



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Incorporating the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre • Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust of Australia (NSW),
The Society of Australian Genealogists, and the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

May 2009

Monthly Newsletter

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PO Box 109 Gordon NSW 2072 • Ph: (02) 9499 4568 | www.khs.org.au • email: khs@khs.org.au

Rooms: 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon Meetings held in the Gordon Library Meeting Room - 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon

Australian Convict Sites

- World Heritage Listing Proposal

Patricia Hale, a Heritage Officer with the NSW Government Department of Planning, gave a very interesting talk at the General Meeting of 18 February.

The Australian Convict Sites serial nomination consists of a series of 11 sites stretching over 4000 km from Fremantle to Norfolk Island that, in combination, show the key aspects of the convict experience. These are of outstanding value from the point of view of global history. Four NSW sites are included.

Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta, 1788-1856. Early on, when there were a small number of transported convicts, the focus of the colony was survival - getting the colony established and finding productive land for farming. Later, when there were many convicts, Governor Macquarie had a different view, building barracks to house the convicts, with inducements such as rum.

Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney, 1819-1848. Convicts were incarcerated overnight so they were on site and ready to build the next day. Macquarie believed in rehabilitating convicts, giving more Tickets of Leave than before, to about a quarter of the convicts. He appointed convicts into important positions and this was his undoing.

Old Great North Road, 1828-1835. When the British Government sent Commissioner Bigge to look at efficiencies, he was critical of Macquarie, especially of the public works program - he saw it as aggrandisement. He ended the public works and introduced private assignments. Re-offenders were put into gangs on colonial projects such as the Great North Road.

Cockatoo Island Convict Site, 1838-1869. This was a penal station for habitual hardcore offenders. Convicts from Hyde Park Barracks and Norfolk Island carved out twenty underground grain silos. This illustrates the shift in policy of the British Government, with the really bad offenders being sent to isolated prisons.

Enemies of convictism in Britain argued that all of this couldn't deter crime, and it didn't - early offenders asked for transportation. They gathered in the 1830s and linked convictism to slavery. The Molesworth committee exerted pressure, e.g. in 1837 slavery was abolished in Britain. The British Government decided that private assignment didn't work and things finished in NSW about then (1840s), when convicts just served out their sentence. A probation system was set up - five sites in Tasmania, and later in Western Australia.

You can view Patricia's slides from the presentation on the Society page of our Resources, and email her for the link for the nomination (patricia.hale@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Based on notes by Jackie van Bergen

Coming Meetings

(Gordon Library Meeting Room)

**Next Society General Meeting
Wednesday 20 May at 7.45 pm**



The Story of Pymble Golf Club

KHS member Bob Ross is the author of the official history of Pymble Golf Club, and the Club's archivist. Hear how the origins of the club lie in a 1920s residential subdivision set amongst the fruit trees and beehives on the "heights of Pymble".

**Supper will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Next Family History Meeting

Saturday 2 May

11 am: More New Resources

2 pm: Gail Davis, Senior Archivist at State Records, will give an overview of the "Archives" and then answer members' questions.

**Afternoon Tea will be available.
Visitors welcome.**

Notice of Motion

The following motion will be put to the General Meeting of the Association to be held on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 7.45pm:-

“That in accordance with Rule 4(a) membership fees shall be as follows:-

Ordinary Member	\$30.00
Household Member	\$35.00
Corporate Member	\$55.00
Overseas	\$80.00”

Reasons in Support

Increasing costs to maintain and improve the collection, computers, and associated resources, warrants an increase to at least the levels indicated.

Photo Wanted - Killara Hall

Most of our members were familiar with the Marian Street Theatre in Killara. It was built in 1905 as the Killara Hall and became the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in 1916. It is amongst our oldest community buildings but, sadly, we cannot find a photo of it in its earlier days.

All we have is a little bit of it in the distance behind a 1908 photo of the then Killara Post Office. Not good enough. Would any reader have a picture amongst the family snaps prior to WWII? Perhaps buried away in a drawer, lying unseen for years or forgotten in a handed-down photo album?

If so a call to Ann Barry on 9144 6480 would be welcome indeed.

Books for Sale

The society has obtained a number of pre-loved copies of “A History of North Shore Sydney from 1788 to Today” by Les G Thorne. The book was last reprinted in 1979, and has been out of print for many years. Copies available to members for \$20 paperback \$25 hardcover each.

Volunteers

Thanks to Lorraine Swalwell, who volunteered to assist with the transcription of historical documents.

We are now looking for:-

- 2 room volunteers who would be able to come along on the **2nd or 4th Thursday of each month.**
- a person interested in taking on the role of managing the *ad hoc* publications of the Society.

Please phone Ann Barry on 9144 6480.

State Records, Kingwood visit

Thursday 7 May – Coach leaves Bannockburn Oval 8.30 am sharp.

Answers to Quiz (see P. 8)

1. (B) 2872.
2. (A) Smiths (33), Jones (30), Browns (27).
3. (C) labourers (209), clerks (90), accountants (46).
4. (D) Eastern Rd (65), Burns Rd (63), Telegraph Rd (51), Springdale Rd (42).

New Computer Resources etc.

The following computer resources have been added, changed or updated since the last newsletter:

- **1918-1930 Gordon Public School Enrolments** – now includes direct links to images of the original school roll and records the enrolment of 2,036 pupils between 21 Jan 1918 and 5 Feb 1930.

- **1913-1915 Sydney Identities** - this Works database is extracted from the publication entitled *Sydneyites as we see 'em 1913-14-15* published by the *Newspaper Cartoonists' Association of New South Wales*.

- **New page** for resources specifically pertaining to **Sydney** has been added. Resources have been moved to the **Sydney** page from other pages.

- **Surveying New South Wales - The Pathfinders** - An archive of those Surveyors who assisted in the development of New South Wales since 1788.

Peter Stehn

Mapping Our Anzacs

This is a project run by the National Archives of Australia. It was created in conjunction with the exhibition *Shell-shocked-Australia* after Armistice with the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The aim is to commemorate the original Anzacs. Through this tool, you can locate a service person (soldiers, nurses, chaplains and others) and look at their details. The National Archives would like your participation to add to the digital scrapbook or to build a tribute.

The Scrapbook - you can add your own notes and/or a photo. Notes can be facts you have about their service, or what their war service meant to you.

Tributes - this is to a group of service personnel. They can be ancestors, from your town, group or a combination.

You need to register to add to either the scrapbook or the tribute page and you can do that by going to the website www.mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au then clicking on the scrapbook or tribute box near the top of the page. The Archives will then check your contribution and publish it. Make sure you get it right as you can't edit it once you hit 'Save'.

A specific goal of this project is to obtain a photo of every service person from WWI, so if you have a photo please consider adding it. If you need help with this, please ask a volunteer in the KHS research rooms. Maybe it's just a matter of scanning it.

Even if you don't have anything to contribute, the site is worth a look and will only improve as more people add information.

Volunteers needed - Festival on the Green

Sunday 3 May – 10 am - 4 pm for Society stall at Festival on the Green, St Ives. 2 hour roster slots. Phone: Ann Barry 9144 6480 or send an email: a.barry@optusnet.com.au

By Coach: Crookwell, Cowra & Carcoar

On Friday 27 March we began a three day KHS tour led by Jo Harris. First stop was morning tea at Mittagong Park. Then via Goulburn to Pejar, to visit St Stephen's Anglican Church. This was made doubly interesting as Marie Rumsey, a member of the Society, is the great, great granddaughter of Margaret Thomasine Podmore, who gave the piece of land where the church now stands. In 1866 a wooden church was opened, replaced by a small stone church in 1883.

This church is of warm brown stone, has a steep galvanized iron roof, tiny entry porch, and is surrounded by trees and a few gravestones among the dry grass. The Turner and Prell families have farmed around Pejar for generations and Mary Prell was there to greet us. The church is small, but what is so arresting are the kneelers. A parishioner, Winsome Turner, had heard how Old Chelsea Church in London had embroidered kneelers with pictures that were reminders of their parishioners and history, and she introduced these to St Stephen's.

After lunch in Crookwell we headed through Binda, Bigga and Reids Flat to Cowra. It was awesome scenery. Although very late arriving in Cowra, the Historical Society was there to greet us at their rooms, with cool drinks and dips. We didn't linger long - dinner, games, then bed, finished the day.

On Saturday morning we viewed a hologram at the Cowra Information Centre. This is a 'must', and gave us a tiny, vivid vignette of how World War II affected Cowra.

Then we were off to Iandra Castle, a huge concrete edifice with 57 rooms, each with a fireplace. The original homestead was built in 1878 by Mr GH Greene MLA, and the



Iandra Castle

present house was built over the first in 1908. Inside, the panelling downstairs has been wonderfully restored.

On to Young, where the Family History Group showed their well equipped rooms including a wonderful collection of Government Gazettes. An interesting museum is part of the complex. The Society had prepared a delightful lunch for us. The coach then took us to the tiny village of Wombat where we stopped and photographed their wombat sculpture. Back via Grenfell to the motel, and dinner, quiz, and bed.

On Sunday the first stop was Lyndhurst for cemetery tour. This is a thriving township of 421 people with many historical buildings still standing. It was once "short listed" as a site for the Nation's capital. Then off to Carcoar, the third oldest settlement west of the Blue Mountains, and classified by the National Trust. A tour of the large Court House, lunch at the Five Frogs Cafe, a visit to St Stephen's Anglican Church and the Church of the Immaculate Conception rounded off our tour. Then home via Bells Line of Road, with a brief stop at Bilpin for afternoon tea.

Based on notes by Elizabeth Dokulil

Member Profile - Judi Oliver

In 2001 Judi wandered into Gordon Library looking for a craft exhibition and discovered KHS. She enrolled in one of Jo's courses, was Secretary 2003-4 and 2006-7 (briefly). Judi indexed the *Historian* for many years, and has recently started to assist with photo cataloguing



Raised in Bexley, Judi completed a BSc (Syd Uni) majoring in mathematics and statistics, with some psychology and philosophy. The Education Dept would not allow computing as 'there will never be computers in schools'.

A DipEd qualified Judi to teach secondary mathematics and library science. In 1967 she taught mathematics at East Hills GHS and Penshurst GHS, and was married the same year. In 1968 Judi transferred to Hunters Hill HS where she taught mathematics, became a year advisor and then a careers advisor. During this period she was also employed for a while as a part time tutor at Macquarie Uni. In 1975 she was promoted to Mathematics Mistress at Asquith GHS.

Judi became a JP at age 21, serving the community for over 40 years. On the home front she started dog obedience work and began training as an instructor. For variety Judi also did an elementary gemmology course. Her son was born in 1976, a few months after Judi gained her MSc (Macq Uni), and her daughter was born in 1978. Working full time, Judi raised her two children alone from 1979, and feels that they are her greatest achievement in life.

During the 1980s Judi was seconded as a Senior Education Officer, retraining teachers who wanted to teach mathematics. As a single parent of young children she had to return to her Head Teacher position at Asquith, where she was promoted to Deputy Principal in 1990. Judi retired in 2000 after over 25 years at Asquith GHS, and received an *Excellence Award* from the Education Dept for her 'outstanding contribution' to public education. After retirement Judi taught mathematics part time to TAFE *Youth at Risk* students, and worked for Macquarie Uni as a research officer for a high school mathematics examination.

Since 2003 Judi has been a weekly volunteer, mainly cataloguing, at the Society of Australian Genealogists. She has done a lot of voluntary family research for other people, most of whom she has never met, as they live in country towns, interstate or in other countries. Judi gained a Diploma of Family Historical Studies (SAG) in May 2007.

Judi once started writing a small book on Queensland family research for Sydneysiders, however there were too many distractions to allow completion. Nowadays she has weekly Tai Chi classes, contributes to the *Ryerson Index*, and the *Turrumurra Computer Pals for Seniors*. Judi's 3rd grandchild is expected soon, and as most retirees say - *there never seems to be enough time*.

Defining Ku-ring-gai

James Larmer? Most of us, even our most dedicated local history buffs, could be forgiven for asking James who? He is fleetingly mentioned just once in our HISTORIAN, in 1985, and in discussion of another topic altogether. Yet he was familiar with more of Ku-ring-gai in the early 1800s than any of his contemporaries, including Robert Pymble, Richard Archbold and Daniel Mathew. Not only familiar with Ku-ring-gai, but with large areas of NSW as well, at a time most people ventured little further afield than their back doorstep.

Who was he? He came from England in 1829 as a 21 year-old cabin passenger to be a draftsman in Major Thomas Mitchell's Surveyor General's Department. He was quickly put to work, and by 1830 was surveying land grants, rivers, ridges and farms way beyond Sydney itself and as far afield as the Hawkesbury, Broken Bay, the Hunter and Abercrombie. In 1835, promoted to Assistant Surveyor, he led an expedition to establish that the Darling ran into the Murray.

His work in Ku-ring-gai seems to have begun in 1831. Being a surveyor was an arduous job. It involved living in the bush in the roughest of conditions for days and weeks on end. Surveyors recorded their explorations manually on a day-by-day basis in "Field Books". Fortunately, many of Larmer's Field Books are still available to be read and studied after 180 years. These include surveys of the Lane Cove River, and of land owned or occupied by many of our pioneers, including not only Robert Pymble, already mentioned, but others including Hyndes, Ayres, Ansell, McKeown, Cadby, Henry, Fitzgerald, Bullard, Booker and Wright, to name a few of many.

His sketches include the location of the Convict Sawing establishment at the foot of Fiddens Wharf Road. It shows the sites of the huts belonging to Joseph Fidden and his fellow boatmen, who later toiled to provide transport for produce and people between early Ku-ring-gai and Sydney.

Perhaps one day a student or an historian will write in depth of Larmer's work, particularly where it touched Ku-ring-gai. Such a study would throw more light on our beginnings, and on the people who truly pioneered our district. Larmer continued surveying in a private capacity in his later years, and built the Royal Hotel



Larmer's location sketch of the Convict Sawing Establishment beside the Lane Cove River

in Braidwood. He died in 1886 and lies in the Braidwood Cemetery.

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More than Co-ordinates: Surveyors have forever done more than carry out the precise measuring of co-ordinates demanded of them by their profession. Even today they are required to play a role in deciding exactly who owns what, where, and to help resolve disputes. It was certainly so in Larmer's day. Indeed, one of his Field Books contains a memorable straight-talking letter written by Charles Nichols. Charles's father, Isaac Nichols, had received grants in neighbouring Chatswood and became the colony's first Postmaster. James Larmer had, it seems, been asked to make professional comment on a land dispute between Charles and a Terence Burn (Byrne). Having received a favourable opinion from James Larmer, Charles wrote to his adversary:

February 3rd 1831

Mr Burn, I hereby give you notice to quit a part of my Farm which you now claim unlawfully – being at the Surveyor Office and finding it belongs to me – and should you not quit before this day week I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of pulling your house down and putting you in prison.

I am (truly)

Yours truly, Charles Nichols

Terence could scarcely have misunderstood Charles' intentions.

Abolish Barmaids?

Speakers at a meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union at Wahroonga on 10 July 1902 certainly wanted to do so.

Mrs Morton, having made it quite clear that her information of a barmaid's life was second hand, said she would not like her sister to be one.

Mr S Page informed the meeting that, though he could not speak from experience, he thought it harmful for men and the girls that they should be employed dispensing drinks.

Mrs CE Clark thought she would definitely not like to be behind a bar, and suggested that other avenues of employment should be opened such as banks and insurance offices.

An unnamed visitor, without disclosing how he obtained his knowledge, confessed that he knew the class of men that frequented hotels and that barmaids were continually hearing evil things.

Not surprisingly the meeting unanimously decided to "affirm the deliberate opinion that the employment of women as barmaids is inimical to their best interests and fraught with much danger to them".

In those long-gone times the consequences of excessive consumption of alcohol created social problems, although the phrase "binge drinking" had not then been coined. Temperance Societies were busy. One wonders if they or their modern-day equivalent have any role in today's "enlightened" times.

Our Postal Past

Australia Post is this year celebrating the 200th birthday of our nation's postal service. In 1809 the receipt of mail from incoming ships was not at all organised and, wrote the Sydney Gazette, "numerous frauds have been committed by individuals repairing on ships on their arrival and personating (sic) others, by which they obtained possession of [mail]". This was also before the days of pre-paid mail, and the recipient paid the person who delivered the mail to him – if the addressee saw it at all.

In April 1809 the Sydney Gazette advised the intended establishment of "an office at which parcels addressed to the inhabitants of this colony are to be deposited previous to their distribution".

Isaac Nichols was appointed Postmaster and he advertised the names of recipients in the Sydney Gazette and passed the mail on to them for a shilling a letter. He retained the fee for his efforts. The Post Office was at his home near the corner of George St and Circular Quay. Nichols had a profitable Government-sanctioned monopoly.

In the case of internal mail, a private delivery service had been established by 1803 between Sydney and Rose Hill. Local deliveries were not accepted as a role for Government until 1825, when the Governor was authorised to appoint postmasters throughout the colony. Pre-paid mail was not introduced until 1838.

Isaac Nichols, an ex-convict who had made good, is of some interest to Sydney's north shore because he had large grants in Chatswood between what is now the railway and the Highway and, later, another grant in the Lane Cove district. These and his other holdings became extensive. Of his sons one, George, became an MLA and Auditor-General. Another, Charles, made his name in the annals as the author of a letter to a Terence Burn, mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter in the *Defining Ku-ring-gai* article.

Until a North Sydney Post Office was opened in 1854, north shore residents had to pick up their own mail from the Post Office in Sydney. It was still a long trek to North Sydney of course. No doubt many private formal and informal arrangements were made to lessen the burden on every householder.

The efforts of JG Edwards, later known as the "Father of Killara", led to the opening of the Lane Cove Post Office on the Highway in 1860, with one mail a week. It was in what are now the Ravenswood grounds. The area was still called Lane Cove, but the name Lane Cove Post Office, though correct, caused confusion and inconvenience. As one "true" Lane Cove correspondent wrote, "the residents of Lane Cove 'proper' (had) their letters being sent to a post office of that name situated about ten miles distant". The name was changed to Gordon Post Office in 1879.

The first postmistress at the new Lane Cove Post Office was JG Edwards's sister, Miss Elizabeth Edwards. Mail was carried to it by a mailman who continued the next day to Gosford. The practice of delivering mail to individual addresses slowly developed. Initially a variety of ad hoc means were used. From the Lane Cove Post Office, for example, some mail was passed on by Miss Edwards to her brother. He was head teacher at the Gordon Public School

and gave it to his pupils to take home.

With the coming of the railway in 1890/93, the population increased as did mail volumes. Mail could now be carried by rail rather than relying on horsemen and mail carts. Station masters and railway employees came to play a part in the process. Official post offices or, perhaps, "Receiving Offices", where mail was collected for dispatch and received for delivery, were often at railway stations. Sometimes railway personnel carried out this work, but at other times it was done by local shopkeepers or business people, often women. In some cases the post offices were also called upon to handle telegrams and money orders, as well as processing Savings Bank transactions. These post offices passed to Commonwealth control after Federation in 1901.

It is not possible to trace here the steps in the beginning and development of each of our post offices, but in short: -

- Gordon Post Office opened on 1 February 1860 with Miss Elizabeth Edwards as PM.
- St Ives Post Office opened on 10 November 1885 with Sydney Smith shown as PM. Gordon Post Office was seen as too distant.
- Pymble Post Office opened on 6 August 1890 with Arthur Case as PM.
- Turramurra opened on 16 August 1890 with William Ray as PM. He was soon succeeded by his daughter, Miss Maud Ray. In its early development it had briefly been the "Eastern Road Receiving Office".
- Wahroonga Receiving Office opened on 1 April 1894 under the control of the railway gatekeeper, Mrs J Beston.
- Lindfield Post Office opened on 5 January 1895 with Reginald Atwell (Attwill) as PM.
- Roseville Receiving Office opened on 21 August 1899 under William Baker, who was a railway employee.
- Killara Post Office opened on 7 November 1904, with E Taylor being responsible.
- Waitara Post Office opened on 1 October 1913, with John Carpenter as PM.

In recent times a number of these Post Offices have closed. Changing times have offered alternative communication methods, such as couriers, telephones, faxes and email. Even those still existing invariably find it necessary to augment their income retailing associated products.

Proud Pymble

There has always been something a little different about Pymble – perhaps because it is the only one of our suburbs carrying the name of one of our earliest and most respected settlers, Robert Pymble. In 1902 it seems those who lived there felt doing so was a special privilege – perhaps it still is.

This thought comes from reading in the *Pymble News* of 30th January 1902, that Pymble residents learnt with regret "that Mr TK Steel and family who, until lately, have resided at Pymble, have removed". Believing something terrible had happened to the Steel family, we read on with some dread only to discover that the family had "only gone so far as Killara". As we read it, the implication was that moving from Pymble to Killara was definitely an unfortunate step taken by the family. At least, however, it was not as tragic as being "removed".

FAMILY MATTERS

Family History Meeting 4 April 2009

11am Session

There were 19 present at this session at which Jo Harris told us of a new category "Sydney" on our computers, and described "Early Identities of Sydney". She demonstrated applications of new resources, including:-

Sydney Telephone Directories 1934, '35, '39;

South Australians 1836-1885 (Jo sought Charles Lattin, who arrived 1848 on "Baboo");

Ozships (Jo looked for Kennedy);

Bounty Emigrants NSW 1828-1842.

2pm Meeting

30 members attended this meeting, chaired by Jo. In April 1821 Charles Throsby discovered the Murrumbidgee River. On this day in 1845 the cutter "America" was wrecked in Torres Strait, with one survivor, Barbara Thompson.

Book reports

Max Farley spoke about "The Stamp of Australia" marking the 200th anniversary of postal service in Australia; also "Australians from Wales".

Joy Walker told us of book about aviatrix Lores Bonney who flew in 1938 to England, then to South Africa.

Elaine Turnidge attended a Rotary Conference and showed us the book "Humanity in Motion" on what Rotarians do in this district.

Cemetery Visits

Angela Lind reported visits to Marulan, Yass and Gunning. The 30 Cowra Tour people visited Pejar, Iandra and Lyndhurst Cemeteries.

New Books and CDs

Early Wellington (NZ)

Iandra Castle

Cowra & District Pioneer Register

Australia - A New Country - A New Life (Cowra migrant hostel)

Lives and Times in Morongla

Courses/exhibitions

Jackie van Bergen told us of a course on writing family history at the WEA through the Royal Australian Historical Society. She also described a recent visit to Canberra where she saw the "Shellshocked" exhibition at National Archives, and "Over the Front", the Great War in the Air, at the Australian War Memorial.

Guest speaker

Our guest speaker, Paul Storm, gave us an intriguing talk entitled "Mixed Bag", recounting his family's connections in Vienna, Ireland and Australia.

Paul's parents met in Vienna where their families lived. Grandfather on his father's side died on the Italian front in WWI. Paul's father was born 1906, a Catholic, had three brothers, and Paul thought maybe the family was originally from North Germany or Sweden. They were in fairly poor circumstances, no school shoes, head shaved at 10 to keep lice away. Father went to trade school and learnt to make hat blocks. When WWII threatened, he went to a hat factory in Galway, became an Irish citizen, sent for his future

wife who travelled via Portugal. They were married in Ireland, where Paul and his brother were born.

Paul's maternal grandfather was a restaurateur in Vienna, and may have been a communist - he was sent to Dachau, and had lifelong injuries from beatings by guards. Grandmother was from Moravia. She came to Vienna, and worked in the restaurant.

Paul described his mother's side of the family as "just extraordinary". She was born in 1911 into quite a well-to-do family, was very beautiful, had a studio in Vienna and sold hats. Paul's family remained in Ireland till 1948 when they migrated to Australia.

Jenny Joyce gave a vote of thanks and a gift of an Easter egg to Paul. Keith Perry won the raffle of pre-loved books and chose "The Big Treasury of Australian Folk Lore".

Based on notes by Stella Green

There's more than a name

The following is condensed from an article in the February 2009 Journal of the Wyong Family History Group, contributed by WFHG member Owen Powell.

How many of us, when researching our family trees, spend much time and effort delving into all those family names and dates, to finish only with knowledge of where they came from and when?

I received an email from a distant relative who was not interested in more names or dates, but wanted to trace something about who our ancestors were, what they did and why they did what they did.

This has provided a new and interesting twist to family history and, believe it or not, there are many ways of locating some very interesting stories and tales about those relatives who lived many decades or even centuries ago. I just do not want to stop at their names. Now back to the drawing board and a desire to find the missing links.

Once started, a new and wonderful world opens up. Local histories, old newspapers, old documents, and many snippets from old memories of old relatives. A photo of the ship they travelled in. The info out there is endless. Also there are several stories and photos in the old newspapers showing the houses, roads. It just goes on and on.

However it doesn't stop there, as now we have heaps of data about how, where and what it was like in small villages where our ancestors lived back in the 1700s. Not only is it important to find a relative who was a convict, it is now just as important to find out the reason behind his deportation and what it was like to live in those early times.

Many events have been recorded that give us an insight into a way of living that we could have no comprehension of. Clothes made of hessian, no water except from a creek a mile away, having to steal food to keep the children alive, the long walks to find work, the diseases, and the long cold, wet weather periods with poor shelter.

Find and add these interesting tales and stories, and you will be surprised at how different your family history becomes, and how people will enjoy your initiative.

Calling all Descendants of Jane Walker & Henry Curtis

1768 - 1838 1780 - 1853
of Erambie Park, Coonara Street, West Pennant Hills

Some surnames of their descendants: Walker, Curtis, Goldrick, Jenkins, Bold, Edds, Anderson, Crome, Fuller, Halcrow, Bold, Appleton, Harrison, etc.

Sunday June 7, 2009.

LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK
Site 16 COMMANDMENT ROCK

RSVP: Robyn (nee Osborn) & John Champion
478 West Portland Road
Lower Portland NSW 2756

Ph: 02 4579 0034

Email: rivershack@bigpond.com.au

Recent Acquisitions

KHS is steadily acquiring a collection of family histories. If you have reached a brickwall in your research, a check of some of these histories may shed light – and someone has done the work for you. Recent family histories received:-

- *The Fitzwaters (incl. Fitz-Walters)* by SR Sellin. Includes many surnames, e.g. Allom, Archer, Butters, Clarence, Clive, Cornish, Curr, Dale, Donaghey, Earl, Gardner, Grosvenor, Grovenor, Leahy, Pitt, Sloman, Starr, Vetter, Watson.
- *The Long Road to Ryde - The Adams Family from Northamptonshire & The Byrne Family from County Carlow* by Judith MacLeod. Some other names mentioned are Breen/Brien, Hodgkins, Sim, Trihey/Trehey.
- *The Benson Letter Book 1837 – 1916, A Benson Family History* by Judith MacLeod. Some other names mentioned are McCarthy, Owen, Sim, Tomkins, Wicks.
- *An Ingall Family & Their Ancestors* by Judith MacLeod. Some other names mentioned are Redman, Reynolds/Rennals, Renshaw/Wrenshaw, Sim.

Bruce Robinson

Photo identification - help needed



We have numbers of photos in the Society's Photo Collection that have not yet been identified. These include people, houses, and location photos. Above is an example - where is it?

If you can identify this interesting rockface, please contact Ann Barry on 9144 6480, or email a.barry@optusnet.com.au

BUILT HERITAGE

War Service homes in West Pymble

The National Archives of Australia website contains photographs of houses built in West Pymble as War Service Homes during the 1960s. These can be viewed by searching the term "Pymble war



6 Gloucester Ave West Pymble

service" at www.naa.gov.au. Some photographs are of individual houses: others have been taken along a street showing three or four in a row. In the photographs the homes are new, the gardens raw, with few shrubs or large trees. It is difficult to reconcile some of these views with what we see today, more bush than houses.

Folders at the Archives list the streets in which War Service Homes were built in Ku-ring-gai, including Gloucester Avenue, Rothwell Road, Boronga Avenue, The Broadway, Kamilaroi Road, Bingara and Camira Streets, Kooloona Crescent, Roland, Blytheswood, Livingstone, Courallie, Booraba, Killeaton, Primula, Bradfield, Moore etc.

Estate plans and architectural drawings prepared by the War Service Homes Division are also held by the Archives. One estate plan, dated June 1964, is of Gloucester Avenue, Moores Estate, West Pymble. This shows on each block of land the outline of the house to be built, labelled with the reference number for the selected plan. Separate drawings show the various plans: up to five or so different designs were drawn up by the Division. To provide further variety the plans were reversed. Generally the houses were three bedroom, with separate kitchen, 'L' shaped living and dining area and an internal laundry. Each dwelling averaged just over 1000 square feet in area. Some had carports at the side or, where the site was steep and the house partly elevated, the space below used for the family car. The houses, for the most part, were timber framed, clad in asbestos cement of different profiles: horizontal splayed 'weatherboard', vertical ribbed sheeting, and horizontal 'log-cabin'. Some had hipped roofs, others gabled, some roofs were tiled, and some asbestos sheet. The footings and chimneys were brick.

One of the National Archives photographs (7447588) is a view across an entire estate: the houses are not identical - obviously care has been taken to vary their appearance. They look clean, neat and compact. Low post and rail fences mark the boundary lines. The only visible trees line the horizon. Today the area is beautifully green and the gently curving roads meander up and downhill through thick bush. Additions and alterations have been made to some of the homes, others replaced by new. Many remain as built. In the photograph above the house appears in beautiful condition. The vertical fibro cladding is painted bright white and the trims in a warm deep brown. The diamond motif on the garage door (probably original) matches the iron balustrade at the front porch and smart brown and white blinds protect the front window from the westerly sun. The home is obviously cherished.

Kathie Rieth

Copy for Newsletter

General copy for publication should be lodged with the Editor, Bob Barry (at bob_barry@optusnet.com.au), **as early as possible** but no later than the 7th of the month (except November and December), unless otherwise arranged. Copy lodged before that date **will receive preference**, all things being equal. Copy is to be submitted on the understanding that the Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. Material should preferably be in electronic form.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome to membership:

J. Gerald Bailey	Hornsby
Carol Barnes	Wahroonga
Percy Bergan	Wahroonga
Bill & Robyn Higman	Warrawee
Robin Holt	Leura
Carol Howe	Turramurra
Stephen & Glynne McGregor	St Ives
Ruth McKim	Killara
Joanne Martens	Warrawee
Noel Claire Morgan	Roseville
Don & Jill Nicholson	Warrawee
Marion Packer	Gordon
Florence Smart	Mt Wilson
Audrey Turkington	Killara
Joan Wellens	Brooklyn
Ellen Wells	Wahroonga

We know they will enjoy their time with the Society, and that membership will open the door to many friends and activities of interest.

QUIZ: What do you know about Ku-ring-gai in 1903?

1. There were (A) 3872, (B) 2872, or (C) 1872 voters in the Ku-ring-gai area in 1903?
2. There were more (A) Smiths, (B) Browns, or (C) Jones voting in the Ku-ring-gai area in 1903?
3. There were more (A) accountants, (B) clerks, or (C) labourers voting in the Ku-ring-gai area in 1903?
4. There were more voters in 1903 living in (A) Burns Rd, Wahroonga (B) Telegraph Rd, Pymble (C) Springdale Rd, Killara or (D) Eastern Rd, Turramurra?

(Answers on P. 2)

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 am to 2 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a meeting). It is closed over the Christmas period and on public holidays.

Diary Dates

Sat 2 May	11 am "More New Resources". 2 pm "An overview of State Records and Unanswered Questions".
Sun 3 May	10 am - 4 pm Festival on the Green, St Ives
Thur 7 May	Trip to State Records Office Kingswood.
Wed 20 May	7.45 pm General Meeting - "The story of Pymble Golf Club".
Sat 6 Jun	11 am New Resources 2 pm Members "Show and Tell: - This ??? belonged to my ???"
Sat 20 Jun	2 pm General Meeting - "Northern Sydney's Railways".

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	Jennifer Harvey	9489 6390
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	Jenny Joyce	9440 2131
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	with Kathie Rieth, John King, Bob Ross	
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Speakers Programme	Beverley Dunstan	9419 8526
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