

Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

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

Young Lachlan Macquarie

The younger Lachlan Macquarie was born on 28th March 1814 in the New South Wales colony. (Some sources suggest it was in May of that year). However, he was the long awaited child for Governor and Major General Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth Henrietta (Campbell).

Macquarie had first been married in 1793 at Bombay (now Mumbai) to Jane Jarvis, a West Indian heiress whose family he had encountered whilst being posted to the town. However, Jane Jarvis died of consumption in Macao in 1896, where Macquarie had taken her seemingly for the recovery of her health. She was buried in a cemetery in Bombay where Macquarie in his grief had a tombstone erected to her memory. An extract of the inscription is provided as follows:

Here lie interred the much honored and beloved Remains of MRS. JANE MACQUARIE, the Wife of Major LACHLAN MACQUARIE of His Majesty's 77th Regiment and youngest Daughter of THOMAS JARVIS ESQR. late Chief Justice and Member of Council of the Island of Antigua, where she was born on the 16th of October 1772 she possessed in a most eminent degree all the Virtues that adorn the Female Character, and render it worthy of universal Admiration. As a Wife, Daughter and Sister she was preeminently [sic] conspicuous and an excellent Pattern for Others. In her Manners she was mild, affable and polite. In her Disposition sweet and even. In her Opinions liberal. And in her Appearance elegant without extravagance This is the least tribute of Praise and Gratitude that a fond affectionate and disconsolate Husband can pay to the beloved and honored Memory of the best of Wives and the best and most amiable of Women. This TOMBSTONE is erected by him not only in honor of her Memory and in Testimony of his sincere Grief for her Loss but also as a lasting Monument of their mutual disinterested Love and Affection for One another. For he can safely and without Vanity affirm that never yet lived a happier or a more contented Couple in WEDLOCK.

Lachlan Macquarie married again after several years, to Elizabeth Campbell at Holsworthy, Devon, England in 1807. Soon after they travelled on the ship *Dromedary* and arrived in the young New South Wales colony in December 1809 for Lachlan to take on the governorship. Previously a daughter, Jane Jarvis Macquarie, had been born to them in 1808 in the UK but she only survived for 3 months. Elizabeth then had some six or seven miscarriages before the welcome birth of Lachlan in 1814.



Jane Jarvis



Gov Lachlan Macquarie



Elizabeth Macquarie

Not unexpectedly, he would become the focus of their lives. He had a nursemaid and a tutor and would have seen many carers come and go, all of whom doted on him. One such nursemaid was Mary Rouse. Mary Rouse was born in 1799 in England. Her family, parents and six siblings, sailed for the NSW colony in 1801 on the ship *The Nile*. Mary taught Sunday School and started living with the Macquarie family in 1818. Her job was solely to care for their young son Lachlan Jnr who was four at the time, at which time he was tall for his age. Mary would have slept in the nursery with him and was one amongst many servants who catered to all Lachlan's childhood needs. At age four he was also attended by Rachel Moore, an emancipist woman who had been accepted into the local society through her marriage to Captain and Liverpool magistrate Thomas Moore.

For his 6th birthday Lachlan was taken with sixteen other children to see the lighthouse at South Head, and he also launched the cutter presented to him by Lieutenant John Watts and called the *Elizabeth*. The party finished with the children being rowed around Garden Island towing the cutter.

Mary travelled with the family on all outings that the boy had and in 1818 she was on board the Governor's Brig, the *Elizabeth Henrietta* when it sailed to Newcastle for the night.

In 1819 16 year old Theodore Bartley was employed as Lachlan's tutor.

In 1820 young Lachlan, dressed in a tartan kilt and bonnet, attended an encounter with the local Aboriginals with his friends at Elizabeth Bay. He was doted upon by his parents, indulged by government staff and was the centre of attention everywhere he went. Elizabeth and Lachlan attended to their son's welfare and education, ensuring his reading and writing skills were nurtured, and also obtained riding lessons for him.



The young Lachlan Macquarie

Young Lachlan was sent to the school of Dr Reddall at Macquarie Fields, but even from a young age, he was occasionally accompanying his father in his public duties, including the laying of the foundation stone of St Luke's at Liverpool.

Upon his leaving the colony, Macquarie expressed his hopes that his son would continue to value his time in the colony. Young Lachlan always intended to return to New South Wales but never did.

The Macquarie family returned to the UK in 1822. Macquarie then embarked on a tour of Europe with Elizabeth and Lachlan for his wife's health. Then in mid 1823 he began an attempt to salvage his reputation and to secure his pension, without success.

He sailed with his family for Mull in November, too poor now to travel by coach. In April 1824, Macquarie obtained an interview with Lord Bathurst who finally confirmed that he would be paid a pension of £1000, twice as much as he had expected. However, Macquarie did not live to enjoy his pension. In May he learnt that his application for a title had been rejected, and in June he fell ill. He had suffered much pain from his old bowel complaint and in July died in his London lodgings with Elizabeth and Lachlan by his side. Being much aggrieved by his father's death it is possible that this had a significant impact on young Lachlan's life from this point on.

In 1815 Macquarie had settled the estate of *Jarvisfield* on his son through his will, though providing an annuity of £300 out of it for his widow. Lord Strathallan (James Drummond) was young Lachlan's godfather and had been appointed as his guardian. He was the principal executor of Macquarie's estate that was to be held in trust during his minority. Elizabeth and Strathallan clashed over the management of the estate and the education of the boy.

Lachlan attended school at Woodford and each summer Elizabeth took him back to Scotland to stay on their *Jarvisfield* estate on the Isle of Mull. During 1828-1829 Lachlan Jnr. attended school in Finchley. However, in 1831 Lachlan insisted on joining the army and Elizabeth purchased an ensigncy for him in the 42nd Regiment of Foot, serving as a lieutenant in the Scots Greys. After he joined his regiment at Birmingham Elizabeth returned to Mull to take up residence at *Jarvisfield*. Elizabeth Macquarie died peacefully at the homestead *Gruline House* in 1835 aged 56.

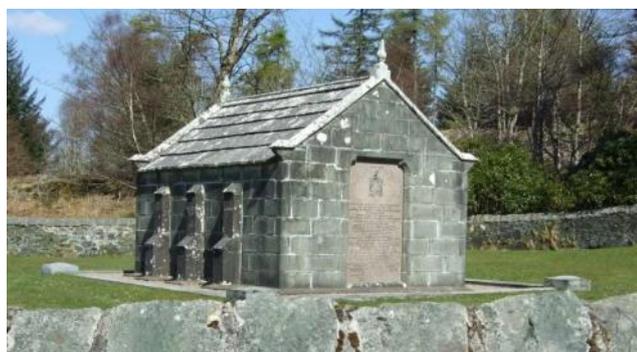
Young Lachlan however, grew up to be a drunkard and a gambler. He married Isabella Campbell in 1836, but they had no children. He had applied to become clan chief but this attempt had failed. By 1844 young Lachlan was in debt to the Drummond family.

When Lachlan Macquarie junior died on 7th May 1845 aged 31, on Isle of Mull, at Craignish Castle, the home of his wife's family, as a result of an accident, the family was shocked to find that he had left the *Jarvisfield* estate to his friend William Henry Drummond (son of the executor of Macquarie senior's estate), the only way he could pay his debts. It is said that Lachlan was inebriated when he fell down the stairs. Only the homestead *Gruline*, was set aside for his Isabella's use.

His will was challenged as Lachlan was thought to be insane. Isabella's brother had urged her to leave Lachlan but she remained loyal. In court it was alleged that Lachlan would begin drinking whisky straight after breakfast. It was also claimed that he would herd his wife's ducks together and then amuse himself by decapitating as many as possible with his sword. He was declared morally rather than intellectually insane, and therefore capable of making a will. The court found his wife was adequately provided for.



Craignish Castle



Macquarie Mausoleum, Mull

Isabella was only 29 when Lachlan died, but she never remarried. In 1858 she let *Gruline* to her farm manager, and then lived with her sister. She died in East Sussex in 1884. Since Lachlan junior died childless Macquarie's fond ambition of establishing a line of lairds of *Jarvisfield* came to nothing.

The Macquarie burial site is located on the Scottish Isle of Mull. Surrounded by a stone wall, the members of the family, Lachlan and Elizabeth and their two children, the infant Jane and son Lachlan are interred there. Although young Lachlan died in 1845, the mausoleum was not constructed until 1851.

Patsy Moppett

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From the Editor

Researching History – Historical Society or Family History group

Researching history at any level can be a daunting task, as highlighted by the article on page 19 of this Newsletter about Michele Corin's project to investigate Lapstone. Where to start? Michele is aiming to concentrate on the social history of her subject area. However, this cannot be done in isolation and local history is the starting point, as Michele is aware. One must establish a base set of information before branching off into one of the many aspects of the past which might draw our interest.

The most obvious starting point is to contact a local historical society and/or family history group. Most places we research have local history or family history societies or local study centres which have accumulated a wealth of local information to draw upon, from oral anecdotes and personal stories to photographs, cemetery transcriptions, parish registers, land records including valuations, maps and many more valuable local records.

Through the study of local history, we can understand our ancestors and their environment, making family history more than just a family tree. So, what is the difference between these two groups and what can they offer you, especially should you decide to join as a member?

A historical society is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information or items. Originally, these societies were created as a way to document history and help future generations understand their heritage.

Historical societies, which often have an associated museum, vary in specialization, with focuses ranging from specific geographical areas such as countries or towns, universities, railways, ethnic and religious groups, to genealogy, pioneer history, and the preservation of antiques or historic buildings. Publishing journals and maintaining museums enables historical societies to showcase their collections and research archives for record keeping and educational purposes.

The historical society's main aims include:

- To research and preserve the history of the district or region
- to assist people researching local history

They carry out these aims in many different ways.

For example, the aim of the Glenbrook and District Historical Society is to research, record, preserve and promote the history of Glenbrook and surrounding district.

The Hawkesbury Historical Society promotes and encourages the study of the Hawkesbury and collects and preserves artifacts relating to the history of the Hawkesbury.

Some historical societies also aid and assist those researching their family histories.

A **family history society** is a genealogy support group. Its main aims and objectives are usually:

- To promote family & local history research
- To purchase materials to assist our members to trace their family trees
- To assist people with family history research

The individual and personal histories of our ancestors are inherently local histories, however, collectively, their historical impact can be of national and world significance. Local genealogy societies are great for networking with other genealogists and members who may also be researching some of the same areas that you are.

Genealogy is the study of a person's *direct-line ancestors*—parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.—proving descent back in time, generation by generation.

Family history is a broader term, referring to the more-holistic study of the people, places, objects, traditions and stories associated with a family. In addition to studying the basic facts of direct ancestors' lives, family historians consider family stories and the social context in which their ancestors lived. Local histories add immeasurable depth to the stories of our forebears.

For example, Blue Mountains Family History Society's main focus is facilitating the family history research needs of local residents, and they have close ties with adjacent regions eg. Lithgow in the west, Nepean (Penrith) and Hawkesbury in the east.

Conclusion: So, there is an argument for maintaining separate family history societies (people) and historical societies (places and artifacts) side by side. However, the two cannot be mutually exclusive. The line between is a bit fuzzy!!

For instance, Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. provides a resource library and facilities for people who are researching their family history, but they also have a huge amount of local history at their fingertips. Their resources include cemetery records, birth, death & marriage records, local, Australia wide and overseas records, CDs, books, and microfiche. Blue Mountains Historical Society is in a similar situation, being able to assist both historical research and family history, even though there is a separate Blue Mountains family History Group.

In addition, Local Studies Centres such as Blue Mountains and Lithgow combine the two fields of research in the wide nature of material held.

Most family history societies and historical societies which exist in the same town complement each other in cooperation in the services they offer, and some such as Lithgow have even combined to create a single body to assist the community's heritage conservation, be it social or local history.

Each group has a significant part to play in your research journey, so be prepared to contact both for information regarding your project, knowing that each one can provide an

information base and background detail, and that they will usually work together to support your journey.

Even though the groups will have different aims and objectives, we would like to think that they are all working towards a common goal of conserving and preserving our heritage for future generations.

John Edmund Miller Russell

John Edmund Miller Russell, a lithographic draftsman, is a person I credit for producing one of the earliest and most comprehensive tourists guides of the Blue Mountains:

The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains of New South Wales and to the Districts between Parramatta and Lithgow, published by Gibbs, Shallard & Co., 1882.

Family life

John Edmund Miller Russell was born on 28th April 1843 in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England. His father, Richard Artus, was a printer, and his mother Ann Russell, carried out domestic duties.

At 18 John was employed as an agricultural labourer residing with his father, by then a widower, along with his other siblings.¹

At the age of 23, he left the family home and applied to be a waiter on the ship *Mataura* to help pay for his fare to immigrate from London to Australia. The ship arrived in Sydney on 6th November 1866.

On the 21st September 1869 John married Mary Ann McLean (1847-1918) in St James Church of England, Sydney, and they went on to have 10 children. Bertha (1871-1939), Edmund George Miller 1872, Arthur Richard 1873, Frank William John (1875-1876), Harry (1876-1880), Annie Mary Maude 1879, Violet May 1880, Ruby Lillian 1882, Edgar John Stanley 1883 and Harold Septimus (1885-1946).³

John was a strong family man, as evidenced by the fact that when the headmaster of Stanmore Public School whipped his son Edmund, John took the matter to court to sue the headmaster for injuries and medical expenses.⁴

The family lived in several different houses including *Sayers Terrace*, Union Street, North Shore; 357 Bourke Street; 111 Stanley Street, Woolloomooloo; 28 Johnson Street, Annadale; (it was at this address where his wife Mary died) and *Salmana*, 43 Beaumont Street, Rose Bay.⁵

Russell also purchased one acre, Lots 13 & 14, Section 5, Macquarie Fields on 9th December 1891. This was later sold to his son Edgar John Stanley Russell on 31st December 1921.⁶

John had many interests and achievements outside of his place of employment. They included being a member of the Field Naturalists' Society. In 1892, he exhibited a beautiful pseudo-crystal (an impure siderite), also three butterflies of the genus *Lycaenidae*. probably new to science, that he obtained at the Hawkesbury.⁷ He also donated to the Australian Museum: insects *Lepidoptera*. - one butterfly, *Heteronympha banksii*.⁸

Another donation to the Sydney Museum was an 'incised churinga' or native ceremonial stick found near Wallerawang, close to Wolgan Gap. Russell obtained it for the ethnological committee, before passing onto the museum.⁹

John Russell died 9th August 1929 at his residence in Beaumont Street, Rose Bay, at the age of 86 years. He was survived by four daughters and three sons. He is buried next to his wife at Rookwood Cemetery.¹⁰

Employment

A number of newspapers ran an advertisement in 1877 such as the one below: -

*"An experienced Lithographic Plan Draftsman required at the Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney. Applicants will be required to draw a specimen plan at the above office. Twelve months employment guaranteed to the Draftsman whose plan shall have been approved by the Surveyor-General. Salary not to exceed £250 per annum."*¹¹

John Russell had a working knowledge of the printing trade from his father. It may well have been an advertisement such as this one, that prompted him to apply for the Lithographic Draftsman's position in the Lands Department, Bridge Street, Sydney.

He was appointed a lithographic draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office, to take effect from 1st October 1877.¹²

One of his many jobs was preparing a large lithographic card in five printings, for the Bordeaux Exhibition, bearing, in both French and English, the inscription 'Australian wines - from New South Wales',¹³

In 1894, he was awarded by the NSW Government a Certificate for the invention of 'Letter receiver'.¹⁴ By 1896, his pay as Draftsman in the Lithographic Branch, was £325.¹⁵

In October 1907, as part of employment he spent one week inspecting an Aboriginal site at Wolgan Gap.¹⁶

Russell was a member of the Lands Department Rifle Club and participated in regular shooting contests with the National Rifle Association.¹⁷ He won a Silver Cup in June 1914.¹⁸

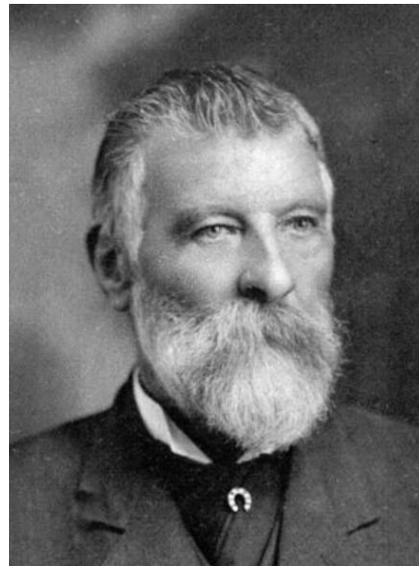
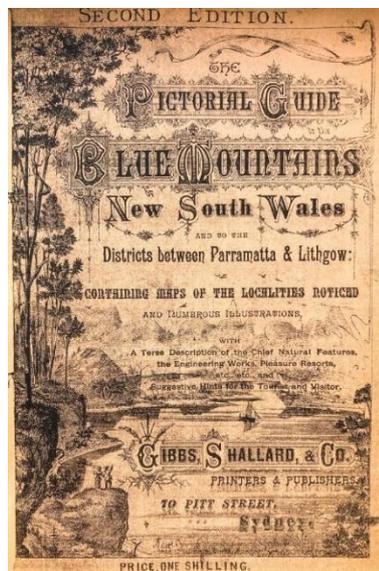
When Russell was due to retire under the retiring age of 60, his period of service was extended for 10 years. Under the regulations of the Public Service Board "only men whose services are of special value to the State are permitted to be retained".¹⁹ Hence, he did not retire till he had reached his 75th year. His last day of service was 26th August, 1919, after nearly 43 years.²⁰

Russell's Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains

The maps and publications John Russell compiled have piqued my interest as a fellow cartographer who was also employed in the Lands Department for over 40 years.

We have very little background information about his, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*.

We have his occupation as lithographic draftsman, a person who is a skilled professional and who specialises in drawings, designs and or maps for lithography. Lithography is a printing technique that involves transferring ink from a flat surface, usually stone or metal plate, onto paper or other materials. His obituary records, "had been engaged in map-making in the Lands Department." As well as the title page to the booklet, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*, that reads, "Compiled and Drawn from Personal Survey by J. E. M. Russell"²¹



John Edmund Miller Russell

His *Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains* was just another interest John pursued outside his normal employment with the Lands Department. His work was published by Gibbs & Shallard & Co. We know that his maps are not connected to maps published by the Lands Department as the department maps are dated and include a Lithographic Number.²²

Although no records of his ventures in the Blue Mountains have been found, it is quite obvious, he needed time to explore the mountains, walk the tracks, talk to the locals, check the nomenclature of the local names and collate all the information to compile his maps.

Russell's two main editions are the second edition, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains of New South Wales and to the Districts between Parramatta and Lithgow*, published by Gibbs, Shallard & Co., 1882, followed in 1885 by his third edition.

What has intrigued me and others for quite some time is what about the first edition?

The long and the short of it is, there never was a first edition, and if there was, it never saw the light of day with the publishers.

The State Library of NSW (Mitchell Library) has both the second and third editions.²³ Both copies are from the library's benefactor David Scott Mitchell. As a very avid collector of early Australian books, if Mitchell did not have the first edition, then it was a very good chance it never existed.

I have enquired at the State and National Libraries and even wrote to the London Library to see if they could shed any light on why no first edition. But no evidence was found of a first edition. Historian Dr Peter Rickwood back in 2006, in his own words, stated,

*"I came across an advertisement for another of the publications of Gibbs, Shallard & Co. – The Illustrated Sydney News. So that led me to wonder if they had advertised the first edition of the Russell book in that journal / magazine. I ploughed through the copies of that journal issued from 1876-1883 looking at the advertisements.....but nowhere did I find mention of any of the editions of Russell's book. So that was another blind avenue.....not to mention the waste of a considerable amount of time! Such are the joys of research."*²⁴

The earliest reference of *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains* is found in *The Sydney Daily Telegraph*, October 1882. The first couple of sentences imply that this is the first time the book had been published.

*"This very useful work is really well worth preservation and careful perusal. The pamphlet is excellently printed, and the illustrations are of a high order of merit. The descriptions of the various places of interest are well written, and contain useful hints to tourists, while, with the maps, they are compiled and drawn from personal survey by Mr. J. E. M. Russell."*²⁵

Three weeks later, *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 28 October 1882, p. 758, records:

"One of the most useful little works issued of late is Messrs. Gibbs, Shallard, and Co.'s Tourist's Guide to the Blue Mountains and the districts between Parramatta and Lithgow such a guide to them as this pamphlet affords has been wanting."

Again, the use of the words 'has been wanting' implies this is the first time the book had been published. The third edition, published in 1885 was advertised in the *Illustrated Sydney News* 19 December 1885, p. 11.

For those wanting to view the book online, both the State and National Libraries have it available.²⁶

This 48-page book, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*, being one of the earliest comprehensive tourists guides for the Blue Mountains, 1882 has been mentioned sixty-one times as a reference in the 2023 *Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia*.²⁷ One place name entry, Russell Falls, records, "located within Clearbourne Creek, Hazelbrook, was named by Gerard Kleyn, September 2020 after John Russell who compiled the book, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*, 1882. On Russell's Map of Woodford within this book the waterfall is shown as, 'fall'."²⁸

Conclusion

It is thanks to those early draftsmen in the Lands Department, like John Edmund Miller Russell and Isaac Barrow, that we have this early guide. Barrow, coincidentally like Russell had under the regulations of the Public Service Board extended his employment a further 10 years due his services being of special value to the State and did not retire till he had reached his 75th year. Barrow retired four years prior to Russell in June 1915.²⁹

Brian Fox

Note: The reference list is detailed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

Everton House, Faulconbridge

In 2012 BMACHO member and Springwood historian Pamela Smith wrote an intriguing article in the *HERITAGE* Newsletter (July-August 2012 Issue 22) about stonemason Paddy Ryan, renowned craftsman to affluent clients in the Faulconbridge area. He was associated with the construction of *Eurama-Weemala* (see *HERITAGE* Newsletter September-October 2015 Issue 40) and is thought to have owned the land where the Norman Lindsay Gallery now stands.

Paddy was also employed from about 1885 to 1887 in the building of *Everton House* for the Hon. John Meeks.



Everton House, Faulconbridge

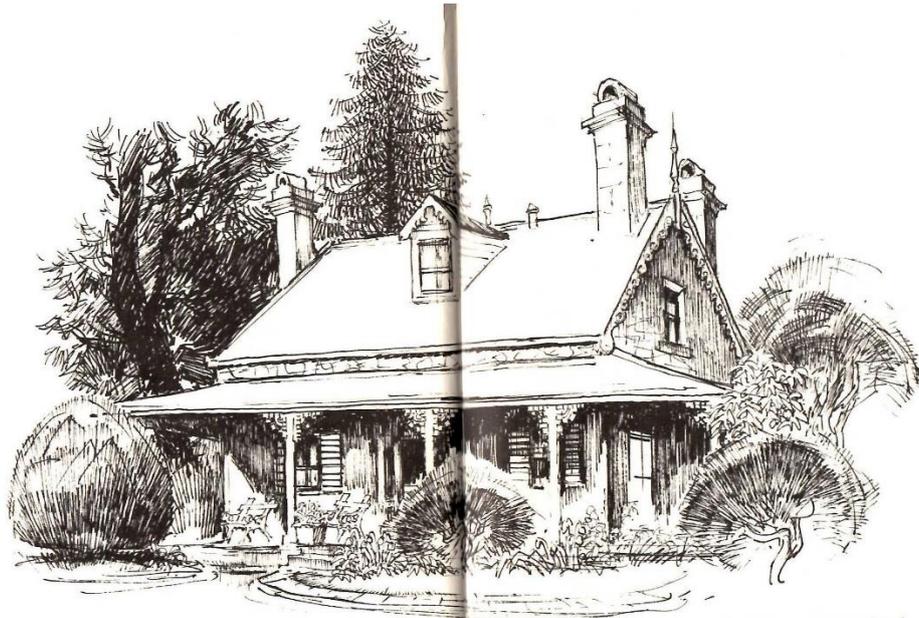
Everton House is a substantial sandstone house built in the Victorian Regency style. The various owners have retained many of the original features and much of its original character, and the premises is of very high local significance. The house, now used as a restaurant and function centre, has retained sufficient grounds to appreciate its original gracious setting.

Everton House is a two storey symmetrical sandstone dwelling with an encircling verandah facing east over its original gardens. The gabled roof is corrugated steel with fretwork bargeboards and the walls are of random coursed sandstone. The sandstone chimneys have moulded sandstone corbels. Sandstone steps lead to the front four panel door which has a toplight and sidelights. Shuttered windows flank the entry door. Two over two pane double hung windows are in the gables. A two over two pane double hung dormer window with a gabled roof is centred on the east slope of the roof. The verandah has a beaded plate and stop chamfered rectangular columns with cast iron brackets. A gabled kitchen wing is at the west end of the south verandah and has a skillion verandah on the north side.

The land on which *Everton House* is located is immediately adjacent to the current Great Western Highway, the earliest route over the Blue Mountains, on the corner of Everton Road. It has been claimed in the past that a rock-carving on the property is/was said to show a soldier with a whip, which suggested the work of an early road-gang. If the carving exists, the site would hold strong significance for the early days of Blue Mountains settlement.

Everton House was built around 1880 by the local stonemason, Patrick Ryan, known as Paddy, as mentioned above, soon after the opening of Faulconbridge railway station in 1877, for John O Meeks MLA, a Sydney politician.

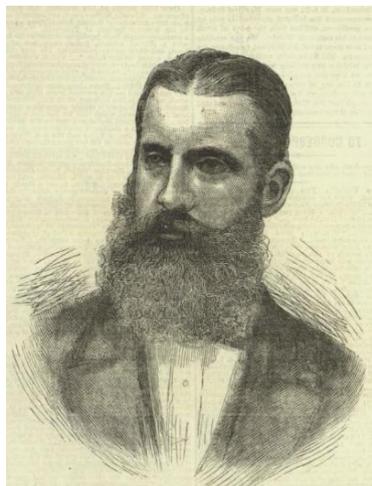
Meeks was born about 1839 at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, the son of contractor William Meeks and his wife Julia (Bromley). He married Mary Pickup in 1861 in Lancashire and first arrived in Brisbane in February 1863 on the ship *Everton* (master Captain David Davies) from Liverpool but soon moved to Sydney. The ship was built in 1861 at Miramichi, registered in Liverpool, and was owned by James Baines & Co. The ship was lost at sea at Morton Island later in 1863.



Everton House

Drawing by Unk White 1971 (Blue Mountains Sketchbook)

John and Mary had three sons and four daughters in Australia between 1865 and 1878 (John, William, Arthur Edward, Mary Julia, Alice Lilian, Annie Beatrice and Ethel M). John worked as a bricklayer which was his trade, and then he worked for the Australian Gaslight Company for eight years. He started his own smelting company, Australian Smelting Works (later trading as Low & Meeks), at Harris Street Pyrmont. Subsequently from 1878 to 1880, he was a Committee member and manager of Parramatta Brick & Tile Works. In 1880 he sold his smelting works and became a contract builder. He travelled to England in 1892 to purchase a plant for the Lithgow gasworks which he built on his return the same year.



John Meeks 1881



John Meeks MLA

The ridge around Everton Road was first subdivided in the 1870s where John Meeks bought land. He served on both the Sydney City Council [1879-1882, 1883-1892), on the Glebe Council from 1890-1892 and in State Parliament as a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for Glebe from 1885 to 1887.

From 1885 he lived mostly in a terrace house at Hereford Street, Glebe, but as was the case for many politicians at the time, he built himself a mountain home at Falconbridge. The residence was named for the ship on which Meeks travelled to Australia.

In March 1886 he was slightly injured in a train accident at Lapstone Zig Zag.



Everton House 2024

Meeks tried unsuccessfully to mine for coal and shale on the Falconbridge property, and the area was subdivided for residential development in 1916. The nearby Meeks Crescent was named in 1917 for him, as part of the *Everton* estate subdivision. Meeks organised stone steps to Peggy's Pool from *Everton House*. The subdivision in 1916 reduced the property size but a large acreage in the valley and on the western NPWS boundary remains as bushland. Nearby Hillcrest Avenue remained a rare Crown Land Reserve for Water Supply. Recreational activities in the vicinity today include bushwalking on trails and social media-promoted geo-caching near Peggy's Pool. The nearby Meeks Falls was named for John Meeks by Brian and John Fox in 2017. Meeks Gully flows north into Linden Creek where Peggy's Pool is to be found. So he certainly left his mark!

In the 1930s substantial alterations were made to the house and in the 1940s *Everton House* was owned by Mr and Mrs Instone. Mrs Instone, trading as Beatrice Stewart, was a well-known florist in Sydney and the gardens flourished in this period.

The House was also occupied by Norman Lindsay and his wife Rose in 1912-1913. While Lindsay lived in the building he drew and sketched on some of the internal walls. Unfortunately his work was plastered over once he left. *Everton House* is now used as a restaurant and a private home.

Meeks died in 1899, aged 59, at Hereford St, Forest Lodge. He had a Methodist funeral but was buried in the Church of England section of Rookwood Cemetery. Mary Meeks died at Glebe in 1909, aged 69 years.

Patsy Moppett

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Paddy Ryan left his mark in stone, but much of his life is an enigma: Pamela Smith, Springwood Historians 2012

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Mr John MEEKS (1839 - 1899): NSW Parliament

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John Meeks www.sydneyaldermen.com.au

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Street Whys: Christopher J Woods 1997

Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia: Brian Fox, Michael Keats OAM and John Fox 2018

Harper – Harper – Harper - Harper

Having come across the name Harper in several different resources over the last few months, all associated with the New South Wales colony, I started to wonder if they were all related. It generally seems as though the further back you go in researching the families of early Sydney the smaller the world becomes, and the more family connections crop up. This has become apparent in recent articles in *Heritage*.

So, the investigation of the Harpers was certainly worth a look - in particular, George, William, James and another William Harper. The first William Harper appears as a surveyor in Sydney, George Harper appears as a farmer near Picton, and the remaining two appear at Berrima, one being a convict – not so far apart that they could not all be connected.

One major reason for following this line of research was that surveyor William Harper carried out survey work for the Surveyor General John Oxley in the early 1820s in the Southern Highlands, including Berrima. In addition, the Surveyor General Inn was named for Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General in 1834 – certainly some surveying connections!

William Harper (1)

This William Harper was a surveyor. He was born in 1792 to his father William Harper and mother Elizabeth (Henderson) in Dalgetty, Fife, Scotland. In 1817, William was farming at Newington, south of Edinburgh. He travelled to Hobart in 1821 on the *Westmoreland*, which was a ship launched at Hull in 1817, sailing to India under a license from the British East India Company. She left Leith on 1st November 1820, calling at Portsmouth on 29th November, sailing on to the Cape of Good Hope by 23rd March 1821, and left for Van Diemen's Land on 14th December. *Westmoreland* arrived at Hobart, Van Diemen's Land on 5th May 1821 with 41 passengers. She subsequently arrived at Port Jackson on 31st May. She sailed from Port Jackson on 4th July, bound for New Zealand and Otaheiti. In 1845 *Westmoreland* was returning to London from the coast of Africa when she put in to Saint Helena in a leaky condition on 29th October, where she was condemned.

William Harper had married a Catherine Hamilton Mitchell (1790-1868) in 1817 in Kingsbarn, Fife, and she accompanied William on the journey, along with their two children, Elizabeth and William. The *Westmoreland* had departed Portsmouth under Captain Potton on the 14th December 1820 and touched at the Cape of Good Hope, where she left 15 passengers, having brought 56 from England, the remainder (41) travelling on to Hobart.

The 1822 census found the family living in Sydney and by the 1828 census they were living at Luskintyre in the Hunter Valley.

William Harper had worked in Scotland as an architect and surveyor for nine years before he came to Australia. He came with recommendations from Lord Bathurst and Sir John Oswald, recommending him as a land surveyor who had *uniformly executed the work he undertook and that he was a respectable, well-conducted young man and calculated to hold a situation of trust and confidence.*

William was a cautious man and he had brought with him assets which he hoped to use in farming pursuits. He also possessed property in Edinburgh which he could have sold previous to his departure, but declined doing so until he ascertained the certainty of succeeding in the colony. He decided to remain in the colony and soon wrote to his agent with instructions to sell this property and transmit to him the proceeds of the sale.

When he outlined his experience and training as a surveyor to the governor, he was given government employment as an assistant surveyor. He prepared early maps of Sydney and Newcastle but is especially remembered as the builder of *The Judge's House*, 529 - 531 Kent Street, Sydney in 1821. He requested a grant of land in September 1821 and approval was given for 700 acres of land near Maitland, together with three convict servants. He subsequently increased his holdings by purchase, this being his property *Oswald*, and he also obtained more convicts to work the property.

In 1825 William Harper and Henry Dangar were appointed assistants to the Surveyor-General Oxley. In the early 1820s Harper carried out extensive surveying work for Oxley, particularly in the Southern Highlands at Moss Vale, Bargo and Mittagong. However, in December 1826, Henry Dangar replaced Harper as first assistant and was given an increase

in salary, due to the retirement of Harper when only 34 years of age.

Records indicate that William Harper may have lost his sight as early as 1826 as he was said to have been deprived of his sight whilst still in government service, and had some partial paralysis which had him lose the use of his hands.

Harper sold his theodolite to the government in 1831 and retreated to his *Oswald* estate with Catherine and their young family. Three more children had been born to them in the colony – George Mitchell, Mary and Francis. Harper had also received a land grant at "Harper's Hill", when he became blind. In the mid 1830's William Harper was visited by a Dr. Thomas Parmenter who referred to him as the blind philosopher.

In 1836 William Harper died suddenly aged only 44 at Branxton. William is buried under a flat stone with barely legible writing among a plot of trees in a creek, just below the site of the old *Oswald* homestead on the property now called *Llana*. Notice of his death read:

Affectionate husband and tender father. Lost eye-sight in government service, nine years before death.

The Sydney Herald noted on the 19th May:

..... he had the melancholy misfortune, about nine years since, to lose his eye-sight in Government service, which he has endured with the greatest of patience; he was an affectionate husband and tender father.

Catherine Harper was left to bring up her young family on her own, the youngest being only about six or seven years old at the time.

William junior was fifteen when his father died, and he probably assisted his mother in running the estate. By 1848 portions of the *Oswald* were for sale. Although William junior was seriously injured when gored by a cow in 1847, he made a complete recovery.

A sad end ensued for the *Oswald* house which was destroyed in disastrous bush fires in December 1944. In 1849 when the estate of *Oswald* was advertised for lease it consisted of 1,000 acres and a house situated 8 or 9 miles from Maitland. The main road ran through the estate and the house was situated within a few hundred yards of the road. The house was substantial. Built of stone it contained eleven rooms on the ground floor, with another six rooms upstairs and a kitchen. Stores were attached to the house, the building also made of stone with flagged floors.

The garden at *Oswald* extended for eight acres and was well stocked with fruit trees and vines with other cultivation on the banks of the river. A grass paddock of 400 acres fronting the river and 600 acres of bush adjoined an extensive tract of government grazing land.

George Harper

The ship *Westmoreland* also conveyed William Harper's brother George. He had been born to William Harper and Elizabeth in about 1802 in Scotland.

He came to New South Wales as a storekeeper/grocer and took up a job looking after the commissariat stores at Liverpool in 1822.

He received a 400 acre grant of land that year at Picton, south west of Sydney, and was assigned convict servants. Harper was noted as a natural history collector, settler, noted Scottish government official and surveyor. He named his property *Abbotsford* after Sir Walter Scott's property in Scotland, as Scott was his patron. The main block of the house may have been built before Harper made a return trip to England in 1827. The ornamental plantings included relatively rare species of horticultural interest.

George returned to London on the *SS Portland* in early 1827, where he married Margaret Eleanor Howey in November 1828 in Barnborough, Northumberland, England. He returned to Sydney on the *SS Lord Weston* 1840, with his wife and five children: three sons and two daughters.

The rest of the *Abbotsford* house was then finalized. However, Harper died in 1841 at Picton, aged 38 and was buried at Campbelltown. The property was purchased by William Redfern Antill, local Magistrate and prominent early settler in 1865.



Abbotsford 1891



Abbotsford ruins today

The property remained with the Antill family until 1952. The house was considered to be a remarkable survival of Georgian colonial architecture from an early period of Australia's settlement. In the late 1970s it was reported as being virtually unchanged since the middle years of the last century except for the loss of the original ceilings. Neglect, and two separate fires over the following decade, led to its state of dereliction, and its survival in ruins only.

Abbotsford was Picton's oldest residence. The site also contained a gaol or convict quarters and a smokehouse.

Harper appears to have had regular difficulties with his servants, and the local court magistrates were kept busy by him and other landowners in similar circumstances. In 1841 Harper had reason to report two assigned servants for '*insolence, neglect of duty, disobedience of orders and refusal to work*' Another convict was charged with insolence, when given care of the Harper children. The children claimed she had beaten them when drunk. She was returned to the Female Factory for a time. Yet another servant was returned to the government by Harper and was reassigned.

In 1978 the residence was classified by the National Trust, but efforts to carry out much needed repairs were ignored by the then owners. In 1980 the Trust took action and the Heritage Council served a notice for repairs to be carried out within 28 days, Some work was carried out, however a fire the same year destroyed part of the roof of the building. A proposed permanent conservation order was drafted and advertised and objections were lodged. Before the inquiry could be held another fire destroyed the premises in April 1983.

William Harper (2)

This William Harper (Harpur) was not related to the abovementioned gentleman and is known for much less auspicious circumstances! Our second William Harper was a convict, born in about 1759, probably to Francis and Mary Harper in Worcestershire. He was one of 301 convicts transported on the *Royal Admiral*, arriving in Australia in 1800. He was convicted for life of horse stealing in Buckinghamshire in June 1799 and was tried at the Old Bailey in London, being sentenced to death. His sentence was subsequently reduced to life in the colonies. He was never in good health, having suffered along with many other convicts with the conditions aboard the *Royal Admiral*. Once in Australia he was to work for the government but was rarely fit for work and was often on stores to survive.

In 1803 he married Margaret Morgan, a 35 year old convict, who had arrived in 1802 from Dublin on the ship *Hercules*. She had received a 7-year sentence for an unknown crime. Her voyage was even more traumatic than William's, with an attempted mutiny, and the death of 44 convicts by the time the ship reached Sydney. She was sent to the female factory at Parramatta where she met William.

With special permission from the governor, William and Margaret were married in St. John's Church of England, Parramatta by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. Both were illiterate.

She was granted her freedom in 1810. He received a conditional pardon in 1825. As they were both working at Parramatta, they would have lived in a small cottage near the Female Factory, until at least 1814.

When their son James was 12, they were living at Glebe, and William had lost the use of one eye. He petitioned Governor Macquarie to have his son apprenticed in the adjacent shipyards. In 1820 James then applied for a land grant. He was granted 60 acres at Kurrajong in 1823 but did not farm it, and it was cancelled in 1836. In 1821 they were still in Sydney, and in 1822 William accompanied James on a cattle drive to Goulburn. In 1825 William applied for a land grant, was given 50 acres at the Illawarra, but never took it up. William and Margaret were still in Sydney in 1839 when Margaret died on 7th June aged 72 years. It was some time after 1839 that William Harper joined his son James and daughter-in-law Mary in Berrima.

Although it is claimed by various sources that William constructed the Surveyor General's Inn and Harper's Mansion in Berrima for his son, his advanced age in the 1830's and the dates do not confirm this. William died in 1842, aged about 83, and was buried in an unmarked grave at All Saints Church cemetery at Sutton Forest.

James Harper

William's son James Harper was born in 1805 to two convicts, William and Mary (Morgan) who were living in Parramatta at the time, being their only child. Although his parents could not read or write, they realized that their son's future lay in obtaining an education. He attended the school at Parramatta, started by the Rev Richard Johnston. He then spent his early years working for prominent settlers, work that included moving cattle into the Illawarra and south over the Cookbundoon Ranges to newly settled land south of Goulburn.

James then worked for various landowners at the Illawarra, Sutton Forest and Campbelltown.

James met Mary Robinson at Campbelltown where she was working as a nursemaid and married her in 1826. Mary Robinson had been born about 1802 in England and arrived in Australia in 1825 on the ship *Midas*. She had been sentenced for 14 years for a crime which may have involved pilfering from a silversmith in one of Birmingham's metal workshops where she worked, a sentence that was commuted to transport to Australia.

James and Mary moved to Sutton Forest (Bong Bong - the district's first administrative settlement), where James became a constable in 1829.

In 1830 James applied for a 100-acre land grant in Berrima, before the township had been surveyed. His application was supported by Bong Bong's Police Magistrate who referred to James as being '*of good character*'. However, his application was refused possibly as legislation relative to land allocation was about to change. It was to be sold at auction rather than gifted at the discretion of the governor. Not to be deterred in 1831 James applied to purchase the same 100 acres of land this time with the support of three Bong Bong magistrates who testified he had forty horned cattle, two horses and a supply of agricultural implements.

James also was at various times deputy postmaster, the official bailiff, clerk to the bench of magistrates and inspector of weights and measures. By 1831 he was chief constable and coroner.

In 1832 the couple bought their first block in the town of Berrima, where they had the Surveyor General Inn built by local convict labour from the Berrima gaol in 1834. Harper's assigned convicts built a large cellar beneath the inn. James was then appointed as the Berrima district's chief constable while also working as the publican. The Inn was named to honour the then Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell and was first licensed in 1835. The Surveyor General Inn is now the oldest continuously licensed inn in Australia.

Eventually, in 1834, the purchase of the 100 acres was approved, by which time they had one daughter, Sarah, born in 1833. Their success in the acquisition and development of the property however, was overshadowed by tragedy for James and Mary. James Edward (1831), their first son died of burns when just three years old in 1835 and is buried in the churchyard at Sutton Forest. A second son William James (1836), died in 1840 aged four, and a daughter Mary (1838) was to die in 1846 aged only eight. Mary also gave birth to a stillborn child in 1840. Their eldest daughter, Sarah, married on her 16 birthday and lived at Goulburn. Their son John (1843) eventually took over the management of the Surveyor

General Inn. Their daughter Charlotte, born in 1845 after James' death, married a John Smith and moved to Wagga Wagga.



Early days at the Surveyor General Inn



Surveyor General Inn

James and Mary had been living in a small cottage on the Old Hume Highway, but in 1834 they constructed their large residence on the 100 acre block. Harper had convicts build his two-storey Georgian style mansion as his residence which was later called Harpers Hill. The house was built with a single storey verandah and a detached brick kitchen. By 1844 there was also a stable block and a fenced garden. The sandstone for the dwelling was taken from a quarry behind the current Anglican Church. The clay bricks were made from material obtained onsite.



Harper's Mansion 1986



Harper's Mansion, Berrima

They moved into the residence once it was completed and from 1839 onwards James rented out the Inn to a variety of lessees.

Before the gaol was built, convicts were chained up in one of the cellars beneath the Inn, and the Inn was visited by a number of notorious bushrangers in the early days. They ceased to be willing visitors, however, after the gaol and courthouse were built. The Inn soon became a popular resting place for travellers on the new South Road, and the Surveyor General Inn was to remain in the hands of the Harper family for almost a century. In the 1890s a verandah was added to the front of the Inn. James was elected to the local council by his peers in 1844 and was involved in organising the Berrima races. James then operated the Inn as licensee again in 1844 until his death a year later.

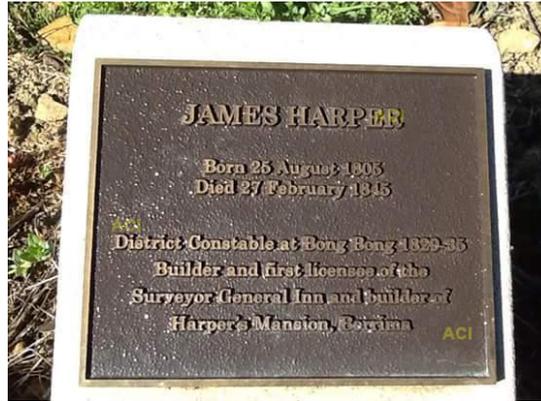
However, in the 1840s there was an economic downturn and drought which severely affected those who had borrowed heavily. Although Harper had borrowed from their neighbour and inn-keeper at Bong Bong, Richard Loseby, he had settled this out. But in 1841 Harper found he had to sell part of his hundred acres and in 1844 he mortgaged his home. Subsequently he died of unknown causes in 1845, aged 39. The coroner's report states he died of natural causes but was intemperate at the time. Strangely, considering their standing in the community, there is no mention of his death in the press. He was buried in the Sutton Forest Anglican Cemetery.

The family remained in the house and Mary stayed there, after James' death, until 1846. But James' mortgagee, William Hutchinson, then took possession of the house. Harper's widow Mary married James McDermott an ex-convict who had arrived in the colony soon after Mary in 1827 and they moved down to the Surveyor-General Inn, which her family then owned until 1824. Unfortunately, they only had a short time together, McDermott dying in 1850 aged 50.

Mary could not keep up the mortgage payments and lost the house, when by July 1846, the due date, the mortgage had not been discharged. The land around the house provided more income.

Unfortunately, Mary did not survive McDermott very long and she died in 1851, aged 48 and was buried beside her first husband.

Another family tragedy for Mary and James had been the death of Benjamin Robinson, Mary's brother. He had arrived as a convict, three years after Mary, on the ship *Norfolk* which departed England on 20th May 1829. He was 31 and had been a waterman and ostler on the Birmingham Canal. By 1836 he was in Berrima as a constable and then as pound keeper, the pound situated adjacent to the Harpers' 100 acres. He received his ticket of leave in May 1835. When Benjamin married in 1837 James Harper provided him with a cottage to live in. In 1837 Benjamin had applied for and was given permission to marry Louisa Francis Lucas who was aged 38. Their marriage took place in September 1838 in All Saints Church, Sutton Forest, it being Louisa's third marriage. But on New Year's Eve 1838 Benjamin accidentally drowned.



Harper grave at Sutton Forest

Berrima began to go into decline, as the new railway had bypassed the town in 1867 and then connected the new towns of Bowral, Moss Vale, Exeter, and Bundanoon to the travellers and holiday makers of Sydney. A reprieve for the village, and the Surveyor General Inn, came about in the 1930s with the rise in popularity of the motor car.

The Inn was condemned and threatened by a demolition order in 1942 as it no longer met Liquor Act standards. The owner obtained a stay of demolition and made moves to have the building's history recognised and supported. Through public pressure the liquor licensing laws were changed to allow for hotels to be listed as heritage buildings and maintain their historic licenses.

At one stage it was actually condemned to be pulled down, and in the 1960s a group of people keen to preserve the history and heritage of Berrima, raised funds to begin the conservation and restoration of important buildings in Berrima. In 1997 the owners opened up a new extension at the rear of the Inn to house a new bistro and dining areas. At the same time the original building was renovated to preserve its historic character.

And Harper's Mansion? It is now in the hands of the National Trust. The house is a fine example of a colonial Georgian residence and is now furnished in period style. The house is set in two acres of strolling gardens of cool climate heritage plants, overlooking the historic village of Berrima and features one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia.

James Harper had died in 1845 and Mary in 1851. In 1853 the Catholic Church purchased the house as a presbytery for the priests of St Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church until 1900. It served the Church for many years but between 1909 and 1970 the Church leased the house to various tenants and Harper's' Mansion progressively fell into disrepair. Under threat of demolition in 1961 The National Trust acquired the house in 1978. In 1979 external restoration work was completed. Internal restoration was undertaken in 1985. On 1st December 1985 the house was officially opened as a museum by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir James Rowland.

Conclusions

So, my Harpers were linked as two separate families, but who lived through a similar period of the early development of the colony. Although a surveying connection was found, it is unlikely that their paths crossed. Tragedy still touched the lives of both families in spite of their endeavours, with William (1) going blind and dying young, and the trauma of raising a family and economic downturn taking their toll on James and Mary.

They all formed part of the fabric of our colonial past and their legacies survive. In the extensive array of towns which resulted from the surveying tasks of William (1), he left his mark on various buildings around early Sydney and in town plans of numerous villages across the Southern Highlands and the Illawarra. The rural heritage laid down by George in the Picton area was valuable, although it is unfortunate that heritage authorities of the time could not retain *Abbotsford*. The special buildings, the Surveyor General Inn and Harper's Mansion, which remain in the historic village of Berrima, are no less significant. *Patsy Moppett*

Note: The reference list is detailed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

Lapstone History Project

Local historian Michele Corin has contacted BMACHO in regard to research she has chosen to undertake in regard to the history of Lapstone. This story exists in files, papers, photographs, archives, oral histories and back rooms, but has never been brought out into the open as a comprehensive history.

Michelle is seeking input and feedback from the community to complement the work she has already done in collecting the heritage of this small but fascinating part of the Blue Mountains, down on the lower slopes of the escarpment and adjacent to the Nepean River. Its story is interwoven into the early history of the New South Wales colony and continues today as a quiet, picturesque and leafy village on the edge of the Penrith basin. Michele explains:

My focus is on a social history of Lapstone in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and about the people. The Lapstone Zig-Zag has been well researched, so has the tunnel and the hotel. Although I love the story about the conference centre and the hotel, I would like to understand more about how the RAAF base supported the local people – which my father and other original residents tell me had a great connection.

For example, there used to be regular invitations to the mess for various functions, including a connection with Lapstone school where the head of the RAAF was patron of the school. When Lapstone school celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2011, I collected comments from students, parents and Athol Wilson about how the school started in 1971. I also reached out to former staff only to be told that the box about Lapstone had been put in the skip bin a few months prior! At the time the stories I had collected were very rudimentary and needed in a hurry for the school magazine.

This little entrée into research piqued my interest in the history of the town, so when Transport NSW decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lapstone railway station in 2014, I volunteered to help out with gathering more information and connecting community.

My dad found in his files, the original photo of Arthur Hand at the railway station which is what has now been used many times in articles etc. It is interesting for me to read articles about Arthur which have been generated from the background briefing document I wrote for the Blue Mountains Gazette in 2014! I spent a couple of months tracking down Arthur Hand's family and the day after the railway event, his granddaughter, Janet Gunn contacted me and we are still in regular contact. In October 2014, some of the family visited Lapstone to celebrate Hand's acquisition of the land in 1954 and there was a small community gathering at the Lapstone scout hall. Glenbrook historian Doug Knowles attended that gathering and spoke about Lapstone.

By way of background, my family moved to Lapstone in 1964 and built the 35th house on the estate. My father was involved with the Progress Association (I still remember the meetings held in our lounge room) and the s530A committee. My father was also the first P&C President at Lapstone Primary School.

My mother was the teacher-librarian at Emu Plains Primary School in the 1970s and 1980s and was very interested in local history. From a young age, she used to take me to meet with the residents to talk about their memories. I loved hearing their stories.

I left home in the early 1980s. In 2006, my husband and I bought the family home from my father after my mother died in 2003, and apart from a brief period (2010 – 2013) we have rented out the house.

However, last year we returned to live in the family home. It is now 10 years on from when I commenced my journey and the 70th Anniversary of Hand's land acquisition is coming up in October 2024. In October 2023, I reached out to a few original residents about writing the history of Lapstone (including Bob Clarke and Samara Thomson), and there was great enthusiasm for the idea. I have found it relatively easy to connect with residents as I have a strong family history connection, so people are prepared to give me their time. The challenge for me is in having enough time to follow up everyone and

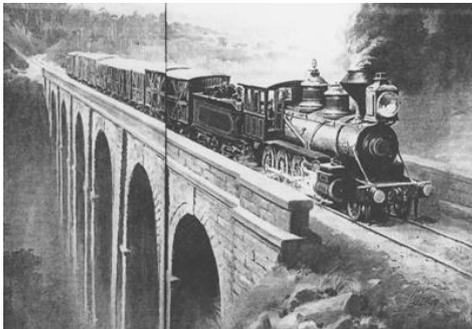
keep on top of the information. I am enjoying reconnecting with people I have not seen since the 1980s – as well as make new acquaintances.

My first step has been to compile a register of original residents. As Lapstone is a small town of about 350 dwellings, I thought it might be easy (?) to record a list of original and long-term residents. However, it has been a slightly more laborious project than I had originally envisaged! My thinking was that it would provide the stepping stone for other stories about Lapstone as people shared their memories with me. And every day I am learning something new.

My recent progress: upon suggestions from other local historians I have commenced going through the historical BMG papers. Back in February 2014, Lapstone school students interviewed a few of the original residents but when I spoke with the school at the end of last year, they had no idea how to locate those interviews. There was a recording made of the Lapstone community gathering at the scout hall, but I don't know where that is.

If you have time and interest, I would love to meet up with you to learn the best way to record information and discuss this project. I am confident you will provide me with some great advice!

Michele Corin



Steam on the Lapstone viaduct



Evans Monument
Lapstone



Alderman Arthur Hand 1964

So, if you are interested in helping Michele, and can provide information, feedback, encouragement and advice, you can contact Michele direct, or through BMACHO (see contact details at the end of this Newsletter):

Michele Corin:

Mobile: 0418 448 083

Email: mac02x@bigpond.com

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY-JUNE 2024 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024

Community events & updates

Philip Cunningham – Irish Rebel Convict

The Irish rebel convict Philip Cunningham was hung from the Government granary at the village of Green Hills (Windsor) after the Vinegar Hill battle and Castle Hill rebellion of 2nd March 1804.

Philip Cunningham was born at Glenn Liath, Moyvane, County Kerry, and became a stonemason and a publican in Clonmel. In 1798, he was involved in coordinating the United Irish insurgency in the Clonmel district, where he was regarded as *an articulate man who moved in high social circles*. In 1799 Cunningham was involved in rescuing prisoners and conducting arms raids.

On the evidence of an informer Cunningham was captured and charged with sedition at Clonmel in October 1799. A legal technicality caused the death sentence to be commuted to transportation to Botany Bay for life. In 1800 he was placed aboard the *Anne*, the third transport to carry rebel prisoners to New South Wales. After an unsuccessful mutiny the ship's crew quickly reasserted their authority. For his part Cunningham was dispatched to Norfolk Island, though he did not stay there long, as his skills as a stonemason were needed in New South Wales and this probably saved him from further punishment. Assigned to duties in the government farming settlement at Castle Hill, Cunningham ultimately became the overseer of government stonemasons.

However, in 1804 Cunningham became the principal leader of the Irish rebels at Castle Hill, uttering the republican battle cry, *Death or Liberty*.

An historic marker was later placed on the site of the Government store, at the corner of Windsor Road and George Street, Windsor, the site of Philip Cunningham's hanging. Philip Cunningham is believed buried at the nearby convict burial ground.



Castle Hill rebellion (Australia's Vinegar Hill)

The Defenders of Thompson Square are holding a commemoration of his demise on Sunday 3rd March 2024 from 3pm to 6pm at Thompson's Square, Windsor. Activities on the day include history talks and walks by historian/author Jan Barkley-Jack and Helen Mackay, a display of heritage costumes, Defenders of Thompson's Square stall, live Irish music, and a BYO picnic.

Inquiries may be directed to defenders@optusnet.com.au

Woodford Academy Annual General Meeting

Held Wednesday, 14th February 2024

- Chair: Kate O'Neill
- Deputy Chair: Beata Geyer
- Treasurer: Maree Cross
- Secretary: Rob Strange
- Management Committee: Margaret Harrison, Richard Burnhill, Trudi Cooper, Yvonne Kattell

Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail 2024

Over 100 artisans from across Australia will comprise the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail from 16th to 17th March 2024.

Rare and lost trades can demonstrate the sustainability and satisfaction of developing hand-made items, which can in turn provide knowledge and insights critical to our survival.

Techniques and methods, attitudes and approaches are harnessed through such events, to return skills that have disappeared. Our ancestors had the mental agility to adapt, invent and to conceive how to make something they needed. One day we may need these skills, skills our ancestors developed with far fewer resources.



The two-day program features a fair at the historic Bathurst Showground with stalls, demonstrations, workshops, live music and entertainment. Exhibitors in 2024 include a professional sand sculptor, a sock maker, blacksmiths, bodgers, candle-makers, Aboriginal tool makers, violin makers, spinners, weavers, upholsterers, furniture makers and winemakers.

Attendees can ride an authentic Cobb & Co coach, crack a whip, learn to crochet, stomp on grapes, and hear first-hand from a variety of authentic and unique artisans.

There's also a new visitor 'Heritage Trail' to seven iconic heritage venues around Bathurst. Ticket holders receive 50% off entry to Abercrombie House, Miss Traill's House and Garden, the Bathurst Rail Museum, Chifley Home, Bathurst District Historical Society Museum and Old Government Cottage. This tour is available as a self-drive, or via the free shuttle buses operating both days.

Entry: Tickets are \$20 (online early bird) or \$25 at the gate for unlimited entry over both days. All accompanied school age children are free. Tickets are valid for entry to both days of the Trail.

Date and time: Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March 2024, from 10 am – 4 pm each day.

Venue: Bathurst Showground, 28 Kendall Ave, Bathurst. The free shuttle bus departs from here to the seven other venues in the Trail.

For tickets: Contact Bathurst Visitor Information Centre, 1 Kendall Avenue, Bathurst 2795:

Email: visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1800 68 1000

Book Launch: The Frenchman

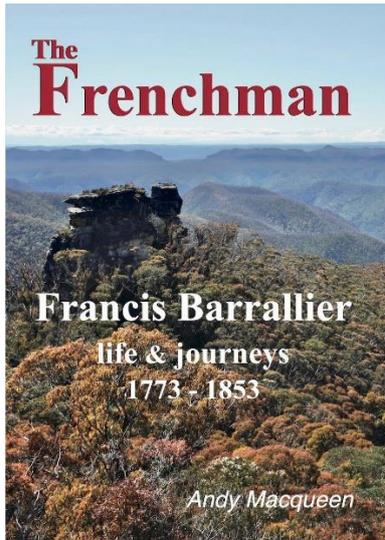
By Andy Macqueen

The sixth book by author Andy Macqueen, *The Frenchman: Francis Barrallier - life and journeys*, details the exploits of this enigmatic Frenchman. Among many other things, Barrallier attempted to cross the Blue Mountains in 1802. In doing so he wrote at length of his encounters with Dharawal and Gundungurra people and made interesting remarks about the country and its fauna and flora. The book is a major overhaul of the popular 1993 book *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown*, with much new content and fresh perspectives. Andy will also be releasing, online, a revised translation of Barrallier's 20,000 word journal.

The book will be launched by Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Heritage, on the 10th March 2024, but bookings for the event are now closed.

This will be a celebration of Aboriginal culture, reconciliation, and the uniqueness of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The book will be available from Andy following the launch.



Barallier plaque at Lake Alexandra, Mittagong

Exhibition: Richness and Beauty – Everglades Gallery

The National Trust’s Everglades House and Gardens Gallery is set to stage a striking exhibition featuring Traditional Japanese Embroidery. This includes lace making, quilt making and cross stitch. Some of these crafts date back 2000 years. Feature artists will also hold daily demonstrations.



The Exhibition will be opened on Saturday the 2nd March 2024 from 1pm to 3pm, with an opening address by Rod Stowe, Chair, Blue Mountains Branch, National Trust of Australia (NSW).

It will then run from 2nd March to 24th March, from 11am to 3pm from Thursday to Sunday each week. Entry into the Gallery is free.

Address: Everglades House and Gardens, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura

Phone: 02 4784 1938

Email: everglades@nationaltrust.com

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens

McLaughlin Lecture 2024

The McLaughlin Lecture will be held on Saturday 2nd March at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts, Wentworth Falls. This year's speaker is Professor Tanya Evans who will be discussing "*Family, Community and Nation: Understanding Identity through the History and Heritage of the Blue Mountains of Australia.*"

Tanya is a public historian who specializes in family history, cultural heritage, history and sport, gender in sport, community, local and regional history, memory and life-stories, histories of charities and NGOs, history and the media and history in tourism.



As Director of the Centre for Applied History and President of the International Federation of Public History she is committed to revealing the value and significance of history for individuals and society to everyone.

The Lecture will commence at 10.30am. There will be morning tea of coffee, tea and biscuits. Entry is a gold coin donation.

To book contact Robyne Ridge, Vice President Blue Mountains Historical Society on mobile 0419 985 546.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update

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

Reminder: It should be noted that due to a number of reasons such as Covid, fires and floods, some of the venues displayed on the current brochure may no longer be available.

Two in particular are the Leuralla NSW Toy and Railway Museum at Leura and Ambermere Restaurant at Little Hartley.

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

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

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

For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

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

Website: <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>

ABN: 53 994 839 952

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

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

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

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

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

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

Committee: The management committee for 2023-2024 (from March 2023) is: Rod Stowe (President); Patsy Moppett (Vice President), Patsy Moppett (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Membership Secretary), Jan Koperberg (Public Officer/Correspondence Secretary/ Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Roy Bennett, Fiona Burn.

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

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