May 1957 (Anonymous 1957) their sons Francis and Richard inherited it but they on-sold in December 1958 when after 64 years the property went out of family ownership (CoT 1939).

Lot 11 (CoT 1884b) was subdivided in 1925 to yield three new Lots; Bertie Boyce sold Lot 3 (CoT 1925a) but kept Lots 1 & 2 which on his death in 1931 went to his younger son Marcus Bertie Boyce (CoT 1925b). But Marcus was living in Melbourne and it was impractical for him to use this land so after a decade he sold it on 9 June 1941 (CoT 1940).

Then, possibly in late 1958 (annotation to Blackheath Rates (1957) and a transfer on Certificate of Title (1939)), and certainly before 1971 (Blackheath Rates 1971), a sliver of land was excised from all of the blocks bordering the southern side of Pascoe Lane to produce a new block for 51 Prince Edward Street (Lot 101 DP 731796).

[The owners of the five blocks concerned are unlikely to have sold the northern parts of their land at the same time.]

### ***Boscobel*** (Figure 4)

It remains to be discovered where Bertie Boyce stayed in the village before the conjectured leasing of the house drawn by Boyd (1947). At various times Boyce owned property on the SW corner of Govetts Leap Road but there is no evidence that he ever occupied any of the buildings.

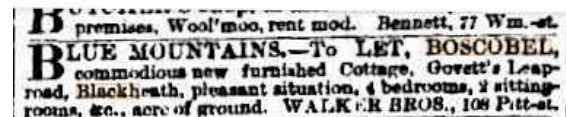
Although an advertisement for the *Hydora Hotel* was included in his guide book, Boyce (1887) most probably would have shunned staying there because of his involvement with the Temperance Movement (Figure 7). In the early 1880s there were very few advertisements in newspapers for un-licensed places of accommodation in Blackheath except for *Kanimbla House* (Anonymous 1881; 213 Great Western Highway, now *Kiora*), *Blue Mountain Villa* (Butts 1882; ? 201 Great Western Highway), *Victoria House* (Seymour 1885; 229-236 Great Western Highway with access from Govetts Leap Road) and *Lochinvar Cottage* (McFedries 1881; 71 Govetts Leap Road). It seems likely that Boyce stayed in one or more of those, the positions of which were indicated on maps of Blackheath by Russell (1882 p.39, 1885 opposite p.35) as was the long established and licensed *Hydora Hotel*.

It is conjectured that by 1887 Boyce would have been leasing what became *Boscobel* but in his book (Boyce 1887) he included advertisements for *Blue Mountain Villa* (Boyce 1887, p.6), *Dunkeld* (Boyce 1887, p.17: 3 Haviland Ave), *Morden* (Boyce 1887, p.17 & Smith 1887; 3 Haviland Ave), *Victoria House* (Boyce 1887, p.12), *Windermere* (Boyce 1887, p.19 & McFedries, 1887; ? 71 Govetts Leap Road) and Neate's Furnished Cottages (Boyce 1887, p.4 & Turnbull 1884 & Neate 1887) so he might have stayed in one or more of those establishments.

In 1894 Boyce bought and refurbished the building that by August had been named *Boscobel*, and was variously called a

“cottage” (Walker Bros. 1894; Anonymous 1929) or a “Queen Anne Residence” (Walker Bros. 1896) or his “holiday home” (Anonymous 1931b) or “the family mountain home” (Anonymous 1939). It was often advertised to let - even as early as 30 August 1894 (Walker Bros. 1894; Figure 5) and until 1913 (Hungerford 1913).

erald (NSW: 1842-1954) / Thu 30 Aug 1894 / Page 8 / Adve



**Figure 5.** Letting advertisement (Walker Bros. 1894).

During his ownership of *Boscobel* Bertie Boyce twice went overseas and because of the slowness of travel by ship each absence was almost a year long. Accompanied by his first wife Caroline he went to 15 countries, including England and USA (Anonymous 1900c) mainly in connection with his activities for the Temperance Movement (Boyce 1934, p.121; Anonymous 1900a), departing in January 1899 on R.M.S. *Arcadia* (Anonymous 1899) and returning in January 1900 on R.M.S. *Rome* (Anonymous 1900b). The second long absence occurred when he and Mrs. Boyce went to England primarily for him to recuperate from illness and partly for a holiday (Boyce 1934, pp.81 & 158; Withycombe 2018, pp.41 & 125) – departing in February 1914 on S.S. *Aeneas* (Anonymous 1914) and returning in February 1915 on R.M.S. *Orsova* (Anonymous 1915). Only during the first of these long absences was *Boscobel* offered to let for a whole year e.g. Walker Bros. (1899)(Figure 5).

The architectural styles of *Boscobel* were described by Ian Jack (1999) and the irregular shape of the exterior indicates that wings have been added at various times. In 1894 there were

“2 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, bath ... “ (Walker Bros. 1894; Figure 5), then in 1902

“just renovated and enlarged, 2 sitting, 6 bed rooms” (Walker Bros. & Slatyer 1902) and by 1912 there were

“5 bedrms, 2 sitting-rms., etc.” (Walker Bros. & Neate 1912).

Today there are 9 rooms inside the house but the use of each in Boyce’s time are not definitely known. Of the grounds another wrote

“... a magnificent home at Blackheath. It was, with its beautiful gardens, the show place at Blackheath and overlooking the great scenery below.” (Coleman 1949).

Unknown is when, or how often, Bertie Boyce occupied his house while he was still employed in Sydney. But sometimes his first wife Caroline stayed there without her husband e.g. September 1895 (Anonymous 1895) when accompanied by a son, probably 18-year old Marcus. Neither Francis Bertie Boyce nor Caroline Boyce ever registered *Boscobel* as their place of residence with the Electoral authorities.

Another block in Blackheath that Bertie Boyce purchased (February 1894) was opposite *Boscobel* and in 1898 he ceded that land to his first wife Caroline (CoT 1890; she had a house built there that she named *Tiverton* after her husband’s birthplace in Devonshire, England. Caroline was born in Glasgow on 26 March 1840 (grave headstone [Figure 6](#)) and died on 17 August 1918 (Anonymous 1918) after 47 years of marriage.

In 1920 Bertie Boyce married Ethel Elizabeth Burton (NSW BDM 1920). He continued to work for another decade but in December 1930 the then titled Archdeacon Boyce retired and went to live permanently in *Boscobel* (Anonymous 1930a,b) - but not for long as it transpired. On Monday 6 April 1931 he celebrated his 87th birthday there with a large group of relatives in attendance (Anonymous 1931a), but seven



photo Peter Rickwood 2006

**Figure 6.** Headstone on the graves of Francis Bertie Boyce & Caroline Boyce.

weeks later Bertie Boyce died in that house on 27 May 1931 (Anonymous 1931c). He was buried in Blackheath Cemetery (Church of England, Row 3, Plots 17/18) alongside his first wife, Caroline (1840-1918), who had pre-deceased him (Anonymous 1918; Wood Coffill & Co. 1918; BMFHS 1989, p.117).

When Bertie Boyce died he and Ethel were in their 11th year of marriage and Ethel Boyce registered *Boscobel* as her residence for the first two years of widowhood (NSW Electoral Rolls 1931 & 1932). She outlived him by 24 years, not dying until 22 February 1955 (Anonymous 1955; NSW BDM 1955) but she was not buried alongside Bertie being “Privately cremated” (Anonymous 1955).

Francis Bertie and Caroline Boyce had three sons, Francis Stewart (1872-1940), Marcus Bertie (1877-1953) and Eric (1880-1883) who died in infancy.

### **Elder Son**

The eldest son, Francis Stewart Boyce (1872-1940), “barrister and politician” (Rutledge 1979) retired to Pymble but on 6 June 1940 (Anonymous 1940a) he became seriously ill and died on 27 June 1940 (Anonymous 1940b). After a funeral service in St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney (Anonymous 1940c), his body was taken to Blackheath for a burial in the General Cemetery (Church of England, Row 9, Plot 4) (BMFHS 1989, p.169). His widow

Norah Leslie Boyce inherited *Boscobel* and is confirmed to have lived in the house from 1946 to 1955 (NSW Electoral Rolls 1946a, 1955a), but actually even longer for that was where she died on 5 May 1957 (Anonymous 1957); subsequently she was interred alongside her husband Francis Stewart Boyce. in Blackheath Cemetery.

### Grandchildren

Francis Stewart and Norah Leslie Boyce had two sons and three daughters. On her marriage to Alan Gregory Smith in 1929 their second child became Merrill Frances Smith (1904-1950). Curiously in the NSW Electoral Roll (1930a) Merrill Smith is recorded as residing at 739 Lane Cove Road, Gordon and in the NSW Electoral Roll (1930b) Alan Smith is listed at *Fairmont*, Church Road, Pymble which was to be the home of both in the 1932-1935 period (e.g. NSW Electoral Roll 1932b) and while her husband developed his legal career (Anonymous 1948a) they resided in *Kiewa*, Church Road (NSW Electoral Roll 1936) the house seemingly having had a name change. Alan is listed in Sands' Directories (1929, p.2495) - (1932, p.2490) as being a solicitor at 15 Castlereagh Street, but only Sands' (1932 p.495) gave a residential address -

“east side of King Edward Street, Pymble” and his wife was not mentioned.

Alan enlisted in the RAAF on 30 May 1940 (NAA 1939-1948, p.20), when both he and his wife were living in Pymble, but he did not commence service until 16 December 1940 (NAA 1939-1948, pp.3, 5 & 10). He named his next-of-kin “Frances Merrill” (NAA 1939-1948, p.13).

[Frances was the name she used in her married life].

*Boscobel*, Blackheath is the address given for Merrill in a military report dated 2 October 1943 (NAA 1939-1948, p.3) but she could have resided at that address before that date and may even have gone to live with her grandmother soon after Alan had entered the RAAF. She became an

Ambulance driver in Blackheath during WW2 (Yeaman 1976, p.236; Rickwood 2022) and in the fourth quarter of 1945 Merrill would have registered for the 1946 Electoral roll giving *Boscobel* as her abode and her occupation as “munitions worker” (NSW Electoral Roll 1946b), so she most likely would have been working at the Small Arms Factory in Lithgow.

Alan Gregory Smith was posted to Western Australia late in 1942 (NAA 1939-1948, p.3) and he was there again in December 1943 and October 1944 (NAA 1939-1948, p.5) so there were many opportunities to investigate the property market in Perth. It is known that he had a Perth address prior to 29 June 1945 (NAA 1939-1948, pp.17 & 18), and prior to being demobilised on 19 October 1945 (NAA 1939-1948, p.10), but unknown is the purchase date.

Merrill joined her husband late in 1946 in time to become eligible to be named in the WA Electoral Roll (1947), she at 10 Mill Street and he at *Riviera Flats*, Mill Street which seem to be the same place. They were similarly registered in the 1949 and 1950 WA Electoral rolls.

Then at some date in 1950 Merrill travelled to NSW where her widowed mother still lived in Blackheath; when Merrill arrived back in NSW is not known, but it has been established that she had resumed residing in Blackheath (NSW BDM 1950). Her elder sister Aphra Marjory Scrivener (née Boyce) was living with husband Harry near Inverell (Anonymous 1951), her younger brother Richard Edward Boyce near Dubbo (Anonymous 1950a) and her youngest sister Norah Langley Scott (née Boyce) at Mudgee (Anonymous 1950e) so distance may have precluded visiting those three siblings.

In October 1950 Merrill was admitted to St Vincent's Private Hospital in Darlinghurst where after being in a coma for 36 hours she died

[curiously called 'suddenly' (Anonymous 1950b,d)] of "pituitary adenoma" on 14 October 1950 aged 44 years (Anonymous 1950a; NSW BDM 1950). It seems likely that she had been visiting her brother Francis John Stewart Boyce who lived in Vaucluse (Sydney White Pages Telephone Directory 1949) when taken sufficiently ill to warrant hospitalisation for St Vincent's Private Hospital is also in the Eastern Suburbs.

Arrangements for the funeral of Merrill Smith were made by a company based in Chatswood so on the morning of 16 October 1950 the deceased was conveyed from Sydney to Blackheath for an afternoon service in St. Aidan's Church, Blackheath (Anonymous 1950c). Following that she was buried in the Blackheath General Cemetery (Church of England, Row 9, Plot 3; BMFHS (1989, p.169)) with a headstone inscription that named her as Frances Merrill and incorrectly states "Died on 12th October 1950 aged 45". Nothing has been found to indicate that Alan Smith attended his wife's funeral.

Puzzling is the fact that probate on Merrill's will appears to have been granted in Victoria (Ancestry 2022; albeit with the "Death Place" incorrectly stated to be "W Australia") so the will may have been written and lodged in Victoria on a date still unknown. So had Merrill moved to Victoria before she visited NSW in October 1950 ?

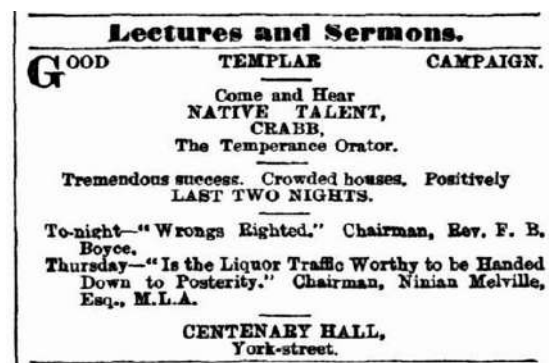
Subsequently Merrill's younger sister Norah Langley Scott (née Boyce) (1913-1994) is known to have resided in *Boscobel* for a short while (NSW Electoral Roll 1955b) and was accompanied by her husband Andrew Kelburn Scott. No doubt they were there to care for her mother, Norah Leslie Boyce, until she died in May 1957 (Anonymous 1957) but there are no electoral rolls for 1956 & 1957 to be able to confirm that the Scotts remained until then.

## Younger Son

Marcus Boyce married Ethel Madolin Attwood Lane in 1910 (NSW BDM 1910) and they moved to Victoria where they had both a son (Edward) (VIC BDM 1911) and a daughter (Mary) (VIC BDM 1913). Ethel died in Victoria on 9 October 1948 (Anonymous 1948b) after which Marcus must have moved back to NSW as his death on 23 January 1953 was registered in Chatswood, NSW (Anonymous 1953); when he returned has not been established but he did not purchase any property there in those years (1948-1953) so he would have been renting or living in a retirement home.

## Activities

Francis Bertie Boyce was known both as a Social reformer (e.g. Scott 1904) and as a temperance worker (e.g. Anonymous 1889; Figure 7) and those activities have been well described in his autobiography (Boyce 1934) and by Withycombe (2018).



*Anonymous (1889)*

**Figure 7.** An example of Boyce's Temperance activity.

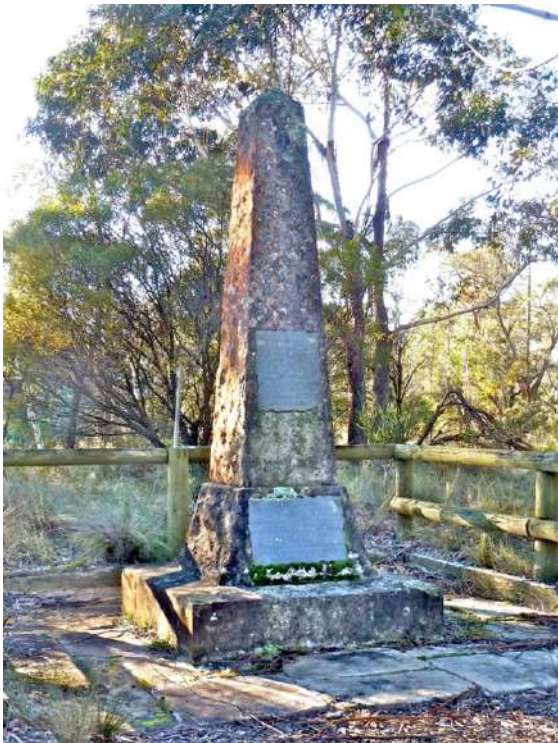
## Memorials

Mount Boyce, the highest point on the road across the Blue Mountains, was so named by his Excellency, Sir Walter Davidson, K.C.M.G., on 26 April 1923 in honour of Archdeacon F.B. Boyce (Anonymous 1923) and the commemorative plaque and obelisk (Figures 8 & 9) were unveiled by Governor, Sir Phillip Game on 21 October 1931 (Anonymous 1931d,e).



*photo Peter Rickwood 2022*

**Figure 8.** Plaque on the Mount Boyce Obelisk.



*photo Peter Rickwood 2022*

**Figure 9.** Mount Boyce Obelisk.

A memorial board was erected inside St Aidan's Anglican Church at Blackheath (Figure 10) where he had preached many times.



*photo: Peter Rickwood 8 November 2013*

**Figure 10.** St Aidan's Anglican Church, Blackeath.

To commemorate his many years of service to the communities in the Western Districts he was similarly recognised by installation of a board in All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Bathurst (Figure 11).



*photo: Peter Rickwood 27 September 2018*

**Figure 11.** All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Bathurst

## Acknowledgement

Mr. Stephen Williams (CENTURY 21 Williams Real Estate) is thanked for the helpful exchange of views relating to *Boscobel*. Stephen not only supplied a plan of the rooms in that house but also kindly arranged to take PCR inside the building.

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# The Civilian Life of Robert Henry Reynolds (1834-1913)

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## Abstract

The Crimean war veteran, Robert Henry Reynolds, left the Army in 1865 and eventually became a wealthy businessman. He progressed from shopkeeper to investor with interests in properties, plots of land, mining ventures and shipping. He held directorships in banking and tried his hand at politics before becoming enraptured with Blackheath and the town activities. But he was fraught with financial problems and bequeathed very little to his children.

**Key Words:** Reynolds, businesses, investor, mining, Blackheath, Blue Mountains

## 1. Introduction

Robert Henry Reynolds was baptised (Anglican Baptisms 1551-1994) in Bwlch Trewyn, (Gibney & Smith 1987, p.210) 17 km NW of Abergavenny, Wales on 26 January 1834 (Anglican Baptisms 1551-1994) so maybe he was born earlier in that month. As an 18-year old he served overseas in the Crimean War and it has been claimed (Anonymous 1913b) that

“He also served with the 1st Battalion of the H.M.12th Regiment of Foot in the New Zealand war”

but we have not been able to substantiate his involvement in that latter war. In September 1857 he was transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment as an instructor in Musketry with the rank of sergeant and at first was based in Kent and then at the Victoria Barracks in Sydney. That military career has been described by Steele & Rickwood (Steele & Rickwood 2023).

This is an attempt to account for his civilian activities after being discharged from the Army in 1865. Amongst other achievements, Robert Henry Reynolds became a wealthy land investor in NSW with holdings of land parcels in areas including Leura, Katoomba and Blackheath.

To give continuity to his life story there is some overlap of topics between the two accounts. Thus he bought four Lots of land in Grafton in 1862 so those investments had to be mentioned in the previous paper but his activities in Grafton are more fully explored below.

R.H. Reynolds led a complex life so time-wise most of the activities in one of the sections below overlapped with those in another section.

While still in the army he placed an advertisement in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 10 January 1860 giving

“ "Address R.H. REYNOLDS, 80 South Head Road” (Reynolds 1860)  
so he appears to have been in Sydney at the start of 1860. As a Sergeant 2<sup>nd</sup> Class he married for the second time (NSW BDM 1862) and sired John Henry Haviland whose birth was registered in Paddington in 1863 (NSW BDM 1863) all prior to being discharged in January 1865 (British Army Service Records.).

## 2. Grafton (1862-1880)

While still in the Army, R.H. Reynolds bought four lots of land in Grafton at an auction on 13 August 1862 (Anonymous 1862b) spending a total of £62 16s 8d as indicated on the Crown grants that were issued to him on 31 December 1862 (viz. Town Lots 62/1014, 62/1326, 62/1327 & 62/1328). That amount is unlikely to have been accrued from his pay as a “sergeant instructor of musketry” who was re-appointed on 10 February 1862 with an “Annual salary 5 pounds” (New South Wales, Australia, Public Service List 1863). His parents were still alive in 1862 (Parish Records: St. Michaels and All Angels, Ledbury)

[John Reynolds died 1 December 1868 (Death 1868) in Ledbury, Herefordshire and Charlotte (née Mayall) died in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire on 26 June 1867 (Death 1867)]

so he had not had inheritances from them.

Hence R.H. Reynolds’s ability to make those Grafton land purchases just three months after marrying Margaret Ann Orr (on 3 May 1862; NSW BDM 1862; Anonymous 1862a), the daughter of a seemingly wealthy business man (Orr & Kendall 1846), maybe more than a coincidence. However Margaret’s father had died intestate (Orr 1849), and his widow Janet Orr faced legal proceedings to get his assets; subsequently she may have given financial assistance to Margaret and Robert Reynolds. However, in her will Janet Orr bequeathed everything to her un-married

daughter and executrix Mary Jean Orr (Orr 1870) so in the end none of Mary’s three siblings inherited anything. Accordingly the source of R.H. Reynolds' finances has not been proven to have been his in-law family either and hence the mystery of his sudden wealth in 1862 remains unsolved.

Reynolds tried to sell those four Grafton properties in September 1863 (Maurice 1860) and the subsequent deeds that relate to what are now 115 Powell Street & 15 Arthur Street (CoT 1864) were issued on 1 April 1864 to a Patrick Donaldson, hence those two land parcels (section 90, Lot 10 & section 113, Lot 4) did sell at that time but the other two of those Grafton properties seemingly did not. That accounts for the name R.H. Reynolds being printed on Por 90 Lot 11 and Por 107 Lot 14 on the 1880 map of the town (Plan of Town of Grafton and Grafton South 1880) and the notification of arrears in payments of the rates on those properties from 1869 to 1875 inclusive (Anonymous 1869b, 1875d).

[Curiously the notices from 1869-1872 (Anonymous 1869b, 1872a) (inclusive) for arrears in rate payments list Por 90 Lot 10 as belonging to R.H. Reynolds despite it being in the name of Donaldson since 1864.]

Rates notices were not published in 1867 & 1868 so whether his payments were in arrears prior to 1869 is not known; but as R.H. Reynolds was not named in the last of those notices (Anonymous 1876a) he seems to have either paid up in 1875 or paid up and sold those parcels of land by 1876.

Having sold half of his grants in Grafton by 1864 he would have had money to supplement the paltry pay he received as a soldier in the last few years before he retired from the military in 1865. Indeed, the funds raised by those sales might well have sufficed to enable him to start a new life as a businessman.

Ownership of those residual land grants may have sufficed to have given him eligibility

to be an elector in Grafton in 1880 (Anonymous 1880b). Reynolds is said to have begun a timber business in the Richmond River area in an unspecified year (Betteridge 1976). In one obituary he was described as

“One of the pioneer shellbacks in the Richmond-Sydney timber trade ...” (Anonymous 1913c)

and in another it was stated:

“After leaving the military service Captain Reynolds started business in the Richmond River timber trade.” (Anonymous 1913a)

and

“... achieved much success in the timber trade”.

But quite when he commenced trading in timber is not known (Gibbney & Smith 1987; Anonymous 1913a,b). However by April 1875 he had a stockpile of timber in a yard at Circular Quay which he put to auction (Cary et al. 1875).

### **3. Shipping (1875-1877)**

The Brigantine vessel *Victory* (Ship Number, 04424, 142 tons; British Register of Ships, Port of Sydney) was built in 1873 (Jervis Bay Maritime Museum) and mostly plied between Melbourne and Brisbane carrying various cargos. On 4 March 1875 it entered the Port of Newcastle in need of repairs due to damage sustained in a storm off the coast of NSW (Anonymous 1875a,b,c); but that was not the end of its troubles as it was only two months later that the *Victory* was reported 'wrecked' on the Richmond River on 1 May 1875 (Register of Australian and New Zealand Shipping) yet it was re-floated. Not being deterred by being found insolvent a few weeks earlier (NSW State Records Insolvency Index 1875) R.H. Reynolds very quickly was able on 30 September 1875 to buy a half-share of the vessel *Victory* so it was put back into service. It had other bad times with the weather and sea conditions in March 1883, September 1891, September 1893 and

finally it was sunk on 6 November 1893 (Jervis Bay Maritime Museum).

On 8 September 1876 the schooner *Atlantic* left the Richmond River with timber to convey to Sydney but on 21 September it was found off Newcastle floating bottom side up (Anonymous 1876b) and was towed into port as salvage. The eight crew members were lost (Anonymous 1876d). Curiously it has been reported that on 24 October 1876 R.H. Reynolds fully owned the vessel *Atlantic* (Ship Number, 46460, 260 tons; Anonymous 1879) but he extricated himself from ownership arrangements by August 1877.

Both ships were used in the NSW North Coast shipping trade where they carried timber and other goods to Melbourne and ports along the east coast and they even moored at Circular Quay, Sydney (Anonymous 1913a).

It would seem that R.H. Reynolds ceased to have a connection with Grafton and the shipping business after August 1877. And nothing has been found to indicate that Reynolds ever had an active role in the sailing of those vessels.

### **4. Shop-owner (1865-1870)**

While teaching Musketry at the Victoria Barracks in Sydney, R.H. Reynolds established a private home at 80 (Old) South Head Road, Woollahra (Reynolds 1860). At times he gave public lectures on Musketry (Reynolds 1861) presumably gaining a little addition to his income.

This multi-faceted man had many business activities ranging from shop owning, real estate trading, investing in ships, wood transporting, politics etc. but usually only two of those at a time.

In 1870 R.H. Reynolds claimed that he had been in business in Sydney from 1860

(Reynolds, 1870a) but the earliest newspaper entry mentioning any of his business premises was in April 1865 (Reynolds 1865a) and that store was at 204 Pitt Street; his announcement of a business there came 9 days later (Reynolds 1865b). At first it was labelled

“a Volunteer and Cricketers’ Cigar Depot” with “the best articles” and in June 1865 he added “perfumery etc, fountains, 8d to 2s 6d each; opera glasses with case, 9s 6d.” (Reynolds 1865c).

Those commodities did not fill the place for next he advertised space to let for a “Billiard Room” (Reynolds 1865d). But trading cannot have gone well for in December 1865 R.H. Reynolds advertised the whole of the premises to let (Reynolds 1865e) yet in March 1866 his “General Fancy Warehouse” was operating again (Reynolds 1866a) and soon was authorised to sell postage stamps (Docker 1866).

Late in 1866 a major change in the nature of his business occurred when he opened a hairdressing salon which he called “Reynold’s Hall of Fashion” (Reynolds 1866b). A month later it was called “Sydney Hair-Brushing Hall” and it had “a hair-brushing machine” but also some kind of air conditioning

“Reynold’s patent cooling apparatus (the hot day luxury)” (Reynolds 1866c). At the start of 1867 a service called “Boy’s hair cut and dressed by steam” was added (Reynolds 1867a) and in April he moved from 204 Pitt Street to 247 Pitt Street (Reynolds 1867b).

An elevated status seemed to have been gained when R.H. Reynolds' advertisements commenced with

“By appointment, Hairdresser to his Excellency the Earl of Belmore” (Reynolds 1868a).

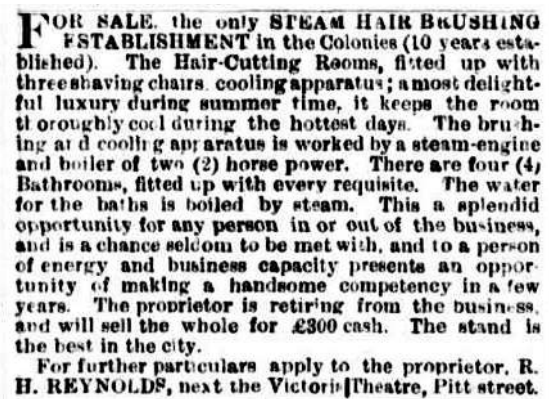
But trouble was brewing for R.H. Reynolds and that was signalled when he advertised

that an “assistant hairdresser” with the same surname (A.D. Reynolds) had “no connection with the management” other than employment (Reynolds, A.D. 1868) and had been dismissed (Reynolds 1868b). Retribution came about a year later when A.D. Reynolds opened up a Salon at 323 George Street stating

“By Special appointment to his Excellency the Earl of Belmore and the Countess of Belmore” (Reynolds, A.D. 1870), For enticing the Earl away from his first favoured hairdresser the response from R.H. Reynolds was an advertisement claiming “Ten years established”, and creating a bath house service but expressing

“No branch establishment in George-street” (Reynolds 1870a).

However six months later R.H. Reynolds was wanting to move to new fields of endeavour and put his Hairdressing business up for sale (Reynolds 1870b) with the best known description of the services and equipment being in the advertisement (Figure 1).



**FOR SALE, the only STEAM HAIR BRUSHING ESTABLISHMENT** in the Colonies (10 years established). The Hair-Cutting Rooms, fitted up with three shaving chairs, cooling apparatus; a most delightful luxury during summer time, it keeps the room thoroughly cool during the hottest days. The brushing and cooling apparatus is worked by a steam-engine and boiler of two (2) horse power. There are four (4) Bathrooms, fitted up with every requisite. The water for the baths is boiled by steam. This a splendid opportunity for any person in or out of the business, and is a chance seldom to be met with, and to a person of energy and business capacity presents an opportunity of making a handsome competency in a few years. The proprietor is retiring from the business, and will sell the whole for £300 cash. The stand is the best in the city.

For further particulars apply to the proprietor, R. H. REYNOLDS, next the Victoria Theatre, Pitt street.

(Reynolds 1870b)

**Figure 1.** Advertisement in *The Argus*, 4 June 1870, p.8, col.2.

In 1869 he started trading in sewing machines (Reynolds 1869a) a sideline that seemed to prosper. But other than hairdressing it was drapery (Reynolds 1869c) that had become his main line of business and in mid 1870 Samuel Jay bought



“the entire stock of Mr. R. H. Reynolds ... who has retired from business.” (Jay, 1870).

R.H. Reynolds was aged 36 years at that time and was by no means finished with business - he just changed. With all of those strands to his businesses in Sydney he appears to have accrued enough money to start to invest in the Mining Industry.

Birth notices (Anonymous 1865a,b; Anonymous 1869a) indicate that the Reynolds family were living at the Pitt Street addresses but at times R.H. Reynolds had tried to let parts of those buildings yet whether he owned them has not been established.

### **5. Real Estate (1865-1887)**

While still essentially a shopkeeper R.H. Reynolds did have various real estate dealings. Thus in 1865 he put to auction a “Detached Verandah Weatherboard Cottage” “corner of Piper and Denison Streets, Woollahra” (Rishworth 1865), and in 1869 he tried to sell

“a block of LAND, near to the Haymarket, and in the heart of the city, with frontage to three streets” (Reynolds 1869d)

Also offered for sale in 1869 were “6 cottages, freehold” (Reynolds 1869e) at an unspecified location for which one assumes that he obtained payment. He is not known to have owned any of those properties so by attempting to trade in them he was acting as an estate agent of sorts !

After ceasing to be a shop owner his financial interests in real estate increased but he was not the owner of some that he advertised for sale such as a parcel of land at Enmore (Reynolds 1872a). Others he did purchase like the property he advertised in 1875, a 2 acre block at

“Robert’s Street off Cook’s River Road” (Anonymous 1875e)

and others at Waverley and Bondi (Anonymous 1878a) in 1878; at times he

may have paid a commission to someone else to sell such acquisitions (Anonymous 1877).

Some of his purchases were very substantial such as the £12,000 he paid in 1880 for land off Pitt Street (Anonymous 1880a) with four cottages on which he planned to erect a theatre, shops and a hotel (Backhouse 1880). Even more costly was the purchase of a “carriage factory” in 1884 for which he paid £30,000 (Anonymous 1884b). So he had become really affluent by the 1880s.

However his real estate business was at times a problem for him when properties such as his workshop in Goulburn Street was ordered to be demolished “within 14 days” (Anonymous 1884a). Likewise, houses at 260 Sussex Street, and 41 & 43 Druitt Street, Sydney were declared dangerous in 1886 and ordered to be demolished (Anonymous 1886c). The house he owned at 23 Gloucester Street, Sydney was condemned (Anonymous 1887g) in 1887 being one of a group that had been inspected and described in graphic terms

“The whole of the buildings inspected were not only in a ruinous and in some cases dangerous state, but the want of drainage, the state of the closets, the absence of ventilation and the generally dirty manner in which they were kept rendered them not only inimical to the health of the neighbourhood, but also certain disease breeders.”

No doubt Reynolds’ house was tenanted so making him a despicable ‘slum landlord’.

### **6. Residences (1860-1913)**

It seems likely that from the time R.H. Reynolds came to Australia in about 1860 he and his family (after his marriage in 1862) lived at the Victoria Barracks, Paddington (Baptisms 1863) until he was formally discharged in 1865. However the known chronology of the Reynolds family living arrangements commences with

“Reynolds, Robert H., tobacconist, 204 Pitt Street”

the earliest listing of him in Sands Directories (1866) to which in the following year, “and fancy warehouse” was added (Sands 1867) that address being both a shop and a family residence. He had moved those facilities to 241 Pitt Street by 1869 (Anonymous 1869a; Sands 1869). Deeds in his name have not been found for any of those business properties so they are likely to have been rented.

In the 1860s he had a wife and a varying number of children to support and accommodate, 1 child in 1863, 2 children in 1865, 3 in 1867 but that became 2 when that third child died in 1868, and 3 again in 1869 for the remaining time he was a shop owner. In 1869 he did try to buy a house in the city (Reynolds 1869b). A moderately sized family of up to five persons he could accommodate in his Pitt Street business locations but children kept arriving !

By 1872 he had 4 living children and had moved the family into a house in Glebe Point Road (Reynolds 1872b; CoT 1874) at the corner of Hereford Street, a location also known as Glebe Heights (1872-1876 (CoT 1874; Sands 1876). After the next move in 1876 the family resided at “33 Parramatta Street, Glebe” (NSW Electoral Rolls 1876-77, 1877-78) that location so called until 1877 when it was re-named as George St West, Broadway (City of Sydney 2012). For a very short duration from 1876 (Anonymous 1876e) until 1877 (Sands 1877), the next abode was in *Eveleigh House*, Yarnold Street, Redfern (the former name for the section of Eveleigh Street from Hudson Street to Cleveland Street (City of Sydney 2012)).

R.H. Reynolds had 7 children when he settled in the suburb of Paddington where he remained for most of the rest of his life. Initially his house called *Engehurst* was on a

very large block on the south side Glenmore Rd. (CoT 1868; Anonymous 1878c) then at 56 Begg Street which became 56 Ormond Street (Sands 1912).

In 1913 he died at *Linwood*, Lombard Street, Glebe Point (Anonymous 1913a) but R.H. Reynolds was never a registered elector at that address; it was the address of his third wife’s boarding house (pers. com. Chris Betteridge; CoT 1880) and the site of their marriage seven months previously (NSW BDM 1913).

## **7. Entry into Mining businesses (1872-1899)**

Gold became R.H. Reynolds' interest when he was appointed a director of the Napier Quartz Company in March 1872 and made a small investment in “The Pactolus Quartz Mining Company (limited)” which operated a gold mine at Hill End, NSW (Deloitte 1872). Then more directorships were gained, in October 1872 he was appointed a Director of the “Prairie Belle Golding (*sic*) Mining Company” (Anonymous 1872b) based at Tuena NSW and in November 1872 he became a director of the “King of the South Tin and Gold Mining Co” (Anonymous 1872d) at Lankeys Creek near Albury, NSW (Anonymous 1872c). A decade later in 1882 he was a Director of the Hargraves Gold Mining Company (Anonymous 1882a) and he was also a “speculator” (Anonymous 1882b) who invested £5,000 in “Bond’s Reefing Claim at Hargraves”. He is not known to have had practical experience of mining yet, surprisingly, in 1873 he took out a lease on an “auriferous tract’ of four acres called “Peep O’ Day” at Ouranee (Anonymous 1873) (an old superseded name for a location in the SE of NSW near the border with Victoria)

It is well known that R.H. Reynolds' primary activities in mining related to coal prospects in the Blue Mountains (Pells &

Hammon 2009) however prior to those ventures, in 1876 he applied to mine coal below the water of Sydney Harbour (Anonymous 1876c) between Glebe Island and Goat Island, an activity that never eventuated. A similar application in 1882 was

“for permission to mine for coal under water-reserve No. 24 and eastern extension thereof, county of Camden, parishes of Sutton Forest and Bundanoon ...” (Anonymous 1882c)

But in 1884 his attention turned to coal mining in the Blue Mountains (Anonymous 1884c) and those activities are being left for Philip Hammon to evaluate, particularly the businesses that Reynolds had in conjunction with John Britty North. Reynolds' participation in the operation of the Gladstone mine (worked 1884-1886)

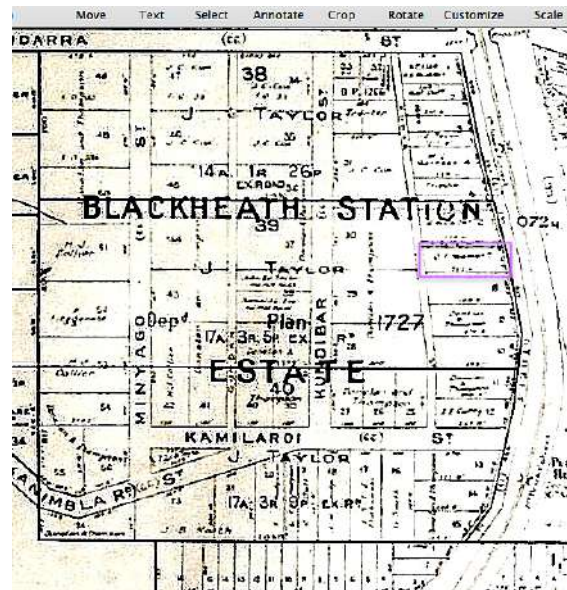
[which was located near the western end of the boundary between Leura and Wentworth Falls (Mackie & Pells 2011, pp.26-29; Pells & Hammon 2009, pp.70-80)]

did not directly involve J.B. North but some of the personnel and engineering aspects were discussed by Pells & Hammon (2009) and by Hammon (2019). It was a complex project that warrants a separate account at another time.

Despite the extent of his involvement with coal he maintained an interest in gold mining irrespective of where that was occurring. Thus in 1888 he invested in “The New Zealand Mining Proprietary Company, Limited” (Anonymous 1888a) and in “The Blue Jacket Gold Mining Company, No Liability” (Anonymous 1888d) based near Canowindra, NSW. Then in 1889 he became a director of the “Bona Fide Gold Mining Company, Limited” (Anonymous 1889a) at Tarcutta, NSW and in the float of the “Sergeant’s Point, Little River, Gold Dredging Company” (Anonymous 1899b) (located near Tumut, NSW).

## 8. Blackheath (1886-1906)

When visiting Blackheath in 1886, Captain Reynolds stayed in one of the holiday cottages on the east side of the main road owned by John Neate (Hubert 2005). But soon thereafter R H Reynolds started to acquire land in Blackheath, initially on 20 December 1888 (CoT 1889a,b) that being Lot 7 of DP1727 (Figure 2) which became the site of his own holiday house.



**Figure 2.** Part of Robinson Sheet 47. Outlined in purple is the first land that R.H. Reynolds bought in Blackheath.

By early 1894 Robert Henry Reynolds had built a pair of semi-detached cottages on Station Street, Blackheath, which he named *Boronia* and *Glen-Ayr* (Figure 3). It was the northern side of this building i.e. “*Glen Ayr*” which he used as his own holiday home (Yeaman 1976 , p.44) and where he stayed for months at a time (Hubert 2005). By 1896 a weatherboard ballroom (40' x 20' (12.2 x 6.1 m)) had been added at the rear of *Glen-Ayr* where the family entertained many guests (Rickwood & Dunstan 2016).

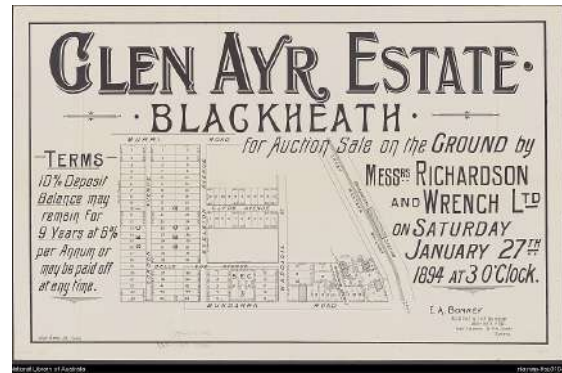


Photo Peter C. Rickwood 30 June 2016

**Figure 3.** Braemar (left Boronia right Glen Ayr).

The semi-detached cottages were combined into one and renamed *Braemar* (CoT 1891) at least by March 1934 (Blackheath Rates 1934), and most probably by 1923 as from that year until 1949 Braemar was used as a guest house (Silvey 1996, p.99). In September 1952 the part owner Sidney Grimer was listed as “Guest House Propr.” (Blackheath Rates 1951), and remained so on successive Rate records until May 1957 (Blackheath Rates 1957) when his name (and his wife’s) were replaced by Mr. & Mrs. Austin and the house was just recorded as *Braemar*; so it was after that time that it became a private residence and so remains (2024).

That 1888 purchase was the first of many lots in the nearby area that were gradually accrued and ultimately combined into the Glen Ayr Estate (Figure 4)(Bonney 1894a) even though the lots were not contiguous. That estate was located north of Bundarra Street and west of Station Street and most of that land was owned by Mrs. Margaret Ann Reynolds who also acquired lots to the south of Bundarra Street in Kubya Street (CoT 1875, 1904).



Bonney (1894a)

**Figure 4.** Glen Ayr Estate sales map.

When the Glen Ayr Estate was subdivided in 1894 (Bonney 1894b) the streets were named after the Reynolds’ children, viz: Clyde Avenue after Leslie Clyde Reynolds; Eveleigh Avenue after Ruby Eveleigh Reynolds; Gordon Avenue after Gordon Clarence Reynolds and Haviland Avenue after John Henry Haviland Reynolds. R.H. Reynolds’ admiration for the natural beauty of Blackheath was passed on to his children, at least one of whom, Rev. R.B. Reynolds, the principal of Camden College, continued to spend his annual leave in the town for many years (Hillier 1946; Betteridge 1976).

R.H. Reynolds also invested in land to the east of the railway line, firstly Portion 185 between Clanwilliam Street and Prince George Street (on the N side of what is now called Reynolds Lane) which he bought at an auction on 28 December 1889 (Village of Blackheath 1888; CoT 1896; Robinson 1915, Sheet 60) and then sold on 30 April 1902. In 1904 he invested in Portion 67 to the north of Govetts Leap Road between Cleopatra and Clarence Roads (CoT 1881); it was subdivided in 1907 (CoT 1907) the southern part being sold in 1908 and the northern part after his death.

R.H. Reynolds had been a property owner in Blackheath for just two years when he was elected chairman of a Progress Committee on 6 December 1890 (Anonymous 1890). He continued in that role in 1891 but lost

that Committee position at an election in June 1891 (Anonymous 1891a). Despite that setback he participated in a delegation to the Minister for Works seeking repairs and improvements on the road to 'Kanimbla Valley' (Anonymous 1892a) but as that road was specified to go past Mermaids Cave it actually was the Megalong Valley Road.

Some of his buildings on the western side of Blackheath were completely lost in a fire on 26 June 1895 (Anonymous 1895ca,b,c) after which he erected the brick shops (Anonymous 1895d) still on the corner of Station Street and Bundarra Street.

He was involved with a second deputation in 1901 (Anonymous 1906a) concerning the need for duplication of the railway line through Blackheath. Also in 1901 a very significant announcement was that the Reynolds' third son Victor had opened a real estate office stating it to be a "land agency and auctioneer's business" handling his father's Glen Ayr Estate (Anonymous 1904).

After Mrs. Margaret Ann Reynolds died on 14 August 1905 her husband, second son William Orr Reynolds and solicitor Sidney Pile inherited the land that she held (Reynolds, M.A. 1899). For a few years her husband R.H. Reynolds continued to be active in local affairs and most notably was involved with the group of residents who sought for the town to become a Municipality (Anonymous (1906b).

### **9. Financial Dealings (1874-1913) and Banker (1888-1889)**

R.H. Reynolds' financial dealings were many but at times troubled. Thus in 1875 Reynolds was found to be insolvent with liabilities amounting to £934 but assets just £74 (Anonymous 1875f). However in 1878 a court deemed that

"Robert Henry Reynolds may be released from sequestration on the ground of

payment and satisfaction of the creditors..." (Read 1878).

He had many appearances in the Bankruptcy Court (e.g. Henry 1892) and in 1892 he offered a string of lame excuses (Anonymous 1892b) and

"The bankrupt stated he was insolvent in 1874. He had kept no books since 1887."

After his death in 1913 his creditors were awarded just 5d in the £ (Palmer 1915) a restitution of about 2.1%.

Although R.H. Reynolds had served on a jury in 1878 (Anonymous 1878b) he did disregard the legal obligation (Anonymous 1884d) of appearing for jury service in 1884 and was fined. So it would be surprising if he would have been deemed suitable to become a Justice of the Peace yet *Trove* lists three accounts in the same newspaper publication (in 1891 (Anonymous 1891b) and 1897 (Anonymous 1897a,b)) referring to him as "R.H. Reynolds, J.P." Only two other newspaper entries refer to him with those post-nominal letters (Anonymous 1900; Anonymous 1905) and Sand's Directories did not list him with the J.P. until 1905 (Sands 1905). No announcement of his appointment as a J.P. has been found in the *NSW Government Gazette*.

The many strands of R.H. Reynolds' activities included banking to which he came on 8 August 1888 when at the launch of a new bank he was elected to be a Director of the Foreign and Colonial Exchange Bank of Australasia Limited (Anonymous 1888b). The media were soon deluged with advertisements for that new bank (Anonymous 1888c) proclaiming R.H. Reynolds as Chairman of the Directors; the first report of the progress of the bank was deemed

"of the most favourable character" (Anonymous 1888e).

Not a bank as such but in 1889 R.H. Reynolds became chairman of the directors

of The Universal Advance and Investment Association Limited (Anonymous 1889b) managed by his second son, William Orr Reynolds.

### 10. Politics (1880-1887)

R.H. Reynolds developed an interest in politics which initially led to him nominating, and aiding, members of the Free Trade Association to get them elected into the NSW State Parliament (Lutton & Brian 1880). Eventually in 1887 he himself tried to get elected into the seat of Murrumbidgee (Anonymous 1887a) and at the time he placed many advertisements in the Wagga Wagga newspaper (Anonymous 1887b) at a personal cost (Anonymous (1887c) that must have been a considerable sum. However he obtained the lowest count of the votes cast (just 18.7%) for the four persons seeking to fill three seats (Anonymous 1887d). But that experience did not end with that loss for he was taken to court for failing to pay his liquor expenses (Anonymous 1887e) and perhaps that aspect of his character was best expressed in the following newspaper item (Anonymous 1887f) (Figure 5) concerning his publicity costs.

### 11. Inheritances (1905-1929)

R.H. Reynolds' second wife, Margaret Ann Reynolds, died on 14 August 1905 and left an estate with a net value of £9584-17-11 (Reynolds, R.H. & W.O. 1905). In a long and convoluted will (Reynolds, M.A. 1899) she made provision for the executors to educate her children and to provide for her two daughters until they were married. She left her jewellery etc & household belongings to be shared between her daughters, gifted the lifetime use of a house to Leslie Clyde Reynolds and bequeathed her properties jointly to her husband, her second son and the family solicitor.

## R. H. Reynolds and the Wagga Advertiser.

£ 5 0 0 0    D A M A G E S !

In connection with the action instituted by Mr. William Browe, of this town, against Robert Henry Reynolds, the recently defeated candidate for The Murrumbidgee, it may be interesting to the public to learn that the proprietors of this paper have just successfully emerged from litigation with the same gentleman.

(Anonymous 1887f)

**Figure 5.** The cost of Reynolds' political advertisements which are said to be of value c.\$844,000 in 2023 (Blake 2023).

R.H. Reynolds' will was duly signed and witnessed by Zillah Barden on 20 May 1913 (Reynolds 1913) just five months before he died. Seven of his children were living when their father died but only two were named as inheritors - Victor received R.H. Reynolds' gold watch and £250 and Edgar was bequeathed his Crimea Medal. The bulk of his estate with a net value of £1965-10-0 (*Illegible* 1914) went to his third wife Leah after a marriage of just six months (17 May-12 November 1913), On 10 December 1913 sons Leslie Clyde and William Orr had a caveat placed on the granting of probate on the will and subsequently Leah Reynolds wrote to the court on 24 April 1914 stating "William Orr Reynolds was most vindictive towards his late father before his death and tried to thwart him in many ways ..."  
and after that statement came an even more forthright claim of vindictiveness against her (Reynolds, L. 1914). As a result the caveat was lifted on 27 April 1914 with costs being charged to Leslie Clyde and William Orr Reynolds (Monday 1914).

When Leah Reynolds died in 1929 she left nothing to her step children (Reynolds, L. 1923).

Perhaps it is not surprising that R.H. Reynolds had such limited assets to bequeath as his financial insecurity is shown by the number of documented instances (99) in *Trove* of his name “R H Reynolds” being associated with either of the words “Bankrupt or Bankruptcy”. By no means did all lead to a conviction but he was in court fairly often and on at least one occasion his second wife, Margaret Ann Reynolds made a financial settlement for her husband (Anonymous 1892c).

## 12. Postscript

In early life R.H. Reynolds served in the British army and his bravery in the Crimean War was acknowledged by the award of the Crimea medal and clasp.

He was still in the army on a small pay package when he bought the land grants in Grafton on 13 August 1862 but where he got the funds to buy those remains unexplained.

## Acknowledgments

Information about R.H. Reynolds was shared with his great-grandson (Christopher Betteridge) intermittently from April 2000 with the unstated expectation that Chris would eventually write a paper. But COVID-19 and health issues intervened and prevented that being written before Chris died on 28 May 2023. The mass of detail that had been gathered was excessive for the general reader so when Chris indicated the severity of his ailments we started to assemble items for a distillation of that knowledge. Since Chris died our account of R.H. Reynolds’ military life has been published (Steele & Rickwood 2023) and this is a sequel devoted to many of his civilian activities.

We offer thanks to Brian Fox who, about two decades ago, provided information about Reynolds' shipping interests, and to Philip Hammon who has undertaken to report on R.H. Reynolds' mining activities in the Blue Mountains with John Britty North. On several occasions Gary Steele has most kindly assisted with technical matters that baffled us.

In civilian life R.H. Reynolds had a flawed character and was an untrustworthy rogue in many ways.

- He resorted to bigamy when he married for the second time (to Margaret Ann Orr in 1862) and called himself Robert William Reynolds to conceal his true identity.
- He had unspecified trouble with a hairdresser he employed in 1868 (Reynolds, A.D. 1868) but dismissed (Reynolds 1868b) and who then became a business rival (Reynolds, A.D. 1870) taking some esteemed patronage.
- He must have gained an unenviable reputation for his reluctance to pay costs that he accrued. e.g. In 1886 he failed to pay the fees of architects and claimed improper supervision of the erection of nine shops which a jury did not believe (Anonymous 1886a,b) and, in response to a council order for buildings at 260 Sussex Street and 41 & 43 Druitt Street to be repaired or taken down he arranged for that work to be done but failed to pay the costs and was sued (Anonymous 1886d).

Ultimately he was out manoeuvred by his third wife Leah who was never favoured by her step children.

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## John Colquhoun Dunn (1862-1947) of Glenbrook

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### Abstract

John Colquhoun Dunn trained as a stonemason and builder. He, with several family members, ventured into sawmilling; but he also operated a stone quarry in Knapsack Gully where he built a steam sawmill to provide timber for his building projects. During the early 1900s he engaged in various civil works in the lower Blue Mountains and he constructed houses many of which are still in existence in 2024.

**Key Words:** Dunn; Glenbrook, School of Arts; sawmill, dam, Blue Mountains.



*Photo Joan Peard collection, via  
Glenbrook & District Historical Society.*

**Figure 1.** John Colquhoun Dunn, c.1886.

### Introduction

The surname Dunn is well known in Glenbrook but few are aware of the life led by the man associated with various artefacts in the area.

### Private life

John Colquhoun Dunn ([Figure 1](#)) was born in 1862 in Glebe (NSW BDM 1862). Details of his childhood have not been discovered but at the age of about 22 he moved to Glenbrook and was to become associated with the village for most of his subsequent life. In 1887 he married Esther Hamment in the Hamment family home, *Hansenbrook (sic)* (Anonymous 1902), Park Street, Glenbrook (Anonymous 1947b) ([Figure 2, item 1](#)). Two of their children were born there before the family moved to Bowenfels (2 km west of Lithgow) in c.1891 (Jenkins, 2008, p.52) where part of John's extended family was living. John Dunn was employed locally as a builder and stonemason (Anonymous 1898a), he played in the Bowenfels cricket team (Anonymous 1898b) and was a member of the local Bowenfels Presbyterian Church (Anonymous 1899a,b).

While the Dunn's were living at Bowenfels another six children were born making a total of eight.

During 1901 the family moved back to Glenbrook where two more children were born so making ten children to be housed and fed. John and Esther continued to live and work in that village for over four decades. John Dunn was regarded as a model citizen until in 1935 at the age of 73 he was tried for a serious offence against a 9-year-old girl at Glenbrook (Anonymous 1935). He was found guilty before Judge Sheridan at the Parramatta Quarter Sessions but

"the jury strongly recommended mercy, and Dunn was bound over for two years".

John Dunn's wife, Esther, predeceased him by three months on 30 June 1947 (NSW BDM 1947a; Anonymous 1947a.b) and their daughters cared for her during her last illness (Anonymous 1947b). John Dunn died at the age of 85 on 30 September 1947 (NSW BDM 1947b); he was interred in the Presbyterian portion of Emu Plains Cemetery (Findagrave 1947). Quoted from John Colquhoun Dunn's obituary,

*"He did a lot of stone work of mountain railway stations and worked on additions to St. Paul's Church, Emu Plains."* (Anonymous 1947c).

### **Dunn's occupation**

John Dunn learned his trade as a stonemason from Donald Ross of Glenbrook (Pascoe 2004, p.12) after whom Ross Street, Glenbrook was named (Woods 1997, p.93). Certainly, the time frame of John Dunn coming to Glenbrook in 1884/5 (see a brass plaque on the sandstone pillars at the entrance to Glenbrook Park (Figure 2, item 6)) coincides with the date of

construction of Donald Ross's two storey sandstone house in Wascoe Street called *Ilford House*, previously named *Kelgoola* (NSW Surveyor General Office 1890; Pitt 1867) (Figure 2, item 11).

The Ross and Hamment families were two of the earliest families to settle in Glenbrook; the Ross family purchased land in 1869 (CoT 1869) and in 1880 (CoT 1881) the Hamment's purchased a part of the Ross land facing Park Street. It was in 1887 that John Dunn married into the Hamment family (NSW BDM 1887).

The return of the Dunn family from Bowenfels to Glenbrook in 1901 may have been prompted by the poor health of Esther Dunn's widowed mother, Sarah Hamment, whose husband Richard had died in 1891 (NSW BDM 1891), leaving Sarah to run their boarding house (Anonymous 1892). That brick house had five rooms, a kitchen, a small orchard and an adjoining wooden cottage (Duff & Co 1903) sufficient to have provided accommodation for the married couple and their ten children until the death of Sarah Hamment in 1903 (Anonymous 1903, Duff & Co 1903; NSW BDM 1903).

John and Esther Dunn purchased three parcels of land in Moore Street, Glenbrook (CoT 1891, 1919, 1924). Their family home was constructed on what is now 33 Moore Street, Glenbrook (Figure 2, item 2).

Other property purchases by John Dunn recorded on the Parish of Strathdon map of 1890 (NSW Surveyor General's Office 1890) include over 6 acres (2.5ha) of land located near the current entry to the Blue Mountains National Park, Glenbrook (Arnheim 1916, CoT 1912; Roberts 1922).



Source © Land and Property Management Authority, Panorama Avenue Bathurst NSW.

**Figure 2.** Glenbrook, NSW.

- 1 Hamment family 12 Park Street.  
. Where John and Esther were married in 1887.
- 2 Bonnie Doon, 33 Moore Street.
- 3 Koondroo, 12 Hare Street.
- 4 Hensonbrook, 29 Moore Street.
- 5 Briarcliffe, 29 Great Western Highway, Lapstone. Now part of the RAAF Base.
- 6 Gate Posts, Entrance to Glenbrook Information Centre.
- 7 Glenbrook School of Arts, 2 Ross Street.
- 8 Dunn’s Steam Sawmill site.
- 9 Dam. Water supply for Steam Sawmill.
- 10 Properties purchased either side of Bruce Road.
- 11 Kelgoola. Former residence of Donald Ross.

**Houses and other building projects** (Figure 2)

John Dunn’s occupation at Bowenfels has been listed as monumental mason and stonemason (Anonymous 1947c) and when at Glenbrook as builder (Sands 1925-1932). It appears that all the building and stone construction carried out by John Dunn in the Glenbrook area was when a period of local growth of population gave him plenty of work (Blue Mountains Shire Building Register, 1913-1920).

Bonnie Doon, 33 Moore Street, Glenbrook (Figure 2, item 2).

John Dunn purchased this land on 27 December 1902 but it was not until 1914 that he built the house which was to be the family home until his death. Costing £200 it was a huge expense in those days (Blue Mountains Shire Building Register, 1914). The present owners have restored this building beautifully (Figure 3) and added to it at the rear.



Photo: Brian Fox 28 August 2023.

**Figure 3.** Bonnie Doon, 33 Moore Street, Glenbrook.

Koondroo, 12 Hare Street, Glenbrook (Figure 2, item 3).

John Colquhoun Dunn built this house in c.1915 for Joseph Mortimer Horne (founder of the real estate agency Raine & Horne). In 1886 Joseph Horne married Annie Clutterbuck (a Florence Nightingale nurse (Anonymous 1927d)) and had the house built for his sister-in-law Emily Clutterbuck and as a weekend retreat for the Horne family (CoT 1888; Pascoe 2004, p.12).

Hensonbrook, 29 Moore Street, Glenbrook (Figure 2, item 4).

This house was completely renovated in the 1950-1960s by John Dunn’s son Alec, and the character was changed from the original dwelling built c1901 (Pascoe 2004, p.12).

*Briarcliffe*, 29 Great Western Highway, Lapstone (next to, and now part of, the RAAF Base at Lapstone) (Figure 2, item 5). It was constructed by John and his son James Dunn in the 1920s for the Morris very fine lounge room about 25ft square (2.3sq m) with cobblestone floor and plate glass observation doors opening onto a very wide verandah, about 30ft by 20ft (9.1m by 6.1m) from which are magnificent views (Anonymous 1930; Aston 1999, p.2).



Photo: Courtesy of Buildster Pty Limited.

**Figure 4.** *Briarcliffe* (as it is in 2023), 29 Great Western Highway, Lapstone.

Gate Posts (Figure 2, item 6).

The stone pillars at the entrance to the national park on the Great Western Highway (Figure 5) were built by John Dunn in 1930 for the people of Glenbrook and originally opened towards the second Glenbrook Station. They now enhance the entrance to the Glenbrook Visitors Information Centre. Affixed to the left hand sandstone pillar is a brass plaque which in part reads,

*“John Colquhoun Dunn, Stonemason and resident of Glenbrook from 1885, erected these pillars in 1930 as the main entrance to Glenbrook Park.”* (Aston 1999, p.5).

*Glenbrook School of Arts*, 2 Ross Street, Glenbrook (Figure 2, item 7).

An important event in the history of Glenbrook was the laying of the foundation

family and has been described as being of 'modern' architectural design (Figure 4). It is a massive single storey bungalow, built of specially selected stone and contains a



Photo: Brian Fox, 28 August 2023.

**Figure 5.** Gate Posts to the entrance of Glenbrook Visitors Information Centre.

stone for a School of Arts and its subsequent construction. The Foundation Stone was quarried by Dunn at Glenbrook, properly dressed to size to 2ft 4in. x 1ft 6in. x 1ft 2in. (71cm x 46cm x 36cm); the inscription reads: -

*“Glenbrook School of Arts.*

*This foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Colin Smith, August 21st, 1909.”*

That foundation stone was incorporated into the rebuilt School of Arts and can be seen adjacent to the later foundation stone that was laid on 24 September 1927 by Mrs. Herwald G. Kirkpatrick at 2 Ross Street Glenbrook.

The Glenbrook School of Arts was used for dancing and meetings until it was destroyed by fire in September 1926 (Anonymous 1926). Not long after the fire the local community came together to support the School of Arts committee in the raising of funds to erect a new building (Figure 6). John Dunn submitted a tender for a brick structure of a modern type (Anonymous 1927a,c) and it was accepted.

A note in *The Nepean times*, reads,  
*“To contractor Mr. James Dunn, [i.e. a son of John Dunn], was making good headway with the structure.....Both the old and new foundation stones were hewn from local stone, and the masonry work, which is of a high standard, was executed in both instances by Mr. John Dunn, senr.”* (Anonymous 1927b).



*Photo: Courtesy of Glenbrook and District Historical Society.*

**Figure 6.** Glenbrook School of Arts.

The pair of stone pillars that grace an entrance gate at 7 Lucasville Road, Glenbrook were installed in 1926 at the entrance to Harold Elphinstone Blundell’s home but are now completely built around with other houses (CoT 1917; Pascoe 2004, p.12.).

Dunn's Steam Sawmill, (GR 806 621, LPI 2001) (Figure 2, item 8) and Dam (GR 807 620) (Figure 2, item 9).

A steam driven sawmill (Figure 7) was located on what is now Knapsack Reserve, Glenbrook (Lot 7012, Parish of Strathdon, County of Cook) which is designated as Crown Land and managed by Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC Knapsack Reserve Plan of Management 2022). Notes on Survey Plans (Pitt 1875; Rhodes 1928) indicate that the term of the lease was to be 1 September 1915 to 1930. However, Lot 7012 is not identified as a recognised historic site. The sawmill site is near the southern boundary of Lot 7012 and the water supply was via a dam located 100m

due south of the sawmill on the north-western side of Lot 63.

The sawmill was built about 1921 and operated by J.C. Dunn. Consequently, Dunn's occupation in 1922 and 1923 was recorded as a sawmiller (Sands 1922, 1923).



*Photo: Courtesy of Glenbrook and District Historical Society.*

**Figure 7.** Dunn’s steam sawmill, 1926.

Raymond Francis Dunn, a grandson of John Colquhoun Dunn, recalled (Dunn 2008a).

*“There wasn’t a great amount (of timber) produced, some of it went into the new School of Arts the mill was destroyed by fire (within 2 years).*

*From my recollection the fire started from what they used to call the donkey engine, the steam driven donkey engine that powered the entire installation. It was evidently a spark from this donkey engine that wiped it out. But it was not that long after it was actually built or started, because as a little child I can just remember seeing it and then hearing in the family that it had been destroyed.*

*There wasn’t a great amount of production. It was not a profitable enterprise. It would have been no more than three years in operation.*

*My grandfather (John Colquhoun Dunn) and one of his brothers were involved in*

*the operating of it. We have no photographs, it was rather a regrettable interlude in the family, it cost the family a lot of money. My father was the financier, and he lost the lot. The entire operations of the family were based on everything local. My grandfather being a stone mason, he used to go and find his own stone as close as possible as he could to where he was going to build whatever it was. He would do the same with the timber, useable timber was in the Knapsack Gully area and a lot of stringybark timber and that was the most merchantable timber in the area.”*

The area still mainly consists of Turpentine - Ironbark Forest. During an inspection of the area by the authors on 28 August 2023 it was noted that there are numerous trees with deformed trunks or are multi-stemmed at the base where the trees had been previously been cut down and then regrown.



*Photo: John Fox. 28 January 2023.*

**Figure 8.** The foundation remains of the sawmill.  
(GR 80650 62108; LPI 2001).

Also, in 2023 the remains of a machinery foundation stonewall were seen (Figure 8), it is two stone courses high (c.40cm) and overall, 6m long and 65cm wide at the widest. The south west end stone has one mounting bolt still *in situ*. 8 holes in two sets of four were identified in the main foundation wall, designed to accommodate an engine and the large flywheel. A superstructure of bark and bush timber protected the machinery. On the north east side of this foundation wall is a depression or trench that it can be surmised was to accommodate the diameter of the flywheel.

A water supply dam (Figure 9) for the steam engine is located down the hill, south east of the sawmill. The dam wall is 11 m long and the dam 6.3 m wide and has an estimated capacity of 70,000 litres. On the upside the stone wall is backed up by an earth fill wall. Near the dam, is a sandstone block, GR 80693 62027 that features two 19mm mounting bolts 48 mm apart, T.P.I. 9 (Threads per inch). This was where the pump was located to deliver water to the sawmill site 92 metres uphill from the saw mill. An overflow channel is located on the southern side. No evidence remains of the connecting pipeline or of water storage at the mill site. It is not clear from the statement

*“the steam driven donkey engine powered the entire installation.”* (Dunn 2008b).

whether the pump was powered by the sawmill steam engine or was separately powered possibly by kerosene.

(On a subsequent visit on 28 August 2023 the authors found the dam completely dry.).



Photo: John Fox, 28 January 2023.

**Figure 9.** Water supply dam and what remains of the foundation bolts for the pump.

### Conclusion

John Colquhoun Dunn, stone mason, monumental mason and builder has endowed Glenbrook with some fine buildings and memorials using local materials. Finding the evidence of his steam driven sawmill and associated works adds to the local history of Glenbrook.

### Acknowledgements

We thank John Fox for his research, in particular that via electoral rolls and for providing several photographs. We are grateful to Doug Knowles (Glenbrook and District Historical Society) for initially showing us the location of the sawmill site, for sharing his knowledge, and for procuring the photographs used in Figures 6 & 7. John Cooper is thanked for compiling the locality map used as Figure 2.

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## Signature Rock graffiti, Alice Louisa Cave, Porters Pass, Blackheath.

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### Abstract

A single rock face within Porters Pass, Blackheath, has approximately 100 engravings of monograms, initials, names and locations, that were made between c1906 and the mid-1920s. This is the most engraved rock surface that has been encountered by the author in over 1,760 bushwalks in the Blue Mountains.

An attempt has been made to identify the people whose initials are relatively clear, but the creators of the majority of the inscriptions remain unknown.

**Key Words:** Signature Rock, graffiti, Alice Louisa Cave, Porters Pass, Blackheath, Blue Mountains

### Introduction

Graffiti in all its forms is the scourge of any location and to our society. It is unsightly and desecrates what was a holistic feature. Truly it is the product of an act of vandalism, perpetrated by thoughtless individuals with no community pride or respect for the natural or even the built environment. And yet, at some point in time our perceptions change and what previously was perceived as a senseless act of vandalism becomes an item of historic importance and can be appreciated and even warrant protection.

Many years ago, I had asked a NPWS officer, when does graffiti become an historic item meriting retention? His answer, 25 years. So now it is with a sense of awe that we gaze on names and dates of long ago, especially when the dates are over 100 years old and the graffiti is elegantly executed.

There are many locations in the Blue Mountains where the 'now' historic names and dates can be found, but none more so

than a large rock within Alice Louisa Cave, Porters Pass, Blackheath (Fox et al. 2023, p.585). During a bush walk on the 23 October 2017, I named that Signature Rock due to the large number of engravings on the rock surface.

**Porters Pass** (Grid reference 469 758, LPI 2000) is a natural pass through the western escarpment in the headwaters of a Gully connecting Blackheath with the Kanimbla Valley; the walking access to the top of the Pass is via the end of Burton Street, Blackheath. It was named after Timothy Porter (1827-1898), a tinsmith by trade (Anonymous 1898c) who discovered this pass c.1886 when the Porters lived in a house called *Avoca*, in Kanimbla Street Blackheath (Anonymous 1900) (now called a Road and No.22 is displayed),.

For visitors

*"Blackheath Progress Committee  
.....had visited some of the most  
prominent sights and had decided that  
finger-posts should be placed at  
...Porter's Pass."* (Anonymous 1894).

It became popular and

*"Picnic parties loaded with creature comforts were to be seen wending this way to the many attractive spots, Govett's Leap, Wall's Cave, Porter's Pass."* (Anonymous 1899b).

Consequently, in October 1903 Porters Pass was gazetted for recreation purposes (Reserve No.37259, 200 acres; Anonymous 1904a) and trustees were prematurely reported to have been "appointed" (Anonymous 1903). It was, however, seven months before names were formally recommended

*"to the Lands Department as trustees for the new reserve at Porters Pass: - Messrs, G. W. Nicoll, A. Woodhead, and J.T. Moore."* (Anonymous 1904b).

Later, Porters Pass was placed under the control of the Blackheath Sights and Reserves (Anonymous 1917a).

*"Mr. H.F. Hall, visited Blackheath, on his tour of inspection of Mountain reserves. He made an exhaustive tour of the Blackheath group of sights and reserves, ten in number, all of which are now in splendid condition. Great improvements have been made in Centennial Glen and Porter's Pass. The tracks have been reformed, and notice-boards erected in conspicuous places, thus reducing the chances of tourists getting lost."* (Anonymous 1917b).

Timothy Porter first showed the pass to Tomas Rodriguez, (the Blackheath Station Master at the time - Hillier 1946, p.6, col.3) and subsequently it was described by the Blackheath Progress Committee (1903, p.32). The first map to show Porters Pass was printed in a newspaper (Anonymous 1899a) and later the cartographer Isaac Barrow (1908) drew and published a much more accurate version.

Timothy Porter died on 5 or 6 December 1898 (Anonymous 1898b,c) aged 71.

### Alice Louisa Cave (GR 469 759) (Figure 1).



*Photo Brian Fox.*

**Figure 1.** Overhang fronting Alice Louisa Cave.

This 'cave' is actually an extended overhang on a 50-metre side track within Porters Pass, Blackheath. It was named (by an unknown person) c.1886 after Alice Louisa Porter (1865-1929) whose father Timothy Porter had escorted Alice Louisa and her younger sister Amy Helena Marian (1871-1944) down Porters Pass, to become the first European women to descend it. Boyce (1887, p.29) wrote

*"It has generally been the practice of both residents and tourists on the mountains to name whatever fresh nooks or natural beauties they may have found. The above was named Louisa Caves."*

The use of the plural, 'caves', would refer to the other overhangs within the pass. The singular 'cave' refers to the most prominent overhang (over 50 m in length, 12 m wide, 10 m high) which contains Signature Rock. Hillier (1946, col.3) wrote of an interview with Robert Osborne Bowmaker [husband of Alice Louisa (Anonymous 1881)],

*"Among my early recollections is the discovery of Porter's Pass by Grandfather. The first man he took down with him was Mr. Rodriguez, who was then station master at Blackheath. The first woman to make the descent was*

*my mother (whom the 'Alice Louisa' Cave was named after) and her younger sister Amy. I remember, although very young at the time, how daring the women-folk were in making the descent of the Pass, and wearing men's clothes to do it, as grandfather refused to take them in the long dresses of the day."*

### Signature Rock

At the base of an overhang is the most interesting and striking feature about Alice Louisa Cave - a large slab of rock (Figure 2) (5.2 m long, 2.7 m wide and 1.5 m high) with a smooth surface angled towards the front of the overhang. This very smooth surface (and its angle) presents itself as the ideal writing tablet as evidenced by the numerous initials, names and dates. The coating on the surface did not react to hydrochloric acid so most probably it

*"is siliceous and therefore reasonably hard and giving durability to engravings"* (pers. comm. Dr Peter C. Rickwood, 3 November 2021).



*Photo Brian Fox.*

**Figure 2.** Signature Rock, Porters Pass, Blackheath.

### The Engravings

The most elaborate of all the initials and associated art work on Signature Rock is the one set high on the left hand side of the



*Photo Brian Fox.*

**Figure 3.** The most elaborate engraving.

sloping rock face (Figure 3) with diagonals 27 x 26.5 cm. This part of the rock can be walked behind, making it possible to reach over in order to carve the monogram. There has been speculation as to which way the monogram is oriented but all the other names and dates are facing towards the front sloping rock face. The main clue that this was executed from the back (and read from the back) is the border outline which has a central inverted 'V' at the top of a rectangular border - the deciphered initials being 'r M' (Figure 4). The decoration at the top of the letters indicates that the workman was in a standing position.

Mr. Sach Killam, (Figure 5: Heritage Specialist, Cemetery Conservation and Monumental Stone Mason employed by Rookwood Cemeteries) is one of the most experienced practicing stone masons in NSW. On the 20 November 2021 Mr. Killam was invited to view Signature Rock and give his judgement in relation to this monogram. After carefully examining it using his set square, measuring tape and eye glass, Mr. Killam commented:



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 4.** Mr. Sach Killam deciphering the orientation and initials.

*“I am still somewhat equivocal about the orientation. I think it is completely clear on stone carving logic that it appears to be rM and carved from the rear, upside down to the vast majority of other works.”*

Mr. Killam advised in writing,

*“From a stonemasonry perspective, there would be no excuse for the shape not to be perfectly square... although it is close to square, I would take the failure to reach perfectly square to be categorical evidence that it was not done professionally. ... I would say that it is clear evidence that the shape was made by eye- albeit by someone with a reasonably good eye but without experience of needing to square things up in practice .... Even though it is not perfectly centred in the rectangle, it is so well done that the carver must have set it out with a pencil or other means before starting the carving. Almost all the other inscriptions appear to have been done directly - i.e. with no pre-drawing. ... The entwined initials are definitely ‘r M’. To read them upside down as ‘j W’ is not valid.”*

### Interpretation

Who was R M?



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 5.** Mr. Killam replicating the monogram and displaying the tools used by a stone mason.

After checking electoral rolls and databases for Blackheath it is speculated that a possible contender could be Robert Moss (1834-1906). Moss was a prominent Blackheath local resident, owner of *The Pines* guest house, and the first proprietor of the newspaper *The Mountaineer*. He and Thomas Rodriguez were both trustees of the Recreation Ground at Blackheath (Portion 169 located between the railway line and the GWH opposite Blackheath Public School) (Anonymous 1895) and Robert Moss was also a trustee of the Recreation Ground at Govetts Leap, Blackheath (Anonymous 1898a). He died suddenly of a heart attack 1906, aged 71 (Anonymous 1906).

On the same rock there are over one hundred initials, names and dates, some overlain on others, many indecipherable. Some of those that are reasonably clear are shown in [Figures 6 & 7](#).



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 6.** Within a shield the initials, V.C.G. at the top and below J. H. is a possible date 190 (*illegible*).



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 8.** A rectangular framework around the name A Higgins 1922 Vaucuse (letter A is not clear)



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 7.** A. C. Kisky underlined with a line scroll and the word 'Paddington' (*very faint*).

The unusually named 'Kisky' family included "Alexander Charles Kisky" (Figure 7) a plumber who lived in Paddington (NSW Electoral Roll (1903-1904) and then in Waverley (NSW Electoral Rolls (1913b; 1930c; 1936)); he died in 1948.

In Sands Directory (1922, p.1436) there is an M.J. Higgins, Victoria Road, Vaucuse (householder) (Figure 8).

In 1913 there was a John Wills (Figure 9), carrier, Blenheim-street, Waverley, and a



Photo Emanuel Conomos.

**Figure 9.** J Wills, underneath the name is the locality, Waverley.

John Edmund Wills, stonemason, Carter-street, Waverley (NSW Electoral Roll 1913a). But the name J Wills and the locality name Waverley are in different print styles so they may be unrelated. In that case J Wills could be James Porter Wills whose wife, Monaca (*sic.*), owned two blocks of land nearby in Blackheath (CoT 1909), Lot 10 (now part of 14 Burton Road) and the adjoining rear block Lot 67 (now part of 19 Cecil Road). The start of the track head to Porters Pass is at the western end of Burton Road.

"Tim Porter who built his house 'Avoca' in Kanimbla Street, between Cecil Road and Wariga Street.....Other branches of the Porter family, Monica (sic.) Wills and Sara Dickensen, also built cottages in the same area." (Hillier 1976, p.120).



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 10.** Pike inscription.

### Other inscriptions

Below F Pike, (Figure 10) is the word, Leuwin (possible followed by the word Pike) and below that is a large capital A and the name L M Pike 1915. The style of those inscriptions is similar to that of the names F Pike and L M Pike indicative of them all having been carved by the same person. Those initials possibly relate to Frederick Leuwin Pike and his sister Lillian Margaret Pike or else to their mother Lillie Mimey Pike. Another strong possibility is that the initials are those of 17 year old Lydia Mary Pike as the Alice Louisa Cave was named after her mother (NSW BDM 1898).

Clear in one inscription (Figure 11), are the initials L G and 12 (i.e. the year 1912).



Photo Emanuel Conomos.

**Figure 11.** Engraving within a square box.

[Note: L G and the date 1 / 1 / 12 was also very deeply carved on the rock face at the top of the first steep descent into Porters Pass opposite the galvanised railing.]



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 12.** The name, VJ Brooke, i.e. probably Victor James Brooke.

In 1930 Victor James Brooke (Figure 12), was residing at 11 Hercules Street, Tamworth, and his occupation was listed as 'agent' (NSW Electoral Roll (1930b)). He died

"aged 77 years, late of Calala, Tamworth" [i.e. born 1899] (Anonymous 1977).





Photo Emanuel Conomos.

**Figure 13.** H. S. St - - den.

The engraving seen in [Figure 13](#) possibly signifies Henry Snowden Standen (1894-1952), occupation architect (NSW Electoral Roll (1930a)).

### Conclusion

The names and initials within Porters Pass, and in particular on Signature Rock, give a good snap shot of the visitors to Blackheath in the early 1900s. The localities engraved include, Bathurst, Manly, Coogee, Waverley, Drummoyne, Vaucluse and Paddington. It was a time when travel to the mountains was mainly by train. A time lived at a more leisurely pace than now, time to boil the billy and



Photo Brian Fox.

**Figure 14.** The first major overhang in Porters Pass where the remains of a table and a fireplace are located.

have a picnic on the day, before catching the afternoon train back home. Within one of the first adjoining overhangs ([Figure 14](#)) are the remains of a fireplace, table and bench seat.

While we do not condone the activity of carving names into rocks, we can appreciate the reason why people seek a form of immortality.

### Acknowledgements

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## A noteworthy WW2 Red Cross volunteer at Blackheath - Miss Mary Huie (1896-1945).

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### Abstract

In most of her adult life Miss Mary Huie resided in Blackheath and greatly assisted the activities of the local branch of the Australian Red Cross Society during the late 1930s and WW2. After she died in 1945 funds were raised to erect a memorial plaque on a rock in the Memorial Park, Blackheath and it still remains there. As little is known of exactly what sort of life she led, some brief details of her parents and siblings are discussed .

**Key Words:** Huie, Red Cross, Blackheath, Blue Mountains

### Introduction

Having enlisted in the armed forces at the start of WW2, a large number of men left Blackheath and afterwards several female residents volunteered to fill gaps in the staff of a few essential services. However in the prevailing mores of those days females were never considered 'suitable' for strenuous activities like fire fighting and policing but there were other roles that they undertook. Some ladies contributed far more time and effort than would have been expected and so became well known locally yet were not fêted outside of the Blue Mountains. Not to demean the contributions of others, but of note were three Blackheath ladies with high profile relatives, Merrill Frances Smith (née Boyce) who worked as an NES ambulance driver (Rickwood 2022), Violet Bradshaw who was a member of The Volunteer Air Observer Corps (VAOC) (Rickwood 2020) and Mary Huie - the subject of this paper - who is said to have tirelessly assisted the local branch of the Australian Red Cross Society (Haines 2005).

### (Ada) Mary Huie (1896-1945)

The Huie family were descendants of Huguenots that lived in Scotland and migrated to Geelong, Victoria, in c.1852 (Green 1999). But Mary Huie was born in NSW on 21 March 1896 (NSW BDM 1896; Anonymous 1896) to parents John Ziegler Huie *snr* (Figure 7) and Ada Mary (Anonymous 1894; 1917b; 1949b) (née Jenkins - the last of eight children (Bignell\_Morris tree)) at *Buckingbong Station*; the birth being registered at Narrandera (c.97km NW of Wagga Wagga). Possibly to avoid confusion with her identically named mother Mary never used her first given name.

Mary was the eldest of three children, her brother John Ziegler Huie *jnr* was a year younger (b: 22 July 1897; Anonymous 1948c) and her sister Marjory (*spelling varies*) Huie was four years younger (b: 18 December 1899). At the age of only ten years and nine months Marjory died on 18 September 1910 (Anonymous 1910) and was buried in the family plot at Manly cemetery (Figure 1).



*FindaGrave (2024)*

**Figure 1.** Headstone of Marjory Huie's grave (Manly Cemetery Anglican B 52).

Mary Huie's childhood and schooling took place in Narrandera (e.g. Anonymous 1906) until 1908 (Anonymous 1949b) and then at Manly (Anonymous 1912, 1913) where the family lived at *Highton*, 78 Raglan Street (NSW Electoral Rolls 1908 & 1909); that property (Section 12, parts of Lots 22-24) having been acquired on 10 June 1907 (CoT 1904).

A decade later her father formally acquired *Heatherton*, 47 Leichhardt Street, Blackheath on 17 December 1917 (CoT 1885) (Figure 2).

However the family must have taken possession of the Blackheath house (Figure 3) before that date to have been able to host a visit by relatives on 16 December 1917 and take them to a picnic in Neates Glen, Grand Canyon, Blackheath. Mary, then aged 21, was not present at the picnic which was to be a tragic event during which a sassafras tree suddenly fell on the group



*CoT (1885)*

**Figure 2.** Record of transfer of land at Blackheath to J.Z. Huie on 17 December 1917.



*photo: CENTURY 21 Williams Real Estate*

**Figure 3.** *Heatherton*, 47 Leichhardt St, Blackheath, Oct. 2012.

(Anonymous 1917a,c) and both Mary's mother (Ada Mary Huie) and her paternal aunt (Margaret Georgina Huie) were killed (Figure 4), and a four year-old boy was injured. Ada Mary Huie died intestate (Huie 1919).



*FindaGrave (2024)*

**Figure 4.** Headstone on the graves of Ada & Margaret Huie (Manly Cemetery Anglican B 51)

While living at Blackheath some of Mary's pre-WW2 social life consisted of travelling to London in 1934 (Anonymous 1934) to Lismore in 1936 (Anonymous 1936a) and on to Queensland (Anonymous 1936c); she also participated in golfing contests (Anonymous 1920, 1929, 1936b).

Prior to and during WW2, Mary Huie devoted a lot of time and effort to volunteering work for the Blackheath Branch of the Australian Red Cross Society (Haines 2005) being praised

"for her organising ability and capacity to carry out big public appeals"

for donations (Anonymous 1945c). She was involved with the Red Cross from 1936 (Anonymous 1936a) and held the position of Honorary Secretary of the Blackheath Branch from 1937 (Anonymous 1937b) until May 1944 (Anonymous 1944a).

In 1937 she was instrumental in the formation of "The Red Cross Younger Set" (Anonymous 1937a,b). Mary Huie placed many advertisements in newspapers for Red Cross activities ranging from social events (e.g. Anonymous 1938) to street stalls (e.g. Anonymous 1942a,b) and in 1942 that organisation opened a shop in Govetts Leap Road (Anonymous 1942c) for which Mary Huie sought donations of "anything saleable". Some of the financial successes of their ventures are described in the 1942 AGM report (Anonymous 1942d). With her father Mary moved to Manly in May 1944 (Anonymous 1944a) but she returned briefly in June 1944 (Anonymous 1944b) and again on 26 July 1944 to receive a presentation at the AGM of that Society (Anonymous 1944c).

From the death of her mother in 1917 until her father re-married in 1920 (NSW BDM 1920) Mary Huie was the sole female in the Blackheath house. Thereafter she continued to live there with her father and new step-mother (her aunt Clara Florence (née Jenkins); NSW Electoral Rolls 1923 & 1943) until Clara died on 11 May 1943

(Anonymous 1943a,c). Mary was the executrix to the will of her step-mother (Anonymous 1943b) who left her estate to her step-grandchildren Shirley and JZ Huie 3rd, and partly to Mary (Huie 1943). As a registered elector (NSW Electoral Rolls 1919 to 1944) Mary always reported her occupation as "Home Duties" so she never had paid employment.

*Heatherton* remained the Blackheath family home until 26 June 1944 (CoT 1885) after which father and daughter moved back to Manly (Anonymous 1945d). They probably rented a house as despite JZ Huie *snr* having an extensive portfolio of properties at that time none were in the Manly area. Shortly after that move, and when aged 48 years and 10 months, spinster Mary Huie died on 10 February 1945 (Anonymous 1945a) at Camperdown (Huie 1945a) with that death being registered at Newtown (NSW BDM 1945). Those suburb names suggest that probably her life ended in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital when she pre-deceased her father who lived on until 1949 (Anonymous 1949a,b).

Mary Huie was buried in the family plot in the Church of England Cemetery, Manly (Anonymous 1945b - now just known as Manly Cemetery) where the cross erected is now lying horizontal (Figure 5).

Mary's niece was the sole beneficiary of the will which specified "Whole Estate" to "Shirley Wanda Nonie Huie ... upon her attaining the age of twentyone years" (Huie 1934, Huie 1945b).

An advertisement in relation to granting Probate on Mary's property (Anonymous 1945d) stated

"Formerly of Blackheath, But late of Manly"

and less specific was the funeral notice with "of Blackheath and Manly" (Anonymous 1945b). In her younger days she lived at Manly from 1908 until late 1917 but those quoted statements relate to the last few



*FindaGrave (2024)*

**Figure 5.** Engraved cross now horizontal on Mary Huie's grave (Manly Cemetery Anglican B 52).

months of her life from mid 1944 until **February 1945** however the location of that Manly residence is unknown.

**Mary's brother - John Ziegler Huie *jnr* (1897-1948)**

Mary Huie's brother, Dr John Ziegler Huie *jnr* (**Figure 6**) married Frances Georgina MacCormick in 1923 (NSW BDM 1923). Like his sister, Dr John Ziegler Huie *jnr* pre-deceased their father (**Figure 7**) when he died on 23 October 1948 (Anonymous 1948b) in Waverley Memorial Hospital aged 51, the

"Cause of death was a heart affliction" (Anonymous 1948a).

John Ziegler Huie *jnr* and Frances Georgina Huie had a daughter Shirley Wanda Nonie Huie (b: 9 August 1924), who when aged 21 in 1945 inherited the quite valuable estate of her aunt Mary (Huie 1945b). Shirley married Russell Kerr in 1946 (NSW Marriage Registration 1946) and they had two children but that marriage was dissolved. Afterwards she married Edward



*NAA p.15.*

**Figure 6.** Dr John Ziegler HUIE *jnr*, 12 August 1940  
[Captain 1940; Major 1942  
(NAA pp.18 &19; 22 & 29)]

Fenton and they also had two children (Wikipedia 2023) prior to Edward being killed in an aircraft accident in 1979. From 1980 Shirley cared for her ailing mother (Frances Georgina Huie) until she died in 1984 after which Shirley had a *de facto* relationship with Dennis Frederick Pile and they resided in Bellawongarah west of Berry, NSW (Wikipedia 2023).

[Anonymous 1995 stated "dearly loved husband of Shirley" but no proof of marriage has been found.] Dennis Pile died on 31 October 1995 aged 69 (Anonymous 1995) but Shirley outlived him by two decades first moving to Garran, ACT and then into *Bupa Care*, Calwell, ACT (James, 2016) until on 23 June 2016 she died aged 91 (Anonymous 2016).

John Ziegler Huie *jnr* and Frances Georgina Huie also had a son, another John Ziegler Huie *3rd*, born in January 1930 (Anonymous 1930) and he married Jacqueline Bettye Wells in 1957 (NSW BDM 1957; Bignell\_Morris tree).

Mary's father - John Ziegler Huie *snr* (1861-1949).



*ex Lois Collier collection*

**Figure 7.** Mayor John Ziegler HUIE (*snr*) opening new tennis courts at Blackheath on 5 March 1924 (Anonymous 1924a; Yeaman 1976, p.298).

Mary Huie's father (Figure 7) was born on 23 August 1861 in Geelong, Victoria, and became an avid sportsman, competent in polo (Anonymous 1949b), tennis and golf (Anonymous 1924b). He helped found the Blackheath Golf Club (Hatswell 1976, pp.279-294), and was a popular alderman in the early 1920s who became Mayor of Blackheath for the duration of 1924 (Figure 8)(Anonymous 1924c).

**HUIE, John Zeigler. \***

*Ald.* Jan.1920 – Dec.1925 (ret.).

*Mayor* Dec.1923 – Dec.1924.

*Occ.* grazier.

*ex Rickwood (2005., p.586)*

**Figure 8.** Blackheath Municipal Council Register of Aldermen 1919-1947.

John Ziegler Huie *snr* married for a second time in 1920 (NSW BDM 1920) - to his first wife's older sister Clara Francis Jenkins (b: 1865 the fifth of eight children; Bignell\_Morris tree). After Mary Huie died in February 1945 John Ziegler Huie *snr* was living on his own at an undiscovered address in Manly. Subsequently he sought the company of his brother's widow, Mrs. Ethel Blanche Huie (NSW Electoral Roll 1949a), where he is known to have died on "22 August 1949 at his sister-in-law's residence, Broom Hall, 19 Denham Street, Bondi"

aged 88 (Anonymous 1949a,b); he was buried in the family plot in Manly Cemetery (Figure 9). J.Z. Huie *snr* is only listed in that one Phillip / Bondi electoral roll (NSW Electoral Roll 1949b) and to have been so he had to have been living in Bondi by at least the fourth quarter of 1948 but he could have arrived even in 1947 as there was no electoral roll in 1948.



*FindaGrave (2024)*

**Figure 9.** Headstone on the graves of Clara & J.Z. Huie *snr* (Manly Cemetery Anglican B 2).

## Memorial

Mary Huie (21 March 1896 – 10 February 1945) has been regarded (Haines 2005) as having been a respected member of the Blackheath Branch of the Red Cross, being Honorary Secretary from 1936-1944 and acting Treasurer in 1939-1940. Shortly after she died a fund was opened to create a memorial

"at Blackheath to perpetuate the memory of one of its finest citizens and charity workers, Miss Mary Huie." (Anonymous 1945c).

Subsequently solicitor Harold Houen

"persuaded the Blackheath Council to build" ... "the Mary Huie Memorial Lily Pond in the Rhododendron Park" (Ferrow 1976, p.341). [See **Footnote**]

A photograph of the lily pond was published by Hodgkinson (1976, p.270) and evaluated by Halbert (2024) but the memorial plaque is not visible in it.

In a 1979 aerial photo ([Figure 10](#)) the concrete surrounding the pond can be seen to be enlarged on the upslope southern side which suggests that the memorial plaque was originally located there and is probably the white 'dot' visible in that photograph.

The pond has long gone because "Pond area no longer appears to hold water and now forms part of a drainage line through the open grass area near the play equipment." (Anonymous 2009, p.63).

When it was removed has not been established but the plaque remains ([Figure 11](#)) in the swampy drainage channel at the SE corner of Memorial Park below Park Avenue ([Figure 10](#)).

## Postscript

Sadly, photographs of the females mentioned above have not been located, not of Mary Huie herself, her sister (Marjory Huie), her mother (Ada Mary Huie née Jenkins), her paternal aunt (Margaret



*CMA (1980)*

**Figure 10.** Aerial Photograph taken on 21 January 1979 showing the lily pond and probable original location of the Mary Huie plaque.



*Photo Peter Rickwood 2004*

**Figure 11.** Plaque to commemorate Miss Mary Huie, Memorial Park, Blackheath.

Georgina Huie), her step-mother (Clara Florence Huie née Jenkins) and nor of her sister-in-law (Frances Huie née MacCormick).



## Footnote

1945	Park	A Lily Pond was established where two natural springs ran through the Park. It was dedicated to the memory of Miss Mary Huie, a worthy citizen and for many years a dedicated Red Cross worker in the Blackheath district.
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(Anonymous 2009, p.71; 2022, p.22).

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## **BMACHO, foundation, aims and objectives.**

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Something that enters the thoughts of many organisations is whether they are meeting their aims and objectives and to consider broaching the subject every couple of years as perhaps circumstances change.

I have been on the BMACHO Management Committee since March 2010, and this makes me aware that with affiliated member organisations' changing committees and adding new members not everyone knows what BMACHO does and how we arrive at our planning and decisions.

BMACHO has Organisational Members and Individual Members. Our Management Committee consists of the executive and up to six committee members. All positions on the BMACHO Management Committee can be taken up by representatives of our affiliated organisations or by individual members. You do not need to be a committee member of the organisation you represent, just a member of that organisation who is aware of the concerns, needs and activities of that organisation. The best results on the BMACHO Management Committee are achieved when our committee members are those representing our affiliated membership.

We do not have our own premises and so our monthly meetings are held at the premises of one of our affiliated organisations' - a different location each month. This gives the host organisation the opportunity to voice any concerns or highlight any achievements or displays.

We last had an Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23 March 2024 and early in February 2025 we will be circulating a Notice of Meeting and a Nomination Form for a position on the next committee. Please consider nominating; you will not be overloaded with work; we just want more input from our membership. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of each month, February to December and it is quite OK if you are not able to attend every month due to other commitments. We all need to enjoy what we are doing in our volunteer roles.

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, archival collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation. The objectives of BMACHO (from 2006) are:

- To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage.
- To encourage and assist cultural heritage.
- To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by our affiliated organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various groups 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.

We have published 92 issues of BMACHO's official *Heritage* newsletter, the first 32 being edited by then President, the late John Leary OAM, and the balance by Patsy Moppett (Individual Member, President). John Leary was good at succession planning, and had asked Patsy if she would consider taking over the newsletter at some stage, which she did when John died suddenly in July 2014.

The refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood (Individual Member and Past President Blue Mountains Historical Society), and we have published 11 issues with Issue No 12 on the way. Peter has also edited two copies of *Occasional Papers*. All these publications are on our website <http://bluemountainsheritage.com> and also are online via the National Library of Australia's *Trove* and can be downloaded without cost.

In 2015 we launched the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au/greater-blue-mountains-heritage-trail/> with an A2 brochure and a dedicated website with grant funding from St. George/Westpac Bank. This project promoted our members and heritage accommodation, and the cafes and restaurants in heritage buildings that wished to participate. This was severely compromised during 2020-2021 due to the global COVID pandemic so our brochure has not been updated since 2019 but will be once we are able to secure funds.

We also hold the Blue Mountains History Conference every two years. This was also compromised in 2020 but was held the following year in Lithgow and the subsequent one in Springwood in 2023. The next conference will be held in 2025 at The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba. We will

update details on our website as new information comes to hand

<http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au/blue-mountains-history-conference/>

Our former President, the late John Leary OAM, was instrumental, along with Barrie Reynolds, Ian Jack and Peter Stanbury in lobbying the Blue Mountains City Council to form the BMCC Heritage Advisory Committee, a separate body to BMACHO, of which John was a founding member, from memory, in 2011.

We try to have knowledge of the many issues facing our members and listen to their concerns and ideas. Over the years we have organised many workshops, (on topics as indicated to be of interest to our members) at different locations in an endeavour to make our members' efforts more efficient and enjoyable. This role has been taken up, to a degree, by Blue Mountains City Council and their Museums Advisors, Gay Hendriksen and Rebecca Turnbull. We still hold the occasional workshop when funds permit, but we need to fit it around the BMCC MUSE workshops.

In the early years BMACHO was able to apply for funding from the federal government via the *Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO)*.

That organisation provided grants to eligible community-based, not-for-profit organisations to value, conserve and protect Australia's natural environment and historic heritage and to promote sustainability by assisting with administrative costs. For BMACHO this usually amounted to an annual grant of about \$1,500. But in 2013-2014 the new Liberal Coalition's Department of Environment ceased this program and since then no other government grants have been made available to support

operational expenses of relevant not-for-profit organisations.

We, like so many other organisations, are always on the lookout for means to fund our activities and to enable us to provide for our members in line with the aims and objectives set down in 2006.





## Cumulative List of Contents

### Issue 1 - 2010

#### Page

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1  | North Springwood in the Nineteenth Century:<br>the site of St Columba's Seminary and High School.          | R. Ian Jack     |
| 12 | Joseph Hay: One of Lawson's Pioneers.  | Brian K. Fox    |
| 22 | Dr William Bell (1815-1871): Experiences of a<br>19th Century Doctor on either side of the Blue Mountains. | Lois Sabine     |
| 36 | Aboriginal Prehistory of the Blue Mountains.   | Eugene Stockton |

### Issue 2 - 2011

#### Page

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | The Martindale Family and the Sketchbook of<br>Mary Elizabeth Martindale | John Low  |
| 15 | Over a Century of Worship at Medlow Bath                                 | Clair Isbister,<br>Robert King &<br>Peter C. Rickwood |
| 37 | A History of the Postal and Telephone Services<br>of Mount Wilson.       | Mary Reynolds   |
| 51 | A Secret Army in the Blue Mountains?                                     | Pamela Smith  |

### Issue 3 - 2012

#### Page

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1  | The Blue Mountains: where are they?  | Andy Macqueen     |
| 26 | The Mystery of Linden's Lonely Gravestone:<br>who was John Donohoe?          | John Low          |
| 35 | Forensic history: Professor Childe's Death near<br>Govetts Leap - revisited. | Peter C. Rickwood |

### Issue 4 - 2013

#### Page

- |     |  |                                      |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1   | The Imaginary Passage: George Caley's Unrequited<br>Blue Mountains Obsession.                                | Andy Macqueen                        |
| 19  | Hills, Pots and Gills: George Caley's Blue Mountains and<br>Yorkshire Place Connections.                     | Andy Macqueen                        |
| 33  | Osborne Ladies College, Blackheath and the Life and<br>Times of its Principal and Owner Miss Violet Gibbins. | Ron Brasier                          |
| 51  | A Long-Time Resident of Medlow Bath:<br>Cornwallis Wade-Browne (1837-1922).                                  | Peter C. Rickwood<br>& Howard Browne |
| 68  | Benjamin Roberts: One of Lawson's Pioneers.  | Brian K. Fox                         |
| 84  | Crossing the Nepean River at Penrith.  | Patsy Moppett                        |
| 102 | Postscript: Professor Childe's Death.  | Christine Cramer                     |

### Issue 5 - 2014

#### Page

- |    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | The Paragon Café, Katoomba.   | R. Ian Jack                         |
| 13 | Blackheath's Victory Theatre.   | John Lanser                         |
| 31 | A Meticulous Draftsman and Enigmatic Character:<br>Victor E. Coleman (1911-1976). | Peter C. Rickwood<br>& Brian K. Fox |
| 43 | An Appreciation of John Kenneth Leary OAM<br>(1 September 1934 – 10 July 2014).   | Jan Koperberg                       |

### Issue 6 - 2015

#### Page

- |    |   |                                       |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Assistant Surveyor Robert Hoddle's 1823 Excursion<br>in the Gardens of Stone – and a Dark Secret? | Andy Macqueen                         |
| 12 | Woodford Academy, a Rare Treasure.  | Ken Goodlet                           |
| 23 | T.R. Rodriguez (1860-1929) – “Blackheath's Father”.   | Peter C. Rickwood<br>& Joan E. Steele |
| 55 | Tuck's Blue Mountains Oilette Postcards   | Erik Halbert &<br>Ross Ellis          |
| 68 | Watering the Gee-Gees: A Survey of Blue Mountains'<br>Horse Troughs, Part 1.                      | John Low                              |

### Issue 7 - 2017

#### Page

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1  | John Jingery, Gundungura man, and Robert J. O'Reilly,<br>grazier, in the Burraborang Valley. | Diana Levy        |
| 11 | The Boulton Family of <i>Verna</i> , Wentworth Falls.  | Louise Wilson     |
| 21 | <i>Whispering Pines</i> – an H.P. Oser house with a<br>Paul Sorensen garden at Blackheath.   | Chris Betteridge  |
| 35 | Soldiers Pinch, Blackheath:<br>The history of its naming and development.                    | Peter C. Rickwood |
| 49 | Watering the Gee-gees: A Survey of Blue Mountains'<br>Horse Troughs, Part 2.                 | John Low          |
| 65 | Sandstone Caves in the Blue Mountains:<br>their European Cultural Heritage.                  | John R. Dunkley   |

### Issue 8 - 2018

#### Page

- |    |   |                              |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 1  | A Blue Mountains House and its Owners:<br><i>Green Gables</i> at Wentworth Falls        | Jeff Warnock                 |
| 23 | George Kitch (1843-1914): Katoomba Photographer and<br>Businessman (1889-1914) – Part 1 | Ted Szafraniec               |
| 35 | Tuck's Jenolan Caves Oilette Postcards  | Erik Halbert &<br>Ross Ellis |
| 49 | Playground 'Rockets' reflect the Space Race Era   | Susan Jackson-<br>Stepowski  |

### Issue 9 - 2019

Page

1	Coach Services from the Blue Mountains to Jenolan Caves in the Pre-Motor Era	John Low OAM
23	Caves House, Jenolan Caves: the Evolution of the Cultural Landscape from First European Settlement to the Present Day	Chris Betteridge
43	Henry Rienits, Amateur Geologist and Principal of <i>The School</i> at Mt Victoria	Peter C. Rickwood & Joan E. Steele
67	George Kitch (1843-1914): Katoomba Photographer and Businessman (1889-1914) – Part 2	Ted Szafraniec
109	Associate-Professor R. Ian Jack (1935-2019)	Peter C. Rickwood
111	Professor Barrie G.R. Reynolds (1932-2019)	Peter C. Rickwood

### Issue 10 - 2021

Page

1	The Blackheath Stockade; the buildings and the occupants.	Peter C. Rickwood
31	Cable Ladders in the Blue Mountains	Brian K. Fox
41	By Motor and Train to the Caves: A brief history of motorised road and rail travel to the Jenolan Caves, NSW.	Chris Betteridge
67	Yesterday's Heroes: Mount York, The Pioneer Legend and Australian Identity	Harry Dillon
88	Mary Boswell Reynolds OAM (1929-2021)	Des Barrett

### Issue 11 - 2023

Page

1	"A logical, fairly even route" Who or what guided Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth?	Andy Macqueen
18	Footsteps on Narrow Neck	Brian K. Fox
29	Sir Henry Parkes' Dentist, David Fletcher: An Emancipist's Odyssey from Dublin to the Hunter, the City of Sydney, Tamarama and the Blue Mountains	Jeff Warnock
44	Electrifying the Blue Mountains, 1891 to 1947	George Wilkenfeld
75	Rowan Brae School, Blackheath.	Peter C. Rickwood

