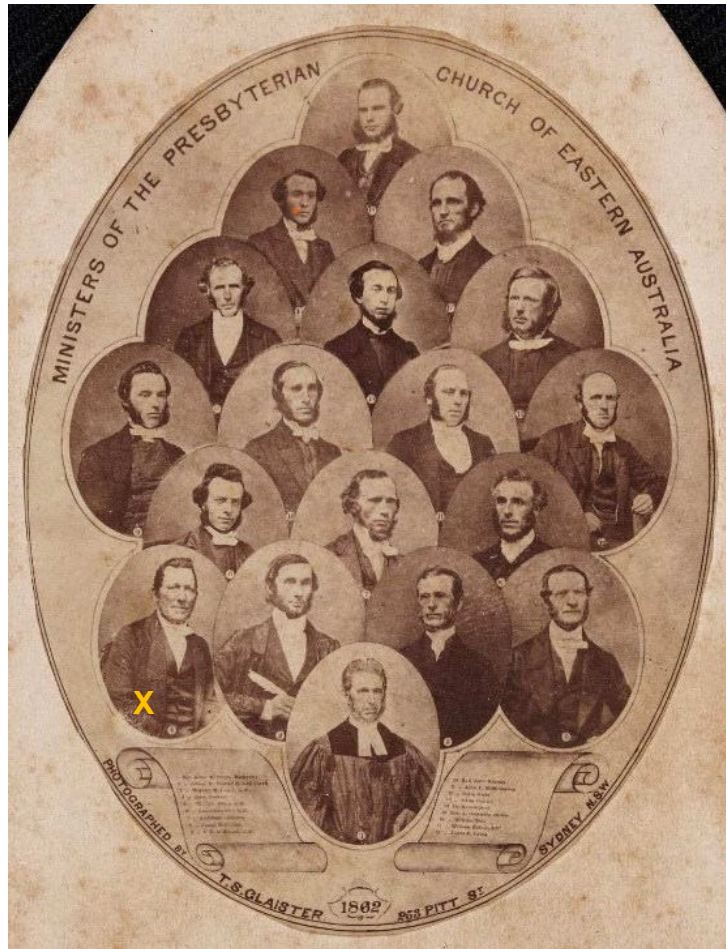




Lithgow Pioneer Press



Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, 1862.
Photographed by T S Glaister, 253 Pitt St Sydney NSW.
Rev Colin Stewart, Presbyterian Minister, Bowenfels 1839-1873
Number 4 in this grouping. Marked X. (List of names on page 9)

Source: Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection: June Wallace papers. Used with permission - Museums of History NSW.

LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

President: Eleanor Martin

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Librarian: Kathy Brennan

Journal Registrar: Sandra Haley

**OPENING HOURS: 11am to 4pm on Fridays and 2pm to 5pm on Tuesdays by
appointment only. email: secretary.ldfhs@gmail.com**

Members free, non-members \$20.

**Ewen Smith Memorial Hall
Corner of Tank & Donald Streets, Lithgow
Please address all mail to: PO Box 516 Lithgow, NSW 2790
Tel. (02) 6353 1089 (during opening hours)
Email: secretary.ldfhs@gmail.com**

**Committee of Management meetings are held on the third Monday of each month
at 2 pm.**

Meeting dates: 17 July, 21 Aug, 18 Sep, 16 Oct, 20 Nov, No meeting in Dec.

Members are welcome to attend or submit ideas for discussion.

FEES

MEMBERSHIP (1st March 2023 to 28th February 2024)

Membership yearly - 3 journals (mailed journals) \$45

- 3 journals (emailed journals) \$40

Membership from October 1st 2023 - 2 journals \$25 posted or by email \$20

RESEARCH:

Research fees: for non-members mail enquiries minimum 2 hours \$40

**Members who live outside the Lithgow area can request 3 hours research by our Research
Officer.**

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**PRESENTATION OF THE
YVONNE JENKINS MEMORIAL AWARD 2023**



**SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2023 AT 2PM
LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
EWEN SMITH MEMORIAL HALL
43 TANK STREET, LITHGOW 2790
2023 ESSAY TITLE: MY GRANDFATHER**

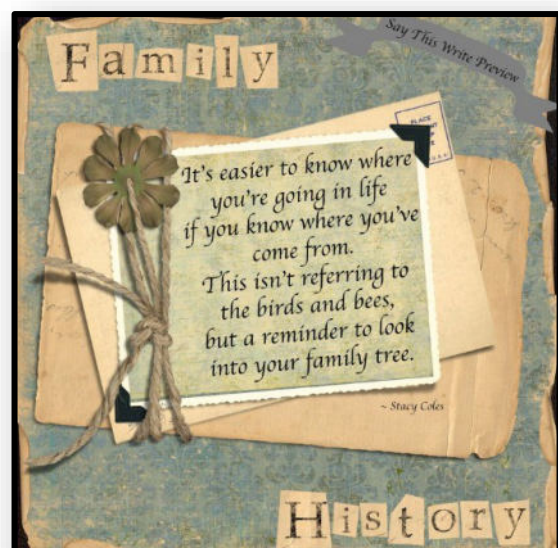
**GUEST SPEAKER – JAN SAUNDERCOCK
“MY GRANDFATHER – LONDON TO PUTNEY, VIA CLYDEBANK”**

AFTERNOON TEA (RSVP 8 AUGUST 2023)

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Focus On: Hartley Resources.
- 12 President's Report 2023-2023
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- 14 Library Editions & Chapel House
- 16 Research Enquiries.



The Sydney Morning Herald.

Saturday 18th October 1952

First Land Grant

By
JOHN BAALMAN

In a recent article on this page it was noted that the first Crown grant of land in Australia was issued by Governor Phillip to James Ruse on February 22, 1792.

The authenticity of this grant is not disputed. The original document now rests in the Mitchell Library, a benefaction by the late Sir William Dixon, who is reputed to have purchased it from a Parramatta solicitor many years ago for £350.

In spite of this evidence, however Mr James Ruse did not receive the first grant of land in New South Wales. Certainly, his grant is No 1 in the official register, where there are some 49 others bearing the same date - February 22, 1792.

But there are six grants in that register dated January 3, 1792 - some seven weeks earlier. The grantees are Alexander McDonald, Isaac Archer, John Colthred, James Manning, Thomas Swinerton and John Carver.

These six men had been private soldiers in the marines. They selected to settle in the colony when their detachment returned to England towards the end of 1791. Their grants of 80 acres each occupied most of the Parramatta River frontage between Subiaco Creek and what is now Meadowbank. It was the first Australian soldiers' settlement, and for that reason was appropriately called the Field of Mars.

Documents recording the original grants to Archer and Colthred have recently been added to the archives of the Mitchell Library. In each document, the day of the month - January 3- is plainly visible, but the last words in the year have been obliterated. The registration copies of the grants supply this date 1792.

Any doubt on that point is removed by the fact that they are signed by Governor Phillip who left the colony before the succeeding January and did not return. The Great Seal of the colony was impressed in a heavy pendulum of wax, four inches

in diameter. Its weight no doubt caused the frail paper of the grant to tear, and the seal to become detached and lost.

Although James Ruse was not the first grantee, there is no doubt that he was the first Australian settler.

In a dispatch to Lord Grenville dated November 5, 1791, Phillip described him as such. "The first settler was a convict whose time being expired ... he entered on his farm of thirty acres the 21st November, 1789."

However, a return appended to that dispatch contradicts the above statement, although it does not necessarily disturb Ruse's priority as a settler.

It is a "Return of Lands granted in His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and its dependencies." It contains a list of 87 names, of whom the first four are James Ruse, Robert Webb, William Reid, and Phillip Schaffer.

In a column headed 'Time of becoming Settlers,' the date, March 30, 1791, is entered opposite each of these four. The remaining names all bear later dates. Webb, Reid, and Schaffer were also ex-marines who settled at the Field of Mars.

It is possible that these settlers received some informal written "promise of grant" when they were let into possession of their farms. In fact, it was a practice, which lasted until the 1830s, for the early Governors to issue these "promises."

But it is quite apparent from the official records that formal grants were not issued as early as March 1791.

In a dispatch to Under-Secretary Nepean dated November 18, 1791, Phillip stated: "The form in which land grants are made out is enclosed, and which probably may not be so regular as could be wished. The necessary information on this head will, I hope, be sent out, and the wax used with the seal on those occasions."

The enclosure sent with that letter is missing. But whether or not the form proved to be "so regular as could be wished," without the wax for the seal the grants would not be complete.

Probably the forms had been "made out"- that is,

engrossed - and their execution and delivery were merely awaiting the impedimenta of formal disposition.

The Great Seal of the Colony was received by Phillip in Sydney on September 22. 1791. Its design, which had been approved on January 21, 1791. was officially described as follows:

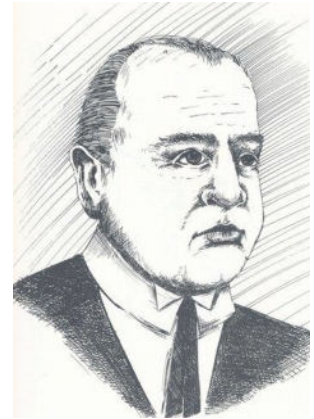
"On one side-convicts landed at Botany Bay; their fetters taken off and received by Industry, sitting on a bale of goods with her attributes, the distaff, beehive, pick-axe and spade, pointing to oxen ploughing, the rising habitations, and a church on a hill at a distance, with a fort for their defence.

Motto: fortis etruria crevit ['In this way Etruria grew strong'] with this inscription round the circumference: Sigillum Nov. Camb. Aust. ['Seal of New South Wales']. On the reverse: His Majesty's arms in a shield, with the supporters; garter and imperial crown with the motto; and round the circumference His Majesty's titles."

The authors of that idyllic design could visualise a colony of sturdy yeomen, dutifully distinguishing themselves from their betters by wearing the old gaol tie, as they plodded to the church on the hill. It was that kind of smuggling which had contributed to the loss of the American colonies but a few years earlier.

The fetter-conscious inhabitants of New South Wales ultimately succeeded in obtaining a less patronising seal, but not till many years later.

Sketch of James
Ruse



COAL MINER TO CO-OP MANAGER

William Blesby Kirby



William Blesby Kirby was born at Jew's Creek near Ben Bullen in 1876. His parents were Scottish immigrants George Kirby and his wife Jane Grant. In 1898 William married Jessie Short, daughter of James Short and Rachel Gardiner, immigrants from Hereford, England. At the time of his marriage, William's occupation was shown as miner, of Cullen Bullen. Details of his schooling are unknown. Family story tells of his efforts at self-education in his early life, when he studied book-keeping from a small red textbook of which type is unknown, but on which he spent a great deal of time.

By 1900, William and Jesse were living in Clwydd Street, Lithgow. Later they moved to a house on what was known as the Extension Estate beyond the Small Arms Factory. William and Jesse had five surviving children, two girls dying in infancy. In 1916, Jesse Kirby died of respiratory infection. William later married Amy Brodrick.

William's career at the Lithgow Co-operative Society presumably started in 1892 as the Co-operative news 1922 stated that he had been an officer or committeeman for 30 years.

In 1916 William was appointed manager of the store. His appointment was very popular, having been secretary since the inception of the society in a small way, fourteen years earlier. Since that time, he had seen many managers

come and go and while he, fully conversant with the running of the store, continued to give faithful service. The Lithgow Mercury reported; "He was to take control of a comparatively large establishment and with the knowledge he had obtained during his years of service was the best man for the position". He did not relinquish the position of secretary, but combined the two.

During the 1920s the Co-op experienced significant financial problems as did other businesses, and there was a large and noisy meeting held to discuss its affairs, with much disagreement as to the details and course of action. When William Blesby Kirby rose to speak, he provided a clear statement of facts from his records, which so impressed the rowdy shareholders that his report was accepted without a single dissenting voice, and the meeting closed, with no further argument.

The respect that William commanded was remonstrated when he died in 1930, at the age of 53. His funeral was attended by hundreds of citizens who marched from the town to the cemetery. All shops in Lithgow closed as a mark of respect.

A large, framed portrait of William Blesby Kirby and a bronze plaque in his memory were mounted on a wall in the original store.

When Westfund purchased the Co-op store these items were passed to family members for safe keeping.

Kirby family members donated them to the Lithgow & District Family History Society for permanent display.



ALICE PENN

A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE ENDS



Born in Hartley Vale and one of a family of 13 children, Alice was a teenager when the family moved to Lithgow's Oakey Park.

She married Will Penn, a Lithgow boy and lived just down the street from the family home.

Two children arrived, Harold and Doris, and after just five years of marriage, Will died leaving Mrs Penn to rear two young children.

Alice worked at Zig Zag School for 30 years, moving to live with her daughter Doris and son-in-law Jim Yates of Hill Street where she lived for many years.

Retaining her interest in her family and all local news until her death, she was a tireless community and charity worker.

Her main interest was the Methodist Church and many fund-raising activities were boosted with the knitting and craft work from the talented hand of Mrs Penn.

Numerous pairs of knitted socks were sent to soldiers serving in the First and Second World Wars.

She was an organist at both the Hartley Vale and Oakey Park Methodist Churches.

She was an active member of the Red Cross, Lithgow Hospital Auxiliary, Sunnybank School, Masonic Lodge and always the Methodist and Uniting Churches. She was awarded the Long Service Medal from the Methodist Church Aid.

A small gentle lady, she spent the last three

years of her life in Gregory House, where daughter Doris was a daily visitor.

Mrs Penn was Dr Joseph's most devoted fan and loved by the staff at Gregory House who cared for her lovingly. Her conversation of early Lithgow and district was always a source of interest and learning.

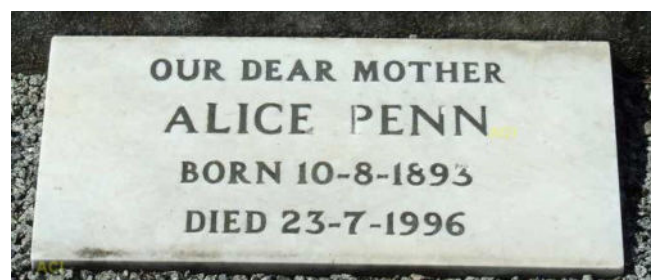
Her son Harold of Read Avenue died a number of years back.

Mrs Penn is survived by her daughter Doris, grand-daughter and her husband Margaret and Graham Harlum of Byron Bay, grandson Ray Penn and Dace of Sydney and grandchildren Karen, Kim and Craig.

A grand lady who was born and lived her long life in Lithgow.

Reprinted from The Lithgow Mercury 10 August 1996.

William and Alice Penn are buried in the Lithgow (Bowenfels) Cemetery



REV COLIN STEWART

by Ian Holt

The Rev. Colin Stewart was born 1803 at Dingwall, an ancient royal burgh in the county of Ross and Cromarty in the far north of Scotland. He obtained a Master of Arts degree at Edinburgh University and following this was ordained a minister of the Established Church of Scotland in 1838. He then sailed for New South Wales, on the ship "Boyne" arriving in Sydney January 1839. During the trip he baptised four children.

Upon his arrival in the colony he sent to "minister in the district of Hartley and itinerate as far westward as circumstances would permit." Having obtained permission from the government to use the Hartley Court House for services, he preached there on the 17 February 1839 "to 21 or 22 hearers". It is not certain if he also preached at Bowenfels on that day as there is a record of a child, Caroline Edwards, the daughter of William Edwards a servant at "Cooerwull", being baptised on 17th February. Also, there is a reference in Andrew Brown's diary: "17th February 1839, Sunday. Mr. Stewart, a Presbyterian minister, intending to settle in this district preached here today. There were about twenty-one or twenty-two hearers present". This may refer to the service in the Hartley Court House or to another service held at Cooerwull on the same day.

Stewart first lived at "The Boxes", in Hartley Valley, under Hassans Walls, where there was a camp for convict road builders. The area was called this for members of the convict iron gangs were chained for work by day and caged by night in box-like caravans.

Soon Stewart applied for and was granted 130 acres of land in Lithgow Valley on Cooerwull Brook, now Farmers Creek, where he built what is believed to have been the first house in the Lithgow valley, which he called "The Hermitage". The area is now called Hermitage Flat.

In 1868 the mineral rights to this land were leased by J. J. Poole who opened a coal mine which was taken over by the Bowenfels Coal Mining and Copper Smelter Company and then by the Lithgow Valley Colliery Co. Ltd. For many years the Lithgow Valley Colliery Co. Ltd. operated a coal mine on this site called "The Hermitage" and actually owned the land.

Colin Stewart opened at this residence the first formal school in this district. Boys from close at hand like John Lawrence Brown, son of Andrew Brown, were numbered amongst the day pupils and also there were scholars from more distant parts who boarded at "The Hermitage".

Stewart was formally appointed as minister of Bowenfels and the Bowenfels Church was erected in 1842. Under the provisions of an Act of 1836 money could have been obtained from the government to help with the erection, as it was four years earlier for the building of the first St. Stephen's Church in Bathurst. However, the Government funding assistance was not taken up and Andrew Brown paid for the church, which cost £350/-, out of his own pocket.

Colin Stewart's enterprise and his energy were enormous. As well as the church work around Bowenfels almost every year for several years, he would set out for a journey round the huge parish. He would ride one horse and lead a pack horse laden with his gear. All through the 1840's, Stewart travelled to the north, west and south preaching to, and marrying, settlers and baptising their children. He only stopped undertaking these trips when other parsons came to the west and north-west of the state.

In 1843 there was a clash of ideas which caused the Church of Scotland to split into two factions, the established church and a faction known as the free church. All attempts to prove that the split was irrelevant in New South Wales came to nothing. The New South Wales split was over the proposal that the State should supply some financial aid to the church. Colin Stewart was a strong supporter of the Scottish Free Church principles that did not wish to accept Government aid. On the 10 October 1846, three ministers including Colin Stewart, and one representative elder left the Synod of Australia and formed a free church body styled "The Synod of Eastern Australia". (The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.)

From that time on Stewart had to find his living without governmental assistance. He managed because he was unmarried, because he had generous backing from his staunch friend Andrew Brown and because he augmented his stipend with school fees from pupils at his school at The Hermitage. It is possible that Andrew Brown's support may have assisted him to survive the financial problem of no government assistance.



The Hermitage



Ministers of the Presbyterian church of Eastern Australia, 1862. Photographed by T S Glaister, 253 Pitt St Sydney NSW.

Key to photo on Front cover:

This group portrait of 18 Presbyterian ministers is made up of a montage of individual portraits, each numbered and identified through a key: 1. Rev Alan McIntyre, Moderator-- 2. Rev Arthur M Sherriff, Synod Clerk -- 3. Rev William McIntyre AM -- **4. Rev Colin Stewart** -- 5. Rev William Grant AM -- 6. Rev James Cameron AM -- 7. Rev Archibald Cameron -- 8. Rev James McCulloch -- 9. Rev S F McKenzie AM -- 10. Rev John Kinross -- 11. Rev John L McSkimming -- 12. Rev Colin R Greig -- 13. Rev Adam Gordon -- 14. Dr Robert Steel -- 15. Rev Archibald Constable Geikie -- 16. Rev William Bain -- 17. Rev William Ridley AB -- 18. Rev James S Laing

He then married Alexina (Mary) Mackay, a woman with aristocratic connections, one year younger than him, who came from Scotland. They lived at "The Hermitage" and ran the parish from there until, in 1857, when he was then fifty-four years of age and still an active man, Colin Stewart resigned his position. No reason can be found for his resignation. An entry in the diary of Stewart's friend Andrew Brown, dated 5 September 1857 speaks of "Stewart having laboured to the best of his ability for the last eighteen years" during which time he "received very little support", and of his "conduct in this trying case being truly exemplary". The incoming clergyman was Simon Fraser MacKenzie, first ordained in that year and newly arrived from Scotland.

Colin Stewart and his wife remained simple members of the Bowenfels congregation until 1873 when they moved to Sydney. Mrs. Stewart died there in 1875 aged 71. Colin Stewart lived for another 11 years at Darlinghurst and died on the 19 September 1886 aged 83.

Like others in Lithgow, he left instructions that his personal diaries should be destroyed after his death and this request was carried out.

.....
Published in 2001. This work has been assisted by funds allocated to the Royal Australian Historical Society by the Ministry for the Arts, New South Wales

Acknowledgments.

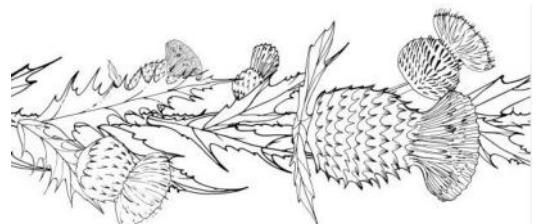
The Lithgow District Historical Society acknowledges reference were made to:

LDHS Occasional Paper 42 : To the Year 1865 by Rev Stuart Clements" by J. B. Lesslie

The Parish of Bowenfels Church records.

Transcripts of Rev Colin Stewart's **Baptism & Marriages Records Presbyterian 1838-1890** are held by the Lithgow & District Family History Society.

The Society has copies of the reference books mentioned.



#7739 PRIVATE WILFRED GAVIN

Francis Wilfred Gavin's first attempt to enlist in the First AIF on 19 November 1917 was thwarted when he failed the medical examination. H Sadler, Captain, Australian army Medical Corps noted on his record: 'needs dental (sic) attention'.

This was not uncommon. Many young men chose to undergo dental treatment or the removal of decayed teeth and fronted up to the enlistment office again.

On 30 November 1917 he enlisted again; this time as Wilfred Gavin, and was considered 'fit for active service'. It is not known if he took the medical officer's advice or just tried again under another name and hoped that they were desperate for reinforcements.

Born on 4 March 1893 in Molong, Francis Wilfred was one of the eleven children of Joseph Gavin and his wife, Louisa McGrath. Prior to his enlistment he was employed at the Lithgow Co-operative stores as a carter.

#7739 Private Wilfred Gavin embarked on board *A71 HMAT Nestor* with the 24th – 26th reinforcements for the 4th Battalion at Melbourne on 28 February 1918 and disembarked in Liverpool England on 20 April 1918.

After completing training in Codford, Wilfred was shipped out and joined the 45th Battalion in France on 21 July 1918. The Lithgow Mercury reported that he had arrived in France at the same time as an American contingent.

(photo: 34th Battalion soldiers 21 August 1918)



Private Wilfred Gavin was wounded in action at the battle of Albert on 22 August 1918. The battle was launched in the mist of the early morning and, supported by tanks, made swift inroads into

German positions. Wilfred received gun-shot wounds to the hip, leg and foot. He was attended to by 93rd Ambulance and taken to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station before being admitted to 11 Stationary Hospital. Transported to England on board the *Carisbrook Castle* on 27 August 1918 he was admitted to Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge,

When the Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918 Wilfred was undergoing treatment in 1st Auxiliary Hospital in Harefield.

Private Wilfred Gavin embarked *HMAT Ulysses* on 18 January 1919 in England. By the time the ship reached Fremantle there were four cases of Influenza reported. For twelve months the newspapers had been full of reports of the thousands who were dying on the battlefields from the Spanish influenza. It was only a matter of time before the soldiers returning home would bring this highly contagious disease with them. Four more cases were notified to quarantine officials when the *Ulysses* docked in Adelaide.



The *Ulysses* was ordered into quarantine when it steamed into Sydney Harbour on Sunday 9 March. The Sydney Morning Herald reported notification of another case of influenza and the patient, Private Gavin, was admitted to the quarantine station on North Head.

Wilfred Gavin recovered from the influenza and was allowed out of quarantine on the following Saturday 15 March. In the afternoon the men on board the *Ulysses* were brought from Woolloomooloo Bay to the wharf in a ferry boat for disembarkation.

#7739 Private Wilfred Gavin was discharged on 10 May 1919. He was awarded the British War medal and the Victory Medal.



LITHGOW COIN & STAMP CLUB

Minute Books - July 1965 to 20 May 1975.

Extract of Minutes of meeting held on 6 June 1969.

Improvers: Mervyn H, Barry C, Owen M, Joy M, John Shepley, Kevin K.

Secretary reported on attendance at Metropolitan Coin Club Auction.

President's Report: President Mervyn reported on the activities during the year and thanked all members and officers for their help and interest and it augers well for the oncoming year that our membership has increased during the year which shows that our hobby still holds a lot of interest to collectors.

Election of Officers 1969/1970:

President: Bruce Walpole

Vice-Presidents: Mervyn Hawkin, Bob Combs

Secretary: John Wray

Treasurer: Joy Mulcahy

Librarian: Owen Martin

Programs: John Shepley

Publicity: Kevin Keepence

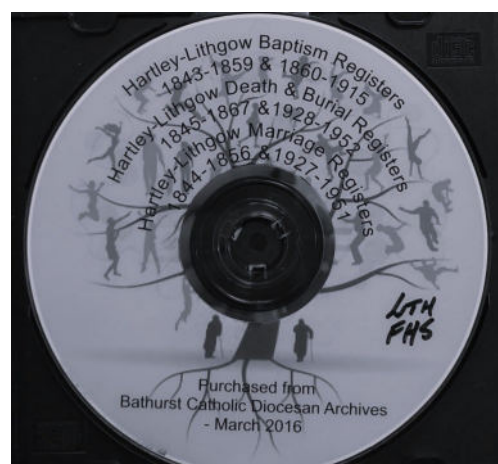
Coin & Stamp Convenor: Barry Clifton.



FOCUS ON HARTLEY RESOURCES

Featuring Resources in our library.

- Hartley/Vale of Clwydd Court House Bench Books & Index to Committals 1837 - 1842
- Hartley/Vale of Clwydd indexes to cases against Free Persons 1836 - 1874. Local extracts 1836-1841
- Hartley District Court Register - local extracts 1859 - 1898
- District Electoral Rolls 1869 - 1870; 1873 - 1874
- Donations to Irish Scotch Relief Fund 1847
- Index to Hartley Village Land Sales 1840 onwards.
- District Publicans' Licences c 1820 - 1900
- District Court House Hartley - Various birth, death and marriage certificates - indexed.
- Bowenfels Rev Colin Stewart Presbyterian Baptisms & Marriages 1838 - 1890
- Hartley St. John's Church of England Baptisms 1857 - 1905; Marriages 1857 - 1909; Burials
- Hartley & Lithgow Parishes - Catholic Registers. (DIGITAL COPIES OF ORIGINAL REGISTERS)
Baptisms 1843 - 1859, 1860 - 1915;
Marriages 1844 - 1856, 1927 - 1951; Deaths & Burials 1845 - 1867, 1928 - 1952.



**LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

As Covid 19 restrictions were in place until June the early part of the year limits on numbers were continued. Members continued to do research in the Resource Centre.

Feb 2023 - Seniors' Festival at Lithgow Library and Learning Centre. A number of members assisted with running a stall. A grant has been approved from Lithgow City Council towards an Overhead Scanner to enable records to be scanned for use on the computers.

October 2022 - Application to Council to paint the hall. Some damage to rear wall from Hail Storm. Some rot has been developing for quite some years. Thank you to Jan Saunderson for following this up. No reply has been received from Council.

June 2022 - Visit from Tegan Anthes, Preventive Conservation Consultant and Educator, in her roles as Museum's advisor to Lithgow City Council, June. Tegan conducted workshops in document preservation and discussion on Acquisition Policy to deal with donations.

An Acquisition Policy has been developed and passed at the July Meeting. A new deed of gift form, Provenance Form, Objects on loan and Objects loaned were developed and accepted.

A Grant was received From Lithgow Workies towards an upgrade to the computers in July.

August 2022 - Co-hosted guest speaker with the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust. Carolyn Williams spoke on Scottish Settlement in the Capertee Valley of NSW. This was inspired by the Journal of Annabella Boswell (Innes), written as a child.

Presentation of the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Essay Competition with the title *"Tall Tales and True from my family's past"*. The winner was Danny Whitty. Guest speaker was Keith Painter whose presentation was *James Padley, Castlemaine to Lithgow. The long way round.*

After a disrupted year and reduced working time, members in the Society have continued to respond to Research Requests and assist visitors to the rooms. Many have found information that they were seeking.

Jan Saunderson has been the backbone of the Society, filling in and organising.

A number of people have notified that they will not be taking up positions at the AGM, so we are asking members to look at ways they can help. Secretary, Research and Journal Editor are just some positions that will need to be filled.

Due to illness, family needs and other duties, availability of members to cover supervision of rooms is limited. These members have worked hard but if you could to assist with a few hours could you please talk to me about same.

The Committee has had to abandon several meetings as a Quorum was not reached. A Quorum as defined in the Constitution is three Executive as well as two General Members.

Eleanor Martin

Eleanor Martin



Liz Kitto, Tegan Anthes and Ros Nolte - archival cleaning of a map donated to the Society.



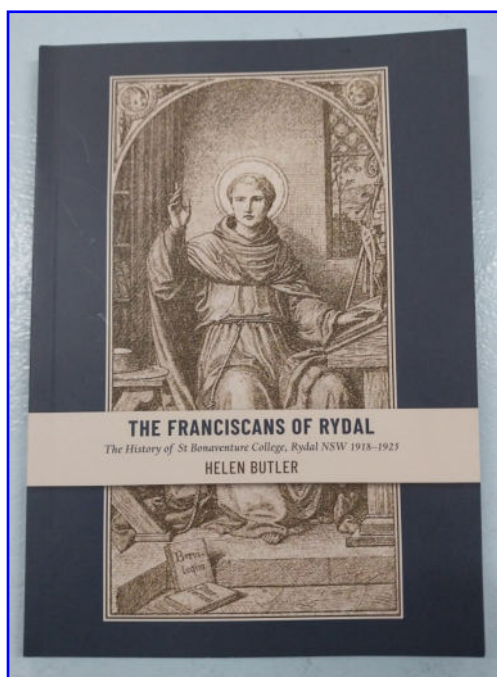
Corbett & Goodare commenced the building of the "Zig Zag" brewery in 1884 and opened it in 1888. In 1891, Corbett bought it outright. 1896 saw Corbett install his step-son John Alexander Jones as manager. J.A.S. Jones continued as manager after it was sold to a local chemist W Roper. Jones retired when it was again sold in 1928, and then renamed *Lithgow Brewing Co.* It was sold again, but then went into receivership and was taken over by Wingate Terry. It was then known as *Terry's Brewery*. It is now the site of Lithgow Valley Springs and the owner's intention is to turn it into a boutique brewery.

Sketch and notes from *Glimpses of Lithgow Past*. Sketches by Neville Morgan. Published by the Lithgow & District Family History Society in 2001. Price \$15 PLUS POSTAGE

2023 update: After the publication of this sketch book, the owners of Lithgow Valley Springs sold the business retaining ownership of the property. The business closed. Is it likely that these buildings may once again function as a brewery at some time in the future?

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

- B/RYA Ryan Family: Ireland to Australia - Phillip Ryan 1822-78 & Catherine Campbell 1816-60
Compiled & donated by Terry & Bernadette Ryan
- P2000 Politics, Patronage & Public Works – The Administration of New South Wales 1842-1900.
Vol 1
- P2790 L&DFHS Inc. Annual Reports 2022-23
- P2790 Hartley - Big Back Yard - Donated by Terry Fitzpatrick
- P2795 Scattering the Good Seed - 100 Years of Baptists in Bathurst (Donated by Jan Saundercock)
- P2790 The Franciscans of Rydal - The History of St. Bonaventure College 1918-1925
Written & donated by Helen Butler



The college was established by the Franciscan Friars in 1918 and holds a unique place in the history of the order in Australia.

The origins of the college and the key people in its establishment and operation are outlined, using original sources and letters. The reasons for the closure of the college after just seven years are explained.

Helen Butler captures the enduring legacy of the college and cements its place in Australian Catholic History.

Copies available from the author :

email: helen.e.butler@bigpond.com.au

CHAPEL HOUSE, RYDAL

Being one of the most famous buildings in the district, the property known as Chapel House, had its origin with the Queen Victoria Inn, built in the 1830s. The complex of buildings is a mix of Colonial, Georgian, Federation and Bungalow Styles.

Its second Innkeeper was Henry Rotton who became licensee in 1839. He was known as a keen businessman, acquired great wealth and became a member of Parliament for Hartley 1859-1864. His respectable position did not mean he had a completely respectable reputation as he was charged with supplying spirits to convicts through

the Queen Victoria Inn. The Inn lost its importance when the road to Mt Lambie was diverted, and the railway was pushed beyond Rydal.

Another phase of life for the Inn came when the Franciscan Order purchased the property in 1917 as a seminary known as Mt Alverna and the residential school known as Bonaventure College. It closed in 1925. Ignatius John Doggett, born in Market Street Rydal, who was the first Australian born Franciscan Bishop, was educated here.

David and Ethel Anderson owned the property for a time after they sold the licence of the Alexander Hotel in the 1960s. During their time they called the property Glen Rock after the coalmine Ethel's

father had leased in the Newcastle area.

Mary Hamilton was another well-known owner of the property.

Yet another life for Chapel House was when the famous artist John Olsen and his wife lived there for a few years.

Jo & Michael Maxwell owned the property from 1998 to 2018. Jo Maxwell, through her family, has the longest connection of all with the Chapel House as Jo, through her mother, Ailsa Fulton, is a direct descendant of Lydia Fulton who was given the land in 1842, on which the Queen Victoria Inn was built.

Lydia was the daughter of Reverend Henry Fulton, an Englishman who had been ordained a Minister of the Church of Ireland. However, he was implicated in the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and was sentenced as a political prisoner for transportation to Australia. He arrived on the Minerva on 11 January 1800. By November 1800 he had been given a conditional pardon and by 1808 he had a full pardon. He was made the assistant chaplain to

the Hawkesbury area. Fulton supported Captain William Bligh in the Rum Rebellion of 1808.

During Governor Macquarie's time in the colony, Fulton was made minister in charge of the parish of Richmond and Castlereagh and was a Justice of the Peace. He was a very good scholar and interested in education and a very respected man of the colony. Such is the respect of Henry Fulton in the Hawkesbury area there is even a school named after him, the Henry Fulton Public School, Cranebrook.

For services to the ministry in the Hawkesbury area his daughter Lydia was given a grant of land at Rydal.

Although there was certainly a garden at Chapel House when the Maxwells arrived, it has now been transformed into one of the great gardens of the district.

Source: <https://www.rydal.com.au/chapel-house>
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RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

27/22 - Researching Alexander Ramsay

28/22 - Researching HAMMOND family, a family from Blayney, Sunny Corner and Meadow Flat.

29/22 - Researching the JONES family who lived at Bowenfels in the 1920s.

30/22 - GLYNN family.

31/22 - DREW family.

32/22 - John McINTOSH of Lowther.

33/22 - John Thomas CREELEY.

34/22 - Researching William MATTHEWS and wife (?) Margaret Hewson BERESFORD. Son: Norman William Hewson Matthews b.1914 m: Ada DAINER c1945 . Margaret m: Harry TONKIN c1951, d: 1966, Lithgow. Harry Tonkin d: 1962. Also Herbert HARRADINE of 51 Academy Street, Lithgow.

1/23 - Searching for a baptismal certificate for Honora Catherine SHEEHAN.

2/23 - Searching for BRINKWORTH, owner of Mt Lambie roadhouse.

3/23 - Italian immigrant Christi CARRATTI and descendants.

4/23- Searching for the burial site for John NICHOL, a state trooper at Ben Bullen. He died in the attempt to capture bushrangers and was thrown from his horse.

5/23 - John McKEOWN and Robert BUTLER. Anne MYERS married Robert Butler 1849. Death of Robert? Anne's connection with John McKeown. Lived in Hartley, Portland, Mudgee and Queensland

10/23 – ORCHARD family

11/23 - Mary DOYLE'S Corner Store