

# THE ENDEAVOUR



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*Discovering Your Heritage*

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# BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

*Discovering Your Heritage*

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## Meetings

Face to face meetings are held on the first Saturday of March, June, September and December at the Research Centre commencing at 1.30pm. Zoom meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (except January) starting at 7.30pm.

## Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road (south) Caringbah NSW 2229  
Open: 10am-2pm: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. For bus route 978 & timetable, see:  
<https://transportnsw.info/routes/details/sydney-buses-network/978/31978>

## Annual Membership Fees

From 1 Jul 2023: single – \$45; family – \$60; distance single – \$25; distance family – \$32. Joining fee for all categories – \$15; membership renewals due 1 July each year.

## Research

Volunteers from BBFHS will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$30 (first hour) and \$30 per hour thereafter.

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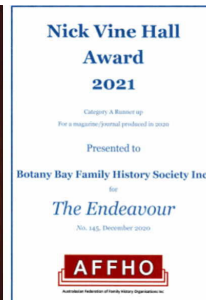
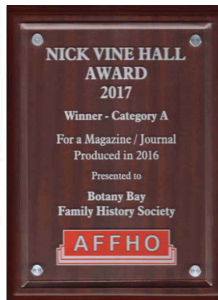
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# CALENDAR



Members are advised to check latest details on our Events calendar at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS eNEWS

- Aug 24 Irish Interest Group: 2-4 pm on Zoom
- Aug 27 Family Tree Maker Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom
- Sep 3 Legacy Interest Group: 2-4 pm Research Centre
- Sep 7 **AGM Meeting – 1.30 pm Research Centre. Saturday. Matt Murphy. RUM. A Distilled History of Colonial Australia**
- Sep 14 **NSW & ACT State Conference. From 9.45am, Research Centre**
- Sep 18 **Members Chat Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom.**
- Sep 26 Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Research Centre
- Sep 28 DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom
- Oct 2 **Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom. DVD from BBFHS 25th Anniversary**
- Oct 7 Labour Day Public Holiday (Monday, Centre closed)
- Oct 12 **Open Day in the Port Hacking Community Centre Hall**
- Oct 12 Scottish Interest Group: 2-4pm Research Centre
- Oct 16 **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**
- Oct 22 Class: Making Better Use of Microsoft Word
- Oct 24 **40th Anniversary Lunch at Woollooware Golf Club. 12 noon**
- Oct 26 Irish Interest Group: 2-4 pm on Zoom
- Nov 5 Legacy Interest Group: 2-4 pm Research Centre
- Nov 6 **Meeting – 7.30pm Zoom. Speaker to be advised**
- Nov 9 English Interest Group: 2-4 pm on Zoom
- Nov 16 Australian Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom
- Nov 20 **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**
- Nov 23 DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom
- Nov 26 Family Tree Maker Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom
- Nov 28 Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Research Centre
- Dec 7 **Meeting – 1.30 pm Research Centre. Saturday. Speaker to be advised**
- Dec 14 Scottish Interest Group: 2-4pm Research Centre
- Dec 16 Last day that BBFHS Research Centre and Library is open
- Dec 18 **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom.**

Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:



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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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## A Historical Reflection on the Botany Bay Family History Society

On 24 October 1984, a significant step was taken at the Sutherland Shire Council Chambers when a motion was passed to form a society dedicated to bringing together individuals with a shared interest in genealogy and mutual support in their research endeavours. A second motion that evening established the name of our society as the “Botany Bay Family History Society.”

Our inaugural meetings began on the first Wednesday of each month, featuring guest speakers, member Q&A sessions, and workshops tailored to beginners, intermediate researchers, and seasoned genealogists. Seventy-one members were inducted as Foundation Members, and we are pleased to have four of these original members still with us today: Doug **Parkes** (5), Sue **Hewitt** (41), Jim **Farrow** (47), and Valmai **Farrow** (48).

Many of you will recall the pre-internet days of genealogical research – writing letters to repositories or potential family connections and eagerly awaiting responses (with postage-paid coupons enclosed, of course). We spent countless hours manually handling microfilms at LDS Family History Centres, often waiting six weeks for films to arrive from Salt Lake City. We experienced a thrill when the Archives Office of NSW introduced their paper-bound indexes for assisted immigration and the NSW Registrar General produced a microfiche index for Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

We adopted our own specialized jargon: BDMs, MIs, Col Sec, IGI. And our commitment was evident in ambitious projects like transcribing headstones at Woronora Cemetery, demonstrating our dedication to supporting our fledgling society.

As technology evolved, so did our research tools. Personal computers became available, microfilm and microfiche gave way to CDs, and eventually, the internet provided instant access to both Australian and international records. However, while online meetings, workshops, and conferences have made research today more accessible, they have also led to a decline in physical attendance at conferences – a notable loss of the camaraderie once felt at these gatherings.

Forty years since our founding meeting, the world of genealogy has undergone tremendous change. Yet, the BBFHS remains steadfast in its mission to unite individuals passionate about family history, fostering a sense of community and belonging within the genealogical world.

To celebrate our achievement, we will be holding an Open Day in the Port Hacking Community Hall next to our Research Centre on Saturday, 12 October 2024 and an Anniversary Lunch at Woollooware Golf Club on Thursday, 24 October 2024. Further details will be uploaded to our website.

Jennie Fairs



Botany Bay Family History Society  
is  
CELEBRATING

1984 - 2024  
Join us

on  
Thursday 24th October  
at  
Woollooware Golf Club  
12 noon

\$45

Partners welcome  
RSVP with payment  
by 4th October



HAPPY  
TH  
ANNIVERSARY



More information  
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Phone: 9523 8948



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# EARLY DAYS – BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (1984-2009)

by Pat Fearnley (Member)

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In 1984, a notice in the *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader* announced a meeting to be hosted by Dr Carol Liston and Colin Gray to discuss family history. A large number of people attended, including Tony Martin who, when the floor was opened for questions, asked if there was any organisation locally that could help people like us learn about family history research? Colin replied that, “No, there wasn’t and would Tony like to organise one?” Tony’s response was: “Well, I don’t know about organising one, but I am interested”. Cries from the crowd ensued: “Yeah, let’s organise a group.” From that, a steering committee was formed and BBFHS was on its way.

## Genealogy forum aids family search

Budding genealogists stumped by their family tree won't be left out on a limb in future thanks to Sutherland Library.

Those searching for their family roots will be able to attend a genealogy clinic and take a leaf from the book of expert Dr Carol Liston.

Dr Liston, who is a history lecturer and tutor in genealogy with Sydney University Adult Education program, will suggest solutions to problems residents may have in the hunt for that elusive ancestor.

The clinic is being organised by Sutherland

Council's Public Library Service as part of Australian Library Week, September 14 to 21.

The genealogy forum will take place on Tuesday, September 18, between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm in the meeting room of Sutherland Entertainment Centre, Eton Street, Sutherland.

Admission will be by ticket, which are available free at Sutherland Library or by telephoning 521 1345 during office hours.

Questions for Dr Liston submitted in writing before the clinic are welcome and these may be handed in or posted to Sutherland Library.

Doug Parkes recalled that at the inaugural meeting, attended by 71 people, there were several suggestions as to what the name of the society should be, with the general view that it should be a name that could encompass both the Shire and Australia and even, as eventually happened, world wide recognition. On a close vote the name selected was Botany Bay Family History Society and a committee was elected. The inaugural members were:

- Tony Martin, President
- Paulette Parkes, Vice President
- Lyndal Holland, Secretary
- John Crowe, Treasurer
- Bev Clarke, Publicity Officer
- Jean Manuel, Councillor of Sutherland Shire Council was appointed our Patron.

Later that year, Pat Stemp (now Fearnley) became honorary solicitor and served in that capacity for 24 years.





*Tony  
Martin*



*Paulette  
Parkes*



*Lyndal  
Holland*



*John  
Crowe*



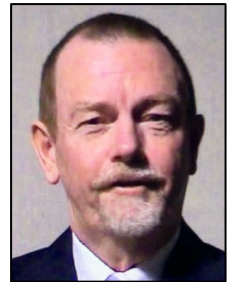
*Bev  
Clarke*



*Jean  
Manuel*

For many years, meetings were held in the Multipurpose Centre in Flora Street, Sutherland and our fledgling library had its beginnings in a small room off the meeting hall as we started to acquire books, microfiche and microfiche readers which were available for members to borrow. Books were contained in boxes that had to be physically brought to meetings, then stored in various members' homes until the next meeting when the process was repeated. Our first librarian was foundation member Ted **Armour** assisted by Marie **McKinley**, who continued in this role when Ted retired.

It was decided that the Society's first project would be to document publicly what information was available from headstones and plaques in Woronora Cemetery. One of the classic comments was: "I don't think it will take very long." It was not appreciated at the outset just how many people were actually buried in Woronora, and in fact it took seven years of transcribing, checking and correcting before the index of 80,000 names was published on microfiche. Dedicated society members met up at Woronora on one Sunday a month and Dave **Short**, pictured right, wrote a computer program to capture the data. He created maps and forms for completion, allocating work areas for the day. The participants worked in pairs – one to read out the inscriptions and the other to record the information, then they swapped roles. After initial transcriptions, computer printouts were produced by Dave and then we went back to verify and make any necessary corrections to what had been recorded.



We all met up again for morning tea and lunch where we got to know each other and discussed our family research. These early volunteers always speak nostalgically about those long ago transcription days and the camaraderie that the group enjoyed, particularly at Christmas, with tinsel-decorated hats worn by volunteers, a mini Christmas tree set up and Christmas cake consumed.

Marie McKinley and her sister Rhonda **McKinnon** recalled being asked by a member of the public whether they were stocktaking. Another incident that stood out in their memories was when they heard a voice singing very loudly and very well and looking over, they saw a man standing by his wife's grave singing to her



the songs she had liked. He came regularly and they found it a very moving experience. Former president Beryl **Bauld** recalls her three year old granddaughter sitting on a gravestone and saying earnestly: *We do have such lovely picnics in the countryside don't we Nanna?* We certainly had a lot of fun doing the cemetery transcriptions but always remained respectful of our surroundings.





*Roses From The Heart Photo1 – bonnets commemorating Australian convict women*

Later projects of the Society included transcription of Sutherland Shire Council's historic rate books, Olsen's funeral indexes, the *Roses From the Heart* project where many beautiful bonnets were made and decorated for female convict ancestors, and contributions to the Ryerson Index from the *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*. Marie McKinley and Sue **Hewitt** collaborated on editing a book called *Sutherland Shire Residents* with contributed articles by Society members on Sutherland Shire identities. The latter was launched to coincide with the opening of our Research Centre and library at Gannons Road Caringbah.

Not long after the establishment of the Society, our journal *The Endeavour* was published, monthly at first, and publicity officer Bev **Clarke** was its editor. She typed up the content, after which Lorna and Oscar **Lerve** prepared a master stencil which was fed into an old gestetner, at the time housed in the garage of Val and Jack **Ryder**. With turns of the handle, copies of the journal issued forth from the machine. Lorna and Oscar also produced the first two Members Interest Directories by this method. Said Oscar: *It was a great day when we were able to obtain a scanner*. When Bev's health meant she was no longer able to continue as editor, Doug **Parkes** stepped into the breach and assisted by Aileen **Trinder**,





*Roses From The Heart Photo 2 – bonnets commemorating Australian convict women*

produced *The Endeavour* for six years. From 1993 to 2004 Aileen was editor and with her contacts was able to commission articles from leading genealogists, both local and overseas, to supplement the contributions from members, always willingly given. Mark **Player** took over as editor from 2005 to 2007. *The Endeavour* has won both the Nick Vine **Hall** (AUS) and Elizabeth **Simpson** (UK) Awards and is very well respected. After Mark's retirement, John **Levy** became editor and continues in that role to the present day.

When the Society began to acquire extensive microfiche collections including the UK Births Deaths & Marriages indexes and IGI (International Genealogical Index), Aileen also became microfiche librarian, taking on the huge task to make and label folders to contain them, a very time-consuming job. CD indexes of course arrived subsequently. The Society also initiated a Donate-a-Fiche scheme to which members gave generously which extended our holdings greatly.

Doug Parkes relates how he was wandering around a market in Bangkok and purchased a book called *You Can Make a Website*. He had recognised the value of the internet in its early days and was proud through his efforts to cause Botany Bay FHS to be one of the first societies to have a website. In later years Pat Fearnley

took on the webmaster's job and with the growth of technology our website now has extensive content and electronic facilities.

Several members, including Doug, John Crowe, Merle **Kavanagh** and others volunteered to be on duty at Sutherland Library to assist members of the public get to know the family history publications and resources held there.

Pat Stemp (now Fearnley) suggested that the BBFHS hold a genealogical fair and after the first one proved successful; our Genie Fair became an annual event at which members could display their family charts, heirlooms, and books for the public to view and learn about the Society's activities and facilities.

Another activity embraced enthusiastically by members were bus trips initiated by Beryl Bauld to such places as *Mamre House*, The North Head Quarantine Station and Rookwood Cemetery and Leonie **Bell** now continues this popular feature of Society membership.

As the Society and its library grew and prospered it became increasingly urgent for us to search for our own premises. Members were only able to access our full facilities four or five times a year and over the years the committee visited many prospective sites such as scout halls and other community spaces but none were suitable. When it was learned that the Multi-Purpose Centre was to be demolished, (although, mysteriously, it's still there to this day) leaving us without a meeting or storage place, lobbying of Sutherland Council began in earnest. During Heather **Carey's** presidency (2002-2006) she and others lobbied hard, members supported the committee, wrote to councillors and pressured other contacts to help.

News *ST. GEORGE LEADER* 1 FEB 2007

Fairfax Community Newspapers

## Historical society finally finds base

MEMBERS of Botany Bay Family History Society are thrilled to finally have a permanent home at Port Hacking Community Centre at Caringbah.

"This is much better," society president Sue Jones said. "We finally have a place to call our own."

The society formed in 1984 and has been campaigning ever since for a temporary home. For years they hired a room at the Sutherland Multipurpose Centre, a move that was neither convenient nor permanent. They had to set up and pack up after each research day and take home cumbersome items.

The society now has space for its 10,000-microfiche film set of Index of England and Wales Birth, Death and Marriage from 1837 to 1920, plus its 140 CDs comprising data, books and journals.

"As well as being a research centre we can now conduct classes," society vice-president Allan Murrin said.

Classes are held on convicts, immigration and different areas of research. Volunteers at the centre are always on hand to guide people conducting historical detective work.

"We've all become experts in particular areas of expertise," Mr Murrin said.

Members have discovered the graves of distant relatives at



Home at last: Members Allan Murrin, Jean Campbell and Sue Jones say history comes alive when you research your family.

Woronora Cemetery. They say older generations may not always like what is discovered about their ancestors. This is particularly true with illegitimate births that have been hushed up.

Coincidences and unusual facts often are discovered by researchers, society secretary Joan Campbell said.

"Everybody finds something quirky in their family," Mrs Campbell said.

Phone 9523 8948 for more details.

The Society was fortunate to have a member Catherine **Southall** who was an architect and she prepared a generalist plan of our requirements and a proposal to put to Council. Ultimately, we were offered the premises at 184 Gannons Road Caringbah. Catherine then spent many hours producing diagrams with detailed measurements of all the equipment (including future items) that we needed and she supervised the project overall. Finally, on 31 March 2007 our Research Centre and Library had its official opening and its excellent facilities were enthusiastically approved by members. The Society has continued to go from strength to strength, including hosting the State Conference of the NSW Association of Family History Societies in 2012.

This year, 2024, marks our 40th anniversary and as members look back at the Society's achievements from its humble 1984 beginnings, we can now look forward to its continued success as we meet the challenges of applying ever-changing technology to assist us in the enjoyable task of delving into our families' histories.



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# BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

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**T**he Research Centre was first opened in 2008. A few Centre Volunteers have been present once a month (or more) during the whole 17 years!

In 2024, there are 34 Centre Volunteers who work in the Research Centre every month. Pre Covid, we had 54 Volunteers and were open longer hours. Some Volunteers are on duty for more than one day each month. Now, the Research Centre is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm. Mondays are the busiest days. If any member wants to research on a Saturday, they can book a time up to the prior Wednesday night.

We have increased the paid subscriptions at our Research Centre to the following: *Find My Past (and 1921 census)*, *Ancestry*, *The Genealogist*, *British Newspaper Archives*, *Biographical Database of Australia*, *Internet History Resources*, *Sydney Morning Herald Archives 1955 to 1995* and *John Grenham's Irish Resources*.

Our collection of books has increased greatly, with a number of members culling their collections and giving their books to our library. Thank you all for these generous donations.

The Research Centre ceiling leaked after heavy rain. Water dripped onto the desk and the carpet in front of Computer 5. We also have a ceiling light that stays on after we leave the room and turn off our lights - it may be attached to the security lights. Sutherland Council has been informed of both occurrences.

The Society has bought a new Administration computer, with updated software. This computer acts as the server for the printers. The other computers are getting older and we may need to replace them – they are incomputable with Windows 11 for which support will be discontinued in 2025.

The NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies is holding this year's State Conference via ZOOM, on one day; **Saturday 14 September**. This will be held in the Research Centre and is free for our members to attend.

... and to celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we are having an Open Day, in the Research Centre and in the PHCC Hall next door, on **Saturday 12 October 2024**.

I would like to sincerely thank all the members who volunteer their time and expertise to keep our Research Centre open and running efficiently. Not only do we have Centre Volunteers on duty, we also have a number of members who work in the background, on family history indexes, books, journals, paper, maps and pamphlets... and cleaning!



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# HOW FAR DID THEY ROAM? FOLLOWING ONE PIONEER FAMILY THROUGH THREE GENERATIONS

by Peter Londregan (Member)

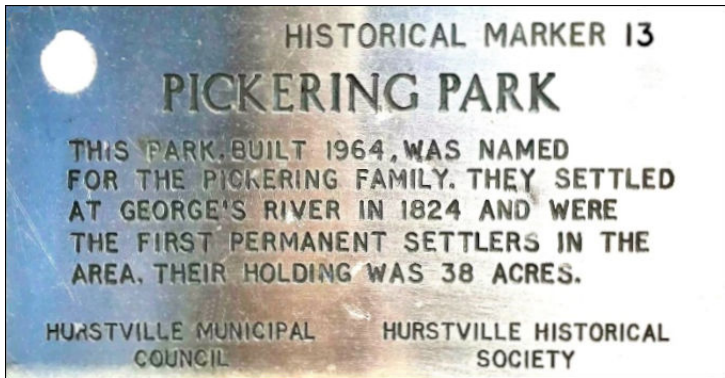
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**G**owan **Pickering** (1777 – 1851)<sup>1</sup> and Mary Ann **Toft** (1799 – 1844) were a pair of my three times great-grandparents. They were married in January 1821 by Samuel **Marsden** at St John's Church, Parramatta<sup>2</sup>. Gowan was a convict, transported to New South Wales (NSW) for stealing sheep on the North Yorkshire moors in 1813. He was a widower with three children, aged 15, 9 and 6, when he was convicted. His children stayed in North Yorkshire and were raised by family members. He never saw these children again – Gowan never left the colony after arrival and these three children never came to Australia. He arrived in Sydney in 1814. Mary Ann was a free settler, also arriving in the colony in 1814 with her mother and three sisters. The Toft women and girls came to Sydney as free settlers to join their husband and father James Toft, another convict. James Toft worked in London as a sales assistant for a wholesale grain merchant. But he stole a large sum of money from his employer. His arrest, trial, conviction and transportation probably tipped the family into poverty. Unfortunately, James Toft died on the voyage to NSW, a fact the Toft family learned on their arrival in the colony. Both Gowan and Mary Ann had very difficult and distressing family circumstances when they arrived in Sydney.



*Pickering Park in Isaac Street, Peakhurst. (photo: Peter Londregan, 2024)*

Gowan and Mary Ann received a land grant of 38 acres (15.4 hectares) at what is now Peakhurst in 1824. They were the first Europeans to settle in the area and worked that land with their family until they died. Pickering Park in Peakhurst commemorates this pioneer family.



*Memorial Plaque in Pickering Park (photo: Peter Londregan, 2020)*

Gowan and Mary Ann had five children, all born in Sydney. Four of these children married, producing 35 children of their own. These 35 children in turn had 165 offspring, giving 205 direct descendants over the three generations.

I wanted to see what happened to these 205 people in terms of how far they stayed near or moved away from the home base of Sydney. The places of birth, marriage and death represent anchor points in a person's life and can be used to assess how close or far a person moves during their life. Of course, people can and do move during the time between these anchor points, but a lot of that information is generally lost over time, while the place of birth, marriage and death is generally well documented.

I created a spreadsheet for these 205 people, subdivided by the three generations, containing for each person a reference number, name, date and place of birth, date and place of marriage(s), date and place of death and spouse name(s). This involved a lot of work!

To analyse these results, I categorised the places of birth, marriage and death for each person by geographical area: Sydney area, other NSW, interstate and overseas. My analysis does not track individuals from place of birth to place of marriage to place of death because that involves too many tracks which would over-complicate the analysis. I have simply, for each generation, used the places of birth, marriage and death to calculate the percentage of each event occurring in the four areas.

### First Generation Results (five children of Gowan and Mary Ann):

First Generation (5 people)	Sydney Area	Other NSW	Interstate	Overseas
Born	100%	-	-	-
Married (4)	100%	-	-	-
Died	80%	20%	-	-

This generation mostly did not move far from home base in Peakhurst. One daughter never married and died at Peakhurst in 1900, aged 67. The other daughter (my ancestor) moved after marrying and had her eight children to the Wallis Lake area on the north coast of NSW. She died aged 67 near Coomba Park. The three sons died in Parramatta, Woollahra and Marrickville at ages 69, 75 and 66.

The first generation certainly helped grow the Australian population between 1846 and 1877, with the four who married having 3, 13, 11 and 8 children.

### Second Generation Results (35 grandchildren of Gowan and Mary Ann):

Second Generation (35 people)	Sydney Area	Other NSW	Interstate	Overseas
Born	94%	6%	-	-
Married (31)	74%	19%	7%	-
Died	66%	26%	8%	-

Two of this group were born outside Sydney: sisters born in Maitland and Gulgong. The other births were mostly clustered around several Sydney areas: Paddington and Woollahra (10), Peakhurst and Georges River (9), Parramatta (6) and Sydney (4). However, the marriage location results show that there was a movement from Sydney, with almost 20% marrying in Other NSW. The locations of these marriages were Newcastle, Mudgee, Forbes, Lismore and Taree (two marriages). Two brothers moved from Sydney to Maryborough, Queensland, where they married and raised their families. Seven people in this group never married, mostly because they died at a young age. One woman married three times and a man married twice.

The death locations show that there was further movement from Sydney after marriage, both to Other NSW and Interstate. The interstate deaths occurred in Queensland (two), Perth and Canberra.

The increasing number of marriages and eventually deaths taking place outside Sydney could be possibly due to the growing prosperity and opportunities outside Sydney.

The second generation also produced some large families. The largest number of children produced by one couple was 15, followed by two 12s, an eleven and a ten.

### Third Generation Results (165 great grandchildren):

<b>Third Generation (165 people)</b>	<b>Sydney Area</b>	<b>Other NSW</b>	<b>Interstate</b>	<b>Overseas</b>
Born	70%	25%	5%	-
Married (136)	60%	20%	19%	1%
Died	54%	29%	14%	3%

The proportion of this generation born in Sydney reduced again, due to the movement of the parents from Sydney. More of this group married outside Sydney, with interstate marriages increasing to 19%, up from 7% for the previous generation. The two overseas marriages took place in New Zealand.

The location of the deaths also showed a movement away from Sydney, especially for interstate locations. Nevertheless, just over half of this generation died in the Sydney area, showing that Sydney had a strong retention pull on the Pickering descendants.

Five people in this group died overseas. Two died during military service in Europe during WW1. One died in New Zealand, having married there. One died in England and another in the United States, both having married in Australia.

Many of the people in the three generations are buried in Woronora Memorial Park. A good number of them lived their lives in southern Sydney, given the Peakhurst beginnings for the family in the 1820s. The last great-grandchild of Gowan and Mary Ann died in 2001, meaning the three generations spanned almost 180 years, from 1822, just after the end of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship of NSW to just after the Sydney Olympics.

### Conclusion

The movement of some people away from Sydney over time is expected. Australia is a large country and people moved, chasing opportunities elsewhere. There was also some inertia. Children tended to stay closer to home when they grew up. Some people made big moves. As mentioned, two brothers in the second generation moved from Sydney to regional Queensland, where they married and had their families. Another second generation man took his young family from Sydney to Perth in the late 1800s, where the children married.

This analysis is not representative of other early colonial families that started in Sydney in the 1820s. Every family has its own story. But the analysis

demonstrates the way successive generations moved beyond Sydney as the years progressed.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 Gowan's date of birth and first name are disputed. There is no clear documentation for his birth nor baptism dates. The year shown here is commonly used based on his age given in later documents. His first name is spelt in a variety of ways in different documents using different vowels, but the consonants are always the same.
- 2 Index: V 1821 11043 147B, New South Wales Births, Deaths and Marriages, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>

### NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members. Please use your membership to attend meetings, interest groups, classes and the Research Centre (and please ask for help if you need it).

1951	Heike Heyke	Caringbah South
1952	Lesley O'Loughlin	Grays Point
1953	John Biordi	Oatley
1954	Kaye Batchelor	Wellington, NZ
1955	Denise Coussens	Caringbah
1956	Deborah Jenkins	Wooloowin, Qld
1957	Leone Batt	Miranda
1958	Ray Bird	Woronora Heights
1959	Jenny Bird	Woronora Heights
1960	Aneta Stevenson	Kareela
1961	Elisa Beecham	Illawong

### COPY DEADLINE

Please submit copy for the December 2024 journal as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 6 November** – preferably by email to the Editor at [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au). Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a quarterly meeting or posted to 184 Gannons Road Caringbah South NSW 2227. Please include your name and state if you want any materials returned.

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# SISTER WINNIE MAY DAVIS – AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE

by Glen O'Connor (Member)

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Many readers will have heard about the Australian Army Nursing Sisters captured by the Japanese on the Sumatran coast during the fall of Singapore in 1942. Sister Vivian **Bullwinkle** was the most prominent survivor, having lived to tell the dreadful fate that befell many of her fellow nurses at the hands of their country's enemy.

This story is about Winnie May **Davis**, my second cousin once removed, who was one of those nursing sisters. Win, as she was known, was born on 7 July 1915, the third child of Jim and Laura Davis who at the time were living at Cowper, a small farming village on the Clarence River downstream from Grafton. Win attended Cowper Primary School and later Ulmarra Primary School after her parents relocated to the Upper Coldstream area.

Win's mother Laura was a much-loved member of the small community, known for her kindness and charity. Win was very much like her mother but developed a more exuberant personality. Win excelled at sports and was a proficient swimmer, an essential skill if you lived near the fast flowing Clarence River. At Grafton High School, she was a fierce debater, once winning a debate when she was 15 on the topic: *The entry of more women into the professions and public life would benefit the community*. Her favourite subjects were English and Chemistry.

During the school holidays in January 1932, 16 years old Win travelled with her grandfather John **Lattimore** to Sydney to visit relatives and family friends, before travelling to Dungog and Clarence Town where the Lattimore family had their pioneering roots.<sup>1</sup>

Win returned to Sydney two years later after finishing high school where her first job was working for a dentist. It wasn't long before she committed her future to nursing. Her application was readily accepted by the Nurses Registration Board and she was given a trainee position in 1934 with the War Memorial Hospital at Waverley, a private hospital run by the Methodist Church. Win passed her final exams in May 1938 and was registered as a General Nurse.

The new Nurse Davis soon returned home for a family visit. The local newspaper reported *...with her bright and happy disposition and general efficiency she should succeed in attaining the highest ranks in her nursing career ...*<sup>2</sup>





Nurses at the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley  
(photo: War Memorial Hospital, Waverley)

Win transferred to the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington to be trained in obstetrics. In November 1938, Win was presented with a graduate brooch at the Waverley hospital's annual Armistice Day awards ceremony. She was by now eligible to be called Sister.

Win made regular visits back to the family home. She was bridesmaid to her younger sister Doris in June 1940. Meanwhile, the war in Europe had escalated after Italy allied with Germany in July 1940. Later that year Australia agreed to send troops to the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa to help the British war effort.

Win was 25 when she walked across the road from the hospital and enlisted in the Emergency Unit of the Australian Army Nursing Service at Victoria Barracks, Paddington on 10 December 1940.<sup>3</sup> Win was the first nurse from the Clarence district to enlist. After a short spell in a camp hospital at Greta in the Hunter Valley, Win was given a farewell function and presentation at Ulmarra by the local patriotic fund during her summer holiday with her parents. Another farewell was put on by the local Red Cross. Her gifts included sheets and pillow cases, a wallet and money and many good wish cards.<sup>4</sup>



Winnie May Davis – Army paybook  
(photo: Australian War Memorial)

otherwise destined for the Mediterranean.

After leaving Fremantle, the *Queen Mary* suddenly left the convoy and steamed northwards on its own. It arrived in Singapore on 18 February. The nurses were assigned to the 2/10th Australian General Hospital, operating as a field hospital supporting the 8th Division in Malaya.

Win's first posting was by train to the hospital set up at the Colonial trading port of Malacca, on the south coast of Malaya between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Pat **Gunther**, a nurse who did some of her training with Win at Waverley and was now a colleague at the hospital, described Malacca as...*a pleasant little town on the west coast of Malaya*. Pat and Win had become close friends.

The hospital unit was established in a section of the Colonial Service Hospital. The nurses' quarters were very comfortable and came with house servants. As the troops trained in jungle warfare and other activities, the nurses busied themselves with first aid, tropical disease treatment, skin infections, injuries and minor operations.

Her group of nurses boarded the *Queen Mary*, a glamorous ocean liner converted to a troopship, which was anchored off Bradleys Head. Also on board were troops from the recently raised 8th Division of the Australian Army. The ship left Sydney on 4 February 1941 in convoy with other converted troopships. The passengers had yet to be told of their destinations which were rumoured to be Egypt, Palestine or Singapore. As some of the cargo on the *Queen Mary* had Singapore addresses, it became the favourite.

Singapore was the main British presence in Asia and vital to the defence of British and Australian interests in the region. With Britain fully engaged in the war in Europe and elsewhere, Australia agreed to bolster the security of Malaya and Singapore with navy, army and air force units

The threat of invasion by the Japanese was always present but Pearl Harbour and Japan's entry into the war was still many months away. In the meantime, the nurses enjoyed visiting Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Fraser's Hill, a cool climate retreat in the mountains. They also attended dances, sampan parties, tennis tournaments, chicken parties and other socials, visited temples and sporting clubs and went swimming on tropical beaches. They mixed with other service personnel from around the Commonwealth as well as with the locals.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03769.001

Win in uniform after enlisting  
(photo: Australian War Memorial)

Win was one of the youngest and most popular of the nurses. Even the older nurses recognised that her tireless hard work and dedication was an example to everyone. Win was described as *...young in all ways, dark haired and vivacious and still excited by all the things that were new to her.*<sup>5</sup>

The invasion began when the Japanese landed at the northern end of the Malay Peninsula on 8 December 1941 and commenced bombing Singapore and other targets. It wasn't long before the hospital in Malacca was overwhelmed by the number of wounded arriving in one ambulance after another. As the Japanese pressed south, the hospital became full. Extra beds were found in houses along the street. The nurses were now spread out but no-one went without care.

As the Japanese advanced further down the peninsula the decision was made to relocate the hospital, first to join up with another Australian field hospital at Johor Bahru, just north of Singapore and then to Singapore Island. The huge influx of wounded and refugees caused chaos for the nurses who were now under the threat of daily bombardments and blackouts.

When it became obvious Singapore would fall, a first group of 63 nurses were successfully evacuated to Australia. Not one of the nurses wanted to leave but were obliged to follow orders. Win was part of the second group of 65 nurses who were evacuated on 12 February 1942, three days before Singapore fell. The nurses

were broken-hearted by being forced to leave large numbers of casualties untreated. All of the remaining nurses volunteered to stay but were overruled. Doctors and orderlies lined the drive to cheer them on their way to the docks.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01180.002

A Group of Sisters – Pat Gunther 3rd from Left, Back Row and  
Winnie May Davis 5th from Left, Back Row  
(photo: Australian War Memorial)

By now, Japanese planes roamed freely over the escape routes and few held hope of a successful evacuation. The nursing group boarded a small merchant ship named the *Vyner Brooke*, along with some severely wounded servicemen. They were joined by civilians, mostly women and children. The nurses were not impressed that the civilians, particularly the children, had not been evacuated earlier or that the civilians were taking space that could have been used for more wounded.

The ship slipped out of Singapore, working its way through the minefield laid to repel the Japanese, heading for the narrow Banka Strait between Banka Island and Sumatra and then Java beyond. The ship kept close to the small islands and avoided the open sea. On that first night, Win, Pat Gunther and three other nurses talked quietly long into the night, too emotional and nervous to sleep.

Their Matron, Olive **Paschke**, who feared the worst, had divided the nurses into stations around the ship to better deal with any attack from the Japanese. Win and her friends were given the bow station.

Two days into the voyage the ship was bombed by Japanese planes. After successfully zigzagging the ship to avoid being hit, the Japanese finally managed to land some bombs. The nurse stations sprang to life as the captain gave the order to abandon ship. Those not killed by the bombing took to the sea on lifeboats, rafts or anything floating but there was insufficient space for everyone. Win was one of the nurses who, as a proficient swimmer, agreed to swim alongside a raft or boat. Everyone wore a life jacket.

Initially, Win and Pat clung to a wooden spar until they came across a raft that held another nurse, Sister Jessie **Simons**, a radio operator and two wounded British sailors. Three women civilians later joined those on the raft. Those who could swim took turns to swim beside. However, one of the civilians fell unconscious while swimming and drifted away, never to be seen again. One of the sailors, a gunner who suffered from burns in the bombing of the ship, slipped off the raft during the night.

Suffering exhaustion, abrasions, dehydration and severe sunburn, the group was picked up by a Japanese naval ship. They were treated with some sympathy and given food and water but the sympathy stopped after landing on Banka Island when they were then crammed into a shed next door to a pigpen. They were then walked to the village of Muntok. From there they joined other survivors and interned locals at an inland prison camp at Palembang in South Sumatra.

Another group of 22 nurses had earlier landed on Banka Island with other passengers from the ship and surrendered to a Japanese patrol. After a few days of harsh treatment, most of the passengers were rounded up on nearby Radji Beach and executed mostly by bayonet. The nurses were ordered back into the sea where they were machine gunned and bayoneted. Only Sister Bullwinkle survived the slaughter by drifting further out to sea. Another nurse who trained at Waverley Memorial Hospital and good friend of Win was Florence **Salmon**. She was one of the casualties at Radji Beach.

Matron Paschke and some others were last seen on a raft before it was swept out to the open sea. She was one of the 12 nurses lost at sea.

The loss of the *Vyner Brooke* was soon reported but the fate of the passengers was unknown. Win's father James was finally advised in July 1942 that his daughter was presumed missing.<sup>6</sup> Nothing further was heard until James was advised that a Tokyo Rose broadcast claimed Win was a prisoner of war in a Sumatran camp. In March 1943, while she was still believed to be a prisoner of war, Win was granted military rank and promoted to Captain.

There was a civilian hospital attached to the camp and the nurses did their best to help in the hospital when they weren't forced to work in the fields. The nurses helped save countless lives among the local Dutch and native population.

However, the nurses were never treated with respect by their captors who did not recognise them as military personnel. They had to endure the most appalling and brutal conditions. They were constantly starved and beaten and made to work much hard labour on pitiful rations of rice and sweet potato. They were forced to eat grass and ferns to supplement their food. Malaria, dysentery and tropical diseases were rife in the camps and inevitably the nurses started to die.

In fact, eight of the nurses died before the end of three and a half years of captivity in various prison camps. The number would have been greater except for the tireless efforts of their comrades to share rations and provide comfort and encouragement.

Win gave everything to help her patients. When Sister Jessie **Blanch** suffered a heart attack from overwork, it was Win who took care of her day and night and nursed her back to health.<sup>7</sup> Win herself suffered badly and became emaciated from dysentery and beri-beri. Pat Gunther tried desperately to improve Win's diet by scrounging potatoes and eggs in an attempt to keep her alive. Win, who had been protected and loved by the other nurses, finally succumbed and died on 19 July 1945, less than a month before the Japanese surrender.

She was buried in the cemetery at the top of a nearby hill in a shallow pit covered by an old rice sack. Win had turned 30 only three weeks before. Two more nurses died a few days after the surrender.

The Army had difficulty in finding the nurses who had been moved to a remote mountain camp at Loebok Linggam, 160 km west of Palembang. They were eventually found by a reporter from the ABC and a RAAF pilot after interrogating various Japanese officers and soldiers.

The rescued nurses were taken to an airfield at Lahat where they were met by a RAAF plane. Among those on board the plane were the Principal Matron of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Colonel Annie **Sage** and a senior Army doctor, Major Harry **Windsor** who were overcome and frankly outraged by the small number and condition of the nurses.<sup>8</sup> The plane then took the nurses to Singapore for some vital recuperation before they sailed to Australia. Win's best friend Pat Gunther was one of the 24 nurses who returned to Australia.

Win's parents were officially informed of her death within a few days after the rescue of the surviving nurses. Across the Clarence River district there was an outpouring of sorrow mixed with anger. The local newspaper eulogised, *Winnie Davis, beloved by all, gave of her best and for the sake of suffering humanity paid the supreme sacrifice in a far off land, the victim of a relentless foe.*<sup>9</sup>

Sister Jessie Simons, who was on the raft with Win, later wrote *Winnie May Davis, one of our youngest sisters, was a marvellous girl, who gave herself for her friends.*<sup>10</sup>





Winn's portrait at the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley  
 (photo: EthanD123 2020)

Chapel at Westminster Abbey in London. A Roll of Honour below the window included the name Winnie May Davis. Vivian also sent photos of the window and Roll.

Other memorials that include an honour to Win Davis were established around Australia, including at Grafton High School and the Memorial Park at Ulmarra. The most poignant of the memorials is a stained glass Window of Memory installed in the Jeannie **Morgan** Wing of the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley dedicated to the 18 nurses who served in the Second World War. One of the panels honours the memory of Winnie May Davis.

Even almost 80 years after these events, it is hard for members of family to recall Win's story without much sadness. Others have already written about Win and I give thanks for the opportunity to add my account.

A memorial service was held on 28 October 1945 for Win and Florence Salmon in the grounds of the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley. At least 400 mourners were in attendance.

Win's body was later taken to Indonesia where she was formally reinterred at the Jakarta War Memorial, one of the 1,181 war personnel buried there.

In January 1952, Sister Vivian Bullwinkle reached out to Win's mother Laura advising her a new stained glass window, showing a Madonna and child with a kneeling Red Cross nurse, had been unveiled by the Queen in the Nurses'



*Stained glass windows, War Memorial Hospital, Waverley –  
 Florence Salmon on the left and Win Davis on the right  
 (photo: Australian Nurses Memorial Centre)*

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- 3 Captain Winnie Davis – Frontline September 2016 Service Journal 2/19 Battalion AIF – Lt Col Graeme Davis
- 4 *Daily Examiner* 18 January 1941, page 3
- 5 *On Radji Beach* – Ian W Shaw 2010
- 6 *Daily Examiner* 3 August 1942, page 2
- 7 *Training, ethos, camaraderie and endurance of World War Two Australian POW nurses* – Sarah Fulford 2016
- 8 Harry Windsor became a pioneer of open heart surgery in Australia. He performed the first Australian heart transplant operation in 1968.
- 9 *Daily Examiner* 29 October 1945, page 2
- 10 *The Age* 26 June 1954, page 14



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NSW/ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES AT BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE.

Because no society offered to host the conference this year, the Association is conducting a virtual mini-conference by Zoom on **Saturday 14th September 2024**. The theme of the conference is *Dig Deeper in 24*, with four guest speakers:

Clive Smith: *Dig Deeper into the Colonial Secretary's Records on Ancestry*.

Andrew Redfern: *AI and Family History*.

Nick Reddan: *The Registry of Deeds Dublin and family history*.

Ruth Graham: *A framework for multidimensional family history research*.

The conference website is <https://digdeeper24.org/>. It has more information about the authors and their topics.

**Botany Bay FHS has purchased a Society booking and we will be holding a free member's day at the Research Centre. The conference begins at 9.45 am.**

Individual registrations, priced at \$10, are available at the *TryBooking* site, located at <https://tinyurl.com/mwvntxnt>. Raffle tickets are also available at this site.

Members are advised to check for the latest details on our events calendar at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS eNEWS.

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# JOHN WARNER – THE DRAPER

by Barbara Barnes (Member)

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When parents hold their newborn in their arms the thought of what lies ahead for this child is paramount in their thoughts. When Thomas Rufus and Jane Warner held their fourth child, John, in their arms in 1817, these thoughts would have been theirs too. They were not to know that John's future life would be far removed from their own lives and existence in Horsham, Sussex.

John was born in Horsham on 28 January, 1817, the fourth of six children of Jane Langridge and Thomas Rufus Warner.<sup>1</sup> Both parents were shown in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Census records to be trading as the hatter and milliner in West Street, Horsham. Their daughter, Jane, joined them in the business eventually. For whatever reason, young John was not christened until 1827 in the Independent-Non-Conformist Church in Horsham.<sup>2,3</sup> Indeed, 9 December, 1827, was quite a family day. An excellent image in the *England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936*, found on ancestry.com, shows all children of Thomas Rufus and Jane being christened that day: Thomas Rufus (Jnr), Jane, Alice, John, Elizabeth and William Cyrus.

Unfortunately, despite much searching, there is a gap in the records of John's life between 1827 and the 1851 census record when John, now aged 34, had established a career in the retail business of drapery. How, when and why, he moved the from Horsham, Sussex, to St Woollos, Wales, is unknown!

No 1841 census record was found for John or his older brother, Thomas Rufus Warner (Jnr). However, in that 1841 year, their siblings were living in the West Street home of their parents. The 1851 record shows John was living in the premises, 40 Commercial Street, St Woollos, Monmouthshire, Wales, of the drapery shop owned by George and Catherine Russell. The household consisted of the couple, three assistant drapers, John being one, and a servant.

There must have been some social life for John as he married Eliza Gale in the Church of England parish of St Philip and Jacob, Bristol on 28 January, 1852.<sup>4</sup> In the 1851 Census, Eliza was living with her parents and noted as a School Mistress. The birth of their first son, Francis Percy Warner, was in Newport, Wales, in 1852, with the following three children, Clara Anne,<sup>6</sup> Albert Hamlyn<sup>7</sup> and Orlando Alexander<sup>8</sup> born in areas of London between 1854 and 1860. The 1861 Census places John, Eliza and children at 26 Portman Place, Marylebone. John still listed as a Drapers Assistant.

The couple would have been receiving correspondence from Eliza's brother, John Gale, urging them to move to Australia. John, a Queanbeyan newspaper



*St Philip and St Jacob Church, Bristol, UK, commonly referred to as Pip 'n' Jay*  
(photo: William Avery, Wikimedia Commons)  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:William\\_Avery](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:William_Avery)

owner and journalist, had steadily established his own life in the Colony making a name for himself. Indeed, by the end of the 19th century, John, had established himself as part of Australian history being the main lobbyist and tireless worker for choosing Canberra as the site for the Federal Capital. Other siblings of Eliza also moved to Australia.

John's persuasive writing skills must have inspired John and Eliza as in July, 1861, the *Immigration Deposit Journals* record a deposit paid by John Gale for the family to voyage to Australia on the *Annie Wilson*. John noted in this record as having a trade as a tailor. As with many immigrants under this scheme, occupations were often twisted slightly for them to have favourable consideration for entry to the Colony. It must have been a busy time for the family between this 17 July date and departure of the *Annie Wilson* on 31 December. As late as 8 December, the Non-Conformist Baptisms of the children, Clara, Albert and Orlando took place in the Wesleyan Memorial Chapel, London.<sup>9</sup>

The family travelled safely to Liverpool for the departure of the *Annie*



*Wilson* on New Years Eve 1861, Eliza pregnant with their fifth child. Shipping records show the voyage for the ship and passengers was not a great one, with an onboard death from scarlet fever and its threat to the many families and individuals making this momentous move to a new country. When the ship arrived in Sydney on 8 April, 1862<sup>10</sup> the ship and its passengers were immediately directed to the Quarantine Station.<sup>11</sup>

Shortly after this arrival, Eliza gave birth to a son on 9 June. Living only four days the birth and death of this child, named John after his father, was registered at Glebe.<sup>12, 13</sup> In the following years Eliza gave birth to Louisa Alexandra in 1863, John Henry in 1866 and Alice Maud in 1868.

Eliza's death in 1869 was an added sadness to John Warner's life. His mother, Jane, had died in 1857 and in 1867 news came from England of the death of his father, Thomas Rufus.<sup>14</sup> Shortly before in this same year, his daughter, Louisa Alexandra, had died and was buried in St Stephen's graveyard, Newtown.<sup>15</sup> John's occupation on this church record was noted as Draper.

Eliza's death certificate<sup>16</sup> indicates the family were living at 32 Langley Lane, off Burton Street, Woolloomooloo; her cause of death was 'disease of the lungs'. Eliza was buried in an unmarked Church of England grave at Rookwood Cemetery. Mere weeks after, her son, John Henry Warner (1866-1869), also died and was buried in Rookwood. Zone B. Plot J. No.67.

Left with a young family in his care, John married for a second time in the weeks before Christmas, 1873 to Elizabeth **Isherwood**, aged 37. Elizabeth had arrived single and alone on the *Sir Robert Peel* in 1864, aged 28 years, listed as a domestic servant. The shipping record noted: *Father dead. Mother living in the Colony*. It is pure conjecture that Elizabeth Isherwood became the housekeeper for John Warner and his young motherless family but she eventually became John's second wife. Now being, what could be considered as an older couple, Elizabeth bore John five children between 1874 and 1881: John Bowman, Hannah, Stanner, Florence and Robert, with Hannah, Stanner and Robert dying at birth or shortly after. It was a particularly sad Christmas in 1877, with Stanner (b. 30 July, 1877, mistranscribed<sup>17</sup> in the NSW BDM Index as Stanmis) dying on 24 December (mistranscribed<sup>18</sup> in the NSW BDM Index as Hannus) and interred on Christmas Day at Rookwood.<sup>19</sup>

Known addresses for John and Elizabeth are in 1891, 34 Athlone Place, and in 1901,<sup>20</sup> 13 Owen Street, Ultimo. It was at this Ultimo address where John died on 2 October, 1902. Two days later, 4 October, John was interred in Rookwood Acropolis, Church of England, Section 4, Row 9, Grave 1979.<sup>21</sup> Elizabeth joined him in this plot upon her death on 22 January, 1912.





*Owen Street, Ultimo in 1906  
(photo: State Library of New South Wales)*

In John Warner's death notice, printed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 4 October, his son Francis Patrick mentioned John's "many years in Hordern's". These short words indicate that John continued his career in retail drapery upon arriving in Australia until his retirement. The first Australian record showing John was working as a Draper in 1867 with the burial of a son in St Stephen's churchyard, Newtown.

John's "many years with Hordern's" would have been served with Anthony Hordern & Sons in the Sydney Haymarket area. The Hordern's name and establishment started life in 1823 simply referred to as a drapery. Its creator, Ann (Woodhead) Hordern, was an enterprising woman who on her arrival in the Colony saw an immediate need for a drapery outlet for its women. Indeed, the history of the Hordern's Empire, from its humble beginnings to its demise, makes interesting reading on its own account. John, arriving in Sydney in 1862, possibly made an approach to the store for employment. With drapery



*John and Elizabeth Walker's headstone  
(photo: natric11 on Ancestry)*

Indeed, the history of the Hordern's Empire, from its humble beginnings to its demise, makes interesting reading on its own account. John, arriving in Sydney in 1862, possibly made an approach to the store for employment. With drapery



*An engraved view of Anthony Hordern & Sons Haymarket store, 1889. It was the largest department store in Sydney, comprising 21 hectares of retail space [Sketch inserts show warehouses, bulk stores, factories and stables.] (original engraving: Whitetaker, digital copy from City of Sydney Archive)*

experience in his homeland, and assuming he held a reference of his drapery experience with the Russell's Drapery in St Woollos, Wales, no doubt Hordern's would have found a spot for John in their workforce. Perhaps in the original store but certainly in the larger three floor Palace Emporium opened by the Hordern family in 1879. *During the 1870s, the company purchased several surrounding buildings and reconstructed them into the 1879 substantial Palace Emporium with a staff of over 300. (Museums of History NSW)*

Family history sleuthing throws up many facts to consider concerning the ancestors who make up branches of our trees. Between the ages of 35 and 61 John Warner, married two women much younger than himself and fathered thirteen children in total. Of these thirteen children only six lived beyond birth or early childhood.

Many siblings of both John Warner and Eliza Gale migrated to Australia. Each of these, with the families they nurtured, added to the fabric of the still expanding population of the Colony and the skills it needed to prosper. They participated, each with their own individual stories of success and heartbreak.

John Warner was the 2nd great-grandfather of my husband, James **Barnes**, with now a further three generations below him. Researching and drafting this story gives life to a man of whom they had no previous knowledge – the story of an English grandfather from Horsham, Sussex, who migrated to a new land, Australia, and spent his working life in his chosen career in drapery.

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- 13 Australian Death Index, 1787-1985, 1866-841, death of baby John
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- 15 Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011, St Stephen's, Newtown, Louisa Alexandra Warner.
- 16 NSW Death Transcription, 1869/682, Eliza Warner
- 17 NSW BDM 5152/1877
- 18 NSW BDM 2780/1877
- 19 Findagrave via ancestry.com, Stanner Warner, memorial ID: 189892688
- 20 Australia Death Index, 1787-1985: 1902/12092, John Warner
- 21 Sydney, Australia, Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions, 1867-2002, John and Elizabeth Warner



This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 40 years in our Library. **Not everything is online!** Check out our library catalogue at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html>. You may be very surprised at what you find! **Come to the Research Centre and have a look.** Thank you for the donations from those members who are ‘downsizing’.

## AUSTRALIA

- The Irish Australians - The Irish Emigrant - Selected Articles for Australian and Irish Family Historians. [A.HIS.11.18LC]
- Your Home - The Inside Story of the Australian House. [A.HIS.22.5LC]
- The Way We Were - Family Favourites. [A.GUI.5.5LC]

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- Annabella of Lake Innes, Port Macquarie. [AN.LH.2444.7LC]
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- Charles Trevelyan and the Great Irish Famine. [I.HIS.12.5LC]
- Ballintoy Church Graveyard. [I.ANT.SOU.5.4LC]

## GENERAL

- Mary Gaunt - Independent Colonial Woman. [G.BIOG.7.GAU.1LC]

- That Bligh Girl. [G.BIOG.7.BLI.1LC]
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- Under Full Sail - How the Majestic Clipper Ships Transformed Australia from a Convict Outpost to a Nation. [G.IMM.A.HIS.1.27LC]

**NOTE:** ‘LC’ indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; ‘CD’ a compact disc.

Compiled by Janette Daly (Librarian)

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## BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Carol **Cronan** (Educator)

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Once again this year, BBFHS offered an Education Workshop for University of the Third Age (U3A). On 6 August, to coincide with Family History month, we ran a very successful day of three sessions covering Getting Started and Staying Organised, Common Digital Tools and So You Want a DNA Test – or Do You? We had eight participants from U3A and four of these joined BBFHS on the day. There was much sharing of family stories and lots of questions relating to personal searches. One very happy new member even found some fascinating family divorce papers! It was a most enjoyable day and the new formula of offering the three sessions on the one day worked well. A huge thank you to Carole Goodyer for handling of all the admin and negotiation with U3A as well as her scullery maid efforts on the day.

Our next class for our members is on 22 October and will be led by our President, Jennie **Fairs**. She will be leading us in “Making better use of Microsoft Word for family history”. This will be a practical class encouraging all participants to utilise more of the tools that Microsoft Word has to offer. **Bookings can be made on the BBFHS website at <https://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html> and need to be done by 5pm on Friday, 18 October.**

Remember that the classes at RootsTech are still available at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule?day=2024-03-01>. It is well worth the effort to take another look to make sure you have watched all those you had identified as pertinent to your research.

**We are seeking some new members to join the Education Team and would love to hear from you if you would like to give a hand. Please give it some thought and contact me via email [carolcronan@gmail.com](mailto:carolcronan@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss the possibility.**



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# SHIPWRECKED! ABDUCTED! RANSOMED! RESCUED! NEW ZEALAND, 1834

by Peter **Londregan** (Member)

---

**B**etty **Guard** was getting increasingly terrified. The gale was throwing the little ship *Harriet* around in a way she had never experienced before. She held her two small children tightly. She knew the ship was too close to the New Zealand Taranaki coast. Captain Richard **Hall** (the ship's commander) and her husband Captain Jackie (John) Guard, who had hired the ship for the voyage to New Zealand, were shouting orders at the crew using language she had never heard before. The crash happened in the pre-dawn light at 4 am. The ship shuddered and cracked as it crashed into the rocks. Soon the *Harriet* was lying almost sideways, and the waves kept pounding it against the rocks.

Fortunately, everyone on board made it to shore with only a few minor injuries. The Taranaki coast on the western side of the North Island was a very remote place in 1834, a long way from any European settlement.



*The Harriet anchor, on display in the village of Rahoitu, about 50 km from New Plymouth. The village is near the shipwreck site. The inscription is: Anchor of the barque Harriet wrecked off the Okahu River mouth 29<sup>th</sup> April 1834 (photo: Peter Londregan, 2024)*

Betty Guard (nee Elizabeth **Parker**) was the sister of my three times great grandmother, Sophia Parker. Betty was born in Sydney in 1814 to Stephen Parker and Harriet **Pugh**. Stephen was a convict who helped build the first road over the Blue Mountains. Harriet was the daughter of my first fleet convict ancestors Edward Pugh and Hannah **Smith**, who married in Sydney in May 1788.

Betty, aged about 16, became Jackie Guard's common law wife in Sydney in

about 1831 – there is no record of them ever marrying. Jackie was about 23 years older than Betty and was an ex-convict who turned his hand to business at the first opportunity. He became a whaler and ship owner and established a whaling station at Cloudy Bay in the Marlborough region of New Zealand’s South Island in the early 1830s. He and Betty were sailing on the *Harriet* from Sydney to Cloudy Bay when the ship foundered in April 1834.

Over the three days following the shipwreck the crew saved a lot of salvageable material, including several small boats. The wrecked group used sails from the *Harriet* to make tents while they considered their situation. But they were being watched. The first group of Māori approached them on day four and were not too aggressive. Two sailors from the *Harriet* deserted the group to join a Māori tribe, taking several muskets and some gunpowder with them. A second group of Māori numbering 200 attacked after that. About 13 sailors were killed in the attack, including the *Harriet’s* captain, and Betty’s brother David Parker, aged 17. Betty Guard and the children were injured, and they were captured by the Māori and taken away. The Māori feasted on the dead sailors as part of their victory celebrations.



*The whalebone comb that deflected tomahawk blows to Betty Guard’s head, saving her life, but leaving its teeth permanently embedded in her skull. From the collection at the Te Papa Museum, Wellington, New Zealand.*

Jackie Guard and the remaining crew members fought their way through the attacking Māori and made their way to where another group of Māori lived in their pa (fortified stockade). This group were not as aggressive towards the European survivors and gave them food and shelter but would not allow them to leave the pa. Jackie Guard learned that his wife and the two children were alive, and they were recovering from their wounds. Betty’s captors said that Betty and the children would only be released if a ransom was delivered.

Jackie Guard negotiated the ransom with the Māori detaining him. They agreed that Jackie Guard and some sailors could leave to obtain a barrel of gunpowder, which would be the payment to the Māori to obtain the release of the remaining crew members and Betty Guard and her children. The survivors from the battle with the Māori set about repairing a damaged whale-boat from the *Harriet* so



that it could be sailed to Cloudy Bay in the South Island. Jackie Guard, with a crew of six sailors and three Māori chiefs eventually sailed away from their place of capture, leaving the remaining crew from the *Harriet* with the Māori as their slaves awaiting rescue.

The group took about six days to navigate their whale-boat to Cloudy Bay. The schooner *Joseph Waller* under the command of Captain **Morris** was at anchor nearby in Port Nicholson. Captain Morris agreed to carry out the rescue mission in his ship and take with him Jackie Guard and his open boat companions. However, adverse weather prevented the ship from landing on the Taranaki coast, thwarting the rescue. The *Joseph Waller* sailed on to Sydney, arriving in mid-August 1834, some four months after the *Harriet's* loss.

The loss of the *Harriet*, the battle with the Māori and resultant loss of British lives as well as the capture of Betty Guard and her children became sensational news in the colony. Several newspaper reports based on Jackie Guard's statements were published. NSW Governor Sir Richard **Bourke** decided action must be taken to rescue the *Harriet* survivors and ruled out delivery of any ransom.

Governor Burke ordered the navy ship *HMS Alligator*, commanded by Captain Robert **Lambert**, and the colonial sloop *Isabella*, to sail to New Zealand for the rescue mission. Fifty soldiers under the command of Captain **Johnstone** were selected to travel in these ships to carry out the rescue. The two ships sailed from Sydney on 31 August 1834.

At this time Betty Guard and her two children had been held captive for four months. The Māori chief **Oaoiti** protected Betty and her infant daughter Louisa. They were housed, fed and clothed, although some reports state that Betty was forced to become another wife of Oaoiti. Betty's son John, almost three years old now, had been taken by another tribe to a different location. Betty had not seen her son since being captured.

The British naval group arrived off New Zealand's Taranaki coast on 12 September 1834. Negotiations with the Māori group holding the *Harriet's* survivors quickly resulted in release of the captive sailors in exchange for the three Māori chiefs who had accompanied Captain Guard when he left that coast in the whale-boat. However, the Māori refused to release Betty and her daughter, demanding the agreed ransom. An army detachment attacked and destroyed the Māori pa where Betty and her daughter were being held, but the people there escaped into the bush beforehand. The Māori chief Oaoiti was wounded and captured in battle. The Māori then agreed to release Betty and her daughter in exchange for their chief. This left the young son John in captivity among a different group of Māori. Further negotiations and a heated battle with the Māori enabled the British soldiers to snatch John from his captors. The British officers

then ordered the destruction of the second pa.

This conflict was the first battle between the British military and the Māori. Conflict continued for many decades as the Māori fought to defend their land and culture, although many inter-Māori wars also took place. The *Harriet* shipwreck in 1834 and its aftermath is a well-known event in New Zealand's European history.

The British naval task force returned to Sydney in late November, allowing Captain Guard and his family to resume their lives. The news of the captives' rescue was reported sensationally in the local papers.

Sadly, the daughter Louisa died as an infant in 1835 in Sydney because of mistreatment when she was captured with Betty and her brother John.

Jackie and Betty Guard eventually settled in Kakapo Bay in the Cloudy Bay area of the South Island. They had eight children in total. Jackie Guard died at Kakapo Bay in 1857, aged 63. Betty died there in 1870, aged 55. Their son John, who was the first European born in the South Island, died in 1918 aged 86. He is buried in the Guard family cemetery at Kakapo Bay. Descendants of these Guard pioneers still live in that area.

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# JAMES THORNTON (1857-1937), BUSINESSMAN AND PAPAL KNIGHT

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

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In 2024, the Cronulla Catholic parish of St. Aloysius Gonzaga is celebrating the centenary of becoming a parish. It seems fitting to remember a man whose generosity and standing in the wider Catholic community in those early days was so important.

In December 1924, his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney (Most Rev. Michael **Kelly** D.D.) visited Cronulla to bless the new church, declare the new parish of Cronulla-Sutherland and announce Father William **Hawe** as the first priest-in-charge, responsible for the area now known as the Sutherland Shire. His Grace also took the opportunity to invest James **Thornton**, a parishioner, with the insignia of the Papal Knighthood of St. Sylvester in recognition of his support of all Catholic charities and activities. In 1931 Father Hawe was followed by Father William **McDonald** as priest in charge and, in 1934 Father Francis **Lloyd** became the first Parish Priest of St Aloysius' Cronulla.



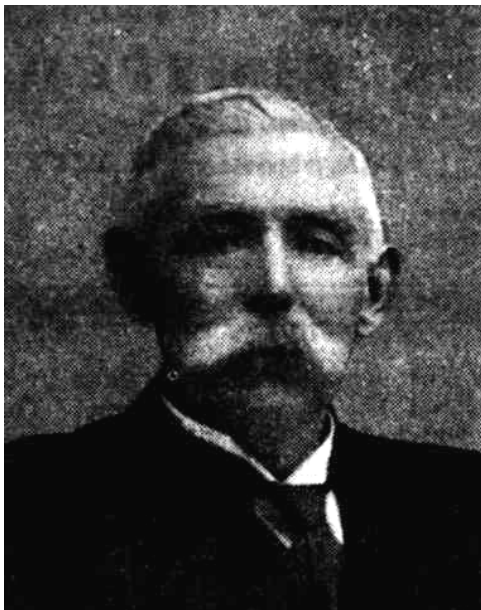
*Knight Cross of the Order of St. Sylvester  
(photo: Alexeinikolayevichromanov,  
Wikimedia Commons)*

In the early days of the twentieth century, mass was celebrated by priests visiting from Kogarah and Penshurst, in the house of Agnes and Albert **Giddings** and, after 1914, on land donated by the Giddings family, in a building that was both church and, after 1919, St Aloysius' Catholic School. In 1921, a school was built on land donated by the Giddings family and fronting Giddings Avenue. The present-day Catholic school still occupies this site.

In the early days of the parish, James Thornton also became known as an influential and generous benefactor. He made a considerable donation towards the building of the sacristy of the new church and, in 1934, donated £1,000 for the erection of a Parish Hall in which functions could be held and funds raised to offset

the parish debt. Father Lloyd had approached the Archbishop and obtained consent for the building to be erected on some ground opposite the church in the school area and, in August 1934, the foundation stone was blessed by his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney. The building was named *Thornton Hall* and has always been the centre of parish activities. For many years the De La Salle brothers had classrooms in the building teaching boys from 3rd to 6th class before they moved to the senior classes across Gunnamatta Bay where the College is still located.

James Thornton was born in County Cork, Ireland, came to New South Wales in 1880 and in 1885 married Mary Ann **Taylor** at Carr's Creek, Clarence River. They settled at Mascot and had five children – Mary Nora, known as May (1886-1955), Honora C (1888-1889), Catherine Cherry (1892-1977), Veronica Johanna, known as Vera (1895-1949), James John (1897-1957). After Mary Ann's death in 1914, Thornton married Sarah Catherine **Walsh** in 1916. They had one son, Edmond (-1958).



*James Thornton (photo: The Catholic Press, 30 August, 1934)*

A self-made man, James Thornton would become known as a pioneer of the Mascot and Botany districts through his success as a businessman and involvement in his community as alderman and Mayor on the North Botany Council. He was owner and licensee of the Newmarket Hotel and became President of the United Licensed Victuallers' Association of New South Wales.

Thornton built and owned the Rosebery and Ascot theatres, was one of the founders of the Rosebery Racecourse acting as Judge at the Rosebery and Kensington Racecourses until 1910 when he retired. He was also a trustee of Botany Catholic Cemetery.

James Thornton was one of Sydney's best known and most popular members of the Catholic community. He had a life-membership of the HACB (Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society), member and president of his local St. Vincent de Paul Society at Botany and later at Cronulla and involved in other community charities. In 1924, he was made a Papal Knight by Pope Pius XI,

with the award of KSS (Knight of Saint Sylvester) in recognition of his outstanding involvement in all Catholic charities and activities.

After his retirement in 1916, James Thornton moved to Cronulla where he lived in Glaisher Parade and, later, at his home *Newmarket* in Gerrale Street. He took a keen interest in sport, was a member of the Cronulla Golf Club and the Cronulla Bowling Club where he was President at one time, and supported the local Cronulla Surf Club. James delighted in being ‘mine host’ and his door was always open to family and friends.

James Thornton died at his home *Newmarket* on 25 May, 1937. He was survived by his wife, Sarah and children, sons: James John and Edmond, and daughters: May (Mrs. S King), Catherine (Mrs. M L’Estrange), and Vera and grandchildren.

*Thornton Hall* stands as his legacy and remains a centre for parish activities.

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# BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

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Interest groups are led by co-ordinators who have a strong interest in the subject but are not necessarily ‘an expert’. They lead the groups whose members share their knowledge to help each other. The group members get to know one another and this social interaction is often a wonderful by-product of their involvement.

Sessions are conducted at the Research Centre or by Zoom. Session dates are organised months in advance. Members are advised to check the latest details on our Events Calendar at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS eNEWS. You can book and pay the \$5 fee to attend an interest group meeting on the BBFHS website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>, preferably 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Once again we reach out to all members, especially new and distance members, who are not already participating in an Interest Group, to join one or more of the Groups offered. You’ll be welcome.

The group coordinators are:

Australian Interest – **Lilian Magill** ([lily@researchbylily.com.au](mailto:lily@researchbylily.com.au))

English Interest – **Jennie Fairs** ([fairsj@gmail.com](mailto:fairsj@gmail.com))

Irish Interest – **Elizabeth Steinlein** (care of [info@botanybayfhs.org.au](mailto:info@botanybayfhs.org.au))

Scottish Interest – **Jean Campbell** ([jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com))

Writers Interest – **Leonie Bell** ([LeonieNB65@gmail.com](mailto:LeonieNB65@gmail.com))

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs –

**Pam Heather** ([pamheather@gmail.com](mailto:pamheather@gmail.com))

Legacy – **Sue Jones** ([scjones@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scjones@optusnet.com.au))

DNA for Family History – **John Levy** ([j.levy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:j.levy@bigpond.net.au))

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

**AUSTRALIAN INTEREST:** Saturday 16 November 2 – 4pm

By ZOOM

**ENGLISH INTEREST:** Saturday 9 November 2 – 4pm

By ZOOM

**IRISH INTEREST:** Saturday 24 August 2 – 4pm

By ZOOM Saturday 26 October 2 – 4pm

<b>SCOTTISH INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 12 October 2 – 4pm
At the Research Centre	Saturday 14 December 2 – 4pm
<b>WRITERS INTEREST:</b>	Thursday 26 September 1.30 – 3.30pm
At the Research Centre	Thursday 28 November 1.30 – 3.30pm
<b>FAMILY TREE MAKER FOR WINDOWS &amp; MACS:</b>	Tuesday 27 August 1.30 – 3.30pm
By ZOOM	Tuesday 26 November 1.30 – 3.30pm
<b>LEGACY INTEREST:</b>	Tuesday 3 September 2 – 4pm
At the Research Centre	Tuesday 5 November 2 – 4pm
<b>DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY:</b>	Saturday 28 September 1.30 – 3.30pm
By ZOOM	Saturday 23 November 1.30 – 3.30pm



## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

is available at the Research Centre.

Please phone 9523 8948 to make arrangements.

## RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10 am to 2 pm**

**Saturdays by appointment, by the prior Wednesday night.**

**Please phone 9523 8948 if going in after midday.**

When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they love to help.



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# THE JUDDS – ONE POLITICIAN AND TWO SPORTSMEN

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

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**B**efore high-rise development dominated the Esplanade, between Cronulla Point and the Beach Park, family residences, set on manicured lawns, overlooked the scene. One of these homes was called *Rugby* and, at the time, I did not realise the significance of the name. Later, I learned that the owner of the property was Harold **Judd** who, as a young man, was a talented rugby union flanker and made his Test Match debut as a Wallaby against New Zealand in 1903. He was the son of William Judd, the first Shire President and uncle of Percival Bruce Judd who was also a Wallaby.

## **William George Judd 1849-1929**

William George Judd was born in Sydney in 1849 the son of John and Selina Judd. He left school at the age of seven to work in the clay pits at St Peters brickworks but continued to improve himself through attendance at night school, becoming a successful business man and community leader.

In 1869 he married Eleanor Eliza **Howard** and four children were born of the marriage. The family home *Athelstan* was built at Arncliffe and had both an orchard and a cricket ground which was used by local players. In 1944, the property was acquired by the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Education and became the site of Athelstan Public School.

By 1884, when the first section of the Illawarra railway line from Redfern to Hurstville was opened, William Judd was an astute business man with a store at St Peters. He was involved in local government as an alderman and later Mayor of St Peters. He established Hurstville Steam Brick Company at Mortdale and became the first managing director. The brickworks ceased manufacturing in 1972 and the site later became the Georges River College, Oatley Campus.

William Judd became an alderman of West Botany (Rockdale) Council and mayor of that municipality (1885-1890). He was also elected to NSW State Government from 1885 to 1887 as Member for Canterbury, which at the time covered the Sutherland district. The Sutherland Shire was proclaimed in 1906 and until an election could be held, the State Government set up a temporary Council and appointed Judd as Chairman. When the ballot was held, William Judd was elected and became the first President of the Sutherland Shire, a position he held until 1910. The main road from Sutherland to Caringbah, President Avenue, was named in his honour.

William Judd was an Elder of the Rockdale Congregational Church, also Choirmaster and Patron of the Rockdale Congs Cricket Club. His son, Harold Judd was captain of the Australian Wallabies Rugby Union team from 1903 to 1906 and Patron of North Cronulla Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC). His grandson, Percival Bruce Judd, son of William Percival Judd, was a champion swimmer of the surf club and also a Wallaby.

William George Judd died in 1929 and was buried in Woronora Cemetery, interred in Congregational Monumental, Vault Section, position 1.

### **Harold Athelstan Judd 1880-1965**

Harold Athelstan Judd was born in 1880 in St Peters, NSW, the son of William George Judd, a businessman and politician. He grew up in the family home *Athelstan* at Arncliffe and worked at his father's brick works at Mortdale.

He loved sport, began playing rugby when a schoolboy and played with Arncliffe Football Club in the 1897 season. A talented athlete, he joined the Newtown District Club and then St George as a forward and began a long series of successes when he was chosen in the City team against Country and then New South Wales against Queensland. In 1901 he was in the NSW team that toured New Zealand and chosen again in 1903 when New Zealand came to Australia.

A Great Britain team came to New South Wales in 1899 and returned in 1904. Judd was an automatic selection for the team which played well but Great Britain won all their matches in Australia. Unfortunately, in 1907, when captain of the 'Blues' against Queensland, his football came to an end when he broke his leg and was hospitalised for some time. Judd played 27 times for NSW and 90 first grade games, 63 for Newtown and 27 for St. George.

The St. George Club was founded in 1906 but during World War 1 all football was suspended and the Club could not recover. It was forced to disband in 1915 and did not function again until 1928 when Harold Judd was instrumental in reforming it. Judd coached the St George 1st Grade team and his nephew, Bruce, helped him revive the club. He was patron of North Cronulla SLSC which formed the basis of the Port Hacking Rugby Club in 1962 and presented the Judd Cup to the Sub-District Rugby Union.

Harold Athelstan Judd died in 1965 and was buried in Woronora Cemetery, interred in Congregational Monumental, Vault Section, Position 7.

### **Percival Bruce Judd 1906-1969**

Percival Bruce Judd (Wallaby No. 225), better known as Bruce Judd, was born in Sydney in 1906 the son of William Percy Judd, grandson of William

George Judd, and nephew of Harold Judd (Wallaby No. 37). He was educated at Newington College, where he played in the 1st XV and rowed in the 1st VIII. He was also a champion surf-lifesaver with the North Cronulla SLSC.

During his playing career he played with Wests, Randwick and St George Rugby Clubs and was described as 'the best ruck forward in the game'. As a 18 year old, playing his first season of top grade football with Wests, he was chosen in the New South Wales Waratahs side to tour New Zealand and played six games.

In 1926 he moved to Randwick and played in four home tests against New Zealand. In 1927 he was a member of the Waratahs side to tour the northern hemisphere and, in 1928, toured New Zealand. In 1929 selectors were able to choose players from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and Judd was in the Australian team to face the All Blacks.

St George Rugby Union Club founded in 1906, was forced to disband in 1915 when football was suspended during WW1. In 1928 Harold Judd, was appointed as coach and with the assistance of his nephew, Bruce, a Waratah, was able to revive the club after a 13 year break from competition. Judd played the last of his 58 matches for New South Wales in 1934 and formally retired. He played 11 tests for Australia during a seven-year international career.

Bruce Judd had joined the North Cronulla SLSC where his uncle, Harold, was Patron and, eventually, a Life Member. He was a champion swimmer and involved in the formation of the North Cronulla SLSC Rugby Union Club which won the Whiddon Cup in 1958. Players from this club would go on to form the basis of the Port Hacking Rugby Union Club at Sylvania Waters, which later merged with St George to become Southern Districts Rugby Union.

Percival Bruce Judd died in 1965 and was buried in Woronora Cemetery, interred in Congregational Monumental, Vault Section, Position 11.

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Southern Districts Rugby Districts Rugby Union Club

Trove. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Classic Wallabies, <https://classicwallabies.com.au/bios>





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**Peter Murrant.** BBFHS member Peter Murrant, aged 89, late of Cronulla, passed away peacefully on 22 June 2024. We extend our condolences to his wife Doreen, his family and friends at this sad time.

**Bev Crawley.** BBFHS member Bev Crawley, late of Loftus, passed away peacefully after a long illness on Friday 19 July 2024. We sympathise with Bev's daughter Fiona, her family and friends.

**25 Free British Family History Websites** have been recommended in *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine. See <https://tinyurl.com/r7z4urd7>

**Armidale Family History Group** are looking for information for two projects. First, if you have ancestors that were convicts that went to the New England Area, either during their term or after they became free, they would love to hear about them. Second, if you have ancestors buried in the first Armidale Cemetery (in use to ca. 1863), they would love to hear about them too. Contact: email – [afhgarm@gmail.com](mailto:afhgarm@gmail.com) or phone – 02 6772 0450 (Monday 1 pm – 4 pm or Wednesday 10 am – 4 pm).

## Journal Contributions

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au), leave it in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our quarterly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.

## COPY DEADLINE

Please submit copy for the December 2024 journal as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 6 November** – preferably by email to the Editor at [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au). Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a quarterly meeting or posted to 184 Gannons Road Caringbah South NSW 2227. Please include your name and state if you want any materials returned.

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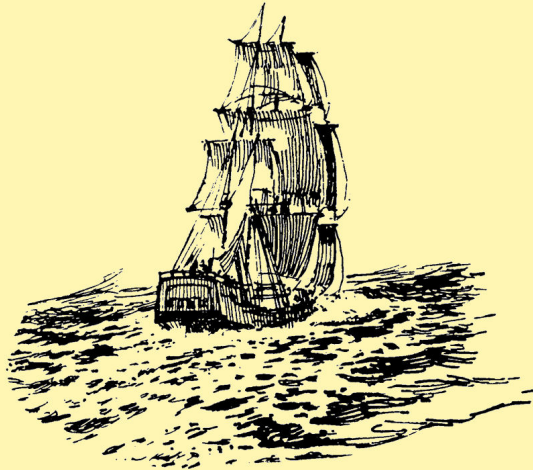
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