



KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including:

Ku-ring-gai Family History Group

Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai

Affiliated with:

The Royal Australian Historical Society

The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Society of Australian Genealogists

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

Research Centre:

799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW

2072 PO Box 109, Gordon, NSW 2072

Phone: (02) 9499-4568

khs@khs.org.au

<http://www.khs.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/kuringgaihs>

kuringgaihs

<http://kuringgaihs.blogspot.com.au/>

<https://twitter.com/kuringgaihs>

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER VOL. 35 NO 11

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 2
FAMILY HISTORY MEETING
2.00pm GENERAL MEETING**



Social afternoon.

Surprises, Games and Eats

Bring a plate of festive fare to share.



**A VERY HAPPY AND
ENJOYABLE FESTIVE SEASON
TO ALL KHS MEMBERS
FROM
THE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

**Research Centre closes
Friday 15 December
Reopens Monday 8 January 2018**

JANUARY ADVANCE NOTICE

**SATURDAY JANUARY 20
2.00pm GENERAL MEETING
Sydney as a British Army Garrison Town.
Presenter: Craig Wilcox**



For three quarters of a century, from its beginnings as a convict camp to its emergence as a great port city of the Victorian age. The garrison propped up colonial authority, but also brought down Governor Bligh, crushed a convict revolt in 1804 but itself mutinied in 1845. The British army was more visible and more integrated into Sydney's life than the Australian Defence Force today.



Craig Wilcox is a military historian who lives and writes in Erskineville (once called Mac-Donaltdown after a British army quarter-master's family). His books include *Australia's Boer War* (2002), *Red Coat Dreaming* (2009), and *Badge Boot Button: The Story of Australian Uniforms* (2017). He last spoke to the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society in 2012, on Australia and the Great War.

Visitors Welcome

Afternoon Tea Available



TULKIYAN SALVAGE OPERATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Many members will be aware that *Tulkiyan*, the State Heritage Listed 1913 Gordon house owned by Ku-ring-gai Council, has been closed to public access since 2012. From 2004 the house had been opened to the public for open days and group visits run by the Friends of *Tulkiyan* volunteers, who included a number of KHS members. The KHS had earlier assisted Council in the drafting of the original 2001 Management Plan for this property.

Last year Ku-ring-gai Council made an Agreement with the Historic Houses Association of Australia (HHAA) to administer *Tulkiyan* with a view to reopening for public access. An accident with the hot water service inside the property has since damaged part of the house and affected its State Listed contents. These materials are soon to undergo extensive remediation and conservation work.

The former Friends of *Tulkiyan* have been approached by Tim Duddy, Chairman of the HHAA to invite volunteers to assist with some of the light conservation works, specifically with packing and storing of the collection, to enable work on the fabric of the house to progress. These conservation works will be under the direction of Curator Robert Griffin, formerly of Government House Sydney.

Tulkiyan is a valuable piece of local heritage which should be properly restored, and managed to continue its role in describing the local history of Ku-ring-gai. Interested volunteers can contact the undersigned in the first instance, or Tim Duddy, Chair of the HHAA.

Helen Whitsed, KHS Committee
9416 5825 or hwhitsed@hotmail.com

Formerly Secretary of the *Friends of Tulkiyan*

OCTOBER FAMILY HISTORY MEETING

11.00am SESSION

22 members attended the morning session, which was chaired by Yvette Reeve.

After making announcements, Yvette introduced the morning's presenter, David Wilkins, a Society member who has been actively involved in producing 'Rallying the Troops'. With an excellent power point presentation David

explained how to research an Australian soldier ancestor using a variety of data bases.

The National Archives should be the starting place and David used the example of Arnold Brown who is written up in Volume 1 of *Rallying the Troops*. On NAA site there are 84 pages about Arnold Brown. From there he went to the Australian War Memorial site, where he found additional personal information including decorations. The third resource to search was Official Histories by C W Bean, Unit Histories and Unit Diaries which, while not mentioning a soldier by name, would show what was happening in the theatre of war in which the unit was operating. Finally, he visited the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site where burials and cemeteries are recorded often with pictures of the headstones. After several questions, David said his Power Point presentation would be available on request to him.

2.00p.m. SESSION

Yvette Reeve opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, especially the speaker, Peter Headley. She then announced that the 2019 ACT/NSW Family History Conference will be hosted by Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

Due to a shortage of volunteers, the KHS Research Centre will not be open on Thursdays from the beginning of 2018. She mentioned several interesting events on 7 October in previous years: - 1798 – Bass and Flinders set out to prove that Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was an island; 1919 – KLM was established (the world's first airline); 1949 – East Germany was formed after Germany was split following WWII; 1935 – Thomas Keneally was born; 1919 – Alfred Deakin, 2nd Prime Minister of Australia died; and in 1951 – Will Kellogg, founder of Kellogg's Cornflakes, died at 91 years in NYC.

Tours

Neil spoke about the upcoming program of tours, details of which are in the previous Newsletter.

SPEAKER

Yvette then introduced the speaker, Peter Headley, retired from the export sector both private and public. Holding many tertiary qualifications, he has a lifelong interest in all aspects of history. His topic was 'The World of Old Photographs, 1838 – 1880'. Using a Power Point presentation, he started off with a brief history of the development of photography from 1826, when the exposure for a photo took 8 hours,



An example of an early camera

to 1828 for the daguerreotype,



An example of a daguerreotype photo

1839 the one-off photo, 1849 the first camera, 1844 the first negative enabling more than one copy of the original, and 1847 the first photographic studio in Reading.



Reading Studio



Stereoscopic Card



Stereoscopic Viewer

The 1850s brought nude photos, and 3D photos with the stereoscope. In 1861 the first colour photo (using a filter) arrived, and later hand tinting of photos. Peter showed a wide selection of photos covering important events, important people, everyday life, young children, clothing, buildings (from slums to palaces), places (both urban and rural), and occupations from all parts of the world including UK, Australia, USA, India, Egypt, Israel and the Far East.

After questions, a vote of thanks was passed by Yvette Reeve.

Raffle

The raffle winners were members Barbara Shaw, and David Hulme.

Notes Jean Smith

NOVEMBER FAMILY HISTORY

11.00am SESSION

22 members attended the morning session which was chaired by Sue Holmes.

After making announcements, Sue played the webinar, '*NSW Shipping and Arrivals Records*', which covered the records held at State Archives and Records at Kingswood. It included Convicts, and their families, Free Arrivals, both Assisted and Unassisted, Military and Crew Members.

The presenter detailed how to search for each group within the Archives, using a step by step approach, beginning with a visit to their website, then death certificates, indexes and the Colonial Secretary's Papers. Convict information is the best covered, and then assisted migrants, while the other categories are not as easy to find.

State Archives and Records holds information up to 1922 for shipping and immigration, but later records are at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. Books should not be overlooked, and KHS has many useful resource books in its library. Questions followed.

Jo Harris pointed out that two folders have been compiled for all the ships that KHS members' ancestors arrived in Australia on. These have replaced the previous volumes that 'disappeared'. Check these volumes to see that your families'

ships are included and if not please fill in a form for them.

2.00p.m. SESSION

Sue Holmes opened the meeting by welcoming members and visitors. She then listed some important events that had happened on 4 November in previous years: - 1819 – Maori Chiefs, Hone Heke and Rewa, sold 13,000 acres of land at Kerikeri to the Church Missionary Society for 48 axes; 1922 – British archaeologist, Howard Carter, and his workmen, discovered a step leading to the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt; 1932 – Australia's first Milk Bar was opened; and in 1933 – Donald Bradman scored 200 runs in a match NSW v Queensland in 184 minutes, including 26 fours.

Tours

Neil spoke about the upcoming program of tours, details of which are in the Newsletter.

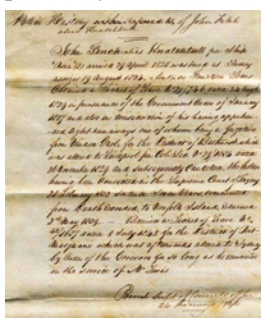
Coming Events

On 2 December there will be no morning workshop, and the afternoon session will be a special Christmas activity followed by afternoon tea, so please come and bring a plate.

SPEAKER

Sue then introduced the speaker John Cann from State Archives and Records NSW whose topic was 'Tracing NSW Gaolbirds', starting with the resources at Kingswood.

In a most informative talk, John covered several NSW gaols, beginning with Darlinghurst for which there are many new photos and diagrams. He pointed out that there are more records for bad and very bad people than for law-abiding citizens, so there could be gems of information for the black sheep of the family. The place to start is the Archives' website, using the Advanced Search button and putting in the agency (e.g. Darlinghurst Gaol) where can be found scanned photos from mid-19th century, letters, discharge books, debtors books, and records of officers' service in the prison system.



Further information on gaolbirds can be found on Trove (e.g. John Knatchbull, whose portrait was in the paper with details of his crime, murder, and his execution); in Police Gazettes which are indexed by name, on Ancestry, (e.g. John Augustus Blake,

a house breaker who died by falling into a copper). The speaker emphasised that the new website is great for browsing. He also gave examples from Grafton and Long Bay Gaols. He concluded by listing the order in which to search for gaolbirds: - Agency, Trove, Police Gazettes, Indexes Online and Original Indexes. John said staff at State Archives are experts in assisting researchers by phone, email or a visit to Kingswood, so don't hesitate to contact them.

Several questions followed, and then a vote of thanks was passed by Jo Harris.

Raffle

The raffle winners were members Max Farley and Elaine Turnidge.

Notes: Jean Smith

GENERAL MEETINGS

Extreme thanks go to Beverley Dunstan, for once again obtaining a great line up of speakers for our monthly meetings through 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to Society member John Cran, whose 90th birthday was celebrated as principal bassoonist with the Willoughby Symphony, with which he has performed since his retirement from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, where he was principal bassoonist for more than 40 years.

TOUR DESK

Diary dates for February –June 2018.

The Tour Team has commenced planning for our 2018 KHS Tours and has established some early venues and dates for your diary.

In the case of the planned visit to NSW Government House, as it is so far in advance, cannot be guaranteed at this stage.

The Governor may need it for a yet unplanned Government Official function. We will be advised as appropriate.

The others can be confirmed:

- **February**, Tuesday 8, State Archives and Records Authority.
- **March**, Friday 23, Female Orphan School
- **April**, Wednesday 18, ANSTO at Lucas Heights
- **May**, Tuesday 15, Quarantine Station, North Head
- **June**, Friday 22, NSW Government House

Upcoming Newsletters will describe opening days and Tour Details.

TOUR 08, State Archives and Records

Following the excellent recent presentation by John Cann, Senior Archivist at NSW State

Archives & Records Authority, we have been able to confirm the date of our visit to State Records as Thursday February 8.

Cost including bus transport and picnic lunch will be \$ 40; \$50 for non members.

This Tour will open in the KHS Research Rooms on Monday January 8th.

Many members who attended John's presentation completed the Expression of Interest Form, and we ask that this group confirm their interest as early as possible on or after 8 January.

Our bus trip will commence at 9.00am from Bannockburn road, more details will be in the Tour Details form.

A second visit to Rookwood is also under review.

Exploring Ku-ring-gai

These very informative and interesting Exploring Ku-ring-gai tours (99.6 km around Ku-ring-gai) are conducted regularly by Vice President, Jo Harris. An expression of interest sheet is available in our Research Rooms.

They will resume in February, 2018.

ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS

Visit 19 October



Sketch of Early Rookwood

Upon arriving at Rookwood Necropolis (another word meaning Cemetery) the tour group had morning tea at the Village at Rookwood Café, where we met our tour guide, Lorraine, who is a member of the 'Friends of Rookwood', a volunteer community group dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of the cemetery. The 'friends' also try to put together histories of those whose burials were undertaken long ago, and undertake regular tours on the first Sunday of the month, March to November.

Visit www.friendsofrookwoodinc.org.au for tour explanations and timing.

Besides being the second largest necropolis in the world, and is the oldest in Victorian style Cemetery in Australia. At 238 hectares, it is equivalent in area from Central to Circular Quay including Darling Harbour.

We toured over many, but not all parts, of this most interesting cemetery in our (thankfully) air

conditioned bus, with our guide Lorraine providing onboard commentary, beginning with the Sydney War Cemetery & NSW Garden of Remembrance .

Rookwood was built on a site originally known as Haslem's Creek, and was designed to accommodate Roman Catholic, Church of England, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Jewish and Independent deceased, however, it now caters for over 90 religions.

Our tour passed the Catholic cemetery and Crematorium, Islamic Burial Ground, the Lawn Cemetery, Crown of Thorns Monument, where there is a special service on 'All Saints Day.'

Sandstone monuments and headstones generally only use Pyrmont sandstone, and restoration involves many stone masons from time to time. Different materials are used in mausoleums, and marble is the stone of choice for the Chinese community.

Our stops along the way allowed us to alight and view gravestones, and hear the stories of prominent and colourful characters from Australian history. Some of these included:

John Barnet –Government Architect - 1,350 projects over 30 years, including the GPO, Customs House and the Australian Museum.

Peter Dodds – Composer of 'Advance Australia Fair'.

James M Toohey –Brewery Fame

John Frazier - Politician and philanthropist, the largest mausoleum at Rookwood, with 8 people interred.



Horden and Arnott Graves

Anthony Horden (Department Store), and William Arnott (biscuits), whose tree damaged granite site is due to be restored by the cemetery trust– an interesting story and of course, there are many, many more .

We viewed the site of the original Mortuary Station, whose stone building was sold and dismantled in 1956 to be rebuilt, by the Vicar, as All Saints Church in Ainslie, a suburb of Canberra. The last train ran in 1948.



Mortuary Station/All Saints Church



St Michael The Archangel Chapel

As the time for our tour was drawing to a close, we had a brief tour of the Victorian era Serpentine Canal, and the magnificent St Michael The Archangel Chapel, which was opened especially by Lorraine.



Serpentine Canal

Nearby the wonderful Harry Seidler designed memorial to the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust.



Holocaust Memorial

There is so much to see at Rookwood and we were privileged to have this brief overview.

Notes: David Hulme, Photos: Sue Moore

GREAT RESPONSE TO RALLYING THE TROOPS III

Dear David,

Thank you for your note re this publication of *Rallying The Troops: A World War I Commemoration volume 3*. Goodness me, someone's done an enormous amount of work. And you're a non-profit, all-volunteer society.

I'll certainly give it a plug. Let me digest some of this first, David. Thank you for sending it on. I'm very grateful.

With best wishes,

Alan Jones AO.

From Brendan Nelson, Director AWM: This is a superb publication and a worthy tribute to the remarkable men and women of our community who served overseas and at home. Congratulations.

From Morwenna Dixon, Manager of Barker College Archives: I would like to congratulate you and the WWI writers group for putting together another fantastic volume. I can only imagine the amount of time, effort and research that has gone into such a project – a mammoth effort!

From Simon Pockley: Books just don't pop up out of the air. Clearly a massive effort. Congratulations to all involved.

From David Roberts, Archivist Newington College: This is a quick note to thank you for sending a copy of the new volume of *Rallying the Troops* to Newington College, which has arrived safely. I very much appreciate it. Like the previous volumes, it's a very impressive work and I'm looking forward to delving into it more deeply. The very first page I opened had a photo of Henry Budden, who appears on the College's WW1 Honour Roll as War Chest Commissioner. It was great to make such an immediate connection.

I have also had phone calls from such people as a very frail Major General Maitland, who said it was a wonderful effort and worthy of major accolades.

It is nice of people to respond in such ways and to encourage us in this enormous task.

Thank you for all your effort and assistance.

David Wilkins



FINDING CHARLIE

During my research on Private Charles James Roberts for *Rallying the Troops*, I had hit a wall. In April 1918 while serving with the 33rd Battalion, he had been severely gassed near Villers Bretonneux, and after rehabilitation in England had been invalided home in March 1919. Except for a brief death notice in 1959, noting his residence in recent years, I could find little else to write on his post-war life.

Charles was living in Merrivale Road, Pymble when he joined the AIF, and is commemorated on the Pymble & St Ives Roll of Honour, outside the Society's rooms in the old Gordon School. He was an only child, his father Albert dying in an accident just six weeks after his birth, and his mother during his teen years. His next of kin became his uncle Charles James Roberts, an influential man with a large family hotel business, and who had at various times been Mayor of Sydney, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Postmaster General. Not surprisingly for a family of this prominence, I discovered there was a significant family vault at Waverley Cemetery, and I hoped a personal visit would seek out some information that I could use. While being helped with directions at the cemetery office, I was handed a pamphlet suggesting that if I knew the family, there was still room in the vault for family members.

I didn't bother explaining that I only wished I knew the family! My soldier's father was interred in the vault, along with various other family members, across a double monument, but I learnt little else except it was a spectacular spot on a warm day to watch a southerly come in over the Pacific Ocean!

Some days later a thought came to me out of the blue. While growing up in St Ives in the 1960s our neighbour down the road was Charlie Roberts ... I wonder? His daughter had been my best friend before starting school, but I had not seen her for almost 20 years so where to star ... Facebook!

It **was** the same family. Unfortunately, as with most families over the generations, little was known of the life of her great uncle, and although she could not help me, I realised I could actually help her. Her father

Charlie had passed away some years before, and she was still undecided as to where to place his ashes. I still had that pamphlet.

Plans have since been set in motion to inter Charlie in the Roberts family vault, high on the hill, where another generation of visitors can also take in the spectacular view over the Pacific Ocean.

Margaret Reynolds, St Ives

USING THE GORDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS REGISTER

The complete transcript of the Gordon Public School Admissions Register 1918 to 1969 has been published on our Intranet. A workshop is planned to introduce this resource and to demonstrate how to use the resource as a research tool. The workshop will be in three parts:

- Introduction to the components of the Gordon Public School application,
- Locating information using the PDF version of the dataset, and
- Extracting, manipulating and analysing the dataset using the filtering and sorting tools of Microsoft Excel.

Dates: Monday 27th November or Friday 1st December (same workshop, repeated)

Times: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm each day

Venue: KHS Research rooms

Cost: Free

Please book on the relevant sheet in our rooms or via email to khsysadmin@tpg.com.au stating which day you wish to attend.

IRISH SIG

The final meeting of the Irish SIG for this year will be held at 1.30pm, Friday 8 December in the Research Centre.

GERMAN SIG

Final meeting for the year : Monday 11 December, Research Centre.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for October amounted to \$1706, including 1 new member. We released Volume III of *Rallying the Troops*, and sold 44 during the month. Volume III is available from the Rooms at \$50 or you can purchase on line on our website. Our expenses for the month amounted to \$1,175, leaving us with a surplus for the month of \$531 and a cumulative surplus of \$16,585. Our unpaid membership fees have been reduced to \$1,660 (11% of memberships billed for this financial year.). If you still have not paid I would appreciate payment as soon as possible please.

DECEMBER WHERE IS IT?



DIARY DATES

December

Saturday 2, 11.00am, No Workshop.
 Saturday 2, 2.00pm, Family History Meeting,
Christmas Party. (Please bring a plate of Christmas fare.)
 Monday 4, Tour: Hawkesbury River Postman Ferry Trip.
 Thursday 7, 2.15pm, Committee Meeting.
 Friday 8, 1.30pm Irish SIG.
 Monday 11, German SIG
 Friday 15, Research Centre closes.
 Saturday 16, No General Meeting.

January

Monday 8, Research Centre reopens.
 Saturday 20, 2.00pm General Meeting, **Sydney as a Garrison Town**, Presenter: Craig Wilcox.

February

Thursday 1, 2.15pm, Committee Meeting.
 Saturday 3, 11.00am, Family History Workshop.
 Saturday 3, 2.00pm, Family History Meeting.
 Thursday 8, Tour: State Archives and Records.
 Saturday 17, 2.00pm, General Meeting.

© Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc. and authors. The content may be reproduced as sourced from this newsletter with acknowledgment to named authors.

Newsletter Deadline

Please send email copy for publication to editor@khs.org.au as early as possible, but no later than 13th of each month. Items will only be accepted from members of KHS. Copy is accepted on the basis that Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement. If possible, material should be in electronic form, with as little formatting as possible, e.g. no bullets, coloured type, indenting or styles.

WHERE IS IT ?

NOVEMBER ANSWER

KILLARNEY CASTLE

"Killarney Castle". Originally the home of a Thomas Taylor, an Irish immigrant. Taylor Street came off Glenview Street, Gordon. The original landholding was large and at one time included Richmond Park. It was built from stone at the site and was opened in 1918 by Governor and Lady Davidson. It had various owners after it was sold by Taylor in 1939, and was put on the market in 2012. Much of the land in the intervening period was subdivided off the original landholding. Near where I grew up on Mt. William St.."

This answer came from our Society member Warren Dent who lives in Seattle, US.

Jo Harris

ADMINISTRATION

President: Jenny Joyce 9440 2131
 Vice Presidents: Morrison Hammond 9449 7447
 Jo Harris OAM 9489 4393
 Treasurer Annet Latham 9440 3998
 Secretary Beth Facer 9988 0823
 Immediate Past President

Graham Lewis 9416 5818

Committee Members

Richard Facer 9988 0823
 Neil Falconer 9488 7293
 Lorna Watt 9440 8010
 Helen Whitsted 9416 5825
 Evelyn Wyatt 9144 4690

Family History Group

Committee Lorraine Henshaw,
 (Leader) 9988 0522
 Margaret Holland 9488 5452
 Sue Holmes
 Jenny Joyce
 (ex officio) 9440 2131
 Yvette Reeve 9987 0904
 Jean Smith 9498 4468
 Elaine Turnidge 9899 2635

Appointees

Accessions Jennifer Wallin 9983 1871
 Book Reports Richard Facer 9988 0823
 Book Sales Margaret Holland 9488 5452
 Kathie Rieth
 Catering Margaret Holland 9488 5452
 Vicki Williams 9415 8833
 Computer Systems Peter Stehn 9489 9488
 Curators Ann Barry 9144 6480
 Jennifer Harvey 9489 6390

Heritage and

Historian Editors Jennifer Harvey 9489 6390
 Lorna Watt 9440 8010
 Indexing Beth Facer 9988 0823
 Newsletter Editor Morrison Hammond 9449 7447
 Media Liaison Neil Falconer 9488 7293
 Public Officer Helen Whitsted 9416 5825
 Research Team Leader Joan Stebbing 9489 6476
 Tour Contact Yvette Reeve 9987 0904
 Speakers Programme Beverley Dunstan 9419 8526
 Volunteers Coordinator Geoff Little 9449 3131
 Webmaster Andy Joyce 9440 2131
 Welfare Officer Elaine Turnidge 9899 2635
 WW1 Writers & Researchers Group Coordinators
 Kathie Rieth frithie@netdata.com.au
 David Wilkins 0411 186752

Research Centre Hours

The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library. The Centre is open to the public from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a Family History meeting).