

The Ryde Recorder

Journal & Newsletter of the Ryde District Historical Society Inc. and Family History Group



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Published March, June, September and December annually

ISSN 10337450

Volume 57, No. 1

March, 2023

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Ryde and Eastwood News,
RCC Local Studies Libraries and Customer
Service

Howard's Garage at Willandra, 25 November 1976
RDHS Collection: img 05350

All Ryde District Historical Society Inc's Local and General History and Family History Group meetings take place at 10 am on the second Saturday of each month (February to November) at historic "Willandra", 770 Victoria Road, cnr Devlin Street, Ryde. Enter by turning left at end of Willandra Street to street parking outside eastern gate of building. Entry door is at rear of building on Victoria Road side.

Society's **Phone Number: (02) 9807 7137** Fridays only (10-2pm) or leave a message at other times.

Editor: Kim Phillips
President: Kim Phillips
Secretary: Betty Willis
Website: www.rydehistory.org.au

Ryde District Historical Society volunteers are willing to carry out research in its archives and resources at \$20 an hour. A fee of \$20 will be charged for the initial research – if longer the applicant will be advised before the work is carried out. Please forward a cheque for this amount with your inquiry. A fee of \$5 will be charged for researchers using the Society's Archives. Photocopying is charged at 20 cents a sheet.

PLEASE NOTE: A \$2 donation will be accepted from visitors to the Ryde District Historical Society's meetings. Everyone welcome.

RDHS membership subscriptions are due in January each year. Membership will cease as at 31 March if unpaid. \$30 individuals, \$40 family, \$25 pensioner/student.

RDHS Banking details: Westpac Bank, Ryde BSB 032088, Account 801289, Ryde District Historical Society

Photographs taken by RDHS at RDHS functions (including Open Days, meetings, workshops, conferences) will be used as the Society sees fit, in brochures, advertising material, publications etc. If you do not wish your photograph to be used, please advise the Society's photographer on the day.

Please note that any conclusions or opinions expressed in the Ryde Recorder are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Ryde District Historical Society Inc

WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 11 March at 10 am	Special General Meeting - Constitution General Meeting – Stephen Ford <i>Early Colonial Musicians</i>
Sunday 19 March 11am – 2pm	Open House <i>Willandra</i>
Saturday 8 April	No meeting due to Easter
Sunday 16 April 11am – 2pm	Open House <i>Willandra</i> National Trust Heritage Festival: Shared Stories
Saturday 22 April	Excursion to Cockatoo Island, meeting between 10.15-10.30
Saturday 13 May at 10 am	General Meeting – Bill Phippen – <i>Kathleen-Muriel Butler and the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge</i>
Sunday 21 May 11am – 2pm	Open House <i>Willandra</i>
Saturday 10 June at 10 am	General Meeting – Richard de Grijjs ANMM <i>From the First Fleet to the Harbour Bridge: Sydney's astronomical beginnings</i>
Sunday 18 June 11am – 2pm	Open House <i>Willandra</i>

RDHS Subscriptions 2023

Subscriptions for 2023 are now due:

Individuals \$30, Family \$40, Pensioner/student \$25, Print copy of *The Recorder* +\$10

Subscriptions need to be paid in order to receive further copies of the Recorder

2023 Annual General Meeting and Election

RDHS held its Annual General meeting on 11 February. Many thanks to those of you who attended. Elections for the 2023 Committee were held, however two positions were not filled and became casual vacancies. Nominations from two of our members have now seen these positions filled. So, the 2023 Committee is:

President	Kim Phillips	Committee member	Lesley Gibb
Vice President	Helen Patterson	Committee member	Colin Kilduff
Secretary	Betty Willis	Committee member	Peter Rich
Treasurer	Christine Jones		

Public Officer Christine Sanderson

2023 President's Report

Kim Phillips

I would like to thank those of you who have continued to support the Society through your membership. Without you the Society would not be able to keep on with the work that we do. And also, many, many thanks to your Executive - Vice President: Tina Bean, Treasurer: Christine Jones, General Executive: Peter Rich, Lesley Gibb and Colin Kilduff and our Public Officer Christine Sanderson. Special thanks to Betty Willis who helps with membership and meeting minutes and many other aspects of the Society.

Also thanks those people who assist us on Fridays and at other times – our open houses, speaking events, book sales, festivals, research enquiries and so on. It is through your support that we continue to be a viable organisation. If you would like to be more involved with the Society, even in any small way, please let us know.

Thanks also to our two patrons, Judith Godden and John Booth, for your continuing support.

We have been fairly busy this year. We managed to hold all of our regular monthly meetings, something that we have not been able to do since 2019. And, we have been here most Fridays, working away.

As you all know, the City of Ryde Council owns Willandra, but they are more than pleased to involve us in their events. We have held a couple of joint events with them recently. A Seniors' Day in 2022 was heavily attended after it was postponed due to rain. We held another Seniors' Day yesterday (10 February), with over 90 people attending. This means that more people are able to see the house and learn what we are doing. We can now spread the word of our events through the Council's online media, reaching a greater number of people. We have also managed to have Willandra added to the Council's list of properties to be cleaned and a cleaner comes in once a month.

The Council has appointed a new Heritage Officer, Fiona Mann, and we are working with her in an effort to have the NBN connected to Willandra. As it is a heritage property this is taking some time to work through, but Fiona is supporting us and working through the necessary requirements.

We have received a grant from RCC for \$2,200. This is being used to scan five Ryde Council letterbooks covering the period 1870 to 1920. These will be in PDF format and we can then work on indexing them.

We will again be working with Macquarie University within their PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) project. This allows us students to assist with, or work on new projects, for 75 hours each.

From 19 March we will be holding our regular Sunday Open House. We had discussed, pre-Covid, the possibility of having a speaker at these Sundays, holding a workshop or other events both for our members and to engage with the public. With this in mind we are hoping to have a discussion session with our members following the March General meeting to look at possibilities.

We will also be trying to arrange a couple of excursions throughout the year. If you have any ideas or preferences, please let us know.

So, it's looking to be another busy year ahead. We have a full calendar for our Saturday meetings. To see what's ahead, please have a look at our web site at www.rydehistory.org.au/whats-on/

So again, thank you so very much for your continuing support. The work done by the Society is important and without your help, we would not be able to do it.

Treasurer's Report

Christine Jones

	2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
INCOME														
Membership		480.00	200.00	525.00	125.00	55.00	80.00	85.00	nil	30.00	65.00	nil	nil	1,645.00
Donations		25.00		3.00	65.00	10.75	5.00	6.00		100.00	246.80	30.00	20.00	511.55
Grants		4,776.00												4,776.00
Postage		5.00		10.00										15.00
Sales Books				100.00	250.00	35.00						20.00		405.00
Sales Jpegs/USBs		40.00				50.00						35.00		125.00
Book Sales Women of Ryde							45.00						20.00	65.00
Book Sales Meadowbank <u>Probus</u>							50.00							50.00
Book Sales June <u>Mtg</u>							80.00							80.00
Book Sales 20th June							25.00							25.00
Book Sale <u>Warrelida</u>							15.00	15.00		15.00				45.00
Open Day History Series (3)							45.00							45.00
Open Day Tram Book							25.00							25.00
Open Day Historic Ryde							20.00							20.00
<u>Rebank</u> of Float							100.00							100.00
Digital Images Macquarie Uni.							350.00							350.00
Open Day St. Anne's Book							40.00							40.00
2nd Hand Books (Open Day)							150.00							150.00
Pictorial History Ryde							25.00							25.00
History Series Gladesville								15.00						15.00
History Series <u>Bensonville</u>								15.00						15.00
2nd Hand Books								29.00	27.00	5.00				61.00
Late Payment fee refunded									15.00					15.00
History Series No. 10									15.00					15.00
History Series <u>Denistons</u>										30.00				30.00
History Series Meadowbank										15.00		15.00		30.00
Tramway Book										25.00				25.00
Tramway Books ARHS											270.00			270.00
Book Sales Granny Smith											245.00			245.00
John & Mary Small Book Sales											85.00			85.00
St. Anne's Church on the Hill											40.00		120.00	160.00
Book Sales Nov. Open Day												50.00		50.00
Research													20.00	20.00
Christmas Party Books & Raffle													151.00	151.00
Image Sales										5.00				5.00
Miscellaneous			421.60											421.60
INCOME TOTALS		5,326.00	621.60	638.00	440.00	150.75	1,055.00	165.00	57.00	225.00	951.80	150.00	331.00	10,111.15

	2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EXPENDITURE													
Telstra		70.00	70.00	70.00		155.00	70.00		155.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	870.00
Stamps		110.00											110.00
Supplies		10.40		134.21									144.61
Postage		4.65	4.65	9.55						17.00			35.85
AFFHO		40.00											40.00
RAHS Insurance						426.30							426.30
Officeworks			4,706.93										4,706.93
Service NSW			48.21										48.21
NSWACT Assn F.H. Society						20.00							20.00
Vistaprint Banner for open Days							139.21						139.21
Telstra (Late Payment)													269.02
Officeworks Supplies							269.02						
Materials for Draught Excluder								24.37					24.37
Refund of Postage								12.70					12.70
Cable, Paper Bins, Clock									19.75				19.75
Umart Cables & Power 8GB									98.00				98.00
Net Registry (2 Years)									51.95		131.95		183.90
Float				100.00									100.00
SAG				85.00									85.00
Granny Smith Stall										212.00			212.00
July Dawson Award Certificates										150.00		50.00	200.00
Traces Magazine (3 years)											129.00		129.00
TP-LINK Mini USB Adaptor												22.00	22.00
R.A.H.S. Membership												119.00	119.00
Speaker Gifts				68.10									68.10
	235.05	4,829.79	466.86	NIL		601.30	478.23	37.07	324.70	449.00	330.95	261.00	8,083.95

Mapping Ryde and Field of Mars Cemetery

Kim Phillips

In 2016 some members of the Society commenced work on our digital database – Mapping Ryde. The database currently contains nearly 70,000 items and images, categorised mainly into three sections: people, places and events. One of these places is the Field of Mars Cemetery.

2021 saw RDHS members and Macquarie University students working together to photograph and transcribe headstones in the Presbyterian and Congregational sections at Field of Mars Cemetery. Around 5,000 photographs of graves, crypts, tombs, headstones and memorials have been taken and the text transcribed. RDHS members Maureen Copley, Marg Farlow, Sabina Fielding-Smith, Chris Jones, Helen Patterson, Chris Sanderson and Betty Willis spent hours at the cemetery checking the work of the students and checking the exact location of graves against maps. Covid did slow this process but all this information has now been added to Mapping Ryde. The Congregational section is complete, the Presbyterian section has about 20% still to do. The remaining sections are yet to be started.

What have we collected? What does the information look like? An interactive map has been made for each section currently being worked on. Once you know the grave number, the link on the map will take you directly to the grave.

Ryde District Historical Society
Mapping Ryde

Field of Mars Cemetery
Congregational - Independent Section:
Interactive Map

Interactive map of Congregational section
RDHS Mapping Ryde

Buried in grave 381 is Mary Ann McINTOSH who died on 8 May 1942. At the time of her death Mary was living at 44 Regent Street, Ryde (now Putney).


High resolution photographs of the grave and headstones are attached, together with copies of Mary's death and funeral notice from the *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper. This information is also linked to her address at 44 Regent Street, Ryde.

Ryde District Historical Society
Mapping Ryde

Field of Mars Cemetery
1 Wellington Road, Ryde

[Return to Field of Mars Cemetery Page](#)

Section: Congregational
Plot No: 381



Name: Mary Ann McINTOSH
Date of Death: 8 May 1942
Age: 69
Date of Birth:
Transcription: In Loving Memory of My dear Wife & our Mother Mary Ann McIntosh Died 8th May 1942. Aged 69 Years.

Latitude of Ryde NSW (33.945688, 151.139111)

Grave page
RDHS Mapping Ryde

McINTOSH.—The Relatives and Friends of the late MARY ANN McINTOSH are invited to attend her Funeral; to leave her late residence, 44 Regent Street, Ryde, THIS AFTERNOON, at 3.15 o'clock, for the Field of Mars Cemetery. **MOTOR FUNERALS. LIMITED, A.F.D.A., 8 Railway Parade, Eastwood. Tele., Ryde 855.**

McINTOSH.—The Members and Friends of the Eastwood Christadelphian Ecclesia are invited to attend the Funeral of their late MEMBER, Sister Mary McIntosh; to leave her late residence, 44 Regent Street, Ryde, for the Field of Mars Cemetery, Independent Section, **TO-DAY, SATURDAY, 9th, at 3.15 p.m. A. MILNE, Recorder.**




RDHS Photo Reference: [Mary Ann McINTOSH](#)
Date: 9 May 1942
Details: *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper (NSW) 9 May 1942, page 18

Funeral notice for Mary McINTOSH
RDHS Mapping Ryde

Ryde District Historical Society
Mapping Ryde


Regent Street, Ryde: Named for the Prince Regent who later became King George IV

[Street Views](#) [Properties](#) [People](#)

36 Regent Street 
44 Regent Street 
46 Regent Street 

Grid D7
Beaconsfield, Crows Cottage, Rosedale, Rochester, Woodrose

First Land Grants



People

Surname	Given	House Number	House Name	1901	1902
BERANCO	Cyril Victor Moyle	4			
CHANCE	Harry	14			
CHESTNUT	David	14			
CHESTNUT	William	14			
DAVIS	Frederick David		Crows Cottage		
HEALEY	Lionel Edward		Rochester		
NEELY	Thomas Francis	4	Beaconsfield		
MORTIMER	Mary Ann	44			
RANDALL	Harold Sherland		Rochester		
ROXBURGH	Raymond Donald				
WINDOR	Harry				
WOODLAND	William Joseph	4			

Page for Regent Street, Putney
RDHS Mapping Ryde

Any information about the individual that is held digitally by the society is cross referenced and can be accessed. For instance, information found when people were researched as a part of the Society's Ryde Goes to War I and II projects, is all cross referenced to known addresses, headstones and memorials.

Work continues on the Mapping Ryde project. If you are interested in being involved, please let us know!

Bill Stacey – Founding President of the Ryde District Historical Society

By Kevin Shaw

If you wander the grounds at *Willandra*, headquarters of the RDHS, you will come across a small monument at the base of our flagpole that commemorates our founding President, Albert William “Bill” Stacey. Pat Smyth wrote a history of the early years of the Society for the November 2007 issue of *The Ryde Recorder* and she started with the following paragraph:

The existence of Ryde District Historical Society is owed to Ryde Rotary Club, and especially to its President, Mr. A.W. (Bill) Stacey, whose idea it was to make the foundation of a Historical Society for the area Rotary's project for his presidential year.

A public meeting was held in October 1961 at the old Ryde Town Hall in Blaxland Road and, with the support of Alderman C M Cutler, historian Colin Roderick and *The Weekly Times* proprietor John Booth, it was agreed to arrange a first meeting of a Ryde District Historical Society and this was held in December of 1961. It appears that it is a tradition of Rotary International that new Presidents espouse a special project.



The Memorial at 'Willandra' and Bill Speaking at Ryde Civic Centre on Australia Day 1976. Bill placed great store on supporting the citizenship ceremonies each year.

Albert William “Bill” Stacey was born on 1 September 1903 at Inverell, northern NSW (Reg. No. 30776), the son of James Stacey and Edith nee Mawkes. Bill was the second of seven children, four girls and three boys. He married Florence May Hough, known as May, daughter of Michael Joseph Hough and Matilda Jane nee Stewart, on 3 January 1928 at St Stephen's Church, Newtown (RN 2519). May was born on 3 November 1904, also in Inverell (RN 33058), and was christened on 14 March 1905 in St Mary's, Bundarra.

Bill had trained as a teacher in the NSW public school system and there are some details of his early career in the Public Service Lists:

- In 1926 and 1927, he was an Assistant Teacher at Adelong District School.
- In 1928 and 1929, he was an Assistant at Murrumburrah I. H. School

From 1930 to 1980 Bill and May Stacey were in the following Electoral Rolls:

- 1930 and 1932, 34 Wombat St, Forbes, (“school teacher” and “home duties”),
- 1933, 20 Byng St Orange, (“school teacher” and “home duties”),
- 1934, 1935, 65 Maxwell St, Wellington, (“school teacher” and “home duties”),
- 1936 and 1937, School Residence, Murrurundi, (“school teacher” and “home duties”),
- 1943, District School, Quirindi, (“school teacher” and “home duties”),
- 1949, 68 Brae St, Inverell, (“school inspector” and “home duties”) (His mother Edith Stacey was living at 28 Bannockburn Rd, Inverell.),
- 1954, 54 Tozer St, Kempsey, (“school inspector” and “home duties”) (They were accompanied by their daughter Laurel Jean, “bank officer”).),
- 1958 to 1980, 1 Commissioners Road, Ryde, (“inspector of schools” and “home duties”).

From the above lists, we can theorise that Bill was promoted to Principal at Murrurundi in 1936 and to Inspector at Inverell in 1949. In fact, his appointment to Inspector was at Inverell in 1947 (*Government Gazette of the State of NSW*, Friday 26 September 1947, Page 2305). Also, according to numerous articles in *The Inverell Times*, he was a dominant golfer in the town during the late 1940s.

Perhaps Bill was sporty and this was why, from 1955 to 1957, he served on the National Fitness Council of NSW, as reported in the *Government Gazette* of Friday 10 June 1955, Page 1567:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. - National Fitness Council of New South Wales. - HIS Excellency, the Governor, and the Executive Council has approved the appointment of Mr. Albert William Stacey as representative of the Institute of Inspectors of Schools on the National Fitness Council of New South Wales in the place of Mr. Dallas Arnold Dunstan. - J. J. CAHILL, Premier.

There was a similar notice in the *Government Gazette* of Friday 5 July 1957, Page 2077, when he was replaced by the next representative, Rowland Stanley James Dart.

Because he was an educator, Bill’s first project within the RDHS was the compilation of a booklet entitled *A Basic History of Ryde*. The first edition was published in 1964 and the Preface states:

This small booklet is an attempt both to preserve and to disseminate knowledge of the past. It has been kept brief and simple in an endeavour to capture the interest of the citizens and to provide data for school pupils [author’s underlining].

This *Basic History* was reprinted in 1966 and a new edition came out in 1976 with extra information, including a “chronicle of recent events” at the back. There was also a third edition in 1981. Like the earlier history books about Ryde, *Ryde, 1790 – 1926* (edited by R Carmichael) and *Wallumetta* (written by M C I Levy in 1947), all the characters of *Basic History* are either settlers or pioneers and the word convict does not appear. It was not until *A Place of Pioneers* (Philip Geeves, 1970) that the word convict could be used; however, Geeves did call his second chapter “Reluctant Pioneers”.

Despite some minor errors and slightly outdated emphases, Bill Stacey’s *A Basic History of Ryde* is still a good introduction to the European history of our area. When I joined the RDHS in 1987, Bill was still presenting talks based on his booklet and he could describe the settlement of the district in considerable detail. I heard his talk a few times in the early years of my membership.

Bill lost his wife May on 12 May 1990 and the following notices appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 14 May 1990, page 34:

STACEY, Florence May. - May 12, 1990, of West Ryde, formerly of Kempsey, Inverell and Quirindi, beloved wife of Bill and loved mother of Laurel and John and loved nanna of Debbie, Shane, Nigel, Sandra, Mark and Christopher. Aged 85 years.

STACEY. - The funeral of the late Mrs. MAY STACEY of West Ryde will leave St Anne's Anglican Church, corner Victoria Road and Church Street, Ryde, tomorrow (Tuesday), after a service commencing at 10.15 a.m. for the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. - In lieu of flowers, well-wishers

may forward donations to the Diabetic Association of N.S.W., 250 Pitt Street, Sydney. ALBERT & MEYER, THORNLEIGH.

Bill himself died on 12 March 1996, described as “late of Eastwood” in his death notice in the *SMH* of 16 March. We can see from May’s death notice that he had two children and several grandchildren but there is a sense in which the members of the RDHS are also his descendants.



Left: Bill Stacey planting the Bicentennial Tree in 1988. Right: The Bicentennial Tree in 2016.

The War Memorial Honour Board at West Ryde Baptist Church

Colin Kilduff



First West Ryde Baptist Church
RDHS Collection: img 07370



Second West Ryde Baptist Church before
opening in 1929
RDHS Collection: img 07377

The West Ryde Baptist Church contains a memorial board honouring those of its members who served in the Second World War. The board was originally installed and dedicated in the second church building in 1946.

In Baptist churches of the time, decisions were usually made at monthly meetings of the deacons, who were elected lay people. The various discussions behind the original proposal and background apparently went largely unrecorded. For example, the deacons decided on 7 August 1945 to proceed with the honour roll and the minutes imply previous discussions on the subject.

The minutes of the deacons meeting of 4 December 1945 record that "... The matter of implementing the Honour Roll was gone into. The

cooperation of the Baptist National Service Auxiliary be sought as to obtaining a complete list ..."



West Ryde Baptist Church 1963
RDHS Collection: img07393



WW2 Honour Roll
Photograph: Colin Kilduff

The minutes for the meeting in January 1946 recorded that all the eligible names should be inscribed irrespective of length of service, unit or sex and that all ranks be dispensed with. It was also decided to have the service of memorial on the evening of Sunday 17 March. This would coincide with the 22nd Anniversary of the church.

The same meeting decided to invite Rev E J Rogers, a former minister of the church, to give the address and perform the unveiling of the Roll. Rev H E Evans, the present Pastor, should also give a short address. Although there were several soldiers named E J Rogers who enlisted during the war, he is almost certainly the Edward James Rogers who was living at West Ryde when he enlisted in 1942 and whose service number was NX169209.

In later years the building needed to be enlarged. With the remodelling, the grand gable with its rose window could not be accommodated. When the third enlarged and remodelled building opened in 1962 the war memorial board was reinstalled.

Unveiling of Honour Roll
and
Service of Remembrance

22nd Church Anniversary

West Ryde Baptist Church

Sunday, 17th March, 1946
7-15 p.m.

Conducted by the Pastor:

REV. H. E. EVANS

Assisted by

REV. E. J. ROGERS

"Lest we forget"

HONOUR ROLL

List of men and women associated with the West Ryde Baptist Church, N.S.W., who served in the World War, 1939-45, as appearing on the Honour Roll unveiled and dedicated on Sunday, 17th March, 1946:

NAVY

ALLEN, C. I.
BINGHAM, H. J.
DONALD, B.
MATHIE, K.
MILLER, G. T.

ARMY

ANDREWS, K. C.
BROWN, L. W.
CHIVERS, G. M.
FISHER, A.
GILBERT, B.
GRIFFIN, M.
HOOD, F. W.
HOOD, J. F.
HAYES, N.
HARRIS, A. S.

HOGGETT, A. J.

† HOGGETT, N. V. P.O.W.
HOGGETT, A.
ILIFFE, G.
KING, F. L.
† MILLER, A. M. P.O.W.
MILLER, E.
NANCE, J. A.
PRATT, A. R.
PRATT, R.
† RENALS, G. P.O.W.
ROGERS, E. J.
SHAW, J.
† SPURWAY, M. P.O.W.
SPILLER, A. C.
SAYLE, H. T.
† WHEELER, J. E. P.O.W.
WHEAT, G. F.

AIR FORCE

BYLEVELD, A. H.
BUXTON, E.
BAKER, D. F.
BOLIN, W.
DAVIS, F. C.
FORRESTER, J. K.
GHEST, A.
HOOD, C.
HOOD, H.
HARDING, A. H.
ILIFFE, J.
MURTON, M. H.
MORTON, A.
NEILL, C. W.

† Paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

"Greater love hath no man"

Sources:
 Ryde District Historical Society Archives
 West Ryde Community Church (a special thank you to Mr David Evans who passed on relevant material)

Shortly after Rogers took up his position at West Ryde, the *Sydney Morning Herald* ("The Churches. West Ryde Baptist. The Rev. E. J. Rogers" 28/1/1939, p. 11) reported that he had served at several churches, most recently Dulwich Hill, and that he had recently celebrated the silver jubilee (25 years) of his ordination.

The Ryde Recorder



Rev E J Rogers 1939-1942
RDHS Collection img07379

Ernest James Rogers was born in 1880 (NSW BDM 24421/1880) at Sofala, to William and Mary Jane Rogers. He married Florence Edith Stocker in 1912 (NSW BDM 3055/1912). He was more than 60 years old when he enlisted with the Defence Forces (NAA.gov.au Name Search, under Army Personnel Records). He served as a chaplain.

Ernest died in 1950, age 70 years (NSW BDM 29394/1950). The funeral notice mentioned that he was late of West Ryde and Kurri Kurri. The service was to be held at Central Baptist Church with the burial in the Independent section at Rookwood.

From the Archives

Betty Willis

I was going through the old Ryde Recorders in the Reading Room at *Willandra* and came across the following article in which the writer certainly believed in not mincing his words:

1st May 1967:

Extract from Sydney Gazette, 17th April, 1803.

LIFE AT KISSING POINT

On Thursday night last, a settler at Kissing Point attempted to put a period to his worldly difficulties, by scientifically applying a noose to his neck, and turning himself off in due form. The noise occasioned by this dernier resource alarmed the young girl in an adjoining room, who, with a remarkable presence of mind, severed the suspending cord, and thus, though not without much difficulty, restored the care-devoted victim to the current of anxiety by which he had been precipitated to so criminal an attempt upon his own existence; and which had been occasioned, as we are informed, by a super-abundance of sensibility, and an insupportable vexation, occasioned by the elopement of an amiable partner, as paramour, to add to his mortification, wore a wooden leg.

Another item I saw in the Ryde Recorder of 1st June 1967 it is recorded that at the last meeting of the Society, Roland Trevitt read from the first of the series "Fragments" which is collecting from information given in interviews with old identities of Ryde. Unfortunately it doesn't give the name of the Ryde identity who spoke this "fragment"

'Let us pick up all the fragments we can and sift and sort them.

Placed together, the pieces that remain will eventually give us a true picture.'

It is in effect what members of Historical Societies are doing, collecting whatever historical facts can be found and hopefully putting them together to show the complete history of an event, a building etc.