

# 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 2018/2019:

President: Ian Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill Jnr Vice President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Secretary: Neville Dehn Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Public Officer: Neville Dehn Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: Dick Gillard

Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Hon Auditor: [Vacant]

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Rebecca Turnbull

**HHS Collection Committee:** Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Director – Kath von Witt, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

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

## MEETINGS

Saturday, 22 June 2019 – 2:00pm

Saturday, 24 August 2019 – 2:00pm

Thursday, 24 October 2019 – 7:30pm AGM

Hugh Williams Room

HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM

Baker Street, Windsor

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## GENERAL NOTICE

The Society's General meeting, originally scheduled for

**Saturday, 27th April 2019**

will not be held to allow members the opportunity to participate in the:

**Heritage Festival –  
Richmond**

**See over for full details**

Hawkesbury Historical Society will join kindred societies in holding a stall in the old CBC Bank building, on the corner of Windsor and West Market streets, where we will be selling books and mount an historic display.

Volunteers to attend the stall for a short period are welcome.

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO COME ALONG  
AND ENJOY THE DAY**

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## ANZAC DAY



**25 April 2019**

**- LEST WE FORGET**

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# Heritage Festival - Richmond

Saturday 27 April – 9.30am to 3.30pm

A unique opportunity to experience some of the history of Richmond including:

- West Market St and Windsor St precinct
- Most Heritage sites open,
- Self-Guided Walking tours - Richmond
- Bus and guided tours of historic Jersey St Cemetery
- More info see **FACEBOOK** RichmondHeritageFestival

## DON'T MISS:

- Fascinating Historical Presentations
- Devonshire Teas and Sausage Sizzle
- Displays and information available from Historical Groups and Societies
- Local artists and their work





# *Lest we forget*

## **Nurse Greentree's "fine work at the war"**

By Michelle Nichols

Vida Mitylene Greentree was born at Freemans Reach in 1890. She was the second eldest of Albert Charles Greentree and his wife Jane Cameron nee Hoskisson. Vida attended Freemans Reach Public School and afterwards undertook a training course at the Nepean Cottage Hospital in Penrith, a hospital approved by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (ATNA). In her second year examination in surgery in 1913, Vida came in third place. After completing her training and sitting her final exams with honours, she received her certificate and worked at Penrith Hospital as the Head nurse.



A group portrait of Australian nurses en-route to Salonika, July 1917. Courtesy Australian War Memorial.

Between 1914 and 1918, World War 1 dominated the news. Completing her training in 1917, Vida enlisted with the Australian Nursing Service as a Staff Nurse, departing Melbourne on the RMS 'Mooltan'. The nurses were responding to a request for "contingents of AANS nurses to be dispatched to Salonika to increase the hospital services." Travelling with about 300 other nurses, Vida reached Suez then onto the strategic post of Salonika via Cairo and Alexandria, arriving in August 1917.

Based in the No. 60 British General Hospital which was located at Hortiach, the building was a large tent, with about 1,600 beds, and ill-equipped for providing surgery. It closed during the

freezing winter months and moved closer to the coast, at Lembet. During her time in Salonika, Vida tended Prisoners of War including Turkish and German soldiers. Fresh food and water were scarce.

After the spending a two week break in Athens, Vida worked at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital situated in Dartford, England. She returned to Australia on the 'Fredrichsruhe' arriving back in the Hawkesbury in September 1919 with a large crowd greeting her at Windsor Railway Station. The band played "Home sweet home" as the train pulled up at the station, which was decorated with flags. The crowds cheered and the town's dignitaries, including Mr Ross, the Mayor, and local MP William Walker, spoke about her "fine work at the war."

Along with a group of local soldiers, Vida was welcomed home at an official event at the Windsor School of Arts. It was noted that she "had done her bit in the alleviation of the sufferings of our soldiers on the other side of the world."

After the war a number of monuments were erected around the Hawkesbury to commemorate those who served, including one at Wilberforce. Sister Vida Greentree was the first name recorded on the monument at Wilberforce capturing those who served from Freemans Reach. The monument, originally in David Street, was later moved to its current location in Wilberforce Park.

After the war, Vida did some private nursing and took up the position of postmistress at Freemans Reach. After the outbreak of World War 2, Vida "offered her services" but resigned in 1944, returning to the position of postmistress for many years. In 1965 she was awarded the Order of the British Empire Medal in recognition of her work to the postal service in Freemans Reach.

Vida didn't marry and she lived until the grand age of 93. She died in Sandgate, Brisbane in 1983.

This article first appeared in the Hawkesbury Gazette April 2019.

# You're invited...

**Hawkesbury Historical Society**

**Welcomes**

**you**

*to its*

## **'Peek Into the Past' Party**

*An event for the*

Heritage Festival 2019

**Friday, 3 May 2019**

**5.30pm until 7.30pm**

**At Howe House**

**Thompson Square, Windsor.**



**Join us in Windsor with a 1820s splash. Glimpse the fascinating past of the house of the colonial couple: Jane and John Howe, who were friends of the Macquaries.**

Walk the old rooms and cellars and hear the ghost stories and short talks by historians Dr Ian Jack, Jan Barkley-Jack, and Museum curator, Rebecca Turnbull. Join us for free drinks and nibbles at Howe House, Windsor and investigate Hawkesbury history for yourself. See the land John Howe received from Governor Macquarie in 1811 in Thompson Square, the only eighteenth-century civic square remaining in Australia.

Explore the house, which had its beginnings around the 1820s and was extensively rebuilt in the late 1830s, now exuding colonial atmosphere. It is steeped in the times in which John Howe lived as a successful district farmer from 1803, and survivor of the early cultural violence on the NSW frontier. Also the Chief Constable, Howe was a favoured contractor of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in the upper Hawkesbury valley. Meet querulous Dr Bell, a one-time lessee, and be introduced to the resident Hawkesbury 'Australian' newspaper.

**Please enter by the front door of Howe House in Thompson Square.**

Bookings to determine catering numbers for this FREE event:

HHS Secretary: [secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com) or (02) 4578 2443.



*As part of the 2019 Heritage Festival we invite you to*

## **Margaret Catchpole: the Truth behind the Legend**

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the death of the fascinating Margaret Catchpole, we invite you to retrace her steps in the Hawkesbury and get to know her from her surroundings. Discover the truth behind the legend of 'Australia's First Heroine' who arrived in NSW in 1801 as a convict.



Margaret Catchpole achieved notoriety in her own lifetime as a horse thief and gaol escapee in Ipswich, Suffolk, before her transportation. Twenty-six years after her death she became the heroine of a best-selling novel 'The History of Margaret Catchpole, a Suffolk Girl' written in 1845 by the Reverend Richard Cobbold.

**Take this rare opportunity to visit places where she lived and worked during her years in the colony nursing.**

Start with a talk and short film at Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Windsor with refreshments. Visit 'Durham Bowes' farmhouse built by the Dight family from 1806, and feel Margaret's spirit as you stand in the kitchen she herself knew well. View the landscape from Richmond Hill to imagine Margaret's world. Enjoy your picnic lunch at Pugh's Lagoon before search for her grave at historic St Peter's, Richmond where she was buried on 14 May 1819.

**Hear the many theories about the location of her final resting place and try to solve the mystery- if you can.**

Details: Sunday 19 May 2019

This is a self-drive car tour. Meet at Hawkesbury Regional Museum at 9.45am for 10.00am. You will be given a schedule of locations and times, including several venues at Richmond and one at North Richmond. If you require transport between venues please contact the Society. Tour finishes at Richmond Cemetery at 4.00pm.

Cost: Adults \$20, Family \$35.00 Wear appropriate shoes. Bookings essential, ring Jan Barkley-Jack: 0401 667274.

Booking: Prebooking required [j.barkley-jack@hotmail.com.au](mailto:j.barkley-jack@hotmail.com.au) or ph. 0401667274

# A Timely Look at Hawkesbury's first European Settlement Days

Jan Barkley-Jack

This year marks the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of settlement by Europeans along the upper Hawkesbury River. How did the first groups of grantees, there by April 1794 and believed to be dysfunctional by the officers, have so successful a year? Increasing numbers of farmers joined the first 22 farmers during the year cropping their farms and faring well. They kept calm relationships together, unlike the tensions some settlers had with the Aboriginal clans.

The valley had been altered forever in late 1793 and early 1794 when the rag-tag group of British men settled beside the Deerubbin. This was the name by which the Aboriginals living in the valley knew it when previously they had been the only peoples to harvest its resources. The Boorooberongal clans of the Bediagal (wood tribe) people of the wider Darug tribe had trodden the soil of the fertile Deerubbin basin continuously, for over 40,000 years. From 1794 the river, then deemed the Hawkesbury, also supported farms relentlessly sequestering the Aboriginal lands.<sup>1</sup>

The new farming area, isolated from Sydney and Parramatta, was formally named Mulgrave Place, or as it was popularly known, the 'Hawkesbury' or 'The River'. It was allowed by military commander Francis Grose, in his capacity as Acting Governor. Unplanned and not organized by the governor as was usual, the settlement had been requested by the settlers themselves and they had chosen their own lands. In the first year no infrastructure was provided: the settlers had to fend for themselves.<sup>2</sup>

Something had to be behind the phenomenon of unity, particularly in the first few months. The main link found until now was James Ruse and Charles Williams and four others spending a year together on the transport, 'Scarborough'. What of the other 73% who had little or no connection with Ruse and Williams? Three others travelling on the 'Friendship' together and three on the 'Alexander' was an even less convincing link.<sup>3</sup> For my current PhD I have been researching this question, and it has been the hulks which have yielded the answer.<sup>4</sup>

Those convicts not kept in gaol during their incarceration in Britain before their transportation were crowded into old moored ships called hulks. When James Ruse was transferred from 'Ceres' to 'Censor' hulk probably with Peter Bond in June 1786, he had known Peter Bond for over a year.<sup>5</sup> On 'Censor' he met existing inmate and future friend, Charles Williams, and other future pioneer Hawkesbury companions. John Owen was the longest resident of the group on 'Censor'. He had been housed there since October 1783, almost a year before the trio Edward Cunningham, Joseph Wright and Charles Williams arrived. William Snailham also arrived in 1784.<sup>6</sup> These are some of the men who selected in the central reaches of the Hawkesbury.

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<sup>1</sup> D. Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (1798), B.A. Fletcher (ed.), A.H. and A.W. Reed, in association with Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, vol. 1, 1975, pp. 326, 357; W. Tench, *Sydney's First Four Years*, Library of Australian History in association with Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, 1979, pp. 225, 226, 230; J. Kohen, *The Darug and their Neighbours: The Traditional Aboriginal Owners of the Sydney Region*, Darug Link in association with Blacktown and District Historical Society, Blacktown, 1993, pp.6, 9, 14.

<sup>2</sup> Land Grant Register 1, p. 104(1) Ruse Farm, p. 104(2) William's Farm, p. 104(3) Mower Farm, State Archives, NSW; Collins, vol. 1, pp. 285, 338-340; Grose to Dundas, 29 April 1794, *HRNSW*, 2, p.210; 'Instructions for Arthur Phillip...', 25 April 1787, and 'Phillip's Additional Instructions', 20 August 1789, *HRNSW*, 1, part 2, pp. 91, 258.

<sup>3</sup> D. Bowd, *Hawkesbury Journey*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1986; A. Atkinson, *The Europeans in Australia*, vol. 1, p. 241; G. Karskens, *The Colony*, Allen and Unwin, second edition, 2010, p. 120.

<sup>4</sup> The work presented here is my research to date, from M. Gillen, *The Founder of Australia*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1989, and Biographical Database of Australia, <https://www.bda-online.org.au>. It is yet to be checked against primary sources.

<sup>5</sup> Gillen, pp. 41, 318.

<sup>6</sup> Gillen, pp. 270, 90-91, 395, 383, 338.

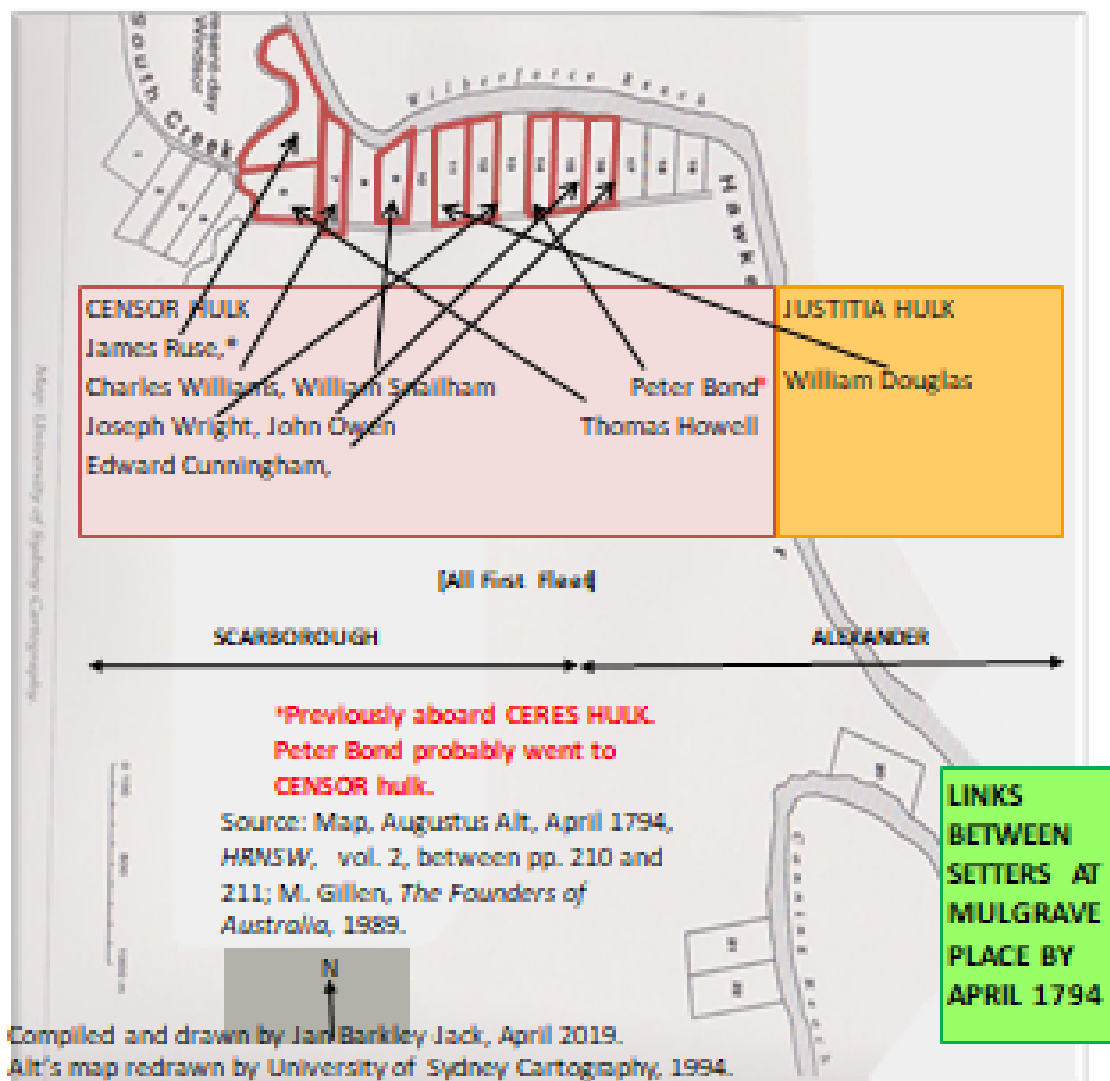


Figure 1: The first map of Mulgrave Place, drawn by Augustus Alt, Surveyor General, and sent to Britain in April 1794, redrawn by University of Sydney Cartography, 1994. It shows the men living on the 'Censor' hulk between 1783 and 1787 and the farms they chose in Mulgrave Place in 1794.

Only Peter Bond, whose links to Ruse were strongest amongst the seven 'Censor' inmates, was not with those dispatched to Portsmouth by wagon on 24 February 1787 to be taken on board the 'Scarborough'. The voyage was important in the connection only because it added another year to their togetherness. Peter Bond and Thomas Howell were sent aboard the 'Alexander' which introduced them to William Douglas.<sup>7</sup> At Mulgrave Place, the eight 'Censor' men chose to remain in handy proximity to each other, and amongst them can be found the farm of Douglas, from the 'Justitia' hulk.<sup>8</sup> This is too great a coincidence for this new friendship not to be the critical connection. The 'Censor' associations make hulks a convincing link.

This first alliance identified here at Mulgrave Place by April 1794 is such a long standing one, and was re-constituted so deliberately in 1793-1794, when most of them had known each other for a decade, that the network was obviously believed by the settlers themselves as one able to assist them. This insight is imperative to understanding the success of Mulgrave Place.

The second core group evident amongst the first 19 ex-convict settlers from the group at 'The River', had inter-connections as strong as those within the 'Censor' group and definite connection to at least one of the 'Censor' group. It centred on the trio, Richard Davis, John Fenlow and Daniel Barnett. They met in 1783 when they left to be transported to America aboard the vessel 'Mercury', before that colony refused convicts.

<sup>7</sup> Gillen, pp. 41, 180, 107, 270, 338, 90, 395, 383, 318.

<sup>8</sup> Map of Augustus Alt, April 1794, enclosure, Grose to Dundas, 29 April 1794, *HRNSW*, 2, between pp. 210-211.



On the way they mutinied. When they were recaptured and imprisoned, Barnett, Fenlow and possibly Davis found themselves still together, being marched as a group to Plymouth in chains, where they were then sent aboard the ‘Dunkirk’ hulk for the next three years. Later Thomas Acres, convicted locally, joined them. He was to choose land near Fenlow in Mulgrave Place.<sup>9</sup> When they settled at Hawkesbury the four had known each other for around a decade, with Davis and Fenlow having the longest connection of all from Newgate Prison predating the hulks.<sup>10</sup>

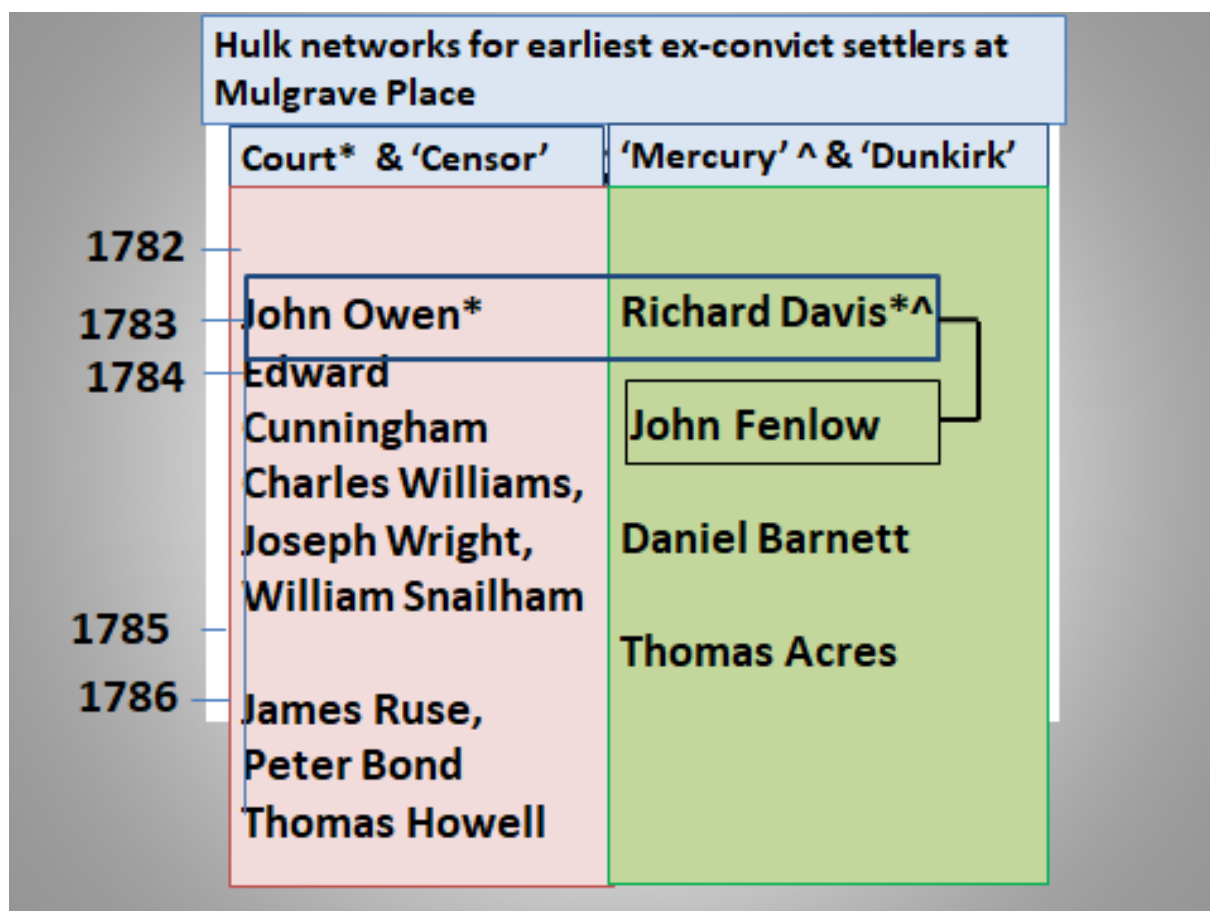


Figure 2: Map, Mulgrave Place settler networks from ‘Censor’ and ‘Dunkirk’ hulks. Compiled by Jan Barkley-Jack based on information in M. Gillen, *The Founders of Australia*.

The ‘Dunkirk’ group settling at Mulgrave Place was not random, for they were connected. Richard Davis had known the ‘Censor’ settler network member, John Owen, for ten years and chose to farm close by him. Owen had been tried in the same London Court on the same day, 10 September 1783, as Davis. Held in close proximity in the cells awaiting appearance in the courtroom, both had been sentenced to transportation to America, and probably continued to be held together for at least another month, until Owen was sent to ‘Censor’.<sup>11</sup> This short period together is nonetheless a verifiable and important link. Together the ‘Censor’ and ‘Dunkirk’ men made up over half of the earliest 1794 ex-convict settlers. Some had spent four years in close confinement aboard those hulks and while this doesn’t guarantee friendship it does mean that they knew who they could trust. And trust was the key to the success of Mulgrave Place in 1794.

What happened next at Mulgrave Place is even more amazing.

In the months between April and December 1794, the flow of farmers coming to new area in the Hawkesbury was unbroken.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, the second batch of arrivals at Mulgrave Place from April to July 1794 was connected with at least 16 of the 19 ex-convict grantees already farming there. Eight had been actual inmates

<sup>9</sup> Gillen, pp. 4, 99, 24, 124-125; Land Grant Register 1, p. 109(1). It is listed that the grant was given to Thomas Acres/Akers and that ‘J. Acres’ on Alt’s map was Thomas.

<sup>10</sup> Gillen, pp. 99, 124

<sup>11</sup> Gillen, pp. 99, 270.

<sup>12</sup> J. Barkley-Jack, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, Rosenberg Publishing, Dural. 2009, p. 91.



on board 'Censor' prior to 1787 with James Ruse, Charles Williams and the others from that hulk,<sup>13</sup> with many imprisoned aboard the 'Censor' from 1783, as long as John Owen and before James Ruse arrived. Moreover, these eight additional settlers travelled to New South Wales aboard 'Scarborough' in 1787 alongside the first Mulgrave Place settler network men. The eight men with direct connections to the original 'Censor' network can be seen to be deliberately choosing to farm at Mulgrave Place after April. In all, by mid-1794 those with 'Censor' hulk connections directly or indirectly at Mulgrave Place numbered around 28.

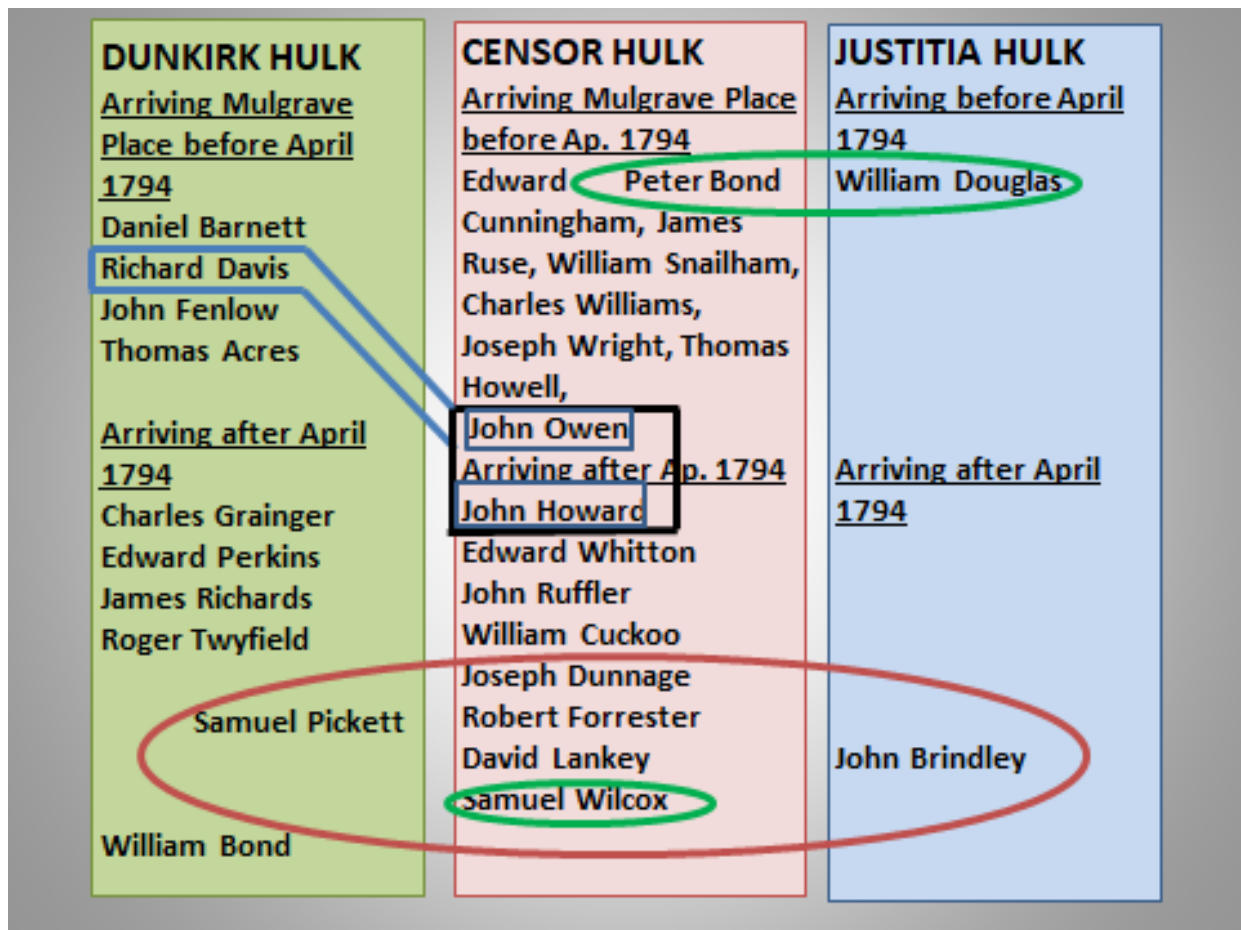


Figure 3: Networks at Mulgrave Place after April 1794 showing hulk incarcerations and links between the groups prior to their settling at Mulgrave Place (for details see text). Compiled by Jan Barkley-Jack from M. Gillen. *The Founders of Australia*.

One of these 'Censor' men, Samuel Wilcox, seems to have been a pivotal link between many others of the April-July 1794 arrivals. For example, his transportation aboard 'Alexander' meant he knew not just the original 'Censor'- 'Scarborough' group but also Peter Bond and William Douglas who were already at 'The River'. He was particularly connected by time spent together on Norfolk Island, to John Brindley from 'Justitia' hulk<sup>14</sup> and Samuel Pickett from 'Dunkirk'.<sup>15</sup> They in turn already had their own strong direct connections to other 'Dunkirk' Hawkesbury settlers. William Bond, a 'Dunkirk' man, was one of uncommon enterprise and lateral thinking among the new connected cohort. So keen was William Bond to get title to his land that he applied for and received his deeds before 18 of the first April 1794 group.<sup>16</sup>

Some links between the pre-April 1794 men and the groups of 'Censor' men settling in mid-1794 had long existed. For example, new Hawkesbury arrival John Howard had been in Newgate prison with John Owen and Richard Davis, way back in 1783 and Howard and Owen had gone to 'Censor' in the same delivery group.<sup>17</sup> This is among the longest connections of those on the first farms. This pattern of new arrivals at

<sup>13</sup> Gillen, pp. 381, 111, 382, 131 179, 316, 89, 213.

<sup>14</sup> Gillen, p. 49.

<sup>15</sup> Gillen, p. 288.

<sup>16</sup> Barkley-Jack, pp. 35. 334; Gillen, p. 288.

<sup>17</sup> Gillen, pp. 99, 179, 270.





From July a hidden dichotomy was forming at the Hawkesbury, for along with those setting up by choice, there is evidence that some later settlers had not wanted to farm there but were forced by Grose. The Acting Governor himself identified this.<sup>20</sup>

Richard Atkins, when deputy judge advocate, explained this changing nature of the Hawkesbury settlement in a note in his diary:

The Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> is encouraging people to settle, by remitting some short space of their time, he wishes to have an extension settlement upon the banks of the Hawkesbury...<sup>21</sup>

The abrupt difference in mind-set by some settlers arriving on the Hawkesbury River in the later part of the first year has bearing on conclusions about networks at Mulgrave Place in late 1794. These had little chance to have bonded with Ruse and Williams and the other early settlers except incidentally in the colony, so unconnected Third Fleeters are likely to be those forced by Grose to 'The River', but this is not yet verified.

On present evidence the most to be said is that a very different settler dynamic operated amongst the 20% of those who came to the district between August and December 1794. If they were those unwilling to settle, this proved no determiner of industriousness, however, as Edward Robinson and Thomas Rickaby were to attest.

Over half of the 85 settlers farming at Mulgrave Place by December 1794, from a cohort of 118 promised grants, were members of one of the first settler 'Censor' or 'Dunkirk' direct or indirect extended networks. Also amongst the second group settling at 'The River' before August 1794 were those from Second and Third Fleeter groups. A loose connectivity of over 80% of the settlers overall at the Hawkesbury by the September survey of Charles Grimes, is a high proportion and a strong indication that 'risk mitigation' strategies existed during all of 1794 and played a major part in the progress and unity of the Mulgrave Place settlement in its first year.

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## The partnership of Pickup and Commons

Cathy McHardy April 2019

In October 1893, the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* announced the dissolution of the partnership of William Pickup and William Commons due to the ill-health of Commons [1]. Lasting many years, the collaboration was responsible for the construction and maintenance of many of the significant public buildings across the Hawkesbury District.

One of their first jobs in Windsor was the renovation of the Police Barracks which stood facing Bridge Street, Windsor but it was during the 1880s and '90s that the bulk of their work was executed.

Lawrence Pickup, commonly known as Larry, was born in Blackburn, Lancashire England in March 1852, the son of James and Isabella Pickup. He learnt the building trade from his father and according to his obituary, after travelling around the colony for several years, he finally settled in Windsor in December 1874 [2].

The Great Fire of Windsor in 1874 had destroyed much of the town in the vicinity of George and Macquarie Streets and Pickup seized the opportunity to set up his business. By 1878 he was well established and was able to give £1 in support of St. Joseph's Convent in Windsor which was opened by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan [3]. He later formed the partnership with William Commons.

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<sup>20</sup> Grose to Dundas, 5 July 1794, *HRNSW*, II, p. 238.

<sup>21</sup> John Cobley, *Sydney Cove, 1793-1795*, vol. 4, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1983, p. 139.



Wilberforce Police Station constructed 1883 from the Collection of Keith Cobcroft.

William Commons (also spelt Commins) has proved to be a little more elusive and unfortunately his obituary provides scant information on his origins. During the serious fire which completely destroyed Boston's Buildings in George Street, Windsor on the corner of George and Kable Streets, in January 1883, Commons had been instrumental in saving the house occupied by Mr. B. Richards [4]. However, he had sustained a serious injury to his spine which was to plague him for the rest of his life. Pye's Chemist Shop was constructed in place of the destroyed buildings.

Pickup and Commons married two of the Daley sisters from Macquarie Street, Windsor. Susan married William Commons in Sydney in 1883 and the union produced four children. The marriage of Annie Daley and Lawrence Pickup took place in Windsor in 1876. This couple produced a large family of eleven children and resided in Macquarie Street, Windsor.

In June 1883, Pickup and Commons were awarded the tender to erect the Police Station and Lockup at Wilberforce which still stands today [5]. The following year their tender was accepted for additions to the building [6].

The partnership constructed several additions to Windsor Public School including the Girls' School in 1884 [7] at a cost of £672 and further works at the school in 1885 [8].

In July 1890, they were awarded the contract for alterations and additions to Windsor Post Office amounting to a sum of £92 16s 2d [9].

Later in the year, the partnership was contracted to renovate and refurbish the old Windsor Post and Telegraph Office which was situated in George Street opposite the intersection with Christie Street. The building, constructed in 1860 had had several uses including the local Roads and Bridges Office until it was remodelled as the Windsor Municipal Council Chambers by Pickup and Commons. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* reporting on the official opening stated that: "This building...was for many years in a



most dilapidated condition, and an eye-sore to the place, has become so renovated within and without, as to become an almost new structure.” [10] The renovated council chambers were demolished in 1934 and a new building constructed which still stands although the use of the building has changed many times over the years.



Former Windsor Post and Telegraph Office which was renovated by Pickup and Commons in 1890.  
Courtesy of Hawkesbury Library Service

Their next major work was the construction of the St. Albans Court and Watch-house in 1892 at a cost of over £1460 [11]. This finely constructed sandstone building stands high on the western bank of the Macdonald River on the edge of the town of St. Albans beyond the reach of flood waters.

William Commons died in Parramatta Hospital in December 1914 aged 59 years. His wife Susan Daley had predeceased him in December 1897. They were both buried in St. Matthew’s Church of England Cemetery, Windsor.

After the dissolution of the partnership with Commons, Pickup continued as a builder and contractor in the district. In 1895 he constructed additions to Wilberforce Public School at a cost of £200 and 5 shillings [12]. He also completed Additions to several public schools such as Lower Portland and additions and repairs to school residence at Wilberforce in 1900 [13]. Lawrence Pickup played an active role in community affairs and was elected an alderman for the Municipal Borough of Windsor in March 1881 [14]. He also made donations to the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and the local Patriotic Fund. He returned to England in 1887 to see his mother before she died and then returned home via America [15].

Pickup celebrated his 78th birthday in March 1930 and died a few months later in July. His obituary described him as “an honest contractor, whose word was his bond, and his life an open book” [16]. He was buried in St. Matthew’s Church of England Cemetery, Windsor and his wife Annie was placed beside him in 1946.





St Albans Court House and Watch House, Cathy McHardy, 2009.

The partnership of Pickup and Commons left a legacy of well-constructed buildings many of which may still be seen around the Hawkesbury today. Further research may reveal further details of the lives of William Commons and Lawrence Pickup. Please contact Cathy McHardy if you have information on these important Hawkesbury identities – [cathy@nisch.org](mailto:cathy@nisch.org)

### References:

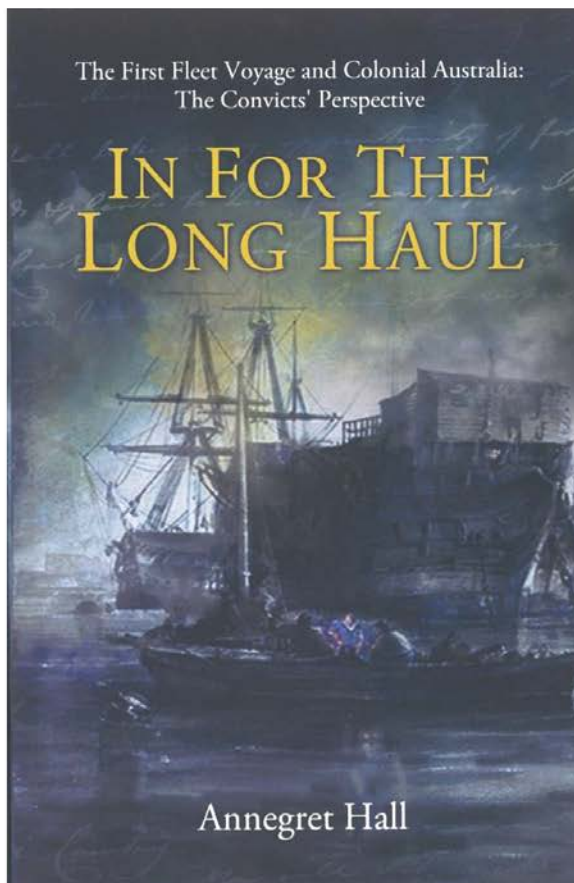
1. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 7 October 1893, p. 3.
2. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 24 October 1930, p. 12.
3. The *Freeman's Journal*, 25 January 1879, p. 19.
4. *Australian, Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser*, 6 January 1883, p. 2.
5. The *Cumberland Mercury*, 20 June 1883 p. 2.
6. The *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers' Advocate*, 16 August 1884, p. 3.
7. The *NSW Government Gazette*, 19 December 1884, [issue No. 654] p. 8434.
8. The *NSW Government Gazette*, 8 May 1885, [Issue No. 190] p. 3088.
9. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 26 July 1890, p. 4.
10. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 25 April 1891, p. 3.
11. The *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 23 August 1890, p. 17.
12. The *NSW Government Gazette*, 8 February 1895, [Issue No. 98] p. 871.
13. The *NSW Government Gazette*, 16 February 1900, [Issue No. 143] p. 1343.
14. The *NSW Government Gazette*, 15 March 1881, [Issue No. 98] p. 1421.
15. The *Hawkesbury Chronicle and Farmers' Advocate*, 17 September 1887, p. 3.
16. The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 11 July 1930, p. 3.

**HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY OF ARTICLES OR ANY STATEMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



## Book Launch Report

### **‘In For The Long Haul’ held Saturday, 6 April 2019 at Hawkesbury Regional Museum**



It was a very successful function with over fifty attendees.

Annegret Hall who travelled from Perth for the presentation, outlined her reasons for writing the book and provided the background conditions that were responsible for the high level of crime occurring in England and Ireland at the time the First Fleet to Botany Bay was assembled.

Through the lives of two convicts, Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley, Annegret Hall has developed a case which paints a more sympathetic and respectable role for early female convicts than has been presented by

other authors in the past. Her sources were original source documents.

The presentation was followed by a generous afternoon tea. Special thanks go to Heather Gillard for a large part of the organisation of the event.

Neville Dehn  
Secretary HHS



*Jan Barkley-Jack, Annegret Hall and Ian Jack (pictured above) and a glimpse of some of those attending this book launch (left). Photographed by Neville Dehn.*

# WINDSOR, 1940



WINDSOR, NSW. 1940. MRS NANCY BIRD-WALTON WITH LADY WAKEHURST, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF NSW, IN FRONT OF SQUADRON LEADER F.C. MACKILLOP AND GWEN STARK ON AN INSPECTION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FLYING AND WOMEN'S AIR TRAINING CORPS (WATC) MEMBERS. (DONOR MRS NANCY BIRD-WALTON).

WINDSOR, NSW. 1940. MISS NANCY BIRD (LEFT), WEARING THE UNIFORM OF THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FLYING CLUB, WITH SQUADRON LEADER F.C. MACKILLOP, GWEN STARK AND LADY WAKEHURST, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF NSW. (DONOR MRS NANCY BIRD-WALTON).



HOLDING STICK MISS ELEANOR PLATT, SEVENTH FROM LEFT IS MISS MARIE BRECKENRIDGE. (DONOR G. CALDWELL).

WINDSOR, NSW. 1940. MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FLYING CLUB, FORERUNNER OF BOTH THE WOMEN'S AIR TRAINING CORPS (WATC) AND THE WAAAF, ABOUT TO PREPARE A MEAL OUTDOORS AT A TRAINING CAMP. FIFTH FROM LEFT

WINDSOR, NSW. 1940. MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FLYING CLUB, FORERUNNER OF BOTH THE WOMEN'S AIR TRAINING CORPS (WATC) AND THE WAAAF, DEMONSTRATING THEIR MARCHING SKILLS TO VISITORS (CENTRE LEFT) AT A TRAINING CAMP BESIDE THE RIVER. (DONOR G. CALDWELL).



Images courtesy – Australia War Memorial

## DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

**Saturday, 27 April 2019**

**Richmond Heritage Day**

*See details on Page 2*

The Society will have a book stall set up within the old CBC Bank building (along with other groups). There will also be guided tours of some of Richmond's heritage buildings and St Peters Cemetery.

Members are encouraged to come and enjoy the day in Richmond.

**Friday, 3 May 2019**

**National Trust Heritage Festival 2019 Event**

**'A Peek Into the Past' Party**

Hosted by Hawkesbury Historical Society

*See details over – extracted from current National Trust Heritage Festival application*

**Monday, 6 May 2019**

**JJ Paine Golf Day**

Windsor Golf Club

**Sunday, 19 May 2019**

**Margaret Catchpole: the Truth behind the Legend**

Self-drive car tour, departing from Hawkesbury Regional Museum (10am) and finishes at Richmond Cemetery (4pm).

*See details on Page 5. Pre-bookings required.*

**Saturday, 22 June 2019**

**HHS General Meeting**

Speaker: Wal Walker

Topic: D'Arcy Wentworth

**Saturday, 24 August 2019**

**HHS General Meeting**

Speaker: Kath von Witt

**Thursday, 24 October 2019**

**HHS Annual General Meeting**

Speaker: Alex Pugh (TBC)