



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

(Including *Ku-ring-gai Family History Group*) • Patron: *The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai*

June 2014

NEWSLETTER

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Australia and the Boer War

Our April speaker, Tony Lanarch-Jones from the NSW Boer War Memorial Association, presented us with a rousing talk on the origins and conduct of the two Boer Wars: 1880–1881 and 1899–1902. It was in the latter war that Australians first fought as a nation.

From the end of the Napoleonic war Britain had occupied the southern tip of Africa in an uneasy truce with Dutch settlers, the Boers. But by 1840, in order to escape British rule, many Boers had trekked north to settle on new lands, the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The British–Boer relationship then remained shaky until the first Boer war – Britain suffered heavy losses and the Boers were left in uncertain peace.

But by 1899 there was increased friction. Following the discovery of gold and diamonds in the Transvaal, thousands, including many British subjects, flooded into Boer territory. Britain's concern for the rights of her subjects, together with further British imperialist ambitions (Britain had annexed Natal), provoked the Boers to attack. Tony led us through the ensuing three-year second Boer War in detail.

This war could be divided into three phases: until December 1899 the British were defeated or besieged by highly mobile Boer mounted troops. Then, through much of 1900, the British counter-offensive captured many of the large towns. Finally, the long third phase was mainly a guerrilla war between mounted troops and Boer irregulars.

Australians served mostly in mounted units under the belief that 'all Australians can ride a horse'. They were enlisted from each state and sent to Africa in five contingents with the last one, sent after federation in 1901, being the first Australian national army. The first Australian troops arrived in December 1899 poorly trained and equipped but were soon to earn their place in Boer War history. In the final 'guerrilla' phase of the war, the highly mobile mounted troops were engaged in cutting the Boers off from their farms, families and supplies. Under British orders the farms were burnt and families taken to 'concentration camps' – the first to be called that. The harsh treatment of the Boers turned many Australians against the British command.

The conditions were hard, with long days in the saddle under the relentless Veldt heat, and freezing at night. With few opportunities to bathe or change clothes, lice were a constant problem. Of the 16 175 Australian troops who went to Africa, 282 were killed in action, but a further 324 died from illness and accidents. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Tony concluded his informative talk with a description of the \$4.6M Boer War memorial that his association hopes to build on Canberra's Anzac Parade. He urged us to remember the Boer War on 31 May each year.

Doug Milne

General Meeting

Saturday 21 June 2.00 pm

*"Wilson and Barrallier:
Explorations beyond the Nepean"*



Doug Milne: A close examination of the early explorations of Wilson and Barrallier suggests 100 years of speculation on the latter's route may have led us up the wrong creek.

Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.

Family History Meeting

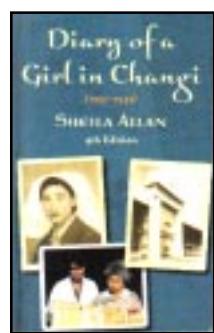
Saturday 7 June

11.00 am General Session including Q & A,
shipping and intra/internet sites.

2.00 pm General Meeting followed by:

Sheila Allan: "A girl in Changi
Prison".

Sheila Bruhn (nee Allan) was born in Malaysia. In 1941, at the age of 17, Sheila's life was plunged into a nightmare. For the next three-and-a-half years she was a prisoner of the Japanese in Changi Prison and Sime Road Camp.



Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.

Our book of KHS History

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society – the first 50 years is an interesting account of the beginnings and stages of evolution of our Society, written by our member, **Helen Davies**.

Each membership is entitled to a free copy. To save the Society postage, this is available for collection from the Research Centre.

This free offer really must end this month, so don't miss out!

Extra copies are available at \$20 each. If you would like it posted please send a cheque for an extra \$5.

Our image below shows an opening from the 1993 time-slice, described as a “golden period for Ku-ring-gai local history”. *Read it and find out why!*



Quiz Answers (see p. 6 for Questions)

1. (c) All the cattle brought from Cape Town stayed from 1795 at? Answer in November 2013 Newsletter
2. (b) Japanese submarine shelled Sydney and Newcastle 7 June 1942. (Other dates are for: a) 13 June 1942, c) 1 June 1870, d) 17 June 1788)
3. (d) Hamilton Hume was born 18 June 1797. (Other dates are for: a) 21 June 1824, b) 2 June 1774, c) 9 June 1885)
4. (a), b), c) & d). All events occurred 19 June: a) 1969, b) 1820, c) 1812, d) 1851.
5. (c) Governor Macquarie laid foundation of the lighthouse at South Head. (Other dates are a) 12 September 1812, b) 1 January 1810, d) 21 December 1817)
6. (d) June Dally-Watkins b. 1927 is an Australian businesswoman and fashion-model. (Others: a) American actress, b) English actress, c) American actress)

Special Interest Groups

Mac Users Group

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday 2 June at 2.00 pm** in the Research Centre. We've had a lot of questions about genealogy programs lately, so we'll talk a bit about them – *Reunion*, *Family Tree Maker* for Mac and *iFamily*, and some apps if we have time.

If you have any specific questions, please email them in advance so they can be circulated to the group for answers. (jackievb@optusnet.com.au)

No need to book, just turn up. Bring your laptop or iPad if you like.

Jackie van Bergen

German Research SIG

The next meeting of the German SIG is planned for **Monday 16 June at 1.30 pm** in our Research Centre.

Peter Stehn

Irish Research SIG

On Friday May 9, eight members gathered to share their family research results. New member, Wendy Hancock was made most welcome.

Alan Jones presented new census material which was released by the National Archives of Ireland on April 28 and this led to a lively discussion. Thanks Alan.

The next meeting will be at **1.30pm Friday June 13**, when we will continue with the open forum. Bring along your lucky four leaf clover.

Rod Gillespie

Technology SIG

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 19 June at 1.30 pm** in the research centre. It is the third Thursday this month as Jill will only just have returned from holidays. Please watch the blog closer to the date and we'll announce a topic for the day.

Jill Ball

WWI Researchers and Writers

The WWI researchers and writers group meets every 4th Saturday from **2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**. The next meeting is on **Saturday 28 June 2014**.

If you would like to join us researching and/or writing, please contact Kathie Rieth on friwie@netdata.com.au

We have some great resources and an eager team to help you.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), as **early as possible** but no later than the 15th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy is accepted on the basis that the **Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or in part with acknowledgement**. Material should be in electronic form if possible.

Volunteer News

Welcome home! We are pleased to report Jocelyn Brennan-Horley, Helen Davies and Yvonne Hall have returned home from some lengthy stays in hospital. We wish them all a return to good health in the near future.

Volunteers Guide Annet Latham has completely revised the guide, and it now sits on the shelf next to the sign-in book. Do spend some time reading it, as Annet has included a lot of helpful information and an index to help when you're in a hurry.

Congratulations on a very nicely presented book, and thank you Annet for the many, *many* hours of work.

Wanted! A volunteer to do the buying of catering supplies. If you can help, please speak to a Committee member.

Volunteer Lunch Our photo below shows most of those who attended our *Volunteers Luncheon* on May 17. This was provided by KHS in recognition of their contribution to the Society, and was enjoyed by all..



WWI Book Launch

Please mark in your diaries the date of the launch of the latest KHS publication: *Rallying the Troops, A World War I Commemoration*.

Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial (who is writing the Foreword) will launch the book on **Saturday 26 July 2014 at 2.00 pm** at a local venue to be confirmed.

There will be a special pre-release sale offer available soon. Please look for the details in next month's *Newsletter*. The details will also be put on our website and blog as soon as we finalise them.

Thank you Max Farley

If you check the back page of this *Newsletter* you will notice a change in the makeup of the Research Team. One of our stalwarts, Max Farley, a life member of the Society, has retired from the Research Team after many years. His knowledge, input and advice have always been good, and much valued by all. Thank you again Max for your service over many years.

The Society provides a research service for members and the general public. Details of this service are available on the Society's website – generally requiring some involvement with Ku-ring-gai and a fee of \$25 may be charged. We have demolished some members' brick walls and successfully answered enquiries from outside the Society.

Bruce Robinson, Research Team Co-ordinator

Ku-ring-gai Heroes of World War I

Maude Helene GARRETT (1884-1960)

In August 1915, Narrandera Hospital's doctor, sister and matron all enlisted. Maude Helene Garrett, a nurse trained at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, had been appointed Sister in 1912, and shortly afterwards promoted to Matron.

She was born in 1884 in Stanmore, the third child in a family of seven to Helen Alice Maude and Thomas William Garrett. Thomas was the Public Trustee and renowned for participating in the first Australian Test Cricket Team. By 1915 two of her brothers were serving overseas and the third enlisted a year later.

Staff Nurse Garrett embarked on the *HMAT Morea* in Sydney on 20 August 1915, with reinforcements for the 2nd AGH at Gezira Palace in Cairo. She served there for 5 months, until February 1916, caring for Gallipoli casualties.

She was then appointed for duty on hospital ships from February 1917 until April 1917. These included the *Nestor*, *Ceramic* and *Karoola*, which transported casualties from Suez and Alexandria back to Australia. Shipboard nursing presented many difficulties.

Poor health required her admission to hospital on two occasions, and finally she was invalided back to Australia, where she was admitted to hospital at Randwick.

June 1917 saw the end of her overseas service and she joined the Mobilised Home Service attached to Randwick Hospital. By February 1918 she had been promoted to Head Sister, and she remained with them for another year until her Army appointment was terminated in January 1919. She had served with the forces for almost 3½ years.

Sister Garrett then resumed duties as Matron of Narrandera Hospital, a position retained for her. She was welcomed back with a party and presented with a "dainty mounted clock ... suitably inscribed as a token of appreciation ... for services rendered by her during the Great War".

In May 1919 health problems again caught up with her, and in May 1920 this led to her resignation as Matron.

It cannot be said whether she continued to nurse elsewhere or retired to Sydney.

The 1937 electoral roll lists her as a nurse, and Sands Directory (later) as a boarding house proprietor.

In June 1940 Maude felt compelled to serve her country again. As she was ineligible to enlist as a nurse, she organised a meeting at her home in Killara for about twenty ex-army sisters. They formed an auxiliary to offer their voluntary services to the Government in areas such as care for refugee children and "dependents of the AIF and evacuee wives and children from other countries." Maude was the president, and branches were commenced in Sydney suburbs and country regions. They made clothes and distributed them here and abroad. She continued in the Sisters' Sub-branch of the RSL into the 1950s.

Maude did not marry; she lived with her physiotherapist sister (Mary) Elsie in Killara, then Warrawee, and finally at 2 Kissing Point Road, Turramurra (at present a dental practice). She died at Lady Gowrie Home, Gordon, on 14 May 1960, aged about 76, after a life of service.

Evelyn Wyatt

FAMILY MATTERS

May Family History Meeting

11.00 am Session

Jo Harris opened the Q&A session and welcomed the 20+ attendees. Jo, Jenny Joyce and Beverly Robinson were there to assist with any queries about brick walls. It was a very lively meeting with much input by all, questions and answers flying back and forth across the room.

Websites – BDM REVIVAL – as titled ... how to update so that old DOS and DIGGERS will run with later WINDOWS www.pepermintfence.com/BDMRevival.htm FREE CERTS <http://ausbdm.ucoz.org/> BDM CERTS EXCHANGE requires Login www.ausbdm.org/ FAMILIES IN BRITISH INDIA SOCIETY – FIBIS 1838–1839 – 4800 BDMs www.fibis.org/ Another website *Tasmanian Convicts Index* is an alphabetical list of convicts sent there. If you find a convict in whom you are interested it could provide a name to contact, and you may find a new relative – http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austrashs/convicts/con_b.htm Happy searching.

2.00 pm Session

Jo Harris opened the meeting and welcomed members, one new member and two visitors and a special welcome to Patrick Dodd, our Guest Speaker

Jo gave details of future meetings: June will be Sheila Allan and her *Diary of a Girl in Changi Prison*. Could a member please give Sheila a lift to and from our meeting? July will be Paul Brunton with his interesting story about Joseph Banks. August is National Family History Month – please advise Jo of any suggestions for a topic. A decision has been made that each April members will speak about their war heroes. The Society has taken out a subscription for *INSIDE HISTORY* magazine. Also check the other publications and newsletters received.

Still searching for the Original Shipping Folder, and Jo has loaned her book on the Lismore area called “Little Italy” please return this to Jo.

Jo then introduced Patrick Dodd and added to the profile in the May Newsletter – Patrick and Gillian had been married 50 years on 9 May and have 7 grandchildren. They live on the edge of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park trying to keep the wallabies, lyre-birds, parrots, bandicoots and brush turkeys out of their vegetable and flower gardens.

Patrick told us first about his “fortunate life” – born in 1936 at St George’s Hospital, London which is now a 6 star hotel – lower working class family – lived 3 years in Grandmother’s house – war came – during that time saw his father once a year – was certain his mother often went without food so that 2 young boys had sufficient – would spend time in pressurised air at Holborn Station as he had asthma – a cardboard box would arrive with food items sent from Australia including Golden Circle pineapple pieces – his mother corresponded with a lady from Bendigo – one box contained a special book, *a still very treasured book*, with a map of Australia and photos of Sydney Harbour etc. – VE Day came, also an end of food parcels – at age 19 he purchased a £10 ticket and travelled to Australia on the

Orontes, Z deck – Suez Canal was blocked so travelled via South Africa – met up with a group of larrikin Aussies – had his first cold beer – on arrival spent time at Quirindi – worked as a jackaroo – total quiet – stars in the sky – rain on a corrugated roof – now has that type of roof at Wahroonga – with a friend purchased a 1934 Dodge truck from Wirth’s Circus and they spent 20 months travelling around Australia doing any job – later work experiences included organising Pioneer Tours to the Snowy Mountains – met Gillian – Australian British Trade Association – International Trade Fair – had The Toy Box in Hornsby – Muogamarra – Outdoor Education Centre in the Upper Colo area. A Very Satisfied £10 Pom. Thank you Patrick.

A break for our afternoon tea then Patrick took us on “Travels with Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie” and also spoke about the “Macquarie Society” – Patrick’s other heroes are Captain James Cook and Ernest Shackleton. Macquarie, a complex figure – born on the Isle of Ulva in 1762 – family farm – aged 14 he joined the army – 1805 he married for 2nd time, at age 46, Elizabeth Campbell aged 29 – a Dynamic Duo – 1808 Jane Jarvis Macquarie born and died later that year – Macquarie was an “Army” Governor – 73rd Regiment – previous Governors were “Naval” men, thought themselves “Gods” – Lord Castlereagh met Macquarie in Berkley Square and considered him the right man to fix up problems in Sydney – he arrived inside the Heads after 7 months at sea – found the city run down – tore down houses – population downcast – organised a public holiday – visitors to Government House – had first flush toilet at Parramatta – start of the fair go – in 1810 free settler or convict would find him a friend and protector – *Exclusives considered once a convict always a convict* – 1814 it was a serious endeavour to civilise the Aborigines – 35 miles from Sydney the 5 Macquarie Towns – Windsor, Pitt Town, Wilberforce, Richmond and Castlereagh – Macquarie was rowed across to Kurnell to see where Captain Cook had landed – went to Tasmania – Hobart – Ross (Patrick set out to find Macquarie’s campsite) – Newcastle, 6 boats travelled up the Hunter River, one included a band – Port Stephens – Elizabeth travelled widely with Lachlan and after several miscarriages she gave birth to Lachlan Jnr in March 1814 – in 1815 he travelled over the newly built road over the mountains – disappointingly complaints made to Lord Bathurst that too many buildings had been built and he was too nice to emancipists and a Royal Commission was held – on his return to England he left a widespread thriving Colony – unfortunately he was denied a title and did not live to enjoy his pension; died 1 July 1824 – buried in the Mausoleum on the Isle of Mull, New Hebrides, on land refurbished by Australia now part of Australia and administered by The National Trust of Australia.

Patrick Dodd considers Lachlan Macquarie to be “The Father of Australia” – a man who brought “Stability and Prospect to the Colony – all People to be Equal”. Thank you Patrick for a most interesting talk – hoping that you can speak to us in the future with “that’s another story” episodes.

Based on notes by Elaine Turnidge

Letter to the Editor

I would like to comment on two items appearing under "Family Matters" in the May 2014 newsletter.

1. Re the topic "My non-Ku-ring-gai ancestors in WWI", my father Lennard Campbell Badham enlisted in 1916 after completing his law studies. He served in France and was invalided out to England. So far as I know he didn't settle in Ku-ring-gai until after he married my mother c.1926.

2. I was a member of Ku-ring-gai Theatre Guild and went to many functions in the clubroom, an old weatherboard building in Gordon. My brother Phil appeared in some plays including one called *Rory Aforesaid* about a court case in a Welsh village. Phil took the part of Thomas, a dreamy Welsh boy. A frequent line by Thomas, when somebody interrupted his dreaming, was "Did somebody say Thomas?" Phil at one time acted with Leo McKern.

I remember the name Peter Trebilco, but I don't remember him as a person. I hope he can do something helpful for people with mental health problems.

Unfortunately I won't be able to be at the meeting on 25 May. I now live on the Central Coast and am getting on in years, so I find it increasingly difficult to travel to Sydney. However, I am still interested in the goings-on of the Society and the area in general.

Barry Badham

Hillcrest Estate

Hillcrest Estate in St Ives covers an area of approx. 10 acres (4 hectares). In 1997 Australand Holdings built in stages several villas, town houses and apartments. This estate is a very small part of William Henry McKeown's original land grant of 98 acres, and was bought in 1857 for £88-4-0. This land was bounded by the roads Ayres, Woodbury, Acron and was near Kenthurst (where Woodbury becomes Mudies, I believe).

I have been researching the transactions of the Hillcrest 10 acres sporadically during the last 3 years.

Here are some of the people involved in land transactions: 1881–1919: George Thorne, Walter Cates, Frederick Cates 1920: William Hensman, Grazier 1931–1953: several 1 acre or smaller blocks were sold along Pittwater Rd (now Mona Vale Rd) and Ayres Rd. 1948: Mrs Muriel Blundell (Hensman) sold 7 Acres 39 Roods, which is majority of Hillcrest Estate, to Mr Josef Janssen

I would like to see any photos or information regarding this land and any of the following people: Hensman family, Alfred & Ruth Seaton, Leonie & Edward Levido, Amy Louise Carver, Alice Drinkwater Anderson, Frederick Charles Warner, Olive Gleeson & Josef Janssen family.

Carol Field fieldceejay@gmail.com

BUILT HERITAGE

A once grand home

The Highlands, 7 Mona Vale Rd, Gordon

In 1896 and 1897

Sydney solicitor Benjamin Frederic Parker and his wife Amy acquired a total of 20 acres 24 perches of land, being part of DD Mathew's original grant, with frontage to Stoney Creek Road (now Mona Vale Road).



Benjamin Parker commissioned architects Slatyer & Cosh to design a 'cottage villa' on the elevated land, and in 1901 sold the property to Harriette Henderson Brown, wife of Ernest Edward Brown. Harriette was the daughter of Harriette Adelaide McCathie who, with her family, had established a successful retail business, McCathie's Ltd, in Pitt Street Sydney, during the 1880s and 1890s.

The Highlands was enlarged three times: in 1915 to the design of architect John Reid. Alteration to the staff quarters was also intended but Ernest Brown died suddenly in 1919 aged 49 years.

The residence, a two-storey terracotta red brick with fine white tuck-pointing, was built on sandstone foundations and had an attic, high ceilings, open verandahs on both floors and front and rear staircases. Upstairs there were seven rooms and three bathrooms, one an en-suite partly carpeted for use as a dressing room off the main bedroom, and two sleep-out verandahs. Downstairs were also seven rooms, including a kitchen, pantry and cloak room with separate toilet. Every room, including the bedrooms, had a fireplace. Different polished timbers were used for wainscoting, picture rails and panelling around the fireplaces in the reception rooms – English oak in the dining room, Queensland maple in the lounge, and Californian redwood in the billiard room.

There were also two brick outbuildings, one containing a garage, with an inspection pit to service cars, and a chauffeur's room with bathroom and separate toilet. The other building included a laundry, double garage, stable and utility room for stock feed and to house a gas driven dynamo which generated electricity, stored in a series of glass battery jars. There was also a tennis court and fern house.

Until the 1920s, fruit, vegetables and milk were provided from the property. The English-style gardens, with both exotic and native trees and shrubs as background to beds of massed annuals, were laid out near the house. Following the development of Highlands Avenue, a long driveway with sweeping lawns was constructed to the front gate at the corner of Highlands Avenue and Mona Vale Road.

Harriette Henderson Brown died in 1951 aged 80 years and her estate was divided among her three children.

The property remained in the family until it was sold in 1965. Following the sale, the once grand home, *The Highlands*, was demolished and a new street, Anatol Place, created as part of a new subdivision.

Lorna Watt

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to members who have recently joined the Society.

Warren Dent
Lainee Geddes

Redmond WA USA
Frenchs Forest

We hope you find your membership rewarding, and look forward to your participation in our activities.

June 2014 Quiz (Answers on p. 2)

1. On 5 June 1788,
 - a) Phillip led an expedition from Manly?
 - b) The first marriages were solemnised in Australia?
 - c) All the cattle strayed from the Colony?
 - d) Henry Dodd established the first farm at Farm Cove?
2. On 7 June 1942,
 - a) Ration books were issued (clothing began 15 June, tea 6 July and sugar 31 August)?
 - b) Japanese submarines shelled Sydney and Newcastle?
 - c) British and Australian Telegraph Co. agreed to lay a cable from Java to Darwin on condition that a line was completed between Port Augusta and Darwin by 1 January 1872?
 - d) The first occasion when Sydney was officially called Sydney?
3. 18 June was the day when
 - a) The Australian Agricultural Company was formed?
 - b) William Lawson was born?
 - c) The first Seventh Day Adventists arrived in Australia?
 - d) Hamilton Hume was born?
4. 19 June was the day when
 - a) Commonwealth Arbitration Commission adopted the principle of equal pay for women doing the same work as men?
 - b) Sir Joseph Banks died?
 - c) USA declared war on Britain, bringing us into conflict with America?
 - d) Gold was discovered at the Turon River?
5. 4 June 1816 – which event occurred?
 - a) Governor Macquarie ordered the branding of all cattle?
 - b) Macquarie stepped ashore at Sydney Cove and issued his first Proclamation?
 - c) Macquarie laid the foundation of the lighthouse at South Head?
 - d) Macquarie recommended the adoption of the name Australia for the continent instead of New Holland?
6. Spot the Aussie in June:
 - a) June Allyson?
 - b) June Duprez?
 - c) June Lockhart?
 - d) June Dally-Watkins?

Jo Harris

Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library.

The Centre is open to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the 1st Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

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Diary Dates

Sat 7 June	Family History Meeting 11.00 am Q&A Members' help morning. 2.00 pm General Meeting followed by Sheila Allan: "A girl in Changi Prison"
Sat 21 June	2.00 pm Society General Meeting Doug Milne: A close examination of the early explorations of Wilson and Barrallier suggests 100 years of speculation on the latter's route may have led us up the wrong creek.
Sat 5 July	Family History Meeting 11.00 am TBA. 2.00 pm General Meeting followed by Paul Brunton: "Joseph Banks"
Sat 19 July	2.00 pm Society General Meeting Don Napper: "James Barnet: Architect of 1000 Public Buildings". At least one of Barnet's classically-inspired buildings can be found in most of NSW's population centres.

Administration

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	Ann Barry	9144 6480
	Helen Davies	9416 5825
	Annet Latham	9440 3998
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The Historian

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