

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm
Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Ted Books

Office Bearers 2019/2020:

President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill

Jnr Vice President: Dick Gillard

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Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

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Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Facebook Administrator: Peta Sharpley

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Peta Sharpley

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Manager and Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

Publications Committee: Jan Barkley-Jack, Jan Readford and Ellen Jordan

MEETINGS

Meetings cancelled for June 2020

Saturday 22nd August 2.00 pm

Thursday 22nd October 7.30 pm (AGM)

Hugh Williams Room

HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM

Baker Street, Windsor

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The Mystery of Crooked Lane

By Cathy McHardy

June 2020

Aptly named Crooked Lane, North Richmond, it winds its crooked way from the corner with Bells Line of Road, veers to the right off Slopes Road and heads up the hill to join Maddens Road near the top of the hill. Early Parish maps mark the haphazard route of Crooked Lane and later maps show the construction of Slopes Road, Maddens Road and Branders Lane.



A very short distance from Bells Line of Road lies a small one lane bridge over a seemingly unnamed creek. During the 1930s and 1940s, according to reports in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, this bridge and creek were named 'Dead Boy Bridge' and 'Dead Boy Creek' respectively. A search of newspapers in the fifty years preceding these dates has failed to reveal why the location was so named.

This location was, however the scene of a long forgotten accident which occurred over 130 years ago.

Facebook Report

By Peta Sharpley

Since taking on the role of managing our Facebook page in March, the number of followers has grown from around 280 to 344. I aim to post at least once a week and have greatly enjoyed searching through Trove to find interesting advertisements and articles relating to our Hawkesbury area.

Further, we received an inquiry which led to a talk being given to primary school students at Pitt Town Public School.

Please feel free to like and share our page with your Facebook friends to help increase our reach amongst the community.

<https://m.facebook.com/HawkesburyHistoricalSociety/?ref=bookmarks>. If anybody has anything they wish to be added to our page, please let me know.

Below is an example of an interesting story about our Hawkesbury Historical Society in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Wed 15 Oct 1958 (Trove).

Historical Society Two Years Old

MARKING the completion of the second year's existence of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, the September gathering of members was observed as the annual meeting.

As submitted by the hon. secretary (Mr. D. G. Bowd), the annual report stated that membership of the society during the year totalled 80, and attendances at the nine general meetings averaged 33.

The report dealt with the eight meetings of the society's council, listed the addresses delivered during the year, gave details of the essay competition among district schools for prizes donated by Dr. W. J. Skinner, an historical excursion to Mt. Tomah, naming of the river bank reserve at Windsor "Howe Park" at the suggestion of the society, the staging of an historical exhibit at the Hawkesbury Show, and concluded with the comment that "in arousing a general interest in historical matters and in spreading information, your society and the press are doing a real service to the district."

The Mayor (Ald. V. W. Gillespie) in moving (in his capacity as president of the society and chairman of the meeting) the adoption of the report, remarked that it had been "a full and active and interesting year for all members."

Campbell; council, Messrs. Arndell, senr., Pead, MacLeod Morgan, Mason, Tindale, Hodges, E. Stubbs.

The membership fee for the year was again fixed at 10/-, and the usual affiliation with the Royal Australian Historical Society was agreed upon.

Continued from Page 1

In early 1882, a young man named John Thompson commenced working as a teamster with local carrier Henry Baldwin of Freemans Reach. Baldwin had been contracted to source the logs for the construction of a bridge over the little creek on Crooked Lane.



Bridge over unnamed creek on Crooked Lane North Richmond, the scene of a tragic accident in 1882. Cathy McHardy December 2015.

Now-a-days, only a trickle, the creek once flowed from the vicinity of Kurmond Road in a southerly direction to its confluence with Redbank Creek. The creek was not very wide where it crossed Crooked Lane and Baldwin determined that only a small number of logs were needed to construct the bridge.

On 7 September, the logs were loaded on the wagon and Baldwin and Thompson were unloading the logs at the site when an accident occurred. As the top log was unloaded the others were dislodged and all 5 logs fell on John Thompson. He was crushed beneath the weight of the load and died at the scene.

An inquest before coroner J B Johnston Esq was held into Thompson's death on 16 September which examined the circumstances of his death. Henry Baldwin related the events leading up to and following his death. Dr Jockel of Richmond had been called to examine the body at the time and he testified that the death would have been instantaneous judging by the extensive fractures of the skull and other horrific injuries. The accident was reported to the police.

Baldwin stated in his evidence that Thompson was not from this district and he did not know if he had any relations in the area. He had told Baldwin that he was born in Sydney and had an uncle residing there but his parents were both dead. He thought that Thompson was about 18 years of age.

The story of the tragic death of John Thompson prompts many questions. Where did he come from and why was he working in the district at that time?

Searching for any clues to his identity has brought little results.

Was he the same John Thompson who was the subject of a missing person's advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 4 March 1882?

Inquest.

An inquest was held at North Enfield on the 7th instant, before J. B. Johnston, Esq., coroner for the district, on the body of John Thompson. The following evidence was adduced:—

Henry Baldwin, a carrier residing at Enfield, deposed that he was, on the 6th instant, drawing logs for building a bridge in Crooked Lane, the deceased was helping him. They had 5 logs on the truck, and were in the act of unloading them about 6 o'clock in the afternoon. There were 4 logs on the deck of the truck, and one on the top of them. They had rolled the top one off when deceased knocked away the chock which was keeping the others in their place, and they all rolled off together and carried deceased with them, rolling on to him. Witness seeing that he was crushed called out for assistance, and John Richardson and John Smith came, and they then found that deceased was quite dead. Several people then carried deceased to his house, and he reported the matter to the police. Deceased has been working for him as a teamster. He does not know whether deceased has any relations in this district; he once told him that he had an uncle in Sydney. He told witness that his father and mother are dead. He was born in Sydney, and is about 18 years of age.

John Richardson gave evidence as to being called by last witness. Deceased was lying with his legs under the truck, and he could see that the logs had rolled on to him.

Dr. Jockel deposed that he had examined the body of deceased, and found an extensive fracture of the skull, including all the cranium, with protrusion of the brains; also a compound fracture of the right upper arm, and several bruises about the face and chest. From the extent of the injuries he is of opinion that death was instantaneous.

The Jury delivered a verdict to the effect that deceased was killed accidentally.

A young man named John Thompson, aged about 16, was last seen by his parents William and Catherine, three years previously. He was employed by Fresh Food & Ice Co. and had not been seen or heard of since. There was a £1 reward for information about his whereabouts. Contact was a Mrs Thompson at 151 Gloucester Street, Sydney or Arthur Cubitt, Missing Friends Office, Sydney Arcade, King Street.

THOMPSON.—JOHN THOMPSON, age about 16, son of William and Catherine Thompson, employed at Fresh Food and Ice Company's Works three years ago. ONE POUND REWARD to any person giving information either to Mrs. THOMPSON, 151, Gloucester-street, Sydney; or to ARTHUR CUBITT, Missing Friends Office, Sydney Arcade, King-street.

As well as in the SMH, the advertisement appeared in the *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 16 September 1882. p. 1.

According to the NSW Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages, a John Thompson was born to William and Catherine Thompson at Berrima in 1856, but this John Thompson would have been 26 years, not 16 as in the missing person advertisement.

Or, was he the same John Thompson who married Priscilla Lattimore in Sydney in 1881 with a child, James Earnest, born at Redfern in 1883, after the death of Thompson at Crooked Lane?

So, over 130 years later, mystery still surrounds the sad death of young John Thompson, and in addition, what was the incident which prompted this location to be known as 'Dead Boy Bridge' over 'Dead Boy Creek' for a short period of time in the 1930s and 1940s?

If any researchers can shed light on these mysteries please contact Cathy McHardy – cathy@nisch.org.

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- *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 11 March 1882 p. 1. Advertising. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/70966369>
- Ancestry.com.au - NSW Index Births, Deaths, Marriages:
- Marriage in Sydney 1881 of John Thompson and Priscilla Lattimore - 453/1881
- Birth of James Earnest Thompson - 9061/1883 Redfern
- State Archives and Records of NSW – record of inquest into the death of John Thompson 16 September 1882.

Inquest reported in the *Australian Windsor, Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 16 September 1882, p. 2.

BREAKING NEWS

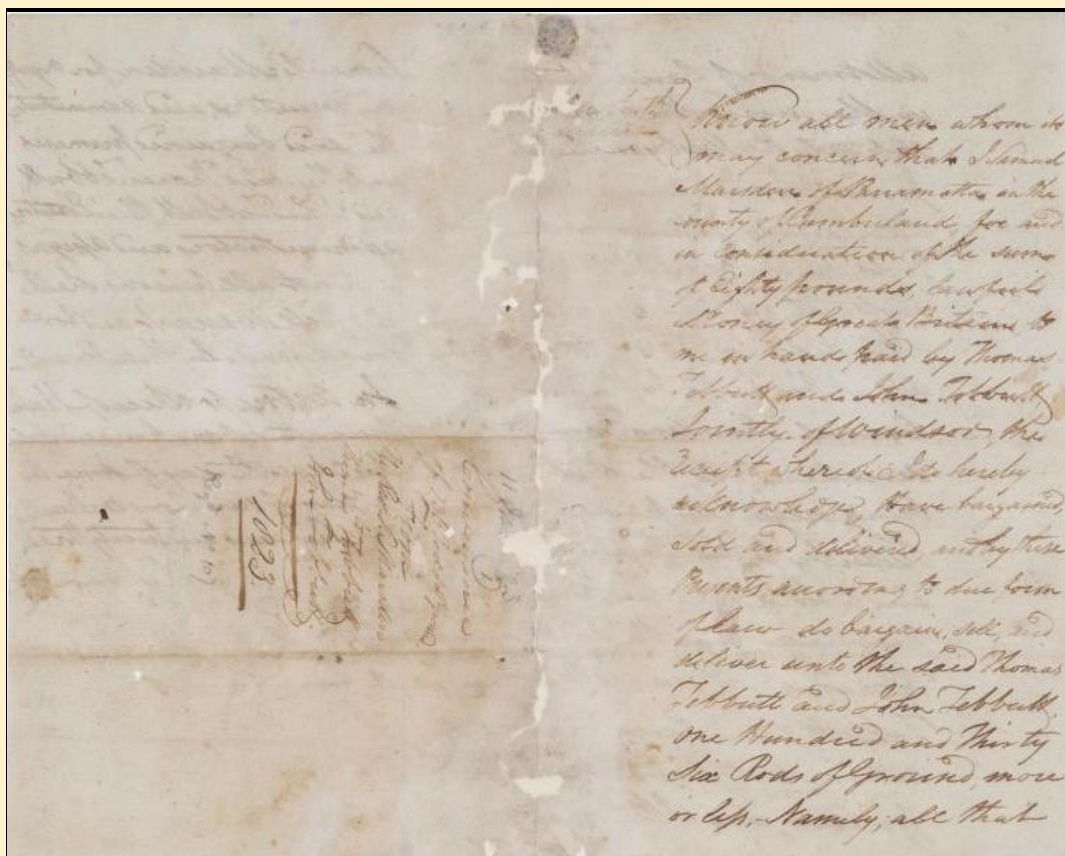
Hawkesbury Historical Society WINS Auction...

Good news. President, Jan Barkley-Jack, reports that Hawkesbury Historical Society was the successful bidder for lot 292 on Saturday last, making the Society the proud owner of the original conveyance of the Reverend Samuel Marsden's Macquarie Street, Windsor, land. Until we see it, we remain in suspense as to who became the new owner! We were pushed almost to our limit with a closing bid of \$1,200.

A DOCUMENT SIGNED BY REVEREND SAMUEL MARSDEN [1765 - 1838] - NORFOLK ISLAND, PARRAMATTA & NEW ZEALAND

A conveyance for the sale of "136 Rods of Ground" [approx. 700 sqr mtrs] being "all that allotment of Land situate in Macquarie Street, Windsor, opposite the Wesleyan Chapel Ground" to brothers, Thomas and John Tebbutt, early settlers in Windsor. The document is signed by Marsden and witnessed by Joseph Harpur and one other.

Samuel Marsden, the son of a blacksmith, was born in Farsley, Yorkshire. He attended a village school and was apprenticed to his father. He became a lay preacher and was active in evangelical circles. The Elland Society, an evangelical group within the Anglican Church, sent him to Hull Grammar School and Magdalene College, Cambridge. William Wilberforce recommended him as assistant to the chaplain at New South Wales and in 1793 he married Elizabeth Fristan (1772-1835), was ordained a priest, and sailed to Australia on the William. After service on Norfolk Island, from 1795 onwards he was stationed at Parramatta. A new church was opened in 1803 and Marsden established a school and parsonage. He received a land grant and became one of the leading pioneers of the wool industry in the colony. He took a strong interest in missions, supporting the work of the London Missionary Society in the Pacific Islands and establishing the first Anglican mission in New Zealand. He visited New Zealand seven times between 1814 and 1837. Marsden was the senior chaplain in Sydney from 1810 until 1825 and, as a magistrate, was a prominent and controversial figure in public life, clashing with a succession of governors.



THE IMPERIAL HOTEL - *an imposing structure*

By Michelle Nichols

The railway line reached Richmond in 1864 bringing growth and prosperity to the town. At least two hotels opened their doors in 1865. The Royal, which still stands today, and the Old House at Home, on the corner of East Market and March Streets, opposite the railyards.

According to Sam Boughton in his reminiscences published in the local newspaper in 1903, the building was originally built for the Onus family in the early 1840s. The Crisford family were the next occupants and then it was leased by several families and was even reported to have a resident ghost. In the 1850s, it was used as a school.

When it opened as a hotel, Mr Bates was the first licensee. During the early 1880s, it was operated by George Cobcroft, and in 1885, plans were made to revitalise the business and the old balcony was removed. Eventually Cobcroft built his own hotel in 1891, the Commercial, opposite the park which opened. This hotel still operates today as R. G. McGees.

Licensee, Mrs Annie Young, operated in the 1880s, but in 1890 *"disposed of her interest"* to William Campion from Sydney. Sadly, Campion aged only 35, died just two weeks after his young son Charles passed away. His widow Ellen was given special permission to operate the hotel until she was officially granted the license.

In 1892, Ellen married Edward Morgan and she continued to operate the business. In 1898, the old hotel was demolished and a new two storey brick hotel, with a wide first storey verandah, was constructed. The new hotel was called the Imperial and it officially opened with local dignitaries in attendance at a gala day. It was reported that the bedrooms at the new hotel were very modern with *"spring mattresses, modern upholstery and cabinets"*. It was reported that the new building was *"an imposing structure"* which served Richmond for over 70 years. After a serious illness followed by an operation, Ellen retired from the Imperial and Mr.



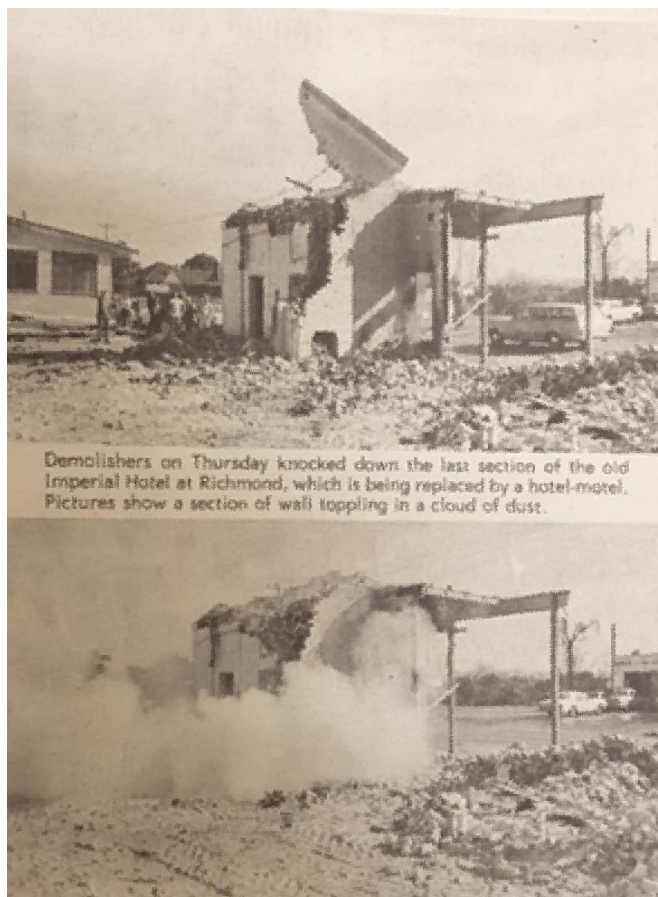
Imperial Hotel Richmond, 1935. Courtesy Tooth & Company Ltd, Noel Butlin Archives Centre (ANU), N60-YC-2062

Griffiths, a farmer from Richmond Bottoms, became the new landlord. After his departure the hotel changed hands numerous times and was reportedly run by Mr & Mrs Ryan, John Carey, John Mahoney and Mr Cowan, amongst others.

Euchre and dominoes were

popular games played at the Imperial. It was said that the only drinkers to sit down, were the players, however many preferred to stand at the bar and challenge the publican to a game.

In 1971, a new hotel/motel to be called the Richmond Inn, was planned for the site. The Saturday night before the demolition, a huge crowd celebrated until *"the last beers were pulled."* The crowd sang a *"boisterous, out-of-tune chorus of Auld Lang Syne raised above the clink of glasses and hubbub of voices, which battered the walls of the bar"* for many years. The regulars were worried how they were going to cope with all the carpet and chrome of the new hotel.■



Demolishers on Thursday knocked down the last section of the old Imperial Hotel at Richmond, which is being replaced by a hotel-motel. Pictures show a section of wall toppling in a cloud of dust.

Windsor Richmond Gazette 28 July 1971 p. 5

Michael Nowland – A Troubled Life

By Dick Gillard

PART 1

Britain continued to show its arrogance to the world during the late 1700s. Following the War of Independence with America, America made it clear that it would not accept any more convicts from Britain. Britain, however, believed that America would still accept any convicts they sent. The vessel *Mercury* was contracted to convey 174 prisoners to Georgia in America. Trouble was to plague the *Mercury* from the moment it set sail from Gravesend in England on the 2nd April 1784.



Convicts from the hulk *Justitia* at work in Woolwich
portcities.org.uk

The prisoners were not properly searched as they were loaded onto the *Mercury*. A few prisoners had concealed some small spring saws with which to remove their irons as they did not want to go to America.

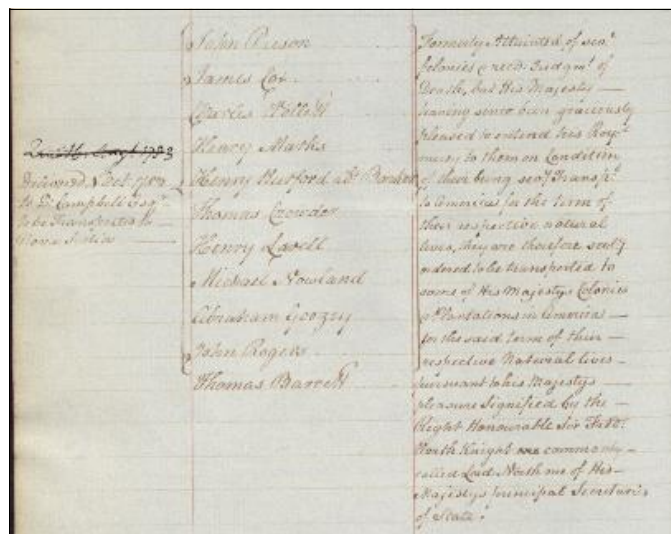
The mutiny occurred on the 8th April. After fierce fighting, the prisoners gained control of the *Mercury*, locking the sailors in the cells below. The prisoners set sail for Ireland, however, strong winds

from the north forced them to turn and sail for Spain. A major gale developed on the 11th April, placing the *Mercury* in danger of sinking. The prisoners had no idea of how to sail the *Mercury*, leaving them with no choice but to release a few sailors to sail the *Mercury* to safety. The conditions further deteriorated with waves washing across the deck. The prisoners were left with no option but to seek safety in Torbay harbour.

The prisoners plan was to now escape to Devon. This plan was dashed as the British Man of War ship *Helena* had also taken refuge from the gale in Torbay harbour. Around one hundred prisoners were recaptured by the crew of the *Helena*. Approximately forty prisoners managed to escape capture. Michael Nowland was one of those prisoners who escaped the crew of the *Helena*.

Michael had been sentenced to death for highway robbery in the February 1783 sittings of the Old Bailey. Michael faced two court hearings, the first for stealing a bridle, and the second for stealing a horse. A verdict of *Not Guilty* was delivered in the case of stealing a bridle. *Guilty* was the verdict for stealing the horse. Michael must have been at wits end when the Judge donned his black cap and pronounced his sentence, “*To be hanged by the neck until you be dead*”.

The notorious Newgate prison became Michael’s home once again whilst he awaited the death sentence. The carrying out of death sentences were public affairs in England at that time. Hangings were a great spectator sport, with much jeering and cheering as a prisoner dropped. Michael would have been concerned that his family would witness this humiliation to the family name.



10 September 1783 Old Bailey s17830910-1

Sentence changed to transportation to America for life

Time dragged on, days turned into weeks, weeks into months, causing Michael much mental strain. Life in Newgate was described as “*with debauchery*”.

and foul discomfort, the ever-present infectious sickness...". It was a wonder that Michael survived.

At the September 1783 sitting of the Old Bailey, Michael's sentence was changed from death to "transportation for life to some of his Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America". Whilst waiting for a ship to transport him to America, Michael spent the next six months on the prison hulks at Woolwich before being transferred to the vessel *Mercury*.



Ship - The Scarborough
lifeonsundays.com

After escaping from the *Mercury*, Michael made his way to Bath, approximately eighty miles from Torbay. Michael was able to escape from the law for approximately three weeks, assuming an alias, William Hill. It was in this name that he was subsequently charged when he was arrested with a few of his associates on the 5th May 1784.

It did not take long for Michael and his associates to break out of Bath prison. Newspaper reports told how they escaped and warned the community to be watchful for them. Freedom was short lived, Michael was arrested in Bristol at the *Griffin in the Horse-fair*. He was conveyed to Shepton Mallett jail along with Andrews and Grimes, his fellow escapees.



Newgate Prison
Wikipedia

Prison time again dragged on for Michael, for it was not until the Somerset Lent Assize in 1785 that Michael was charged with "being at large within the Kingdom". Whilst no sentence was passed against the three men at that time, they were transferred back to Newgate prison. Michael must have wondered whether the original sentence of death by hanging would be applied in his case. Finally, in January 1786, Michael's sentence of transportation for life was re-instated.

Michael was transferred from Newgate Prison to the prison hulk *Fortunee*. The prisoners on the *Fortunee* provided the hard labour in Portsmouth for important naval works. Michael missed being transported on the 1st Fleet to Australia because of the importance of the naval work. It must have seemed to Michael that he would never be transported to Australia. Four years passed and in November 1789 he was transferred to the *Scarborough* for transportation. The second fleet set sail for Australia on the 17th January 1790.

What would the future hold for Michael in this new land? Would his life be better than the extreme hardships he had endured since that fatal mistake he made all those years ago? Michael had much to reflect on as he sailed to this new land, a land which was to become his home for the rest of his life.

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Date of Trial	Trial Reference Number	Details
26 February 1783	t17830226-65	Not Guilty
26 February 1783	t17830226-66	Guilty
26 February 1783	s17830226-1	Sentenced to be hanged
10 September 1783	s17830910-1	Sentence changed to transportation to America for life

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QUIZ 2

How much do you know about the homes connected with Hawkesbury's early famous personalities?

Jan Barkley-Jack

[All photos and sketches used are by Jan Barkley-Jack except where indicated]



1. This house was the town house of a Hawkesbury politician when it was built in Richmond. Who was that?

Photo: Hawkesburyaustralia.com.au

2. John Dight purchased the rear section of this house in Richmond in 1806, and in 1812, he and his family began the front sections. The property was known as 'Mountain View' and is now called 'Durham Bowes'. Which famous ex-convict, who was a midwife, lived there on occasions?

Photo: Robyn and Penelope Sharpe



3. This farm house complex was built by a Chief Constable of the Hawkesbury district in Windsor, and used as an inn in the 1790s, featuring prominent stables, for he had been a coachman before his conviction in Britain. The painting was done during the 1816 flood. Who were the original owners?

4. William Cox jr built this grand house on his Richmond property, after he married Elizabeth Piper in 1813. What did he call this house?

Photo: Neville Dehn



5. Which free settler family built this cottage at Wilberforce in the early nineteenth century?



6. This Store and house of ex-convict Andrew Thompson, was the place where he was residing when he died in October 1810. Where was it located?



7. Who was building this house when he died in 1821 at Cattai? He was Assistant surgeon on the First Fleet and an early Hawkesbury magistrate. The original house on the property was behind this dwelling to the left of the photo.



8. Why do we call this building Howe's House?



9. This statue stands in front of the house which this man built. Who was he?



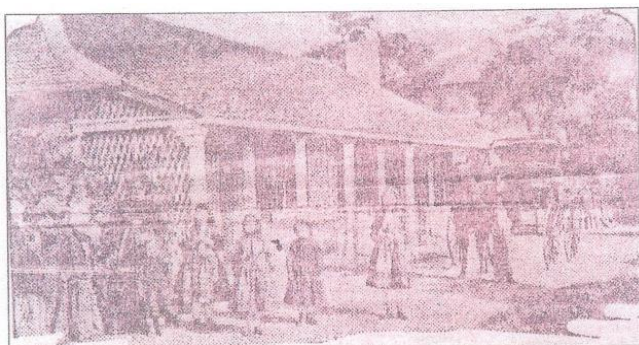
10. The tanner who built this house had a tannery in South Windsor late in the nineteenth century, and as the tannery prospered, so the house grew from a four-bedroomed cottage to a very grand residence with billiard room and ballroom. What was the tanner's name?

11. This residence in Richmond was begun in the Macquarie era on one of the governor's famous town grants by James Blackman. He sold it uncompleted to a settler who was prospering and became a well-known identity, donating land nearby for Richmond's Presbyterian Church. Who completed this house?



12. This site in Windsor was originally granted to John Brindley in 1794, and was bought by John Stogdell who built an inn about where the old dairy stands today (centre of photo). The farm was sold to the family who still owns it today. It was they who built the present house (see right hand side of the photo) in 1844. Which family is that?

13. Originally a grant to Thomas Rickaby, this land was purchased around the 1830s by a free settler family new to the district. The family built the farmhouse and in the 1840s the widow subdivided the land to create Little Church Street and Catherine Street, Windsor. What was her name?



14. Who built this house at Clarendon?

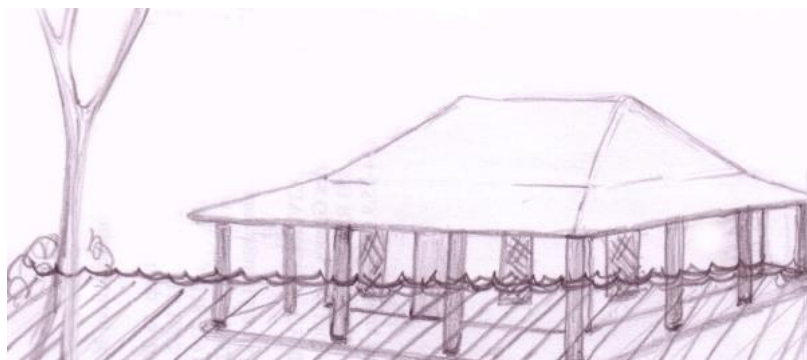


15. Which son of the original owner of this inn in Windsor lived in it as his home when he married Elizabeth Rouse?

Lionel Lindsay, nla

16. One of the syndicate who first discovered silver at Broken Hill. This man could well afford to build this mansion shown below on land he bought above North Richmond. What was his name?

Photo: pinterest.com/au

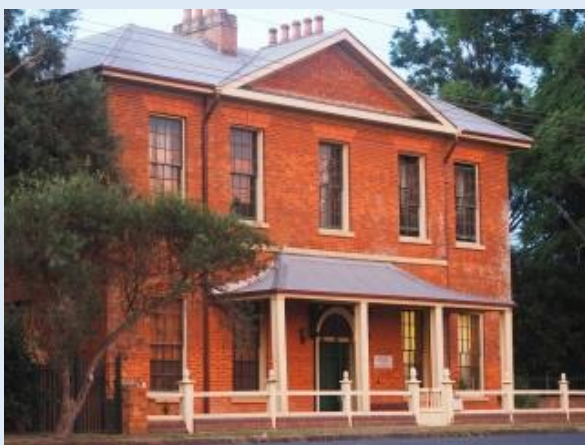


17. Which famous chaplain's Hawkesbury house is portrayed here on South Creek at Windsor in the 1816 flood?

18. What was the nationality of the person who resided in this house just south-east of the Fitzroy Bridge, beside South Creek, at Windsor in the 1920s? Only a few poles remain today.

Photo taken 1978





19. Which kind hearted minister of St Matthew's, who was once held up by a bush ranger but let go because of the help he gave to the poor, was the first person to live in the Rectory of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor?

Photo: Chris Jones, Rector, St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor.

20. Which Governors have stayed in the Windsor Government house when visiting the Hawkesbury district in the years 1796 to 1821?



21. The central section of this house was built in 1806, on the high land of this property, after the family had to be rescued from the roof of their lowland dwelling, and the wife put her foot down about needing a house out of flood range in future. Which surveyor's house was this?

Photo: Ian Jack.



ANSWERS: 1. William Bowman; 2. Margaret Catchpole; 3. Thomas and Catherine Rickaby; 4. Hobartville; 5. Thomas Rose; 6. In the civic square that was then in the Green Hills village, from 1811 known as Thompson Square, Windsor; 7. Thomas Arndell; 8. Because John Howe, a settler who became the district's Chief Constable, an explorer and one of Hawkesbury's best-known contractors supervising building works for Governor Macquarie, lived there until the late 1830s; 9. Solomon Wiseman; 10. Richard Cobcroft; 11. George Bowman; 12. Thomas Tebbutt and family; 13. Maria Cope; 14. William Cox sr; 15. Robert Fitzgerald; 16. Philip Charley; 17. The Reverend Samuel Marsden; 18. A Chinese market gardener; 19. The Reverend John Cross; 20. Governors John Hunter, Philip King, possibly William Bligh (he had his own property at Pitt Town) and Governor Macquarie; 21. George William Evans.

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