

ANCES - TREE



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On Becoming a Family History Researcher

Barbara Reen

For many years I had been encouraged to take an interest in my family history, and, like many others I resisted. One of my first cousins was researching my paternal line, and another was researching my maternal line.

In 2002, while planning an overseas trip to the UK, I thought that it might be a good idea to see for myself where my paternal great, great grandparents, **Edwin Young** (1828-1880) and **Maria Warren** (1830-1908) lived in London, and where they were married. This was in the days before everybody began to be asked *Who do you think you are?* Not many people were interested in the answer to this question at that time, and I was only mildly interested.

However, they were the first of my ancestors to arrive in Australia. They arrived in Sydney, aboard the *Meteor*, on 06 July 1853. The *List of Immigrants* that my cousin had given me, showed that the family, Edwin, aged 24, his wife Maria, aged 23 and their one year old daughter, Maria Sarah, paid £4.10.0 for the voyage. He was a carpenter/joiner, born in Twyford, Hampshire, and his parents, **James and Sarah Young** were living at Twyford. Maria was born in St Pancras, London, and her parents, Henry and Maria Warren, were both dead. Maria Sarah was born in Islington, Middlesex. Edwin and Maria were Church of England, and both of them could read and write.^{1 2}

I also had in my possession a copy of their Marriage Certificate. It showed that Edwin Young and Maria Warren were married on 25 December 1851, in the Parish Church, Islington, Middlesex, London, England. He was a joiner, the son of James Young, a shoemaker, and he lived at 13 Caledonian Crescent at the time of his marriage. Maria was the daughter of Henry Warren, a tailor, and lived at 3 Albion Place.



Figure 1: Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Islington London (Barbara Reen in foreground)

3

¹ General Register Office, 'Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage between Edwin Young and Maria Warren in the Registration District of Islington, 25 December 1851.

² New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896, List of Immigrants per Ship *Meteor* as Inspected by the Immigration Board on 6th July 1853, Index to Bounty Passengers, Reel 2465.

³ John Reen, *St Mary the Virgin Parish Church Islington (Barbara Reen in foreground)*, 23 June 2002.

Accompanied by my husband, John Reen, we easily located The Parish Church, Islington (St Mary the Virgin), but although we visited on a Sunday, it was closed, so we weren't able to go inside. Albion Place was easily discoverable in the *A.-Z. London Street Atlas*, but nothing remained of the nineteenth century buildings. Caledonian Crescent, however, was not listed in the directory at all.⁴ My hopes were dashed. However, we were in the area and decided to have lunch at a pub on Caledonian Road. As I gazed out the window, I could see across on the eastern side of the road, what looked to be a Crescent shaped street, curving away from Caledonian Road.

After lunch we walked across the road and around the Crescent, and my husband took a photo of me outside number 13, in the outer ring of a crescent shaped row of four storey terraces. Then walking to the other end of the Crescent, we could see that it was named Keystone Crescent. The unexpected moment arrived, when looking up, we could just discern above the street sign, the almost obliterated name, Caledonian Crescent. It gave me goose bumps. This was the moment when I became a family history researcher. I was captivated by the thrill of searching for and finding genealogical information. It was a particular thrill to discover tangible evidence of the life of an ancestor. In my imagination, I could picture **Edwin Young**, emerging from the front door of 13 Caledonian Crescent on Christmas Day 1851, smartly dressed, and making his way, possibly by hansom cab, in eager anticipation of his marriage to Maria Warren in the Islington Parish Church.

The street itself is highly admired as *...an elegant, complete, hidden away semi-circle of early Victorian workers' housing. Twenty-four houses, inner and outer circles, with a formidable curve.*

The houses were built for multiple occupation by working families, among whom carpenters were well represented⁵



Figure 2: 13 Keystone Crescent formerly Caledonian Crescent, (Barbara Reen in foreground)⁶



Figure 3: Street signs: Keystone Crescent below Caledonian Crescent (Barbara Reen in foreground)⁷

⁴ Geographers' A-Z Map Co. Ltd, *A. to Z. London Street Atlas*, 2000.

⁵ Andrew Whitehead, 'Gasholder', *Gasholder* <<https://www.gasholder.london>>.

⁶ John Reen, *13 Keystone Crescent Formerly Caledonian Crescent, (Barbara Reen in foreground)*, 23 June 2002.

⁷ John Reen, *Street Signs: Keystone Crescent below Caledonian Crescent, (Barbara Reen in foreground)*, 23 June 2002.

Today, however, when I am that much further along in my research, and more aware of the genealogical resources that are available, especially online, such a discovery would not be an unexpected one. But for me, at that time, it was unexpected, exciting and serendipitous. If I were to visit London today with the intention of finding 13 Caledonian Crescent, I would consult the website *Old to New Street names 1857 – 1929*, where the change from Caledonian Crescent to Keystone Crescent in the period 1912-1917 is documented.⁸

But, more than that, I am now more aware of the need to be more analytical in my approach, to question my findings and to seek further information that supports my findings. With that in mind, I searched the 1851 England Census, looking for Edwin Young at 13 Caledonian Crescent, London without success. Although he was listed with other family members in Twyford, Hampshire in the 1841 Census, he was not listed there in the 1851 Census, or anywhere else that I could find. In fact, according to the Census, number 13 “Caledonia Crescent” was recorded as uninhabited. It may be that the house was unoccupied when the Census was taken on 30 March 1851, but occupied by the December of that year, when the marriage of Edwin and Maria took place. **Maria Warren** is listed at 3 Albion Place in the 1851 Census, but I am fairly sure that the Albion Place that we visited in 2002 is not where she actually lived. This is because the Albion Place that we visited was located in Clerkenwell, near St John’s Gate, whereas, in the 1851 Census it is described as being “at King’s Cross to Caledonia Road.”^{9 10}

The excitement that I felt when I discovered the Crescent has triggered further investigations into the history of my family. It is experiences like that sustain interest through the many frustrations and dead ends that family history researchers encounter and there is always more to learn and to discover.

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General Register Office, Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage between Edwin Young and Maria Warren in the Registration District of Islington, 25 December 1851.

John Reen, *13 Keystone Crescent Formerly Caledonian Crescent, (Barbara Reen in Foreground)*, 2002, Photograph.

John Reen, *St Mary the Virgin Parish Church Islington (Barbara Reen in Foreground)*, 2002, Photograph

John Reen, *Street Signs: Keystone Crescent below Caledonian Crescent, (Barbara Reen in Foreground)*, 2002, Photograph.

New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896, List of Immigrants per Ship Meteor as Inspected by the Immigration Board on 6th July 1853, Index to Bounty Passengers, Reel 2465, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au>, accessed 10 September 2017.

Whitehead, Andrew, ‘Gasholder’, *Gasholder*, <https://www.gasholder.london>.

⁸ ‘A-Z Old to New Street Names, 1857-1929’, <https://www.maps.thehunthouse.com>.

⁹ ‘1851 England Census’ <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au>.

¹⁰ ‘1841 England Census’ <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au>.

NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

Marguerita Carey

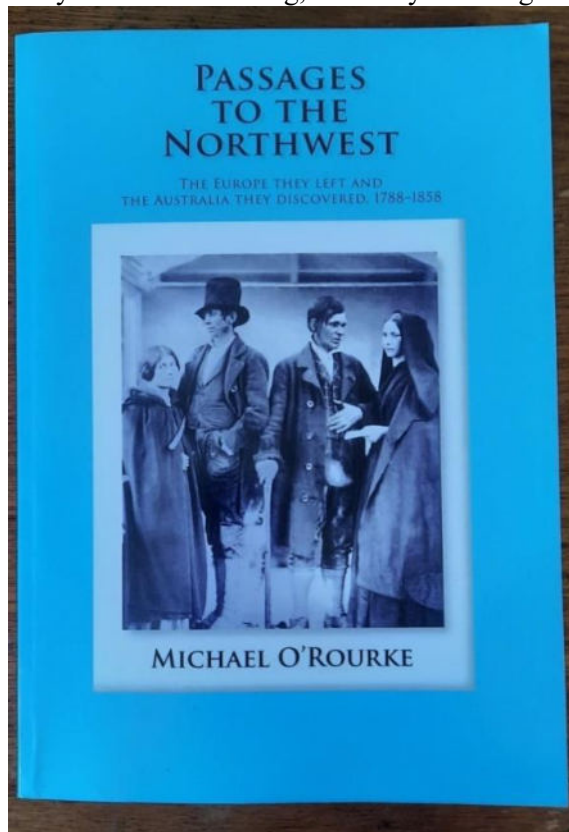
PASSAGES TO THE NORTHWEST : The Europe They Left and The Australia They Discovered
1788 - 1858. Volume 11 Author Michael O'Rourke, published by Echo Books, 2022, 724 pp..

Michael O'Rourke was born in 1951 at Gunnedah and grew up on the family farm at Tambar Springs.. Educated locally and at Armidale he studied philosophy, politics and literature at the University of Sydney. He worked for the Public Service in Canberra Sydney and the Bush. He served as Keeper of the Great Seal of Australia in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He retired in 2011.

This book is a miscellany and scrapbook of National, Regional and Family History from Ireland, Scotland, England and Germany to the Liverpool Plains in Colonial New South Wales. A truly great read of world history in relation to Michael's family.

The book includes illustrations, line maps, mud maps and tables.

Michael acknowledges the assistance he received from the late Jennifer Paterson, Librarian to the Burwood and District Family History Group in researching his German ancestors the SCHWAGER family from Württemberg, Germany who migrated to Australia in 1855 A descendant Mary Wallace



nee Schwager and her husband died here in Burwood, Mary in 1935 and Benjamin in 1919..

Michael's other ancestors' passages or journeys are described: the O'ROURKEs from Dublin to Sydney, then Gunnedah and Tambar Springs; DONOGHUEs from County Clare to Sydney, then Muswellbrook, Wybong Creek and Tambar Springs; DEANS from Haddingtonshire, East Lothian, southern Scotland to Coonabarabran and Narrabri; BERNIE from Dublin to Adelaide, Maryborough, Victoria, Young, NSW, Grenfell, Barmedman and Wilcannia.

Useful Websites

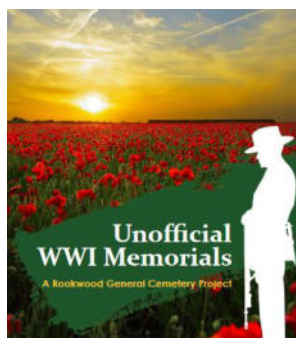
Susan Borel



<https://vwma.org.au>

Using the explore tab you can search in

PEOPLE , MEMORIAL, CONFLICTS, UNITS, PLACES , CEMETERIES.

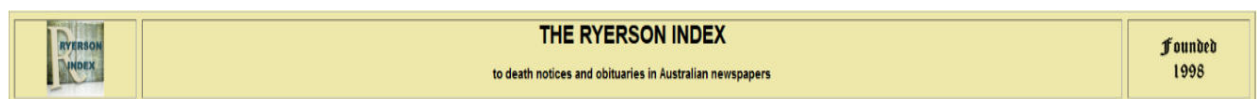


Unofficial WWI Memorials

In 2015, staff volunteers from Rookwood General Cemetery began identifying and documenting marked and unmarked war graves of ANZACs in Rookwood Cemetery.

If you know of someone in Rookwood without formal recognition email info@rookwoodcemetery.com.au with all the details you have.

https://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/assets/documents/Remembrance_ebook_2020.pdf

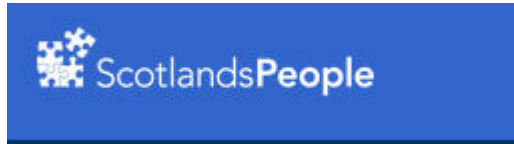


<https://www.ryersonindex.org/>

“The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

In 2020, we commenced indexing notices from Funeral Directors' websites. This was in response to the mass closures of regional newspapers which occurred in the second quarter of 2020.”

The Ryerson Index is now indexing the Probate Notices from the NSW Probate Court website. The 2019-2022 (approximately 165,000 records) have been completed and indexes for the years 2013 -2018 are now being added.



1921 Census for Scotland is now available on the ScotlandsPeople website.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

200,000 images of 4.8 million individual records can now be searched, viewed and downloaded and have been added to the census returns already available on the website, covering every 10 years from 1841. Click on the link below for more information.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/article/news-article-1921-census-records-released>



RESEARCH ENQUIRY



Marcantelli



In the early days of Burwood vineyards were found down near the Cooks River. A reference to the vineyards can be found in “The Harvest of the Years : The Story of Burwood” by *Eric Dunlop*.

“Pietro Marcantelli's vineyard was on the western side of Burwood Road towards the river, and in 1885 John Lennartz built Rose Hall in his extensive vineyard on Georges River Road.”

Pietro married Martha Mayhew in 1872 and died in 1909. Martha passed in 1895. Descendant of Pietro Marcantelli would like any photos of his ancestors, or information on the family from there time in the Burwood/ Ashfield area.

Sands and BDM have been covered as well as a search of the council records.

Centenary of the Burwood Arch

Susan Borel



The Memorial arch stands in Burwood Park facing the corner of Burwood Road and Park Avenue. The frieze at the top reads

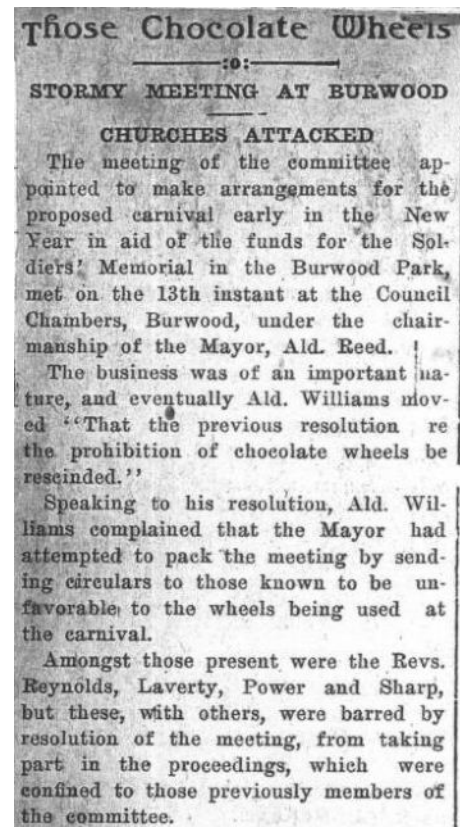
“THANKS BE UNTO GOD WHO GAVE US THE VICTORY”

A public meeting called by the Mayor of Burwood Fredrick Reed, at the Burwood School of Arts on the 6th July 1920 decided to build a War Memorial and Soldiers Club. On the 5th September 1921 the Town Clerk G Lee invited submissions in a competition for the design of a War Memorial "to take the form of an arch, to be erected at the entrance to Burwood Park". The cost was to be approximately £2000.

The competition was won by **Mr. R E Grout** with his entry "Triumph", first prize being £10. Second prize going to Mr. Synnott.

Park Memorial (2)
 1. £10 be awarded to "Triumph" Mr. R. E. Grout. Sec'd by Mr. W. H. Leale.
 The committee decided to award second prize to Mr. Synnott.
 In answer to Mr. Leakey, Mr. Chairman stated that his committee had full control of the Memorial movement, so far as the erection of the Monumental Arch.

Much fund raising was undertaken and by various means including house to house canvassing and benefit nights such as the one held at the Croydon De Luxe Theatre given by **Mr. A R MacDonald** (Proprietor). But not all went smoothly as the article from "*The Courier*" 15/12/21 shows.



A foundation stone was laid at 3p.m on Armistice Day 1922, it reads

"ERECTED BY
THE CITIZENS OF BURWOOD
IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918
THIS STONE WAS LAID BY THE MAYOR
ALD. J.H. WHIPP
ON 11TH NOVEMBER 1922"

The arch was unveiled on the 25th April 1923 by his Excellency the Governor General **Lord Foster** with thousands of citizens in attendance. Also present were **Lady Foster**, Major **Marr MP**, Rev. **Reynolds**, Rev. **S Varcoe-Cock**, Attorney General **Mr Bavin**, Sir **Thomas Henley MLA**, General **Brand**, General **Lloyd**, The Mayor of Burwood **Alderman G. S. Blair** and all the aldermen Many boy scouts and girl guides were also in attendance. The weather was described as "heavy rain".

A guard of honour was formed by returned soldiers and the Burwood Municipal band played accompaniment to the hymns sung. The final cost of the arch was £1928 and the plaques listed the 937 men and 4 nurses who served in World War I from the Burwood Council area.



Official unveiling 1923



On the 28th of November 1989 Burwood council resolved to renovate the arch to include all conflicts and the 149 people of the Burwood municipality who have died in service to their country.

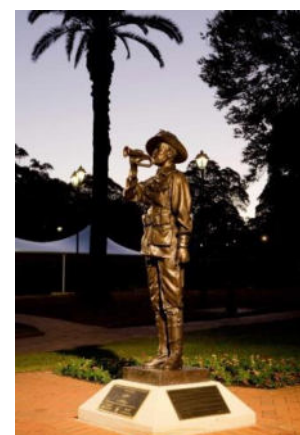
The arch was rededicated by **Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair** on the 11th August 1990 in conjunction with the dedication of the **Michael Tognolini** Peace Garden (Killed in action – Vietnam War). Plaques listing the names of World War II were added and above inscribed on the Southwest side.

N Z WARS
SUDAN
BOER WAR
WORLD WAR 1
WORLD WAR 2

To mark the centenary of the start of World War I in 2014, a sculpture of a playing bugler was erected. The statue, officially unveiled by Burwood RSL President **Alex Pirie** and Mayor **John Faker**, as part of the dawn service on ANZAC day, was inspired by **Leonard Francis Hall** who was born in Burwood in 1897 and part of the 10th Light Horse Regiment



Four plaques are at the base of the sculpture. The front facing plaque reads



“The Bugler from Burwood' was officially unveiled at the Burwood Anzac Centenary Dawn Service Saturday 25 April 2015 by Cr John Faker, Mayor of Burwood and Alex Pirie, President, Burwood RSL Sub Branch. On behalf of the Burwood Anzac Centenary Years' Commemorative Service Committee.

Michael McMahon, General Manager, Burwood Council. **Andrew Anderson**, General Manager, Club Burwood RSL.”

This year marks the centenary of the original unveiling and while a dawn service is held at the arch on ANZAC day every year, this year the council are planning an extra special event.

All the names inscribed on the arch have been transcribed by the Burwood and District Family History Group and have been contributed to the New South Wales War Memorial Register.

Resources

The Minutes of the Committee. War Memorials Burwood – Burwood Library Local History

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/16027465>

Photograph of the official opening courtesy of Burwood Library LH 940.46 / BUR

Trove Newspapers. Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 26th April 1923.
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Photograph of Bugler courtesy of Burwood Council New South Wales War Memorial Register
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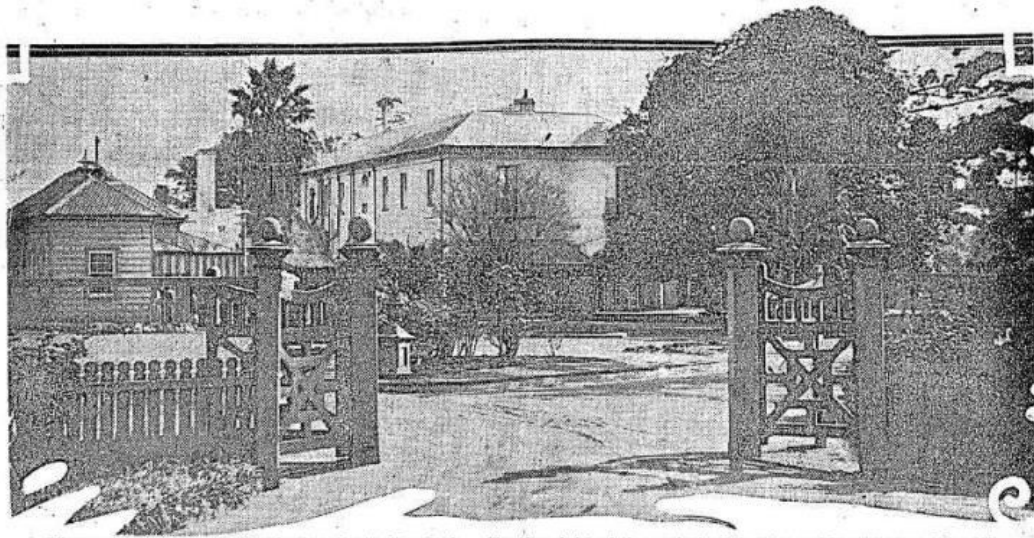
Michael Tognolini Peace Garden



NEWINGTON STATE HOSPITAL 1928

Marguerita Carey

This photo shows the main entrance to Newington State Hospital, NSW as it appeared in the *Sunday Times* (Sydney) on 27 May 1928.¹¹



The main entrance to Newington State Hospital. To the right of the main building is a wide expanse of beautifully kept lawns and brilliant flower beds, amid which the inmates stroll.

Unwanted Mothers

(By W.A.C.)

*What is the worst of woes that wait on age;
What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow?*

—Byron.

A woman knocked on the manager's door at Newington State Hospital a fortnight ago. She was tall, graceful, superior—like a ghost of a regal beauty of the long ago.

Time's chariot wheels had furrowed countless tiny tracks upon her beautiful, smiling face.

The winters of 80 years had sprinkled her head with glorious snow, which glistened in the sunlight from beneath her poke bonnet, the tailored strings of which were tied across her ashen, pale neck.

Toil, born of a mother's love, had abraded the old ring she wore upon her finger, and one of her once lovely hands fiddled nervously with her black satin gown, through which Erin's native color was beginning to peep. At her feet was an old carry-all.

"Good morning," was the manager's greeting.

The old lady stammered awhile, then said: "I have walked from Auburn, and want a home to shelter me till I die. Can you let me in?"

The manager asked her where she came from, and who she was. She gave her name. Two great tears dropped from the tired eyelids that rested on her tired eyes.

"My youngest girl," she said, "left me, and was married. She doesn't want me. Her husband doesn't, either.—My other daughter lives in the country. She thinks I am too old.—My sons would let me share their homes, but, you see, their wives won't let them. And all the rest of my family have long since gone to sleep."

The manager led her gently to the matron, and, as he left, whispered to her: "You will find plenty of companions here who will understand."

The old lady commenced to cry again, and, as she turned, with the matron by her side, she said:

"I wonder if I ought to be sorry or glad that I raised my family?"

In 1928 there were several articles about Newington Hospital which can be found online at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article> in Trove Newspapers (National Library of Australia) due to criticism of both Newington Hospital for women and Rookwood Asylum for men. Both institutions catered for the elderly and sick and were situated south of the Parramatta River. Newington Hospital and Home formerly Newington Asylum in Holker Street, Silverwater and Rookwood Asylum situated half a mile from Rookwood (now Lidcombe) Station¹² were mentioned as needing more Government support as both institutions catered for huge numbers of inmates. As a result of the articles some photographs appeared in the Sydney newspapers of hospital wards, inmates and hospital staff.

Above left, On 26 February 1928 there was this sad tale of a woman being admitted to Newington.¹³

¹¹ Trove Newspapers: *Sunday Times*, 27 May 1928,p.4

¹² Kathy Mealing, *The Roof Over Our Heads* (A Bi-Centenary project of the Auburn District Historical Society), 1988, 1.

¹³ Trove Newspapers: *Sunday Times*, 26 February 1928 p.14.

On 21 March 1928 in the *Sydney Morning Herald* was this photograph of 'A Group of Aged Women' at Newington Hospital and Asylum and this article.¹⁴ The woman on the right is wearing the checked dress and soft cap which appear to be a uniform of female inmates of Newington Hospital and Home. A similar cap was found in the Hyde Park Barracks archaeological collection. **Anne Ferran** 's *Soft Caps* series was produced for the *Secure the Shadow* exhibition at the Hyde Park Barracks from August to October 1995.¹⁵



A Group of Aged Women Newington State Hospital and Asylum SMH 21 March 1928

The *Sydney Morning Herald* on the same day had this report on conditions at Newington.

NEWINGTON STATE HOSPITAL BADLY EQUIPPED 30 Nurses, 680 Patients

A hundred years ago Blaxland, the famous explorer, built a stately home on the right bank of the Parramatta River. The old building became the nucleus of what is known today as the Newington State Hospital and Asylum. But it is far more hospital than Asylum, for the 680 there are 350 permanently in the hospital wards, and in the residential wards there are epileptics and other sufferers who need constant medical attention.

The staff carries out its duties under heart-breaking conditions. The matron has only 30 nurses in her charge. Although 12 more have been promised, there is no accommodation available for them when they arrive, unless certain old women are turned out of their quarters to herd as best they can with the other inmates already overcrowded into out-of-date galvanised iron buildings which are veritable ovens in summertime.

A large proportion of the patients are anything but misfits, ne'er-do-wells, or improvident people. Classification is necessary as self-respect and individuality are to be preserved. At present, women,

¹⁴ Trove Newspapers: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 March 1928, p.20

¹⁵ Historic Houses Trust – Anne Ferran <http://www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights>

who, at one time were governesses, leading ladies, school mistresses, thieves, drunkards, respectable widows, and so on, ad infinitum, are all grouped together higgledy-piggledy.

On one verandah, women in advanced stages of T.B. sleep out with women suffering from no contagious diseases. The ward originally reserved for V D cases is now filled with women who are simply old and bed ridden. The V D cases, some of whom are young married women with babies, are given beds wherever they are available. Chronic cases, who are refused by the larger general hospitals, are bundled out to Newington Asylum, with the result that many beds are occupied day and night for months, and sometimes years.

The simple sums in arithmetic will each give a startling answer to the question: How are the patients cared for?

Sixteen nurses are available for eight hours (since the 44 hour a week provision was enforced). How are they to look after the women for 12 hours?

Three nurses are available at night for 11 hours. How are they to look after 680 women for 12 hours? The answer in each sum is simply – as best they can.

The matron is also faced with the problem of to persuade nurses to stay on the premises. Resignations are disconcertingly frequent. Nurses nowadays demand time off and easy access to friends relations and amusements. Access to Newington is over a rough road two and a half miles from Auburn Station. The bus service is very infrequent. What makes the problem still more difficult is the poorness of the accommodation. Nurses have to sleep in quarters cheek to jowl with patients. Even the medical superintendent is housed in a room jammed against a large dining room.

The Manager, **Mr W. Megarvey** is all optimistic. He says that for 20 years the place has been understaffed. But they struggle on. He admitted that the 44- hour week has complicated **matters** still further. He hopes against hope that in the near future an admission ward will be built, so that some attempt may be made at classifying the patients as they arrive.

Mr Megarvey looks forward to winter-time with dread. A majority of the old women are forced to sit out on the verandahs, because the few fires are quickly surrounded, the big general hospitals use Newington as an overflow for the indigent sick. The hospitals are not always to blame, for they are often overcrowded.

The kitchens, were inspected by a “Herald’ representative were poorly equipped. The very floors are crumbling away, and despite the efforts of the staff to keep the place clean, the deep cracks and wide fissures obviously make for unhygienic conditions.

That the administrative staff is doing its utmost to make the lot of the 680 unfortunates bearable is shown by the excellent relations existing between nurses and inmates. Everybody questioned seemed to realise that they were merely the victims of political neglect. One old lady summed up the situation by saying to an appreciative chorus of approval. ‘You see, mister, our votes don’t count much’.¹⁶

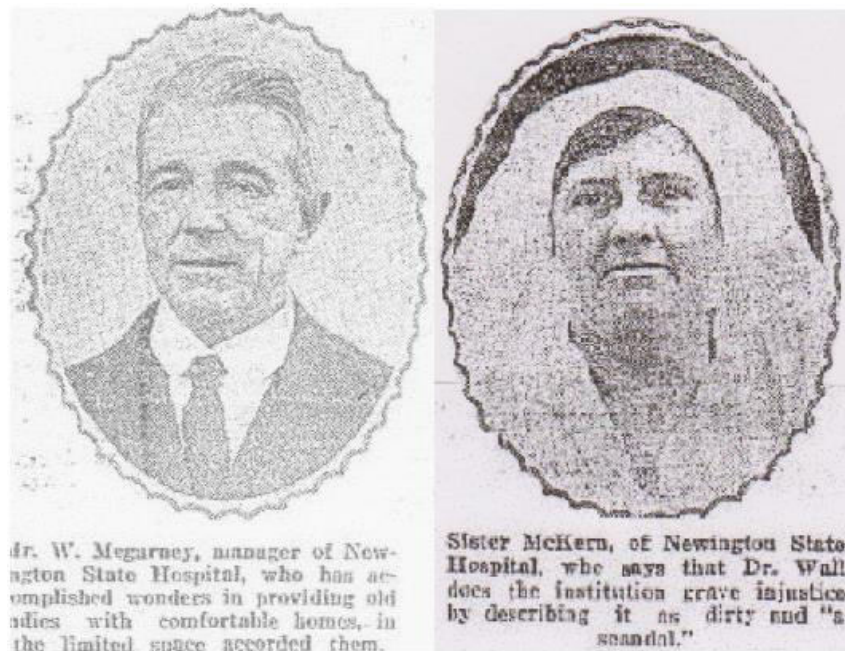
F. Cook of Strathfield informed readers of the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the majority of the old women at Newington were recipients of the old age pension , 16/- (shillings) of which was retained by

¹⁶ Trove Newspapers: *SMH*, 21 March 1928,p.17

the Government for their maintenance.¹⁷ The old age pension was 20/- so after 16/- was retained for the inmates maintenance then 4/- remained.

Dr. Arthur, Minister of Public Health escorted nine delegates to the annual conference of the Country Women's Association through Newington State Hospital in April. They were amazed at the unsatisfactory conditions which forced nearly 700 people to spend the 'evening of their lives herded together in one great 'dumping ground' where they had been brought from all over the State'. This same group after visiting a cottage home in Windsor, feeling it was right that each district to provide suitable quarters for their own folk.¹⁸

In May 1928 **Mr Wall**, M L C stated in the Legislative Council of NSW that the 'conditions existing at the Newington State Hospital for women constituted a grave public scandal.'¹⁹ After Dr Wall's statement to the Legislative Assembly the Attorney-General (Mr Boyce) promised to refer Dr Wall's statement to the Minister for Health.²⁰ **Dr Arthur**, the Minister for Health replied to the shortage of trained nurses. He had tried to remedy that, but a certain amount of delay had occurred. This was due to the fact that if eleven additional nurses were installed a certain number of old women now in fairly comfortable quarters would be turned out, and forced into the main buildings increasing the congestion there. He had postponed the appointment of more additional nurses until more accommodation was provided for them. This would be ready in about a week's time.²¹



Newington Hospital was managed by **William Morgan Megarvey**, with **Matron Wood** and sub matron **Sister Gertrude McKern**. One nurse named was **Nurse Millicent Gordon**. There were 30 nurses who occupied quarters in five different parts of the grounds, some in 'cottage rooms' which normally would have been occupied by the old ladies who had to camp elsewhere. When the representative

¹⁷ Trove Newspapers: SMH 26 March 1928, p.6

¹⁸ Trove Newspapers: SMH 23 April 1928p.5

¹⁹ Trove Newspapers: Age (Melbourne) 24 May 1928, p.10

²⁰ Trove Newspapers : Mercury, 25 May 1928 p.11.

²¹ Trove Newspapers: Maitland Mercury, 25 May 1928, p.2

from the *Sunday Times* visited Newington he found everything spick and span, everything scrupulously clean.²²

Mr Megarvey Manager of Newington Hospital replied to Mr Wall's statements printed in the **SMH** on 25 May..

There were 320 cot cases not 350. Night nurses were assisted by able bodied middle aged patients.

Nurses only worked the 44 hours a week. If overtime was worked the nurses had equal time off for it.

There were only 14 cancer patients in a clean ward with flowers on the tables and mosquito nets over the beds.

There were 7 T.B. patients who were accommodated on a wide veranda with screens around them. A ward was needed for these patients.

The 50 epileptics were also in a separate ward but some not suffering badly were allowed to go among the other inmates.

There were only 11 V.D. patients who were in a separate ward.

The food scale had been devised by **Dr Robert Paton** in 1910 and had been revised since. It was not true that patients were unable to obtain food or drinks during the night. Hot milk was always available. Patients paid 1/- weekly voluntarily into a fund for tea, biscuits and cake above the liberal institutional fare. Breakfast was porridge, bread, butter, and tea, coffee and milk. Dinner comprised soup, potatoes and other vegetables grown at the institution, beef, mutton, rabbit, bread and butter. Twice a week there was fish and chicken broth.

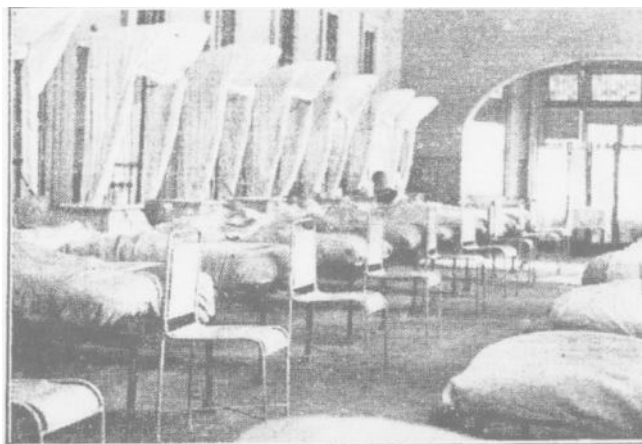
The kitchen was not dirty and was being renovated and the cooks were working under difficulties.

The elderly women did not have to do heavy work as there was performed by the 97 men inmates kept at the institution for this purpose.

The greatest need was for additional staff and an additional hospital block for the existing general block was overcrowded. A dozen patients spoken to by the SMH reporter in the grounds of the hospital praised the institution.²³ The *Daily Telegraph* on 25 May has this photograph.

²² Trove Newspapers: *Sunday Times*, 27 May 1928. P.3 Matron Wood described as a wonderful type of humane womanhood, was the one ray of hope for those poor, desolate souls in the closing days of their lives. *The Labor Daily*: 10 September 1928

²³ Trove Newspapers: *SMH* 25 May 1928, p.17



An overcrowded ward at Newington State Hospital for Women where Dr Wall, MLC says bad conditions prevail. The Daily Telegraph 25 May 1928.

Some photographs in *The Sun*, which were difficult to see, were labelled as below.

Photo of Newington Hospital - 'Women's Hospital at Newington of which Dr Wall M L C stated in the council that 'The conditions existing in the institution were so bad as to be almost beyond belief'

Photo of the Laundry - 'The Laundry at the Women's Hospital Newington . Dr Wall stated in the Legislative Assembly that "women in the institution had to work like gallery slaves - that the manner in which cancer, tubercular and epileptic cases were housed was a public scandal.' (Laundry workers are visible in this picture).²⁴

A most graphic account of the conditions at Newington and Lidcombe (Rookwood Asylum) was printed in the *Truth* on 27 May 1928.

Trove newspapers has other reports about Newington which had been about deaths, court cases, discharged person, inmates who died intestate, investigations into deaths of patients, coroner's reports of inquests,

I relate these two articles about two aboriginal women held in high respect.

*A well known resident of the district (Inverell) in the person of Miss Susan Green, half-caste, passed away yesterday in Newington Hospital, Sydney, at the age of 50 years. The deceased was a faithful and highly competent domestic and for the past 13 years had been in the employ of Mr and Mrs T. Durkin, who recently took her to Sydney for medical treatment.*²⁵

"Old Lucy" Aged Aboriginal Dead "Ah'm just and old black gin, but ah can tell you why those cicadas are singing to day" and then Old Lucy of Gladesville, would launch into a long rigmarole to a little group of children concerning the reason of the insects monotonous happiness in the sunlight. This was not an unusual sight at Gladesville, where for many years Lucy lived and worked as a washerman. But Lucy's little stories of aboriginal superstition will not be heard by the children of Gladesville and Hunter's Hill any more. She died on Sunday at the Newington Hospital. Doubtless she was the last of her tribe. Lucy was a picturesque identity and it is stated variously that she was 90 or 100 years of age, but Lucy wasn't sure and didn't care very much. She was born she said in Queensland, "up where it's hot" a long time ago The old Aboriginal was a favourite with many residents in the district, and in 1925 as the result of public subscription, a home was built for her, but of late she

²⁴ Trove Newspapers: *The Sun* 25 May 1928 ,p.22

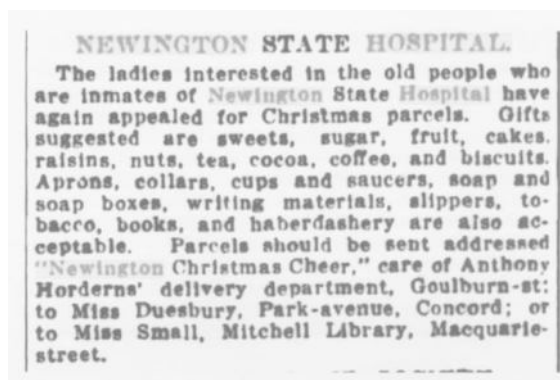
²⁵ Trove Newspapers: *Inverell Times*, 13 August 1928.

*had become too feeble to care for herself. As arranged at the time the home was provided for the old woman , it will be sold, and the proceeds will be given to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. An auction sale will be held on Thursday's. Lucy's funeral expenses have been defrayed by local residents.*²⁶

Other deaths recorded at Newington in the newspapers of 1928 were recorded as death notices, inquests, intestate notices and probate. *Mrs Norah Dingan died 22 May 1927 - Probate; Mrs Isabelle Haug died September 1928- Inquest; Emma King died 19 June 1927 – Intestate; Elizabeth Cragg died 7 March 1928 – Intestate; Mary Jenning or Jennings or Alice Davie or Alice Davies died 25 May 1928 – Intestate; Kathleen Agnes Hurley died 31 May 1928; Caroline Morley died 3 January 1928 - Intestate; Margaret Ethel Luscombe died 21 July 1928; Alice Maxwell died 3 July 1928 – probate; Mary Emily Poole died 26 August 1928 – Inquest.* The history of those women who had an inquest, intestate notice or probate notice may be followed up at NSW State Archives using the new website <https://mhnsww.au>

An election was held in NSW on 1 September 1928. The results on the prohibition referendum for polling places Newington State Hospital were 50 yes, 165 no, 12 informal and for Rookwood State Hospital and Asylum 95 yes, 294 no, 10 informal. The no vote won.²⁷ Electoral Rolls have been searched for names of Staff and Inmates. Once the name of a nurse is found in the Electoral Rolls then a search of the Nurses Index 1926-1954 NSW State Archives will give more information. **Enid Cecily Patricia Betts** was a general nurse trained at Guys Hospital, London, registered 2 August 1928.²⁸ Some nurses had an Employees' History Card such as **Nancy Buston**, born 17 February 1876 and employed at Newington from 8 April 1927 until 1932 when she resigned.²⁹

The celebration of Christmas at Newington Hospital for women and Lidcombe (Rookwood) for old men was aided by funds raised by organizations such as the Reid Labour Council celebrating the victory at the NSW Election of Mr Lang, MHR member for Lang and the Newington Aid Society, Secretary **Miss E. Duesbury** of Concord. This article appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 4 December 1928.



So after a year of incidents reported in the NSW and other states newspapers 1928 came to a close with the report by Miss E Duesbury thanking all the kind friends who sent in gifts and donations to the annual "Cheer Appeal" for Newington State Hospital. About six hundred bags were distributed by Santa Claus and the old people had a happy time.³⁰

²⁶ Trove Newspapers: *SMH*, 11 September 1928.

²⁷ Trove Newspapers: *SMH* 3 September 1928 p.14.

²⁸ *NSW State Archives*; NRS 10855 [6/4430 p.042]; Reel 2146.

²⁹ *NSW State Archives*: NRS-12395-1-[8/2615]-[73].

³⁰ Trove Newspapers: *Sun* 21 December 1928, p.15.

St Thomas' Enfield and Charlotte Hyndes

Susan Borel

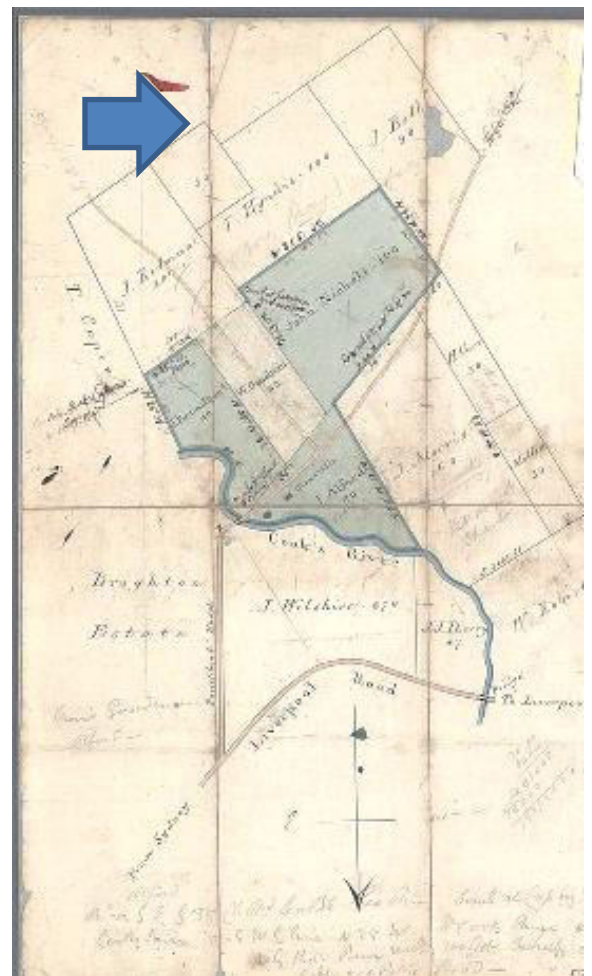


This year marks the 175th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Thomas' Enfield, whose doors have remained open since that time. A special commemorative service will be held on the last Sunday in November this year.

The area where the church is located was in 1848 largely bush, roads were "impassable in wet weather and frequented by bushrangers"³¹ and the nearest church was at Ashfield. Thomas and Charlotte Hyndes who had a land grant and a holiday house on the land were largely responsible for the building of the church.

Original Grant in Enfield to Thomas Hyndes

Charlotte Hyndes nee Green was born in West Yorkshire England in 1779. Charlotte sentenced to be transported for life for burglary on the 27th July 1801,



³¹ St Thomas' Enfield A matter of grave importance/ Sally Jackson

having already served time in goal for a previous burglary.

“She was arrested and charged in the company of a man stealing goods from the home of a widow, Mary Bassett to the value of 24 pounds 8 shillings and 6 pence. These goods were described as 72 shawls, 42 handkerchiefs, 12 pairs of shoes, one gown, one pair of stockings, 2 gold rings, 2 teaspoons, 3 pounds of tea, 15 pounds of pork and 4 pounds of money”³²

Charlotte arrived in March 1803 aboard the convict transport ship *H.M.S. Glatton* and was assigned as a servant.

In 1806 Charlotte was married by **Rev. Samuel Marsden** at St Philips, Church Hill (now York St.) to **Thomas Hyndes** also a convict on the *Glatton*.

Charlotte received her absolute pardon in 1814³³ from **Governor Macquarie** and a royal pardon in 1841.

Thomas and Charlotte lived in Sussex Street in Sydney and by 1842 had purchased their holiday house named *Adelaide Park* on Punchbowl Road.³⁴ The house was at the site where the junction of Coronation parade and Mitchell St now is.

Five acres of land was gifted by Thomas Hyndes in 1847 for a church and graveyard and a hall was built and used as a school weekday and on weekends for worship. The school was funded by Thomas.

On the 1st February 1848 the foundation stone was laid by the **Bishop Broughton**, the Bishop of Sydney with some clergy of his dioceses including the minister from Ashfield **Rev. Frederick Wilkinson** who became the first Minister of St Thomas' (1848-1854) as a branch of the Ashfield church. The wooden carvings that adorn base of the wooden trusses in the church were carved by Rev. F Wilkinson.

Charlotte and was present at the laying of the foundation stone as were the seventy children from the *Adelaide Park Free School* who formed a “an avenue” for the dignitaries. After the ceremony they all went to “*Adelaide Cottage*” (except the bishop) and the children were given a piece of plum cake each before returning to school. While **Thomas Hyndes** having donated the land, he also gave £200



³² St Thomas' Enfield A matter of grave importance/ Sally Jackson

³³ Museums of History: State Archives Collection

³⁴ Renamed Coronation Parade in 1937.

toward the building of the church and Charlotte gave £20 (equivalent to over £30,000 and £3,000 in today's money or over\$AUD50,000 and \$AUD5,000).

The church was designed by the architect **John Frederick Hilly**, in the Gothic style and built by **William Newland** who was living in Enfield at the time, with the help of the convicts assigned to Thomas Hyndes. The sandstone being quarried locally.

Charlotte did not live long enough to see the church finished. She died on the 6th January 1849 in her Sussex St home, on her 43rd wedding anniversary.

“FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC GENERALLY. —The undersigned, with sorrow known but to few, severed from the wife of his youth, with whom he has lived nearly half a century, makes known that her mortal remains will be removed from her late residence, Sussex-street, to St. Thomas's Church, Enfield, Liverpool-road, on WEDNESDAY morning next, the 10th instant (January) at the hour of 8 o'clock precisely. And the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councilors forming the Civic Body, of which body he has the honour to be a member, with all and every other citizen, who knew his late wife, however humble they may be, will follow her remains to the boundaries of the city; but the honour will be considered greater if time can be spared to go the full distance.

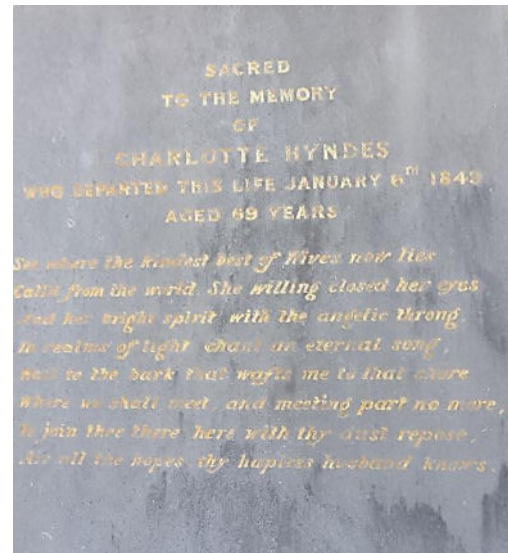
THOMAS HYNDES.
Sussex-street, January 8. 405³⁵”



St. Thomas' was licensed for divine service on the 9th January and letters written by **Thomas Hyndes** refer to scaffolding being taken down for Charlotte's funeral held on the 10th January. Charlotte was originally recorded as the first burial, but the entry was crossed out

³⁵ The Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday 9 January 1849 page 3.

and Mr John Hargreaves who died 02.12.1849 was entered. The entry for Charlotte appears on 10th January 1850, exactly one year after the funeral service.



Charlotte's final resting place is in a vault to the southeast of the front door of the church.

Charlotte's portrait along with that of Thomas were a gift to the church from the City of Sydney in 1916 as Thomas had served as an alderman from 1845 to 1849.

A service on the 31st December 1849 commencing at 11 am, was held to consecrate St Thomas'. Almost a year after Charlotte's funeral.



Aerial view 2018

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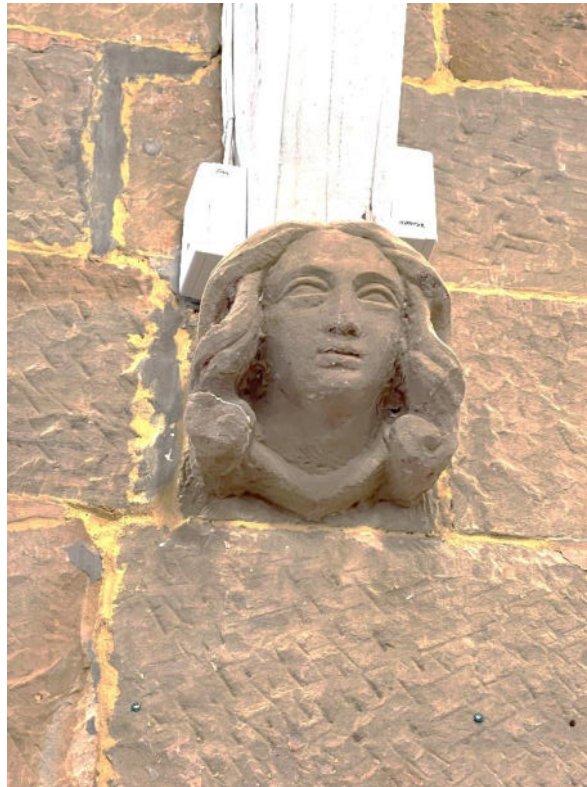
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Parish of St. Thomas Enfield 90th Anniversary 1848-1938 and daughter church St Nicholas/ Church archives.



One of the carvings by **Rev. F Wilkinson**. Each of the ten roof trusses in the church has the same figure at its base.

Charlotte's plaque reads

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
CHARLOTTE HYNES
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JANUARY 6TH 1849
AGED 69 YEARS
See where the kindest best of Wives now lies
Call'd from the world. She willing closed her eyes
and her bright spirit with the angelic throng
in realms of light chart an eternal song.
Hail to the bark that wafts me to that shore
Where we shall meet and meeting part no more,
To join thee there here with thy dust repose.
Are all the hopes thy hapless husband knows.

BURWOOD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

February2023 Meeting

Our First meeting of 2023 was held in our new meeting room Laboratory 3 which at the back of the meeting rooms on Level One in Burwood Library, 2 Conder Street, Burwood, NSW.

At the Workshop Susan Borel , our Technology Officer introduced the group to the new State Archives & Records Authority's New Collection Search via a Webinar presented by Martyn Killion, Director, State Archives Collections.

The new collection search is a powerful single search tool that provides access to the 1.9 million items in the State Archives Collection and the 1.7 million online entries in the one place for the first time.

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars/new-collection-search>

We also looked at the new Indexes which can also be accessed from the above website.;

Index to Colonial Secretary Letters Received, 1826-1896 formerly known as the Joan Reese's Convicts and Others index 1826-1894 and NSW Colonial Secretary's In Letters Index 1826-1896.

Public Service Board Employees history cards and Public Works salary registers.
