Convict Connections

An Interest Group of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc
Covering the Colonial era – convicts & others

THE CHRONICLE

Miniature Portrait Medallion of
William Charles Wentworth
by Thomas Woolner 1854

February 2024

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V. Blomer (Editor)
For Convict Connections.

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FRONT COVER

The portrait medallion on the front cover is of William Charles Wentworth. A copy of the medallion was donated to the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra by the Simpson family but is not always on display. The original was crafted by English sculptor and painter, Thomas Woolner, who briefly visited Australia between 1852 and 1854. He and two friends (one being the nephew of the governor of Victoria) went first to the Victorian goldfields hoping to make their fortunes. Woolner was not impressed with the conditions on the fields and the lack of gold they found, so he resorted to his artistic talents instead, first in Melbourne and then in Sydney.

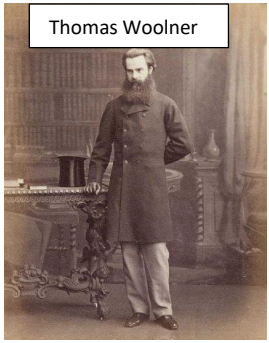
To make the medallions Woolner had to use local clay, grind gypsum and make his own tools. In Melbourne he received commissions for his miniature medallions for which he charged £5 each. They were modelled in clay and then cast in bronze. On relocating to Sydney he opened a studio in Hunter Street for six months. The portrait of Wentworth was just one of around thirty miniatures Woolner made of prominent citizens.

The Wentworth miniature portrait was created before February 1854 as the *Sydney Illustrated News* praised the way Woolner had captured the likeness of his subject.

A fund had been organized to commission a life-size statue of Wentworth, and Woolner was hoping to gain the assignment. The newspaper declared that *"We hope Mr. Woolner may succeed in getting the statue, and if Mr Wentworth has any spice of vanity in his composition, we should imagine he hopes so too; for in the hands of such an artist, he could not fail to be represented with all those attributes of force of character, mental energy, and manly independence, which his countrymen and his admirers so fondly believe him to possess."*

On writing back home in March 1854, Woolner said – *You will have seen by the newspapers I sent how highly a medallion of Wentworth I did is spoken of.*

The *Empire* newspaper on 2 June 1854 reported on Woolner's medallions and said that the portrait of Wentworth was particularly admired by lovers of Fine Arts. "*No sooner was it exhibited, than commissions began to crowd upon the artist to an extent that he could not possibly undertake within the limited time that he proposed to stay. Undeterred by the handsome price which the artist was encouraged to fix upon his labour, the Sydney cognoscenti were only anxious to possess a specimen of his skill, and more than this, the artist is desirous of acknowledging that he has met with a consideration and hospitality which he cannot regard as personal to himself, but as an intelligent homage to the arts which refine and elevate mankind…"*


Thomas Woolner

Although Woolner was kept busy with his portrait medallions, there was obviously not enough larger sculpting work available to satisfy his talent. The materials required for life-size statues in bronze or marble were not even available in the colony. He decided to return to England to put forward his case for obtaining the commission for the Wentworth statue.

His skill in capturing the facial features of his subjects was lauded by the newspaper editor of the *Empire* who was pleased to announce that Woolner had agreed to exhibit his works in their new office for a few days before his departure. The cast of Wentworth was described as being nine inches in diameter and it was said that the likeness of the man captured his very soul.

The *Illustrated Sydney News* was also complimentary of the Wentworth portrait. The sculptor's departure being imminent, readers were reminded of the last minute exhibit and that Woolner was taking subscriptions for medallions which he would cast in bronze from plaster casts when he returned to England. They would be ready to ship back to Sydney within twelve months.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* in April 1854 printed an endorsement of Woolner's work by Mr Wentworth, who had returned to England the previous month. Unfortunately for Woolner, who had been hoping to secure the commission for the statue, Wentworth wrote to the authorities stating that he no longer wanted to go ahead with the statue and that the money should be used to create a fellowship for the College of Sydney. Thomas Woolner, denied of such an opportunity, went on to have a successful career in England.

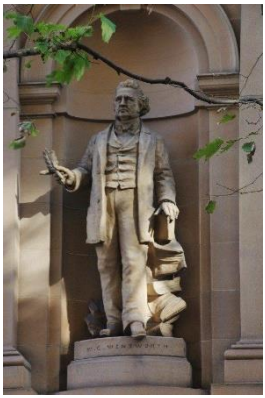
William Wentworth returned to Sydney for a brief time in 1860-61 to lead the NSW Legislative Council. It seems he was not entirely happy that money had been spent on a statue when it could have been put to better use for educational purposes, or perhaps he may not have approved of the chosen sculptor.

It was an Italian sculptor, Pietro Tenerani, and not Thomas Woolner, who was commissioned to make the statue. Made of white Carrara marble, it had arrived in Sydney in November 1861 but was not unveiled until June 1862.

There had been much debate about whether the statue should be placed indoors or outdoors. The final decision was that the imposing statue should stand in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney. Wentworth was the main instigator for a university in the colony and was its founder, so it is fitting that his statue remains there – despite more recent attempts by anti-colonists calling for its removal.

The fund that had been set up in 1853 to raise money for a statue of Mr Wentworth still had some £600 left over when the statue was finally erected, thus showing the man's popularity. William Charles Wentworth died in England in 1872.

There are two other statues of William Charles Wentworth worth mentioning. One appears on the façade of the Department of Lands building in Sydney which was built in two stages between 1876 and 1892. There are 23 sandstone figures in the niches of the building. Some of the niches are still empty.



Sculptor Tommaso Sani was responsible for carving the one of Wentworth. It was unveiled in 1891. The other statues are of Matthew Flinders, Hamilton Hume, Sir Joseph Banks, Charles Sturt, Captain Arthur Phillip, William Wills, George Bass, Robert O'Hara Burke, William Hovell, John Oxley, Ludwig Leichhardt, Sir Thomas Mitchell, Allan Cunningham, Sir John Robertson, Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson, James Farnell, Sir Henry Parkes, Sir James Martin, Daniel Deniehy, Sir George Grey, John Macdouall Stuart and James Meehan.

Wentworth is shown with a quill in his right hand and his left hand rests on a pile of books. Dr Manning Clark described Wentworth as "*Australia's greatest native son*". He was an "*explorer, a master political manipulator, a barrister, a newspaper proprietor, and a physical giant of a man who was afraid of nothing and no one*." Born in Australia but educated overseas, Wentworth possessed wit and high intelligence. He zealously advocated trial by jury, self-government and an Australian Confederation.

The latest statue of William Charles Wentworth was erected at Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains in 2016. A local sculptor had been commissioned to sculpt a bronze bust to mark the bicentenary of the crossing of the mountains in 1813. William Wentworth's 3xgreatgrandson spoke at the unveiling and described his ancestor as a lawyer, politician, jockey, and Blue Mountains explorer.

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TRIVIA QUESTION?

An Australia Day quiz on overnight talk-back radio proved to be interesting. One of the questions was "**Which was the first ship of the First Fleet to arrive in Botany Bay?**"

I knew the names of the 11 ships which made up the First Fleet, but I did not know which one sailed into the Bay first.

However, I was amazed by some of the answers – especially the gentleman who guessed that it may have been the *Mayflower*. The *Endeavour* and the *Bounty* were other guesses – and both were at least part of our history. The *Sirius* was also a popular guess, and at least it was part of the First Fleet. It was also my guess, and it was wrong.

The Arrival of the First Fleet into Botany Bay (not Port Jackson) –

Supply	18 January 1788
Alexander	19 January 1788
Friendship	19 January 1788
Scarborough	19 January 1788
Sirius	20 January 1788
Charlotte	20 January 1788
Lady Penrhyn	20 January 1788
Prince of Wales	20 January 1788
Golden Grove	20 January 1788
Fishburn	20 January 1788
Borrowdale	20 January 1788

MEET OUR NEW CONVENOR – BEV MURRAY.

Having read that a new convenor was needed to take over the role from retiring co-convenors, Val Blomer and Lyn Caldwell, I decided that this was an opportunity I could not resist. Aware of my short comings, I proceeded anyway, to express my interest and willingness to 'have a go!' Much to my surprise, my offer was accepted and on Sunday 11th February, I was introduced to the members of the Colonial and Convict special interest group as the new convenor.

Whilst I am thrilled about this development, I am aware of the magnitude of the task ahead of me, therefore I am delighted to have the assistance of the very talented Kate Peters. I am also aware of the wonderful work that has been done by both Lyn and Val over the preceding 30 years. During this time, they have maintained a network of genealogical contacts with a focus on convict history and heritage. They have produced a fascinating booklet entitled the "Chronicle" three times every year for circulation to other genealogical groups and many individuals. There is an impressive lending library which has amassed over the years mostly with donated books and members' books on loan. For anyone with convict ancestors, and the required evidence, it is possible to apply for a 'Certificate of Proof'. They have conducted informative meetings at the GSQ library, enabling those interested to learn and share with others. I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work. I know they have gained an impressive knowledge base along the way and had a lot of fun as well.

Thirty years ago, family history research was centred around microfilms and microfiche, which required travelling to State and Interstate Archives, and Libraries. The resulting research findings would be reported back to local family history groups and shared with other members. Today, of course, thanks to the world wide web, we can all participate in research, often from within the comfort of our homes. This poses the question; do we still need to meet as members of a special interest group? In my opinion, it is imperative that we meet in person or via Zoom, to find out how to proceed with our research and to answer questions. Perhaps we are relatively new to family history research and need guidance to help locate the right sources. Maybe we are struggling with a 'brick wall' and need the expertise of more experienced researchers. Or perhaps, we have lost the 'passion'. Being a member of a special interest group, will solve all these issues and more. I recommend that if you are not a member of the GSQ or one of the special interest groups at the GSQ, please do so.

Our Colonial and Convict Connections group provides a forum for the exchange of information and experiences for the mutual benefit of everyone. It provides the opportunity to learn, to do further research, to gain new skills and mix with like minded people. I encourage you to come along to our meetings. The dates for meetings (always held on a Sunday) this year are as follows:

14th April.
16th June.
11th August.
13th October.
8th December.

It is not imperative that you have a convict. An interest in Australian colonial history is the only pre-requisite. If attendance at the GSQ library is not possible, we also provide the option of a zoom meeting.

Despite a life-long fascination for family history, my research has been spasmodic over many years. However, I joined the GSQ in 2010, my objective being to research my paternal family history and to write a book. After several years of rewarding research, I published the book in 2019. During Covid, I completed the popular Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania.

I have been a member of the Writing group since 2010. In 2020 I started as a GSQ Blogger, a challenging and rewarding privilege. Currently I am working on my maternal family history that includes 2 intriguing convicts and I look forward to the opportunity of leading the Colonial and Convict special interest group. I have so much to learn!

CONVICT CONNECTIONS NEWS

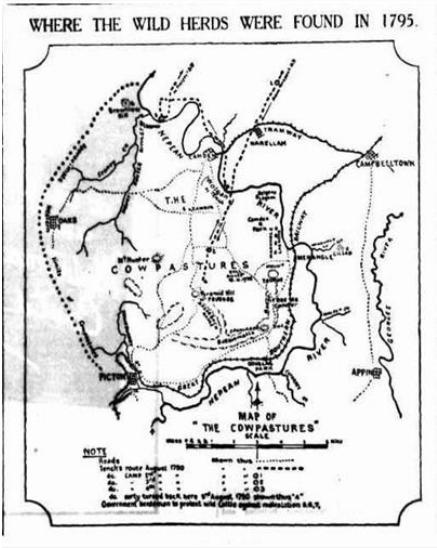
The group is in capable hands with Bev and Kate now at the helm. Although Lyn and I have decided to take a step back we will gladly assist them where we can. Both ladies are very dedicated and have new ideas to guide the group into the future.

Thank you to those who participated in the activities at our December meeting. It was a learning curve of exploration and surveying for all of us. The star attraction of the day was the Gunter chain which had belonged to Lyn's father. We made crude binoculars and had paper cut-outs of compasses and slide rules and maps – but the measuring chain was the 'real deal'! All had a role to play on the day as we 'sort of re-enacted' the building of the Great Southern Road. We had the various Governors, explorer Hamilton Hume, surveyor Major Thomas Mitchell, convicts on the iron gang and an overseer, the editor of an early newspaper, a settler and a traveler of the road.

It was literally just a matter of days after the meeting that I came across a long-forgotten box of books I had set aside to review for future Chronicles. I could not believe the co-incidence! One was titled "*Currency Lad – the Story of Hamilton Hume and the Explorers*" written by R H Webster. It is an excellent read and delves into the lives of not only Hamilton Hume, but also his family. There is great emphasis on the conditions in the colony to explain how and why Hamilton Hume became the man he was. The more you read about early Australian history, the more you realise how much more there is to learn!

THE GREAT SOUTHERN ROAD – from our December meeting.

The Great Southern Road was not the first route to the south of Sydney. Exploration to the south-west began with the finding, in 1795, of cows which had arrived with the First Fleet and had strayed five months later. Two bulls and five cows had wandered away from Sydney Cove. The area in which they were found seven years later was on the floodplains of the Nepean River. By the time the cows were found, the herd had obviously increased.



The *Sydney Morning Herald* on 13 August 1932 published a map showing where the cattle were located. Governor Hunter wanted to see the land where they were found. He assembled a party, and they left Parramatta in November 1795. The Governor proclaimed it to be known as The Cowpastures Reserve. The track they took became known as the Cowpastures Road.

By the time Hunter left the colony, and King became governor, it was estimated that the herd was between 500 and 600.

Governor King was faced with the problem of the cattle being poached so, in 1803, he issued a proclamation that banned unauthorised entry south of the Nepean River. There were over 3,000 cattle running wild in the hilly ranges and ravines and down to the banks of the Bargo River.

In 1805, while in London, John Macarthur was granted 5,000 acres of the best land in the colony. The best land was at the Cowpastures, so that is where he chose his land. He named his grant 'Camden'. Although he was initially more interested in bringing in cows from India to improve the quality of the government stock, he soon turned to sheep and was able to distribute ewes to settlers in order to further develop the merino wool industry.

After an interlude with internal problems, rum trafficking, and the governorship under Bligh, Governor Macquarie arrived in 1810 and could see a vision for the colony. He wasted no time in visiting the Cowpastures Reserve and was told that there were now up to 5,000 head of wild cattle in the area. Gradually, he had stockyards built, and many of the beasts were caught and tamed and added to the Government herd. As required, wild cattle were shot, and the meat was salted, and the hides tanned.

By 1822, the Cowpastures Reserve had 15,000 acres stocked with cattle and sheep. However, it was time to dissolve the Reserve and open the land for settlement.

The road over the Blue Mountains had opened up new land to the west. Exploration by land and sea was furthering the expansion of the colony's boundaries. The population was increasing with so many convicts being transported, and it was imperative that there was enough agricultural land to sustain the colony. Some men held extensive land holdings and had profited greatly through the use of convict labour. They wielded a lot of power and had a say in the running of the colony. Indeed, with the closure of the Cowpastures Reserve, Mr Macarthur was able to increase his land holdings to over 27,000 acres. The Governor was intent on considering the rights of emancipists who also wanted to become self-sufficient.

A great deal of public works was required as the settled areas expanded. To get supplies and stock to and from Sydney, the inhabitants in the outlying areas were making do with poor tracks. The road to Liverpool had a regular weekly service by cart, taking passengers and small parcels. The road over the Blue Mountains opened up new lands, and the same could be achieved to the south. Along the coast south of Sydney, land on the Shoalhaven River had been taken up, and it was hoped that Jervis Bay could be developed as a port.

In 1818, Mr Hamilton Hume and Surveyor James Meehan explored the land to the south. In 1820 Governor Macquarie visited the area that they had named the Goulburn Plains. Meehan was placed in charge of constructing a road from Picton to the Goulburn Plains. This Government Road would be in use until 1825.

Meanwhile exploration had been continuing. In 1821 surgeon Throsby had reached the Yass River, the Molonglo and the Murrumbidgee River. A second road was built in 1822 and known as Riley's Road. It passed through Drayton.

Governor Brisbane in 1824 asked Mr Hovell and Mr Hume to venture overland from Campbelltown to Port Phillip. Within ten days they arrived at Hume's property near Lake George. After an arduous journey crossing flooded rivers and mountainous country, they arrived at the south coast overlooking Bass Strait believing they were at Westernport. The route back deviated to find a better path, and this is basically the route we now know as the Hume Highway.

In 1829 surveyor Thomas Mitchell was appointed to oversee the building of a substantial road to Yass. The use of convict labour to build the road meant that accommodation had to be provided for the men and the guards along the route. The decision to avoid crossing the Mittagong Range necessitated the building of a stockade at Berrima in 1830.

In June 1832, Governor Bourke accompanied Mitchell to view his planned route. The first night they stayed at Hannibal Macarthur's large sheep farm at Wollondilly. Next day they inspected the progressive model farm of Mr Atkinson at Oldbury, Moss Vale. From there they followed the new line of the Great South Road to Berrima which was the site marked for a traditional English village facing the river. From there, the new route to Mittagong avoided the heavy winds and the bad road over the Mittagong Range.

In 1833 Mitchell re-routed the road to Goulburn and recommended that the road be extended and continue to Albury, then to Mitchellstown on the Goulburn River and follow a long route west of Macedon to finally reach Port Phillip.

A letter which appeared in the *Sydney Herald* on 6 January 1834 tells of the state of the southern road -

GENTLEMEN- Having noticed your repeated hints on the shameful and neglected state of the roads to the southward; surely it is high time that something was done to this road, that is every day becoming the most important in the Colony, being the great communication to the most extensive grazing districts, from whence the chief supply of animal food, and the greatest quantity of that valuable export, wool, is produced.

Seven years ago I first visited Argyle, and was driven there in a tandem, the road then being only the dray tracks on the line that was cleared, and that only here and there; and I boldly state, that with one or two exceptions, the road was even better then than it is now.

For the last two years, a most bungling attempt has been made to effect a road over the Razor Back; the work itself is the best proof of it as a failure, on the south side, towards Major Antill's, and unless great alteration is made, it will always be a most dangerous passage for wheeled carriages; and it is now with considerable difficulty that the wool drays can get up it.

The bridge at Stone Quarry has now been down two years and more; at last, another is in progress, which, when finished, will prevent the sundry upsettings of gigs, carts, drays, etc., in descending the very steep banks, about twenty feet, to cross the creek. The road from this place to Myrtle Creek is dreadful - in fact, in wet weather impassable.

From Myrtle Creek to Lupton's Inn, in the Bargo Brush, the only good piece of road on the whole line, and which was made five years ago - from Lupton's to what is called the Little Forest. Ten men, in two or three months, would remove the great number of small stumps and roots which project, and are left, I presume, at the instance of the wheelwrights and coachmakers, who probably intend presenting a piece of plate to the chief of the road makers, for taking care that these said stumps should not be removed. I am not aware if the Superintendents of the Roads are troubled with the gout - should it be the case with any of them, it is to be hoped that they may pass over this part of the road with the fit on them; they would soon find out what a nuisance these stumps are.

In the Little Forest is another Inn, and about a mile further on, the state of the road is absolutely scandalous, and a disgrace to the Colony. "Will no one complain?" is the cry. "Why, I don't like to interfere," says one; "Nor do I," says another "My land is not measured yet," says a third; and "I graze over a great deal of unlocated land," says a fourth, "which if charted for sale, or put up to rent, would

injure my sheep run;" and so on. The consequence is, that the road remains as it is, to the imminent danger of travellers' teams, gigs, and carriages.

With the exception of Razor Back, and two other places, no road parties are to be seen on this line. The new line from this to Little Forest, in the Bargo, passing the new township of Berrima, and terminating about half a mile from Black Bob's Creek, where it crosses the old Wollondilly road - I put it to any of the respectable settlers and landholders in that neighbourhood, and those who have establishments beyond, whether the opening of this new line (which does not shorten the distance) is not a shameful waste of the public money and labour and whether, if the same means had been applied to complete the old road, we should not at this very time have had a road fit for all our purposes? Whereas now, we have neither new nor old road available, but of the two the Mittagong (which is the old) line is preferred, it being the opinion of every one that the Berrima line never will be good, unless logged for miles, as a foundation for the road, as is practised in making a road over the bogs of Ireland.

It is to be hoped that this matter will be inquired into, as the miserable state of this road, and the inconvenience and loss of time to which the inhabitants of these distant districts are thereby subjected, are too bad. These fancy roads cause a serious loss to the public, as well as individuals. From the circumstance of the uncertainty which will be the real line, proprietors of land cannot fence, and inns and houses of accommodation cannot be erected, as probably in a week after they are up a new line may start, causing considerable loss to the owners of such houses, and the greatest annoyance to persons who must travel this road.

All suffer. Therefore it is to be hoped that His Excellency the Governor will order the line of road to be definitively marked, and published for general information, that every landowner may know where to fence, and make improvements on the road, by erecting houses for inns.

The road crossing the old line above Black Bob's Creek, is cleared, passing Paddy's River, where there is a small inn. A bridge should be immediately erected there, and I beg to point out to the person whose duty it is to attend to these matters, that, in crossing Paddy's River, if he turns to the left, off the line of road at present cleared, he will avoid a very disagreeable pull up a very steep hill, and enter his line again by a dead level, and save a distance of at least one mile and a half, when the road continues cleared for about ten miles further on towards Goulburn, where it joins the road leading to Inverary and St. Vincent.

All that is required is a passable road that laden drays can travel, and safe bridges over the creeks and swamps. Fine roads may be looked for thirty or forty years hence.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
A GRAZIER.

WHO WAS THOMAS BARKER (1799-1875)?

A miniature portrait in bronze housed in the Sydney Powerhouse Museum is that of Thomas Barker. It was made by sculptor Thomas Woolner in 1854. We have already seen that Woolner produced numerous miniature portrait medallions for well-to-do colonists in Melbourne and in Sydney. Before photography became available, portraits, whether painted or sculpted or lithographed, were the ways in which to capture a person's likeness.

By 1854 there were many wealthy landowners and business merchants in Australia. The name Thomas Barker does not readily spring to mind as part of our history, so who was he? It seems that he was one of the colony's wealthiest men in the 1850s when Thomas Woolner was taking commissions for his miniatures in Sydney.

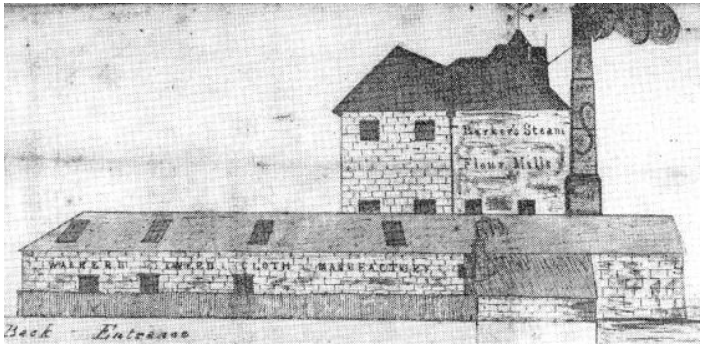
Barker arrived in Sydney on the *Earl Spencer* in 1813 as one of the apprentices to Scottish engineer and millwright John Dickson who brought with him to the colony a steam engine, lathes and other manufacturing tools. Dickson, already a wealthy man, had applied to settle in Sydney and had been promised a grant of land. Governor Macquarie allotted him fifteen acres in Sydney Town for his steam mill and a further 3,000 acres near Camden as a grazing property.

The mill was positioned at what is now Darling Harbour so that it was easily accessible for grain and timber arrivals. It was ready to commence milling in 1815 but appears to have been used not for timber, but only for grain. Dickson increased his land and livestock holdings and later established a brewery and soap-and-candle works near his mill. He later left the colony and returned to England (absconded while on bail when charged with forgery actually).

In 1823, Thomas Barker married Johanna Dickson, the niece of John Dickson. The following year he applied for land on which to build a house. He was then working as a clerk for John Dickson so the site he chose on the corner of Sussex and Bathurst Streets was close to where he worked.

Barker learned his trade well and in 1826 he built a large windmill at Darlinghurst. This of course relied on the wind for power and if there was no wind, no wheat could be ground into flour. So, in 1827, Barker bought Cooper & Levey's steam mill on Sussex Street adjacent to his own land. He enlarged the mill, and the 1828 census shows that he employed a superintendent, millwright, clerk, engineer, cook, groom, gardener, two millers, seven labourers, two carters, two housemaids and a waterman.

He was granted 800 acres of land at Yass and acquired more land so that he could run his sheep and cattle at the Cowpastures and on the Goulburn Plains.



A sketch made in 1830 shows Barker's property with its two large stone buildings. By 1833 he had sold over seven acres of this land and he purchased land at Darling Point on which to build Roslyn Hall. The following year he retired from the milling enterprise and leased it to his brother. He and his wife left for an extended overseas voyage in 1837 - only to return to find his brother had been badly affected by the 1840s depression. He had to come out of retirement and rescue his businesses.

Until the 1860s the brothers traded as Barker & Co. They had established a woolen mill near their flour mill in 1852. As an engineer, Barker manufactured most of his machinery on site. He had also acquired more land for his cattle on the Murrumbidgee.

Thomas Barker was a magistrate as early as 1834 and continued to serve on the boards of banking corporations and then became a member of the Legislative Council. He was also interested in furthering education and was involved in the establishment of the Australian College in 1831, became a member of the Denominational School Board in 1848, and a trustee for the Sydney Grammar School and the Sydney Mechanic' School of arts. He was an early promoter for a railway from Sydney to Goulburn.

Barker had also been the founder of the Destitute Children's Asylum, and he and his wife were active members of the Sydney Female Refuge Society before her passing in 1851. There were no children from this marriage. Thomas wed again in 1857 and had a son, Thomas Charles Barker in 1863.

Thomas Barker died at his Bringelly Estate in 1875 and was buried at Camperdown.

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EARLY NSW CHURCH RECORDS.

V18462129 32A – What does it mean?

At our February meeting, Lyn spoke about records that newcomers to family history are not always aware of. She included the microfilms of the early church registers which recorded births, deaths and marriages prior to official registration commencing in 1856. When you find a birth, death or marriage entry on the NSW government website of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and it has a reference number like, for example, V18462129 32A, most will know that this refers to a pre-1856 event. For those who are not aware, the "V" indicates that it is an entry in one of the Volumes into which the early parish church records have been copied.

The question is – Have you purchased a pre-1856 certificate, or have you consulted the 48 microfilm reels which are part of the NSW Archives Resources Kit? The reels are available at GSQ, many family history societies and all State Libraries. The information you pay the Registry Office for is information taken from these very same parish records.

Of course, you may have looked at Ancestry or Family Search to find the information. Looking at the original, however, is always a good idea. If you are lucky, there may even be notes added by the clergyman. When you look at the parish registers you may also find that other children in the family were baptized on the same day, or with marriages, for example, I have found a brother and sister marrying their partners on the same day at Richmond, NSW, or you might find that your ancestor was a witness to another marriage on the same day.

Sometimes there is no listing of a birth, death or marriage in the index, and there can be numerous reasons why – especially if the event occurred where there was no minister available at the time. Until the Roman Catholic and other denomination churches began recording life events, the Church of England was, of course, the dominant religion, and some may have had religious objections to attending the church.

The pre-1856 birth index is compiled from church baptism records which usually have both the birth and the baptism dates.

The V in the reference number refers to a Volume number from 1 to 123. In our example - **V18462129 32A** – the Volume number is 32A. What are the other numbers? The four numbers after the "V" refer to the year. Here it is 1846. The numbers which follow – 2129 – refers to the entry number. Volumes 1-123 are compiled in this way -

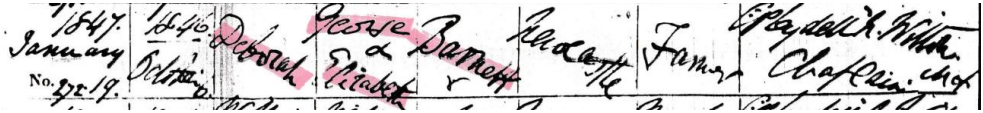
1-44	Church of England births, deaths and marriages
45-72	baptisms of all other denominations
73-101	marriages of all other denominations
102-120	burials of all other denominations
121-123	supplementary entries

Thus Volume 32A is a Church of England entry, and we are looking at the baptism of Deborah Barnett, daughter of George and Elizabeth Barnett.

The Index shows the following – the child's name, the reference number, the father, the mother, and the district which is CH.

BARNETT **DEBORAH**
2129/1846 V18462129 32A
GEORGE
ELIZABETH
CH

What is the district of CH? Back in 1999, I printed out a list of the district codes for my own reference, and the list is still readily available on-line at https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search/early-church-and-district-codes . CH is the parish of Hexham, and the church is the Christ Church of Newcastle. This is the parish entry –



Deborah was born on 6 October 1846. Her father, an ex-convict had found himself on the wrong side of the law and was incarcerated at the Newcastle Stockade, thus prompting Elizabeth and her children to move to Newcastle. Finding herself in dire straits financially, she sought help through the church. The Chaplain helped her to petition for clemency of her husband's sentence. (It was denied.) It was on 19 January 1847 that Deborah was baptized at the original Anglican Church at Newcastle.

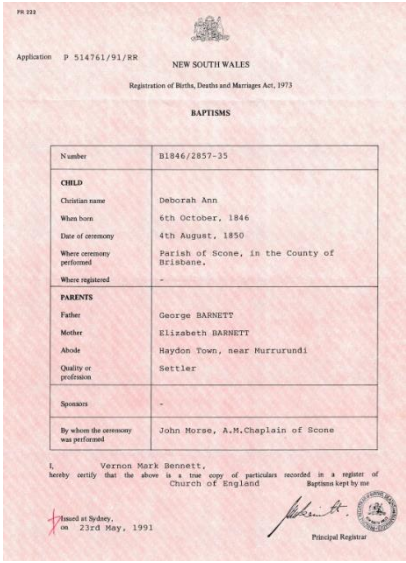
Now, to make it more interesting the Index to the New South Wales births has another entry for a Deborah A Barnett, daughter of George and Elizabeth.

BARNETT **DEBORAH A**
2857/1846 V18462857 35
GEORGE
ELIZABETH
NA

The Index reference number is **V18462857 35**. The district is NA. The year of birth is the same – 1846. Volume 35 contains Church of England records. The district is NA – Scone, NSW.

Having worked backwards on my family tree, I knew that Deborah Ann was the daughter of George and Elizabeth.

Prior to knowing that I could view the parish registers on microfilm, it was certificate V18462857 35 that I purchased in 1991.



Application P 514761/91/RR

NEW SOUTH WALES

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1973

BAPTISMS

Number	B1846/2857-35
CHILD	
Christian name	Deborah Ann
When born	6th October, 1846
Date of ceremony	4th August, 1850
Where ceremony performed	Parish of Scone, in the County of Brisbane.
Where registered	-
PARENTS	
Father	George BARNETT
Mother	Elizabeth BARNETT
Abode	Haydon Town, near Murrurundi
Quality or profession	Settler
Sponsors	-
By whom the ceremony was performed	John Morse, A.M.Chaplain of Scone

I, Vernon Mark Bennett, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a register of Baptisms kept by me Church of England

Issued at Sydney, on 23rd May, 1991

Principal Registrar

Deborah Ann Barnett was three years old when she was baptized at St Luke's Church in Scone on 4 August 1850 after the family had returned to live at Hayden Town, near Murrurundi.

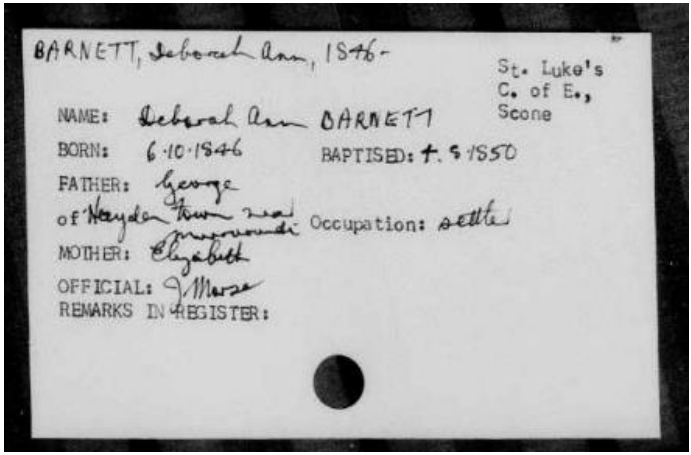
Yes, Deborah was baptized a second time. This time the name Ann was added.

There could be many reasons as to why she was baptized both at Newcastle and at St Luke's.

I do not have the original parish entry for St Luke's. As I had the registered certificate, I had never bothered to look for it.

Although Family Search has digitized the early parish registers, I could only find a card index entry for St Luke's Church of England at Scone.

Below is the Family Search church record transcript -



An excellent podcast by Allen Murrin can be found on the Family Search web-site. Although it dates from 2012, it is well worth watching if you are unfamiliar with the microfilms of the early church registers. There are also explanations as to why you may not find your ancestor in the NSW Index.

Source:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/new-south-wales-early-church-records-1788-1856 by Allen Murrin.

THE DUELLING PISTOLS OF SIR THOMAS MITCHELL

The National Museum of Australia has, as part of its collection, the duelling pistols of Major Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792-1855) who was appointed as the colony's Surveyor General in 1827. These were purchased from the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1983. They are French 50 calibre pistols with percussion locks and walnut butts.

As a surveyor Mitchell contributed greatly to early exploration which would open up vast tracts of new grazing lands. However, it seems he did not react so well to criticism. He had a softer side as an accomplished artist, poet and botanist, but was known to be rather hot tempered. He has the dubious honour of being one of the last men in Australia to challenge another to a duel.

The *Sydney Herald*, on 30 September 1851, reported that a hostile meeting had taken place between Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas L. Mitchell and Mr Stuart A. Donaldson, Member of the Legislative Council. Donaldson had criticized Mitchell's plans for the construction of a town on the crown land occupied by the Tenterfield Station. He felt that it was an unnecessary expansion of the Surveyor-General's Department. Mitchell took objection during continued discussion on the subject and decided to settle the matter by calling for a duel.

The two gentlemen met at a secluded spot near the Sydney Water Reserve (Centennial Park) with their regulatory 'seconds' to oversee the matter. Mitchell was accompanied by Lt Burrowes and Mr Donaldson by Mr Dobie. The duelling men fired three shots each – and the only injury, fortunately, was to the hat of Mr Donaldson. One shot went very close to Mitchell's throat, and it could have easily been fatal.

The Empire on the same day reported it as an "Affair of Honour". Jokes were being made about the perforated hat and the pistols that would not fire. "*Our plucky Surveyor-General has afforded much merriment to all and sundry, but we venture to affirm that the little belligerent exhibition will not tend to increase the respect in which either gentleman is held by the public*." The consensus at the time was that duelling was considered not only excessively snobbish, but also in violation of the law.

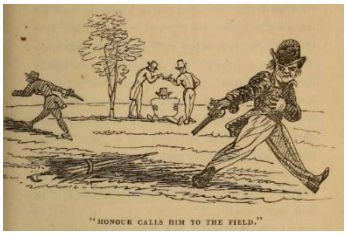
For many years the practice of duelling had been associated with a code of honour among aristocrats and gentlemen. Observing the associated strict etiquette and rules was crucial to maintaining one's honour and status.

Many aristocratic gentlemen owned duelling pistols and made challenges. It is interesting that the Code Duello was devised in Ireland in 1777 by delegates from five of the counties. It became known as The Twenty-six Commandments. A copy of the code had to be kept in the pistol cases of Irish gentlemen. It was an attempt to determine how, when and why duels were to be fought, and, if a duel seemingly could not be avoided, then the code would hopefully ensure fairness. Social standing was a factor. According to the code, if the insult was from a man of a lower class, a duel did not ensue. Instead, other ways of humiliating the person were resorted to.

If an insult was thought to have affected a gentleman's honour, then it was often considered preferable to die defending one's honour rather than living without honour. Only 'gentlemen' possessed 'honour', and thus were eligible to engage in a duel. Rather than going to Court, a personal issue could preferably be resolved by a gentlemen's duel. It seems it was not always the intention to kill the adversary, but more to show a willingness to face death. Each man had a "second" who was a trusted representative. The seconds would often be called on to diplomatically come to an honourable solution with a satisfactory apology before the pistols were readied. If there was no solution, the seconds agreed upon a suitable field and the number of shots to be fired, loaded the pistols, paced the distance and gave the signal to fire. The pistols were known to mis-fire and were not always accurate in hitting their mark. Surgeons were allowed to be on hand to either treat an injury or pronounce death.

The first duel in Sydney was between John White and his assistant William Balmain in 1788. Both were wounded. There were numerous duels recorded. For example, in 1826, Robert Wardell challenged Attorney General Saxe Bannister. In 1827 Henry Dumaresq, personal assistant and brother-in-law of Governor Ralph Darling, challenged Robert Wardell, a barrister and owner of the *Australian* newspaper. Neither was injured when 3 shots each were fired from 30 paces. Wardell offered an apology, they mounted their horses, *'courteously saluted each other and rode back to Sydney and breakfast'*.

It was at t dawn on 27 September 1851 that Mitchell and Donaldson fought their duel.



"HONOUR CALLS HIM TO THE FIELD."

Major Sir Stuart Alexander Donaldson arrived in Sydney in 1835. His father's London company had trading interests in the colony and, at the inviation of Sydney merchants Alexander Riley and Richard Jones, Donaldson agreed to further their business, and soon became a partner in their firm. He became part of the elite Macarthur circle and acquired property in NSW and Victoria. In early 1840 he ventured to the New England district and took up the runs at Tenterfield and Clifton. He returned to England in 1841 and stayed until 1844. In that time, the depression had affected the economy and Jones had become insolvent. Donaldson also found that the managers of his holdings had been negligent in his absence. By 1851 he had restored his wealth and then the gold rush increased it even more. He had also become interested in the colony's politics and went on to become the first Premier of New South Wales from June to August 1856. In 1859 he returned to England and received a knighthood the following year. He made two brief business visits to Australia before ill health saw him withdraw from all affairs. He died in England in 1867.

Major Sir Thomas Mitchell was born in 1792 in Scotland. He arrived in Sydney in 1827 and soon became the colony's Surveyor General. His explorations led him beyond the boundaries of settlement and he had the task of surveying and mapping the various counties. He became responsible for the survey of roads and bridges and was instrumental in plotting the road from Berrima to Goulburn. As he was often away from his department – either on his lengthy explorations or back in England – there was concern about a lack of supervision in his department and his administration came into question. By 1855, delays in the Survey Department meant that increasing numbers of settlers were waiting too long to purchase their chosen properties. Governor Denison appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the NSW Survey Department. It found that Mitchell had indeed been a poor administrator. While surveying a new road between Nelligen and Braidwood, Mitchell became ill and died of pneumonia on 5 October 1855.

Sources:

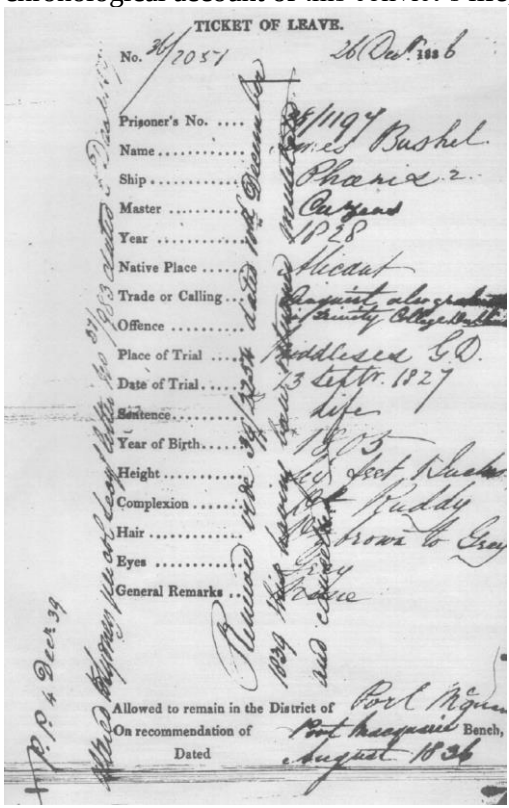
https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/collection/highlights/sir-thomas-mitchell-duelling-pistols
https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/dueling/origins
https://education.parliament.nsw.gov.au/when-honour-was-worth-a-gentlemans-life-the-last-duel-in-nsw/
https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/donaldson-sir-stuart-alexander-3425
https://dictionaryofsydney.org/blog/i_challenge_you_sir_duelling_in_colonial_sydney
https://education.parliament.nsw.gov.au/when-honour-was-worth-a-gentlemans-life-the-last-duel-in-nsw/

CONVICT MUSICIAN JOHN BUSHELL(E)

Last year I was fortunate enough to visit Norfolk Island and the museum had a wonderful exhibition called *Dancing in Fetters*. I purchased a book published by Rob Wills in 2015 – *Alias Blind Larry – The Mostly True Memoir of James Laurence the Singing Convict.* He wrote his memoir while on Norfolk Island and Rob Wills carried out a great deal of research to uncover more about Blind Larry. (The book is in the Convict Connections lending library at GSQ.)

Another 'singing convict' which Rob Wills mentioned in his book is John Bushell. While looking for further information about this convict, I found the website for Austral Harmony. Anyone interested in music during the colonial era should find this web-site of interest. The amount of research already accumulated by Dr Graeme Skinner of the University of Sydney is to be commended, and it is an ongoing project.

With the Austral Harmony web-site I was able to view an amazing chronological account of this convict's life, and also that of his wife.


TICKET OF LEAVE.

No. 26/2057

Prisoner's No. ....
Name .....
Ship .....
Master .....
Year .....
Native Place .....
Trade or Calling ...
Offence .....
Place of Trial ....
Date of Trial.....
Sentence.....
Year of Birth.....
Height .....
Complexion .....
Hair .....
Eyes .....
General Remarks ...

Allowed to remain in the District of
On recommendation of Bench,
Dated

If I begin with the Ticket-of-Leave of 'James Bushel', we see that our John Bushell arrived on the ship *Phoenix* in 1828. He was born in 1805 and was tried at the Middlesex Gaol Delivery in 1827. His sentence was transportation for life. His native place is listed as Alicant, which would refer to Alicante in Spain. He claims to have been an organist and also a graduate of the Trinity College in Dublin.

The Ticket shows that in 1836 he was allowed to remain in the District of Port Macquarie. It was altered the following year for Sydney and then in 1839 was renewed as it had been returned mutilated.

Was he a native of Spain? No. He was the son of Benjamin Bushell and Margaret (nee Butler) of Limerick, Ireland. When three or four years old he was adopted by his uncle who had no children. Uncle John Bushell was a business man based in Dublin who later moved to London to take up a partnership.

Up until the age of 13, John Bushell the younger was educated in a Catholic College in Surry, England. Having completed his education, he was then sent to Lisbon to work in his uncle's business. In 1820, after the business venture failed, young John returned to Ireland and lived with his mother for a time. By then he was around 15 years of age.

In 1820 and 1821, John was a bass singer performing in concerts held in Dublin. After getting into financial difficulties, he went to Paris and worked as a valet. He stole his master's watch and was imprisoned for three years in Prison Sainte-Pelagie. He befriended a French man on his release, and they went to London. There they were involved in several robberies. The Old Bailey trial for 13 September 1827 tells us that he was in fact facing two trials on the one day – one as John and the other as James. He was described as "*a fine, handsome, fashionably dressed young fellow*" when tried for stealing a diamond pin from a jeweller. His written defence stated that he had been abroad for thirteen years and had an engagement at the Italian Opera House. During his voyage from France to London he had met a French jeweller by the name of Mr Perrin. Perrin hired Bushell as an interpreter and the latter declared he was unaware that the French gentleman was a swindler. In the belief that Bushell was merely an interpreter, the Court found that he was not guilty.

A trial on the same day documented Bushell as stealing a gold watch from a jeweller in Soho Square. Once again he pleaded his case as an interpreter, but had been found pawning the watch and was found guilty.

His death sentence was commuted to transportation for life after several petitions were sent in his favour. Given a reprieve, he offered his services to fellow prisoners who were unable to read or write. He arrived in Sydney in 1828 on the ship *Phoenix*.

When assigned as a house servant in 1829 he was described as being a good singer. He was quite content at the Wellington Valley Agricultural Settlement in 1830 and refused to be sent to Sydney. This penal settlement was for the better educated convicts who could be useful. Such convicts were known as "specials". Reverend John Keane of Bathurst may have been aware of John's musical talents when he was assigned to him as a servant in 1831. We next find that he was sent to Moreton Bay from 1831 to 1833 where he was employed as a clerk and a linguist. On finding out about Bushell's talents, the officers enjoyed his company, and he taught them music, dancing, drawing, and fencing. He also gave instructions in French, Italian, Spanish and German. On leaving Moreton Bay, the Commandant recommended that he be removed to Port Macquarie's Establishment for Invalid Convicts and "specials". Port Macquarie was no longer a penal settlement and Bushell began instructing young ladies in music, dancing, French and Italian. Newly arrived immigrants would also enjoy his German waltzes and Spanish quadrilles.

Bushell returned to Sydney around the beginning of 1836 and was singing in the choir at St Mary's Cathedral. He was allowed to teach music to private families, and he gave instruction to the military bands. Although he was given endorsements for his good behaviour, Governor Bourke looked at his record and noted he was an atheist and sent him back to Port Macquarie for twelve months in August 1836. This seems to have stemmed from reports of his trial. Certain principles of education were considered to be against the teachings of religion and as a well-educated man, the term atheist had probably been wrongly attached to his own beliefs. From Port Macquarie he returned to Sydney and resumed his earlier occupations and began performing as an amateur in local concerts.

Elizabeth Wallace was born in Ireland in 1820 and had arrived in Sydney as a bounty immigrant on the *James Pattison* in February 1836. She was listed as an actress to be engaged by her musician father who had arrived in the colony earlier. Miss Wallace was one of the singers in early 1838 who took part in the Grand Musical Festival at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Hyde Park. According to the *Monitor*, the audience also enjoyed *"a treat never before given in this Colony, a bass solo, by a gentleman styled in the programme "an Amateur", but we understand is choral master at St Mary's."* The "Amateur" was John Bushell.

For a further concert, attended by Governor Gipps and Lady Gipps, Miss Wallace was to perform "*Tis the Last Rose of Summer with a harp accompaniment by herself*" as well as other pieces. It was noted that audiences would prefer to hear English pieces rather than French and Italian songs. A few simple Scottish and Irish ditties would also be welcome.

Meanwhile Mr Bushell was being lauded in his role at St Mary's and he had requested the clergy to obtain music suitable for his solo performances.

Miss Wallace gave her first concert in October 1838. An appearance was to be by the vocal amateur John Bushell who was "*well known to the frequenters of the Catholic Chapel*". He was billed simply as 'Amateur'. The concert was a great success.

When Miss Wallace and the Amateur sang a duet, it was reported that "*they sang so harmoniously that you might fancy the voices sprang from the same fountain of music*". Although some newspapers alluded to John's past, his performances were very well received. "*The Amateur as a man of true musical science, would rank high in any civilized nation, here he can have no rival*."

The arrival of Monsieur and Madame Gautrot and their troupe in 1839 added a new dimension to the Sydney concerts.

John had to seek permission to marry as he was still a convict with a Ticket-of-Leave. Here we find he was listed as James alias John Bushell. Permission was approved. One newspaper noted that *Miss Wallace, the talented vocalist, entered into an harmonious union, or, in other words, has been united in the sacred bands of wedlock, with the celebrated amateur who performed at the late grand concert*

with so much eclat. It was on 2 May 1839 that John Bushell married Elizabeth Wallace at St Mary's Cathedral.

Not long after they wed it was announced that Mrs Bushel was giving a concert at the Maitland Court House during Race Week. *The celebrated Amateur will also have the honour of appearing on the occasion. The arrangements are under the direction of that talented vocalist.*

Bushell, as a ticket-of-leave man, was given permission by the Governor to appear at that and future Concerts, but not to perform in any plays. The name began appearing for both John and Elizabeth or Eliza as Bushelle and throughout 1839 they were performing regularly with other artists. 'James Bushell' was granted a ticket-of-leave passport in December and that allowed him to travel between Sydney and Parramatta for six months. An old theatre in George Street was being converted into a Concert-room and Mr and Mrs Bushelle had been engaged for the opening concert in the new year, even though Mrs Bushelle was about to retire "*to sing joyful lullabies*".

The ticket-of-leave dated 10 December 1839 has a great deal of information. The native place was again listed as Alicant and his trade was that of linguist. A description shows he was 6 feet 1 inch in height, had a dark and ruddy complexion, hair was brown to grey, and his eyes were grey. A note added at a later date to the ticket revealed the date of his death.

In the meantime, we find that Mrs Bushelle's Concerts featuring numerous artists and instrumentalists were gradually introducing more English, Irish and Scottish pieces. Italian and French songs were losing their popularity among many members of the audience.

On 6 March 1840, Eliza Bushelle gave birth to twins, John and Thomas. In May she was back singing in a concert at the Royal Victoria Theatre. She was presented with a harp by 'several ladies of distinction' (including the Governor's wife). Concerts at Maitland and Penrith followed, as did a concert for the laying of the foundation stone for St Patrick's Church in August, and the opening of St Matthew's Catholic Church at Windsor in October.

December 1840 brought grief with the death of Thomas, the younger of the twins, at the age of just nine months, but it also brought joy with the announcement of the birth of Tobias Bushelle.

In September 1841, a Farewell Concert was organised for the departure of the Bushelles who planned to leave for Hobart Town and, according to the newspapers, would then travel to South America or India. Permission had been granted for John to give concerts in Van Diemen's Land for six months and to be extended by the Governor there for a period of twelve months.

Unfortunately, documentation shows that John Bushelle, Professor of Languages, of Elizabeth-street, Sydney was declared insolvent in February 1842 and debts had to be paid. Arrangements were made to pay his creditors in

instalments. In April 1842, he was granted his Conditional Pardon, but was again facing insolvency. He claimed in an affidavit in September that he was not earning enough to support his wife and family but a professional tour to Van Diemen's Land and Port Phillip would help to pay his debts in less than six months.

A letter to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts dated 12 September by John Bushelle of 14 Philip-street, Sydney says *I beg you will be good enough to obtain for me His Excellency the Governor's sanction to my proceeding to Hobart Town and Launceston for the purpose of giving Concerts as the only means of relieving me from the embarrassment consequent on the pressures of the times. I am an Emancipist and am anxious that the permission should be for at least six months.* His request was successful. It was noted that the Governor of Van Diemen's Land be informed that *Bushelle is a person well known in Sydney as a Public Singer and that his Wife (a person of great respectability) is also a Public Singer of great talent.*

In December 1842 John arrived in Hobart. Eliza and the two children arrived in January 1843. They advertised that they would be in the colony for some time and, as well as giving concerts, Mrs Bushelle would be teaching English and Italian singing, the pianoforte and the guitar. Mr Bushelle would be teaching the Elocution and Grammatical Construction of the French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese Languages. He would also instruct in English and Italian singing.

Mr. Bushelle, having obtained the second prize for Declamation at the Royal Conservatory of Paris in 1824, and assiduously studied the Languages and Singing during a residence of sixteen years on the Continent and in the Peninsula, respectfully, though confidently, solicits a share of patronage for his system of instruction, tested by many years of experience in the tuition of the leading families of New South Wales.

The concerts were well received and John was able to extend his allowed time in Hobart. Unfortunately, John died unexpectedly of dropsy on 18 July 1843. His age was given as 48 years. A benefit concert was held for his wife before she departed for Sydney. On 5 November 1843, she gave birth to another son, William Benjamin Bushelle, in Sydney. Sadly, the child died on 27 January 1845 after being ill for four months. Eliza was then living at 213 Castlereagh-street.

After such tragedy and continuing to perform, Eliza decided in 1847 to return to England. Her brother, violinist Mr S Wallace, was travelling with her.

In 1853 an interesting matter came before the Supreme Court of New South Wales in the matter of 13 year old John Butler Bushelle regarding his guardianship. Mrs Cruikshank said that the child's father had died in Hobart in 1843 leaving a widow and two surviving sons, John Butler Bushelle and Tobias Bushelle. The mother had left the colony early in 1847 leaving John in her care and Tobias in the care of Mr Timothy Marr. No communication had been received from the child's

mother since her departure. Mrs Cruikshank had obtained an apprenticeship for the lad with the Government printer.

Eliza had a brother, Mr W Vincent Wallace who was a well-known English composer. He heard of his sister's arrival in London while he was in Vienna promoting his opera. It was reported that he was going to London and would return with his sister who had been singing in Southern America and was a promising soprano. Eliza had reverted to using the name Miss Wallace. She performed in concerts in Europe before returning to London in February 1848. News of her concerts reached the Sydney newspapers and they queried the statement that she had been in South America, or indeed "Austral" as some had reported. She was lauded until she took the leading part in her brother's opera. Her voice was found to be unsuitable and her acting ability questionable.

Moving on to 1850 we find Eliza in New York, via Rio de Janeiro. Madame E Wallace Bushelle, age 26, was billed as an 'artist' of Great Britain. In 1851, Madame Bouchelle performed at the Grand Concert of W Vincent Wallace in New York as the principal vocalist. She continued to perform and also began composing ballads. By 1856 she was billed as Madame Wallace- Boushelle or simply as EWB.

Pictured is Madame Wallace Bouchelle, New York, circa 1850; a lithograph by Francis D'Avignon (1813-1861) after a daguerreotype by Philip Haas.

Back in Australia in May 1863 it was noted in the *Brisbane Courier* that there were *two young men of blameless life, just commencing a struggle with the world, who are the sons of this person* (convict John Bushell). *Hundreds here only know them as the orphan children of an accomplished musician. Mr. Therry, in the last moments of his life, esteems it a matter of imperative duty to proclaim that they are the offspring of a well known criminal.*

In October of that year, Eliza made a reappearance in Sydney at a concert by the Philharmonic Society. She began taking classes once again and continued to sing. Sher must have been reunited with her sons as in 1865 when her brother was dying in France, he sent for his nephew John Butler Bushelle.

Elizabeth Wallace Bushell passed away at her residence in Victoria-street, Darlinghurst, Sydney on 16 August 1878 aged 56 years after an illness lasting 18 months.

Source:
https://www.sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/bushelle-family.php

THE RAJAH QUILT ON DISPLAY 2024

A Century of Quilts
National Gallery of Australia

16 March - 25 August 2024.
Free Entry

If you happen to be in Canberra between these dates, you will have the rare opportunity of viewing the historic Rajah Quilt which was hand stitched in 1841 by convict women on board the ship *Rajah* as they sailed from England to Van Diemen's Land. This magnificent quilt has become one of our national treasures and is not often on display.

An inscription stitched onto the border reads - ***'To the ladies of the convict ship committee, this quilt worked by the convicts of the ship Rajah during their voyage to van Dieman's Land is presented as a testimony of the gratitude with which they remember their exertions for their welfare while in England and during their passage and also as a proof that they have not neglected the ladies kind admonitions of being industrious.'***

Who were the "ladies of the convict ship committee" to whom these convicts owed their gratitude? Elizabeth Fry, a Quaker, was most concerned about the conditions of the female prisoners being held in London's Newgate Gaol. In 1817, she helped to found the Association for the Reformation of the Female Prisoners in Newgate. Her example led to the formation of the British Ladies Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners convict ship sub-committee in 1821 – this is the committee mentioned in the inscription on the quilt. Lydia Irving, on behalf of that committee obtained the materials for the women on board the *Rajah* to make the quilt. The Society had been able to persuade the Navy Board to fund basic items such as knives, forks, aprons and sewing materials.

A young woman by the name of Kezia Hayter had been inspired by Elizabeth Fry's work and was carrying out voluntary work at the Millbank Prison when she was selected to be matron on board the convict *Rajah.* She was given free passage if she would "*devote her time during the voyage to the improvement of the convicts*". There were 180 convict women on the ship. Once in Hobart Kezia was

to help Lady Jane Franklin, the wife of the Lieutenant-Governor, to form the Tasmanian Ladies' Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners.

Four days after the *Rajah l*anded the Franklins went on board. Lady Franklin recorded the visit in her diary. She wrote that after Sir John had delivered a long and good address, the quilt was displayed for the assembled dignitaries. However, it seems that she was more interested in writing about the betrothal of Kezia to the ship's captain than the quilt. Kezia Hayter and the convicts had presented her with the stunning quilt made during the three month voyage. With the work that had gone in to making the quilt perhaps they were a little disappointed with Lady Jane's reaction.

The two women began visiting the Cascades Female Factory. While Kezia was primarily interested in the education and reform of the female prisoners, Lady Franklin preferred stricter discipline. This put the two ladies at odds. Lady Franklin had invited Kezia to live at Government House and to be governess to her step-daughter but she declined the offer and instead took up a position at a School for Girls.

In April 1842, Kezia discontinued her work at the female factory and accepted a position as a governess at Brickendon Estate at Longford. She married the ship's captain in 1843 in Launceston and lived in Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne and finally Adelaide.

The quilt was at some stage sent back to Britain to be gifted to Elizabeth Fry but it seems to have disappeared from any historical accounts. Kezia did make a few trips back to England so she may have taken it with her. Maybe Lady Franklin had kept the quilt. She sailed back to England from Geelong in January 1844 - ironically on the *Rajah*. It was finally found, in perfect condition, in private hands in an attic in Scotland in 1987. Some blood stains from pricked fingers were never removed, suggesting that it may never have been washed. The dyes had not faded, so it was probably not exposed to sunlight. It was acquired by the National Gallery in 1989. The quilt measures around 3.5 metres by 3 metres. It was hand stitched from more than 16 metres of fabric. Most of the women were not experienced in needlework.

It is fitting that Tasmanian researchers have delved into the lives of the women of the *Rajah* as a testament to the 2815 pieces they sewed to make the quilt. Of course, it was not the only piece made on such voyages, but it is one that has survived and been documented. During Elizabeth Fry's time with the committee, some 12,000 women were transported on 106 ships.

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MR CUNNINGHAM'S VIEWS ON CONVICT WOMEN

A lengthy article titled **Mr. Cunningham's Two Years in New South Wales** appeared in the *Sydney Gazette* on 21 December 1827. It includes this gentleman's view on transported females, and probably reflects the views of many of the gentry in New South Wales at the time.

He was critical of the work of Elizabeth Fry and her committee. He believed nothing but a miracle would transform the female convicts into "angels of purity". Several of the ships' surgeons agreed with Mr Cunningham that "***the interference of Mrs Fry has been every thing but beneficial***".

As far as he was concerned, the women on the ship on which he sailed were more quarrelsome and more difficult to control than the male convicts. He declared that *"their tempers being more exciteable, and a good deal being calculated on by them in respect to the usual leniency shown to their sex. They are certainly more abandoned in their expressions too, when excited; but this, probably, arises not so much from greater profligacy of disposition, as from their having less control over their passions and their tongues. They lived promiscuously with the seamen on the passage out…*

He made the point that reforming the women could not be done in a short time before transportation. Such a transformation would take time, and once the women were out of the confines of the ship, they reverted back to their true nature. He was not alone in voicing such opinions.

He added that problems were exacerbated when those women who were "suffered to live in concubinage with the sailors during the voyage" then married those sailors, only to find that when the men went back to sea they were left to fend for themselves.

As for their morality, he claimed that some women were religiously disposed, but it may merely have been a ruse to obtain Bibles which they could later sell and profit from. His example was how one "*now servant to a friend of mine in Sydney, and a most excellent servant in other respects, has never been an hour from home yet, without being 'overcome by spirit,' and requiring to be trundled to her domicile on a hand-barrow, or shouldered like a sack of potatoes. Indeed, I have observed, that the very best servants, and all the moralizing and philosophizing classes among them, are drunkards*."

In 1827 Cunningham published - *A Late Tour of A. Cunningham Esq 1827.* The full title was "*A late tour, on the face of the country, lying between Liverpool Plains and the shores of Moreton Bay in New South Wales".* It was this publication that the newspaper was reviewing, but obviously the reporter was somewhat focused instead on the behaviour of a section of the colony's female convicts. What dealings did Mr Cunningham have with female convicts from 1825-1827 to form his opinions? Was his assessment a true account of the majority of the women

transported at that time – or was he reflecting the opinions of men he had been associated with?

Allan Cunningham was well-educated. He was recommended by botanist Joseph Banks in 1814 to travel as a botanical collector for the British Government. After two years in Brazil, he arrived in Sydney in late 1816 and based himself at Parramatta. He joined John Oxley in an expedition beyond the Blue Mountains and gained experience as an explorer. Between then and 1822, Cunningham was involved in many explorations around the coast of the continent. It is interesting that while on the west coast the ship he was on needed repairs – so they sailed to Mauritius for a refit and then sailed into King George's Sound three months later.

In 1823 he journeyed from Parramatta to Bathurst and to the Liverpool Plains. Further overland excursions followed. In 1826 he sailed on a whaling ship to New Zealand. During his 1827 trek he discovered the Darling Downs. In 1830 he went to Norfolk Island to continue his botanical work and returned to England the following year. He returned to Sydney in 1837 to take up the role of colonial botanist but resigned several months later. He died of consumption in 1839.

Returning to the article in the Sydney Gazette, we read – "… *the appearance of a writer like Mr. Cunningham, who does not write to flatter the passions, or prejudices, or predilections, of this or that pious or philanthropic association* (Elizabeth Fry's committee), *but communicates his observations and reflections with all the candour and frankness which are still occasionally met with in good society, is by no means an every-day occurrence."*

The article continues *"… Mr. Cunningham is evidently possessed of much shrewdness and discernment; but he possesses, in addition to these qualities (which are new in works respecting New South Wales), a strong love of truth, and a fearless independence of mind. Our accounts of New South Wales have hitherto been chiefly derived from soldiers, sailors and traders - classes peculiarly ill qualified from their haunts, for turning to account the opportunities presented to them in such a situation. Mr. Cunningham belongs to a profession to which habits of close observation are of essential importance – and he has had peculiar advantages in studying the character of the criminals in his frequent voyages to the Southern hemisphere".*

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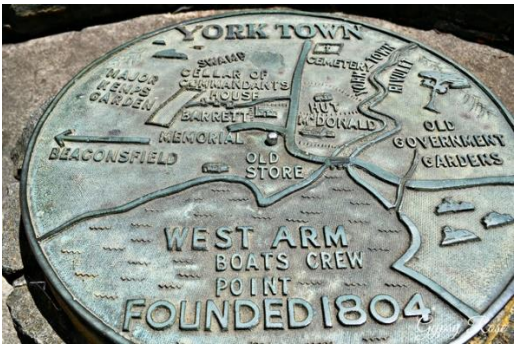
YORK TOWN – COULD HAVE BEEN TASMANIA'S CAPITAL!



It was not until the 1950s that there was a renewed interest in the historic site of York Town. Founded in December 1804, the settlement was abandoned in 1809. There are no buildings left today, but there are remnants to indicate where they were. The site marks the fifth oldest British settlement in Australia, and it happens to be in northern Tasmania. Older settlements are Sydney, Norfolk Island, Risdon Cove and Hobart. York Town was in a rather isolated position when it was founded, and it covered some 40 acres of land.

I knew of Port Dalrymple which had been discovered by Bass and Flinders in 1798. I had been to Georgetown, north of Launceston, where there had been a female factory. I had been on the other side of the estuary to Beaconsfield. But, I had never heard of York Town which in 1805 was regarded as the capital town of the northern part of Van Diemen's Land. The population in 1806 numbered 276 and included 124 male convicts and 11 female convicts.

Instructions had been dispatched from Lord Hobart in England to Governor King to form a settlement at Port Dalrymple with Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson in command. Strategically, a settlement on Bass Strait would secure a British claim and deter the French from doing so.

HM Buffalo, Lady Nelson, Francis and *Integrity* sailed to Port Dalrymple with civil, military and convict persons on board. There were also wives and children of the soldiers. While Paterson sought a suitable place for a settlement, the ships were unloaded at Outer Cove (now Georgetown). Moving up-river, Paterson decided that the head of Western Arm was the most promising site. He named it York Town. A large lagoon and excellent pasture land were discovered at Lower Head so the cattle were landed there. Paterson laid out the plans for his quarters and the government supplies store. Three soldiers who were carpenters commenced building thatched wooden huts and a log house for the stores. On completion of the buildings, the move was made to relocate from Outer Cove to York Town.

Local building materials were sought and vegetables were planted. In 1805, Paterson's wife and her servant arrived. After a period of 12 months, Paterson wrote that most of the difficulties had been surmounted. He reported that the stores were secured in substantial buildings. All of the officers had houses. The soldiers were in good huts. The prisoners were comfortably sheltered. A public oven had been built. The government gardens were well established with fruit trees, ornamental plantings and a summerhouse. He still hoped to make bricks during the coming summer and build a more secure gaol. In reality, the first winter had been harsh and many cattle had died, and crops had failed. Food supplies, always low, diminished even further. Morale was low.

Paterson had noted that there was an outcrop of iron ore not far from York Town. It was his belief that a penal settlement for 'unruly convicts' could be established to have the men working in irons to mine the iron ore. His suggestion was put aside as there were no quarrying or mining tools available.

In October 1806, Paterson was required to return to Sydney for seven months and York Town became chaotic under the leadership of Captain Kemp. Paterson returned to find that some prisoners had absconded, farms had been abandoned and kangaroos were being hunted for food. It was decided that the settlement should be relocated to the more fertile area of what would become Launceston. Paterson retained his headquarters at York Town until 1808 with 42 convicts while 54 convicts were sent to the new location. Governor Bligh was not pleased with Paterson's lack of supervision.

William and Elizabeth Paterson returned to Sydney in January 1809 after the arrest of Governor Bligh. Paterson was in poor health and he had delayed their departure from Port Dalrymple as he was reluctant to lead a provisional government in Sydney. He was a weak ruler and spent most of his time as an invalid at Parramatta until a new governor arrived.

Cultivation of the land around Launceston saw the final abandonment of York Town in 1809. Convict gardener Harry Barrett remained along with several soldiers to guard the stores from the absconders who had become the banditti – the early name for bushrangers.

A newspaper reporter visited the site in 1895 and learned of its history from Barrett's son. He wrote - *"There is little known of this sequestered spot and the present generation has not troubled itself with much to unravel the story which so intimately binds itself with the past. The story, however, is one every Tasmanian should know…"*

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HAMILTON HUME – A CURRENCY LAD.

Hamilton Hume was born on 9 June 1797 at Toongabbie near Parramatta, the eldest child of Andrew and Elizabeth Hume. "Currency lads and lasses" were the distinctive terms given to children born in the colony as opposed to those born in the United Kingdom. Hamilton's younger brothers, John and Francis, were also currency lads and his sister, Isabella, was a currency lass.

At our December meeting, the theme "Building the Great Southern Road" required learning more about Hamilton Hume, his early explorations and his trek with Hovell to Victoria. Their return journey is basically what became the Hume Highway. Hume's explorations have been well documented.

If I think back to when I was 10 years old, I would have learned at school that Hume and Hovell were Australian explorers. The two names were always linked. They were, of course, among a long list of our intrepid explorers on both land and sea, but, at that age, I would not have understood the reality of the harsh conditions these early explorers contended with while navigating previously uncharted territory.

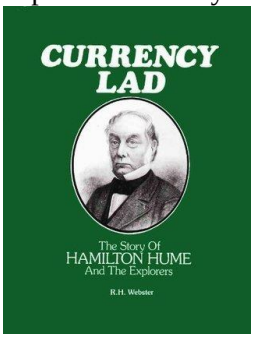
If I think back to when I was 20 years old, I realise that during my high school years and further tertiary education I did not learn any early Australian history at all.

If I think back to when I was 30 years old, my children were in primary school. I recall my eldest learning about early Australian explorers and doing projects. However, my youngest was unlucky enough to be caught in curriculum changes when there was very little emphasis on either Australian history or geography.

Now that the years have gone by and I am 70+ years old, and have spent many years researching for the Convict Connections Chronicle, and following my own convict ancestry, I feel I have come to understand our history, and the people in it, a lot better. And what about my sons? I asked both what they knew about Hume and Hovell. The eldest knew they were explorers. Both guessed they had something to do with the Hume Highway, but the youngest had never heard of Hovell.

I recall some years ago when Lyn and I went on a cruise along the inside passage to Alaska. We followed it up with an adventurous drive along the Columbia River Gorge. It was there that we were introduced to Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery Expedition. These intrepid explorers blazed a trail from Louisiana, up to North Dakota, over the Rocky Mountains and across to the Pacific Ocean in 1805. They waited for a ship that had been promised, but none arrived, and they had to return the following year along the same route. We found there was so much information at various interpretation centres and on road signs along the way. I brought back a book about these intrepid explorers for my young grandsons. Lewis and Clark? Well, they promptly informed me that they knew the story of their

exploration as they had watched a documentary series on the ABC!!! Where are the documentaries about our own many explorers?



By chance, some weeks after our December meeting, I came across an old publication from 1982. R H Webster wrote *"Currency Lad. The Story of Hamilton Hume and the Explorers".* This introduced me to the eventful life of Hume – and what an interesting life it was. I do wish I had found this book beforehand. So much detailed research was carried out by the author at a time when records were not as readily available as they are today.

His Father.

Andrew Hume, was born in Ireland, the son of a Presbyterian minister who had fled Scotland to avoid religious persecution. He joined the Moira Regiment of Volunteers in 1782 and soon rose to the rank of Captain. He should have been on track for a splendid army career, but his temper got the better of him. In 1786 a Colonel insulted him while on parade. Andrew Hume grabbed him by the leg and caused him to fall from his horse.

A duel was the result! Hume shot and wounded his commanding officer! He was dismissed when he really should have been court-martialled. This was because he had 'influential friends'. Although he was free of any sentence, he was disinherited by a wealthy uncle and lost his friends, influence and career.

With Governor Phillip wanting men with knowledge of farming to oversee convict workers in the new colony of New South Wales, Andrew secured an appointment in the Commissary Department at Botany Bay. Late in 1789, with eight other appointed overseers, he sailed on the *Guardian* which was taking much needed supplies to Sydney. Andrew was described as having lately been employed by Mr Duncan Campbell as Superintendent of Convicts at Woolwich. There was no reference to his military career!

Also on board the *Guardian* were 22 specially selected convicts who had skills that were required in the colony. The ship called in at the Cape of Good Hope to obtain cattle, horses and fruit trees. Eleven days after leaving, icebergs were sighted and they were 1,300 miles from the Cape. The ship was in serious trouble when she hit a submerged part of an iceberg. Livestock were killed and thrown overboard, as were guns and much of the cargo. The seas were rough and the crew were drunk on wine which had not been disposed of. The convicts and the superintendents were among 62 who stayed with the ship while three boats were lowered with others. After nine weeks adrift, a Dutch vessel managed to help the *Guardian* reach False Bay near the Cape.

It was not until March 1790 that the *Lady Juliana* arrived at the Cape with 222 female convicts on board. Andrew Hume and four other superintendents were

able to continue their voyage on the convict ship. On 3 June 1790 the *Lady Juliana*, in poor condition, was towed into Port Jackson. The cargo expected from the *Guardian* had not arrived – but more convicts had! Starvation was a real concern.

Governor Phillip sent Andrew Hume to Norfolk Island as an agricultural instructor. It was hoped that because he had experience in growing flax back in Ireland, he could establish a flax-growing industry on the Island. Despite producing two samples of cloth and requesting more equipment and labourers, the Governor decided to abandon the venture.

Hume returned to Sydney in late 1792 and was shortly afterwards appointed as the Superintendent of Government Livestock at the Government Farm at Toongabbie. The following year he was granted 30 acres nearby and was given permission to become a settler.

On 19 September 1796, Andrew Hume wed Elizabeth Moore Kennedy.

His Mother.

Elizabeth Moore Kennedy was the daughter of an Anglican minister. She arrived in Sydney as a companion and nursemaid to the children of her widowed brother, James Raworth Kennedy. She was well educated and had trained as a teacher. She became the Matron of Samuel Marsden's Orphanage for homeless and unwanted girls in Parramatta.

The Currency Lad.

Hamilton Hume was one of the first white children born to free parents in a penal colony. While his father had an intense hatred for the convict system, he was not always on the right side of the law. He retained his fierce temper but, luckily did not challenge anyone to a duel!

In 1798, the year after Hamilton was born, Andrew had been accused of being negligent of public property at the Parramatta Granary. He was acquitted, but Governor Hunter dismissed him for "impropriety in his general conduct".

After being appointed as the government stock keeper in charge of cattle, sheep, horses and pigs at Toongabbie, Governor King removed him in September 1800 because he was of bad character. He turned to farming, but lost everything in the 1806 flood. Elizabeth had resigned as matron of the Girl's Home in 1803 and there were lean years as Andrew stood trial on numerous charges.

By 1808, James Macarthur was a large landholder at what is now Camden. Originally known as Cowpastures, this region was where five cows brought over on the First Fleet and had strayed from Sydney soon afterwards, and were eventually found in 1795. By then the herd had increased and scattered into wild country. It seems that Andrew Hume was involved in the unauthorized distribution of cattle to the officers of the NSW Corps and others.

Andrew's rise and fall was dependent on the different Governors and care-takers of the colony. Under acting Governor Paterson, Elizabeth was granted 60 acres at Prospect Hill and two cows. In 1808, under Major Johnson, Andrew was

reinstated as the Government Stock-keeper at Toongabbie. Several months later he was dismissed by Lieutenant Foveaux. In 1812, when Hamilton was 15 years old and John was 12, the family moved to Appin. Governor Macquarie had granted Andrew 100 acres.

With family living on the fringe of the settlement, near rocky gorges, rivers and bushland, Hamilton and his brother were encouraged to venture into the country and they quickly learned bush skills and had no trouble befriending the natives and learning even more. They had also learned about livestock and farming from their father. It is no surprise that a young Hamilton became a bush scout and explorer.

Early Exploration.

In 1814, Hamilton and John and an aboriginal friend named Doual made their way through the dense Bargo Brush, down deep gullies and over stony ridges. With axes, they made their way to the Berrima/Bong Bong area. When they returned home, Elizabeth forbade a 14 year old John from going on further adventures. Hamilton returned to the same country again the following year and went as far as the Shoalhaven gorges near Bungonia.

John Oxley and William Henry Moore (Elizabeth's brother) had moved their cattle through the Cowpastures and down to Bargo in 1813 so they were interested in Hamilton's explorations. They followed his route marked by axe cuts in trees and formed a cattle run at what is new Moss Vale.

Settlers with flocks of sheep had made wool the land's primary product. Good "wool country" was required. Diseases in sheep were not as prevalent when they were moved inland. Hamilton had gained a reputation as a bush explorer. Governor Macquarie asked Hume to accompany expeditions to Lake Bathurst, the Goulburn areas and Jervis Bay with surveyors Oxley and Meehan. He established a farm of his own at Appin when granted land there. On acquiring land at Yass, he established a second station.

When Governor Brisbane did not have the finance to fund an expedition from Lake George to Bass Strait, Hume thought about attempting the journey himself, but his destination was Spencer Gulf not Port Phillip. He too did not have the necessary funds. He was introduced to Hovell, a former naval man who was living on his grant of land at Narellan. Hovell was a navigator and record keeper. Hume was an explorer who did not always record his discoveries.

The Hume and Hovell Expedition.

On 17 October 1824 the two men left Hume's Yass station and headed for previously unexplored territory. They traversed difficult terrain and flooded rivers. They quarreled throughout the expedition and at one stage split the expedition in two because they could not agree on which direction they should go. Hovell soon rejoined Hume's party on realizing that his had not been the better choice.

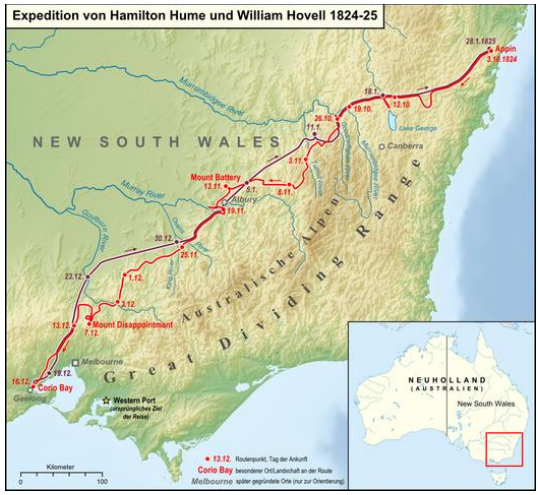
While Hovell sought much of the credit for their amazing journey, it would appear that it was Hume's knowledge of the bush that made it successful.

Unfortunately, the men maintained ill feelings towards each other for the rest of their days. Hovell was the senior of the two. He was the diarist whereas Hume did not always take notes. Hovell's journal was published in 1837.

Hume felt his rival was taking the credit for the success of the expedition. In reply, the *Sydney Herald* on 4 July 1831 published an *Extract from the Journal of Mr Hamilton Hume, written on a Tour through the Interior to Bass' Straits.*

There had been a dispute as to where their journey had ended. After they returned, Governor Brisbane decided to send a ship to Westernport to better explore the land the men had described. Hovell accompanied the party and soon realized that it was Corio Bay they had reached and not Westernport.

Despite the error, their expedition did open the land around Port Phillip for settlement and later the founding of Melbourne. Both men received large grants of land in appreciation for their efforts.



Hume wrote in 1826 that "*some persons have profited by my excursions into the interior, but, in general terms, I cannot say I have.*" He became increasingly selective with whom he shared his findings and for whom he undertook land-finding expeditions. He neither sought publicity nor recorded many of his ventures. His rapport with the aboriginal people allowed him to travel through tribal lands in safety. He camped with them, learned from them and learned their language. They pointed out the easiest tracks over mountains and across rivers and taught him to be an excellent tracker.

"I set out trusting to my compass, my knowledge of bush travelling, a stout heart, and a hardy constitution."

This currency lad was the first bushman to explore the land in which he was born!

THE PENSIONER GUARDS

Our member Sue Burgess told us at the last meeting about an article she had recently found regarding Pensioner Guards sent to Western Australia.

The Perth *Inquirer*, on 20 March 1850, published a piece titled "Pensioners in Convict Ships". That is a little ambiguous as it does not refer to convicts who were pensioners, but to the guards on the convict ships.

The article states that War-office on 28 July 1849 offered the following - *"In consequence of the wish expressed by many pensioners to settle in Australia, her Majesty's Government has authorised the following conditions, under which some of them may be provided with free passages to that country:-*

1st. The convict guard hitherto furnished by regiments of the Line, are in future to consist of pensioners who wish to settle in Australia. A company of from 60 to 70 men, with a due proportion of non-commissioned officers, will be formed at Tilbury Fort, and kept ready to furnish detachments for this duty; and as they are embarked fresh volunteers will be brought from the pension districts to supply their place.

2nd. The age of these pensioners is not to exceed 45, and the number of their children not to exceed two under 7, or three under 10 years of age. No maximum is specified for the number of children above 10 years of age, as that must in some measure depend upon whether they are likely to be serviceable in the colony.

3rd. These Pensioners shall engage to serve for a period of six months, or until the termination of the voyage, at the rate of I shilling 3 pence a day for a private, I shilling 5 pence for a corporal, and I shilling 10 pence for a sergeant, such pay to commence from the date of leaving their respective districts, and to continue on shipboard, and after landing in the colony, till the period of their engagement has expired, subject to the usual deductions for rations during the voyage; and they shall be conveyed from their homes to Tilbury Fort, or other place of embarkation, at the public expense.

4th. As the Pensioners thus employed are to receive pay during the voyage, no enrolment money will be issued to them ; and each will be equipped for the voyage by an advance of four months' pay previous to sailing.

5th. As the wives and families of these Pensioners cannot be allowed to accompany them in a vessel which is intended for the conveyance of convicts, they will be sent out, free of all expense, within three months after the departure of the Pensioners, and the cost of their conveyance to the port of embarkation will be paid by the public.

6th. If the Pensioner is married, his pension during the six months that he is on pay will be applied for the support of his wife and family till embarkation, and towards their outfit for the voyage.

7th. Each Pensioner proceeding on this duty will be equipped with one frock coat, one shell jacket, one pair of trousers, and a cap, to be worn on those occasions when he is on duty, and which equipments, in the event of his serving as an enrolled Pensioner in the colony, will be renewed as often as the nature of the service is found to require. The usual arms and accoutrements of an enrolled Pensioner will also be issued to him.

8th. These articles will be marked and numbered as belonging to the Pensioner, and on the expiration of the period for which he is to receive pay, they are to be returned into the government store of the colony in good order, under the direction of the officer or noncommissioned officer in charge of the party. In the event of any damage beyond what is likely to have resulted from wear and tear, the cost thereof is to be deducted from the Pensioner.

9th. On the termination of six months, the Pensioner's military engagement will be considered at an end, if by that time he has arrived at his destination, and he will thereafter only be liable to attend exercise as an enrolled Pensioner, for 12 days in each year, in any local company to be formed in the colony under the authority of the Act 10th and 11th Vict. chap. 54; and to serve in defence of the colony, or when called out for the preservation of the public peace, under the authority of the Governor.

10th. When employed on this duty he shall receive the pay authorised by the royal warrant of the 7th September, 1843, for enrolled pensioners.

11th. In consideration of the expense incurred by the government in sending out the pensioner and his family to the colony he shall not receive enrolment money annually, but shall be bound to keep up the usual stock of necessaries, consisting of one pair of boots, two shirts, two pairs of socks and one stork, and, if at any time deficient therein after enrolment, his officer will advance the amount necessary for purchasing the same, and deduct it from the first issue of his pay or pension.

12th. Every pensioner on the termination of the six months for which he is engaged, shall be bound to register his abode in the books of the person who pays his pension, and not to remove therefrom without intimating to him his intended change of residence, and obtaining permission. It being considered more advantageous for the Pensioners and their families that they should supply the demand for labour, than attempt settling on land of their own, no grant of land has been promised them ; but, if they acquire money to purchase it in the interior, there will be no objection to their settling there, even though the distance should prevent them from serving as enrolled Pensioners.

13 th. In the event of the death or removal from the force of any Pensioner thus enrolled before the expiration of the period for which his clothing has been issued,

ii shall revert to the public to be made available for the equipment of his successor.
14th. An allowance of one guinea will be made to cover the expense of the funeral of any pensioner who dies while thus enrolled or on pay.
15th. It must form a special condition of the original engagement and subsequent enrolment that the service is in neither case to reckon for increase of pension, but when employed in defence of the colony, these Pensioners shall, in the event of being wounded or disabled in the execution of their duty, be allowed the usual increase of pension as for wounds received in action.
16th. Every Pensioner volunteering for this service, during the continuance of the period for which he is engaged or enrolled, be subjet to the provisions of the mutiny act and the articles of war ; but all minor offences may be punished by such fines, or by expulsion from the force, as the Governor of the colony for the time being may direct.
17th. In the event of the Pensioners being enrolled, the periods of exercise will he fixed by the Governor of the colony for the time being, and none of them shall be called out, either for exercise or in defence of the colony, except by him or persons holding his authority for that purpose; but when get called out they shall be placed under the general or other superior officer in command of her Majesty's forces in the colony, in the same manner in all respects, as if they formed part of the regular forces of her Majesty's forces.

Between 1850 and 1868 1,225 pensioner guards (also known as the Enrolled Pensioner Force) served on 37 ships taking convicts to the Swan River Colony. They were employed for 6 months and this included the time spent on the voyage. On arrival they were given grants of land of 10 acres which they could lease for seven years and then own freehold. Also, they could use convict labour to clear their allotments. They had to serve as guards for 12 days each year, or when required. In effect, they were free settlers who were able to help with maintaining law and order.

Many of these men had served in wars in China, Crimea, South Africa, India, Persia, and New Zealand. For long service, good conduct, wounds received etc., they had been awarded pensions.

Sources:

http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65740046https://www.perthdps.com/convicts/pen-wa.htmlhttps://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/about-us/https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/government_archival_records/n-s/pensioner_guards

HILL END - TAMBAROORA AND DISTRICT BURIALS

This region in New South Wales was a gold mining area. We have seen that the pre 1856 death index contains only the names that appeared in church registers. What of those who died on the diggings and their deaths were not recorded? The Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group have compiled a database of the pioneering and mining ancestors. They have meticulously searched burial records and grave- sites.

The Project Gutenberg web-site listed below has the alphabetical list of burials and also a list organized by date of death, from earliest to latest.

Localities which appear in the indexes include Baker's Flat; Bathurst; Bell's Creek; Box Ridge; Crudine; Erskine Flat; Golden Point; Hargraves; Hill End (Bald Hill or Bald Hills); Lower Turon; Oakey Creek (Big Oakey Creek); Palmer's Oakey; Pennyweight Flat; Pyramul; Sallys Flat; Sheep Station Point; Sofala; Tambaroora (Bald Hill or Bald Hills); Turon River; Turondale; Wattle Flat; Windeyer; and Wyagdon.

An example is William Henry Clarke, the son of Henry Irving Clarke and Christina Clarke. He was just four months old. Note the occupation of the father. (This is only part of that particular entry.)

124	Clarke	William Henry	25 May 1853	4m	813/1853?	Son of Licentiate of the Apothecary's Company of London	I

Other occupations shown include gold miner, butcher, sawyer, publican, blacksmith, pauper etc. There are also entries that show illegitimacy.

Robert Lovell McDougall who died on 23 Sep 1853 at age 37 was a Corporal in the Gold Police Force.

Many entries have the pre 1856 NSW Death Index reference, but not all do. Some have hyperlinked references to inquests reported in the newspapers. The death of John Dien/Dean in 1852 shows he was also known as “Jack the Devil”. Henry Robinson, age 33, died in 1851 at Golden Point and was buried at Sofala. He was a Master Mariner. Robert Parsons was a gold miner who was found dead in 1854 at Monkey Hill. George Henry Sutton was accidentally killed and he was buried ‘on the bank of the river near the place of his misfortune’.

If you had an ancestor who lived on the gold diggings then you should find this index of interest. The information supplied is such interesting reading and you can easily form a social picture of what it may have been like living there. The index by death date is helpful in doing that.

Sources:

https://www.heatgg.org.au/

https://gutenberg.net.au/hill-end/_home.html

Convict Connections was formed as an Interest Group of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. to accommodate the growing interest and enthusiasm in our Colonial Heritage. It was decided that the Group would endeavour to service the needs of those members whose ancestral path led them back not only to the Convict Era but also the Colonial Era.

Aims and Objectives

Convict Connections aims to provide a specialist forum for members with a particular interest in Convicts and Colonial Heritage, to share and exchange information, achieve a wider knowledge, and foster a greater appreciation of those who suffered the horrors of transportation.

Membership

Convict Connections membership is available free to all members of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

Certificate of Proof

Convict Connections can provide a Certificate of Proof on receipt of certified evidence of convict descent which has been verified by our Officer of Claims. Applications must be lodged on an official Claim Form accompanied by legible photocopies of certificates or other Archival proof.

Cost - $10 for initial Certificate
$4 for additional tickets for family members
(includes postage)

Meeting dates for 2024

11 February **14 April** **9 June**

11 August **13 October** **8 December**

SOME REASONS
Why
Women were set to
The Parramatta Female Facory

- At large from her husband
- At large, her husband being dead
- Many disobedience and disorderly conduct and drunkenness
- A filthy prostitute and pest to police
- Absent from her husband and with his wishes a prostitute
- Drunk riotous and disorderly and wasting her husband's property
- Fighting and attempting to cut with a knife
- Harbouring a man in her master's house
- Having a party
- Having got glorious
- Having no residence
- Her master/mistress cannot be found
- Illegally at large her master having left the colony
- Ill treatment by her master
- Knitting at Sabbath
- Not the woman required, she is being from the Factory and not the ship as required
- Procuring her marriage by fraudulent means
- Removing distrained goods
- Wrong place wrong time
- Scaling the wall – frequent runaway
- Self harm
- Selling boots
- Sleeping during church
- Slight misapprehension of judgement
- Strong suspicions of dishonesty
- Stealing
- Violation of 10th Commandment