



The Arms Chronicle



Cnr. Gardenia Ave, Great Western Highway,
Emu Plains, NSW. Australia. Tel 02 4735 4394
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 2pm
1st & 3rd Sunday 1 - 4pm

No 76

March 2015

School Room goes to back to the Roaring 20s

Last month, we were invited to put a hands on display at the Roaring 20s weekend at the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum.



Above, the ever popular school room.

Below, Craig Werner dishing out punishment.



Right, never too young to start learning to write.



Making a phone call the old fashioned way.



March's Guest Speaker Saturday 28th Bob Maynard

Bob Maynard has over 40 years experience in the minerals industry with 30 years associated directly with underground coal-mining both in the UK and Australia.

He will tell us about the 1842 UK Royal Commission - Women and children working in the mines, the conditions they worked under, their pay and hours spent underground.

April Meeting

The April meeting is on **Saturday 18th**, and will be an away meeting at North Richmond. Details will be in the April Chronicle.

Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our members who have joined the NDHS over the last two years.

Carmel and Denis Heywood
Denis and Susan Gallagher
Gail and Howard Horowitz
Judy and Colin Jones
Len and Judy Joyce
Jim and Valda Low
Dennis Trembath
Maria Contardo
William Moore
Paul Wheeldon
John Morrisby
Vicki Presdee
Tony Grainge
Ted Howak

INSIDE

- The Seed Merchants • Convict Extraordinaire Part 2 • Berrima's Headless Ghost Part 2
- Retrace the Steps - Cox's Road Dreaming • The Cavalcade of History and Fashion

The Seed Merchants

Rachel Wong
NDHS's Research Officer

The seed packets featured in the Carthona and Dobson family display are from four Australian Seed Merchants: Anderson & Co. Pty Ltd, Martin & O'Keeffe Ltd, Vince Hillsdon and Arthur Yates Pty Ltd. The packets date from 1942 to 1945. They are priced at sixpence (five cents) each, in their original condition and sealed.

Anderson & Co. Ltd.

Anderson & Co., the well known seedsmen and plant merchants published many catalogues and gardening books from 1886 to 1963. The company was established in 1863 and located in Pitt Street, Sydney. Later the company operated from 399 George Street, Sydney. In 1937, the new headquarters of the company's nursery and seed business was at 90 Parramatta Road, Summer Hill.

An article in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' dated 22 December 1905 stated the firm's trade mark and advertisements using "always the Best" for their famous seeds and stocks. On 25 April 1906, the 'Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser' reported the exhibit of the well known firm of seedsmen in the form of a charming garden, "...illustrating the best in the agricultural and horticultural world" at the Royal Easter Show. Anderson & Co. advertised widely in many newspapers including 'The Farmer and Settler' and the 'Illustrated Sydney News'.



Vince Hillsdon

Vince Hillsdon, the seed grower and merchant, located at 110 Bathurst Street, Sydney advertised their Super Seeds in 'The Farmer and Settler' (Sydney, NSW) in December 1943 and in the Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga, NSW) in February 1947. In December 1947, Mr Vince Hillsdon of Sydney announced that his seeds are now available to the general public, complete with Hormone Powder, and will be sold under the trade name 'Vince Hillsdon's Hormonised Seeds' (The Land, 12 Dec 1947). Vince Hillsdon also advertised widely in the newspapers mentioned and in 'The Land' (Sydney) and in the 'Catholic Weekly' (Sydney).

Martin & O'Keeffe Ltd

Martin & O'Keeffe Ltd, Seed Merchant and Grower, was located at 7 Ultimo Road, Sydney. The company published a 32 page illustrated catalogue in 1920-1929. 'Martin & O'Keeffe' advertised in 'The Farmer and Settler' from December 1921 to September 1922. 'The Riverina Grazier' (Hay) on the 12 May 1931 reported a prize - a collection of packet seeds valued at 5s, presented by Martin & O'Keeffe Ltd, Sydney. Advertisements were seen in the Cairns Post (Qld) dated 28 February 1933 advertising "new and reliable flower and vegetable seeds in packets and in bulk" and on 2 September 1936 advertising their flower and vegetable seeds. Also an advertisement was seen in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post (NSW) dated 18 December 1935.





Yates

Yates was founded by Arthur Yates, an Englishman who emigrated to New Zealand in 1879 to escape the damp weather of his native Manchester. The seed business that Arthur opened in Auckland in 1883 was the beginning of what was to become one of the most recognised names in Australian and New Zealand gardening.

In 1886 Arthur visited Sydney, where he saw an opportunity to establish a similar enterprise. So, in 1887, he left his brother Ernest to manage the New Zealand seed business and opened a branch in Sussex St, Sydney. In 1906, the two brothers came to an amicable agreement to separate the two companies and run them independently either side of the Tasman. This continued until the late 1980s when the two companies joined together again.

By 1893, Arthur had launched his seed packets for home gardeners. He prided himself on always selling the best quality seeds and 'Yates Reliable Seeds' became the company's catchcry. As time passed, Yates became more and more an integral part of gardening, selling a range of products which included fertilisers, sprays, pots, potting mix and tools as well as seeds. In 1895 Arthur saw the need for a publication that answered gardeners' questions so he wrote the first Yates Garden Guide, a basic gardening book that is still published more than 110 years later.

Yates is the only business continuing to be a household name.

The illustrations for Andersons and Martin O'Keeffe are from the seed merchants catalogues at the State Library of NSW.

The illustration for Yates is from Yates Gardening Guide, 1982 edition.

All photographs were taken by Lynne Cheshire.



Retrace the Steps – Cox's Road dreaming

A once in a lifetime opportunity to walk Cox's Road from Mount York to the Flag Staff at Bathurst.

The Central West Bushwalking Club and Greening Bathurst are jointly hosting a one-off opportunity to walk Cox's Road from Mount York to the Flag Staff at Bathurst over seven days, including one rest day, commencing on the 26th of April through to the 2nd May 2015.

This walk along the western section of Cox's Road also coincides with the bicentenary of Governor Macquarie's grand tour across the mountains in 1815, with his supporting entourage of 50 persons along Cox's Road to the Bathurst Plains. Macquarie commenced his tour at Emu Plains on April 21st, arriving in Bathurst on the 4th of May to the rousing cheers of the small party stationed on the Bathurst Plains.

The dates of the walk: Sunday the 26th of April – Saturday 2nd May 2015. For more information go to coxroaddreaming@gmail.com and put *Retrace the Steps Expedition* in the subject line.



The Cavalcade of History and Fashion

Zonta Club of Nepean Valley Inc
Member of Zonta International

Zonta Club of Nepean Valley Inc

Penrith Paceway
Station Street, Penrith NSW 2750

2pm Saturday 14th March 2015

Tickets: \$25 per head
includes tea, muffin and biscuits

For bookings contact Jan Hartley 02 4736 2615

The Cavalcade Luxury and Leisure Parade features fashions dating from the 1800s to the 1900s. See the subtle art of impressing your friends at afternoon tea in 1900s and after-school activities, to preparing for a ball to celebrate Australia's Federation, and discover how to travel attractively whilst in Edwardian times. Partake in perennial pastimes of shopping in the 1920s, spend a day at the Races and look at exercise balls in the 1930s and 40s. See how we entertained in the 1950s, and finish with the Debutante Ball circa 1960.

The Cavalcade of History and Fashion is a collection of original historic gowns and accessories with provenance dating from the 1700s preserving Australia's social and fashion history. Further information on Cavalcade's collection, events or volunteering visit www.thecavalcade.org

Timeline Photography © Cavalcade

LUXURY & LEISURE PARADE



THE CAVALCADE OF HISTORY AND FASHION PO BOX 108 FOREST HILL NSW 2267 PHONE 02 3417 0067 WWW.THECAVALCADE.ORG

CONVICT Extraordinaire

The Story of Arthur Bristol (1808 – 1884) Pt 2

by Paul Wheeldon

This time it was considered “unsafe to send him back to the stockade”, so he was transferred to the Cockatoo Island iron gang where he remained for the next two and a half years, labouring daily in irons under conditions every bit as harsh and as horrific as he had ever experienced. This settlement was established by Governor Gipps in 1839 specifically for prisoners withdrawn from Norfolk Island, and considered safe because of its surrounding deep water. The prisoners here were engaged in the re-roofing of the guard house and soldiers' barracks, and in excavating and dressing stone for new cells, a new wharf and new barracks. They also made carts, barrows, picks and shovels, buckets, bolts, nails and other assorted hardware. The inferior quality of the food, especially the meat and bread, was a constant source of complaint and protest. Illnesses such as dysentery were rife. Frequent attempted escapes and attacks by prisoners on each other and on their overseers invoked solitary confinement, floggings or heavy irons.

In December 1843 approval was given for a remission of Bristol's two years and nine months sentence due to “having conducted himself with the utmost propriety since his arrival on the island”. Consequently he was taken from Cockatoo Island and assigned to the engineers' boat crews at Sydney. However, within a year he relapsed by absenting himself from duty, assaulting another person at Dodrey's pub at Rushcutters Bay, and stealing eight pounds and a case of surgeon's instruments. For this he was given 14 days solitary confinement back on Cockatoo Island where articles of equipment were now being made for the planned expedition of exploration to tropical Australia under the leadership of Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Mitchell. A very significant stroke of good fortune then came Bristol's way, when he was selected to accompany this exploring party, probably because of his special skills as a boatman. He was now 37 years old and, despite his ordeals, apparently in good health.

Mitchell's party, with Edmund Kennedy second in command and 27 others (the majority of them convicts, including Bristol), left from Boree near Orange in December 1845. Their mission was to explore the tropical north with the view to finding a large stream flowing northwards to the Gulf of Carpentaria, providing a transport corridor that would facilitate trade with Asia, notably the sale of horses to India. Taken with them were eight drays drawn by 80 bullocks, two detachable boats, 17 horses, three light carts, 120 sheep and over a ton of food including concentrated soup, flour, ham, bacon, tea, sugar etc. They followed the Bogan river beyond Nyngan and the limits of settlement, but soon encountered “great distress from want of water” and the death of many of the bullocks from thirst. An armed guard was needed to protect their encampments from aboriginal attacks. During the early months of 1846, with weather improving, they followed the Macquarie, Darling, Narran and Balonne rivers northwards. At the Miranoa river a depot was established under Kennedy's charge, while Mitchell, with Bristol and nine others, explored further northwards to the Belyando river and across the Tropic of Capricorn. Scouting westwards they then found a large stream flowing north-westwards which Mitchell jubilantly but wrongly assumed would provide a direct approach to the Gulf. He named it the Victoria, not knowing that it was a tributary of Coopers Creek, draining into Lake Eyre. It was renamed the Barcoo by Kennedy during further explorations the following year. Low in rations and believing his mission was done, Mitchell turned his party homewards, reaching Sydney by January 1847. Although the expedition failed in its primary objective, it did serve to open up for pastoral occupation a large area of good land in what is now central and southern Queensland.

Mitchell had high praise for the conduct of the convicted men in his party and immediately recommended to Governor Fitzroy the award of a Conditional Pardon with a gratuity of one pound for each of them. Consequently Bristol was granted his Ticket of Leave (Bathurst district) in February 1847. The Conditional Pardon, having to be processed by the British Colonial Office, took a little longer. It was granted in June 1848.

One might expect that Bristol would now ‘settle down’, but his life was to follow its troubled and tortuous course for a little longer. One of his first acts as a free man was to marry 24 year old spinster Anne Jones at St. James Church, Sydney in April 1849. The marriage was apparently short-lived, either because of Anne's death or because one of the partners walked out, for there is no record of any issue from the union, nor is there any

further reference to Anne. Bristol was now living on the North Shore, most likely at St. Leonards, working as a waterman (boatman), and for a short time his life appeared to be more settled. In July 1853 he purchased a block of land on the corner of Edward and Mount Streets in St. Leonards for 25 pounds, only to sell it within two years for a handsome profit of 175 pounds. However, in the years from 1855 to 1861, sixteen instances of trouble with the law have been found. Most of Bristol's offences appear to have been associated with excessive drinking. There were numerous cases of 'drunkenness', 'using insulting language', 'threatening language', 'obscene and abusive language', 'disorderly behaviour' and even one of 'presenting firearms'. Although on one occasion he was acquitted of attempting to steal meat, on another he was found guilty of stealing three fowls from his former landlord. One case involved his failure to complete a building contract. There was also a charge of being illegally on the premises of a widow and her daughter, in defence of which he claimed "he had been courting and had got a good beating for his trouble". He was nevertheless found guilty, and a week later guilty again of using threatening language towards the same lady. These many and varied transgressions invoked a range of penalties from small fines to gaol sentences of up to three months.

It was also during this period that John Dean (Danes) and his wife Jane (nee. Leiper and later Napier) began to figure prominently in Bristol's life. Dean and Bristol owned adjoining property at St. Leonards. As early as June 1853 Bristol had helped finance Dean's purchase of a large block in West Street, St. Leonards. Then, in February 1858 Bristol purchased half of this block from Dean (with weatherboard cottage) for 50 pounds. The two worked together as carpenters and builders. Furthermore, when John Dean was violently beaten by a disgruntled client in March 1857, it was Bristol who, a fortnight later, threatened his friend's assailant with a gun. He was charged, tried and spent two nights in gaol for his trouble.

Sometime, soon after mid 1861, Bristol made a decision to leave the city and make a new life in the country, taking with him Jane Dean and her three youngest children. The youngest child, James, took the Bristol surname. (The Deans had married in 1845 and had 5 living children.) The St. Leonards property was sold during April and May 1861 for 165 pounds. Bristol was then 53 years of age and Jane 38.

Their country destination was the Lake Bathurst district, where Elizabeth was born to them in May 1863. Another daughter, Caroline Isabella, was born in September 1866. Their address then was Emu Meadow Station, near Queanbeyan and Bristol's occupation was given as 'carpenter'. When their last child, Arthur (junior) was born in 1868 he was listed as a 'shepherd'.

The family's move to the Murringo district came between 1874 and 1876, with Bristol involved in farm work and living on the Willawang Creek. Arthur and Jane were finally married at St. John's Church, Boorowa in January 1881, when he was 72 and Jane 57. The marriage registration makes no reference to Bristol's earlier marriage, while Jane states, 'widow', even though John Dean was still alive (he died the following year in 1882 at St. Leonards). What contact there was with the Bristols by John Dean and any of his other children is hard to say but there are indications that there was some contact.

Bristol was working as a fencer for the Parkman family of 'Calabash', Murringo when he took ill. He died on 2 May 1884, aged 76. His body was laid to rest in the Murringo cemetery, his soul finally free of the memories that must have tormented him, but his body still bearing the scars of the leg irons and the lash.

Although this is essentially a family history story, it is also very much a local history. Many locations in and around Sydney and the country areas are identified, including some of the well known colonial personalities of the day.

Arthur Bristol was one of my paternal great great grandparents. Tony Grainge and I have just returned from an historic holiday tour of Norfolk Island with the RAHS led by Judith Dunn. It was well worth the trip and we learnt a lot about Norfolk Island life in the 1830s and 1840s.

References to this history have been obtained from State Records NSW, BD&M's and family records. Additionally I would like to thank Brad. Gorham, another descendant, who initiated this massive search on Arthur Bristol's life.



Jane Bristol



Berrima's Headless Ghost Part 2 - The Sensational Trial of Lucretia Dunkley

with **John Staats**
President, NSW Corps of Marines

Martin Beech and Lucretia Dunkley were indicted for the wilful murder of Henry Dunkley and the trial commenced at Berrima Courthouse on the 5th of September 1843 before Chief Justice Sir James Dowling and a jury of twelve citizens. Beech and Dunkley entered pleas of 'not guilty'.

The trial was sensational and gathered wide attention because of the scandalous nature of the circumstances of the murder, which offended the religion, morals and the social order of the day. What shocked and excited contemporaries was the manner that the wife of the deceased, bound by marriage vow to honour and obey her husband, had acted against him. It was not just the scandal of Lucretia's adultery with Beech, but the fact that it was committed with a social inferior (Beech was a 'ticket-of-leave' manservant in the household) - and that it was done so openly and flagrantly. Furthermore, the violation of the sacrosanctity of the 'marriage bed' by adultery was heightened by the circumstances that the Dunkley's marriage bed was the very place that Beech and Lucretia chose to murder the sleeping Henry Dunkley. The crime was passion and violence exemplified.

Jury, onlookers and reporters were titillated as witnesses (the employees and neighbours of the Dunkley's) provided scandalous 'gossip' by way of 'circumstantial evidence' in support of the prosecution. What heightened the excitement were the feisty attacks by Lucretia on the witnesses against her. She was verbally dexterous and the 'violence' of her speech and sentiments shocked. Some of her words were caught and recorded by newspaper reporters of the day:

'Your soul is between hell and heaven ... That woman would hang Jesus Christ, let alone me ... Don't appeal to God, he has nothing to do with you—the devil has got your soul this day, body and bones ... I never murdered in my life, but if I could get at you, I would do it this blessed moment...'

What also horrified the public of the day was the open indifference of Martin Beech to the trial proceedings and the fact that Beech and Lucretia appeared to smirk and laugh when witnesses provided gossip concerning their 'improper familiarities' and liaisons. The conduct of the prisoners was, as a consequence, reported as being 'altogether most hardened, depraved, and extraordinary'.

Lucretia testified against Beech, repeating her earlier assertion made in her pre-trial confession, that she had played no part in the murder of her husband but had, under threat of violence, been compelled by Beech to help dispose of the body. She was not believed, and a 'guilty' verdict was returned by the jury.

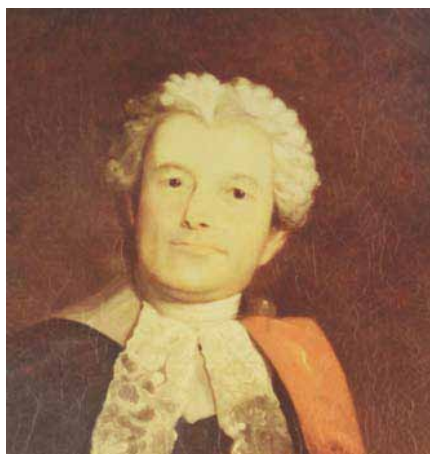
The Extraordinary Judgement of Justice Dowling

The sentencing by Justice Dowling is extraordinary for its sense of violence, vengeance and retribution. The wrath of the judge was especially directed against Lucretia Dunkley:

'You, Lucretia—a name ill assorted with the adulteress and the murderer, exhibited on your trial, a tone and manner, accompanied by language, which might well excite doubt of your kindred with the human species, and lead to the conviction that the Devil himself had, for a time, assumed the female form. Your demeanour, even in this closing stage of the proceedings, leaves no room to doubt that you are still possessed by the same diabolical spirit...'



*Lucretia Dunkley and Martin Beech -
mannikin impressions, Berrima Court
House.*



Sir James Dowling, Chief Justice of NSW.

'The time has arrived for Justice to claim her sacrifice. A speedy and ignominious death now awaits you. The humane spirit of the present age forbids the dreadful severity which in times not long gone by, when the treason of a murderous wife was expiated by burning alive. Happily for you, Lucretia, this frightful mode of death will not be your reward, however clamorously the voice of mankind might echo its justice in your instance ...

'In modern times, your case is without a parallel for atrocity, in all its circumstances of aggravation....

'The ghost of your murdered victim, in ghastly shape, must day and night present itself to your guilty minds, and his gaping wounds demand that retribution which laws divine and human award ...

'It remains for the Court to enunciate the manner and place in which your fearful sentence (without the least hope of human mercy) is to take effect: and that is, that you, Martin Beech, and you, Lucretia Dunkley, be severally taken thence to the prison from whence you came this morning, and that from thence you be taken to a place of public execution ... that you be then and there severally hanged by the neck until your bodies be dead—and may God Almighty have mercy on your miserable souls! ...

'...I also make the following orders, that these two wretched souls be buried standing up so that they will never rest in peace...'



The NSW Corps of Marines Inc. is a re-enactment group. The Marine Corps we depict was formed in 1786 specifically to come to Australia to protect the new colony and preserve order. The 212 marines along with their families, other settlers and convicts on board 11 ships witnessed the official Flag Raising held at Farm Cove on the 26th January, 1788.



For more information call (02) 4620 5789

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SUNDAY ROSTER

March

Sunday 1 Elsa & Joan
 Sunday 15 Reg & Craig

April

Sunday 5 EASTER
 Sunday 19 Reg & Bob F

May

Sunday 3 Joan & Elsa
 Sunday 17 Tony & Paul

June

Sunday 7 Joan & Harry
 Sunday 21 Jan & Bob F

Due to the Jellybean Street art classes on the 1st Sunday in the month, the meeting room needs to be opened at 12.30pm.

If you can't make your duty day, please try to change with somebody who can.

Please remember to sign in the diary in the meeting room, and write any information in the diary pertinent to your time on duty. Inquiries that need following up or abnormalities of equipment or facilities.

Accession forms are on the desk with the log book. Please get people to sign them and fill in as much detail as possible.

Why not hire the Museum grounds for your next function?

To book call
 02 4735 4394
 during opening hours
 02 4753 6103 after hours
 Email: info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au

Call AGM Emu Plains

02 4735 7214

For any reasonable engineering jobs
 No job too small
 Unit 3, 144 Old Bathurst Road
 Emu Plains

NOTICE BOARD

March 4

Wentworth Fall School 89 students from 9am - 1.30pm

March 14

Penrith History Conference

March 15

Family History Conference

March 16

Seniors Week Emu Plains Bus Tour leaving Inn at 1pm

March 28

St Vincent de Paul - 20 children 10.30 am

March 28

Monthly Meeting 1pm with guest speaker

April 1

Revesby Ladies Group 35 people, D/Teas 10.30

April 11 /12

Airing of the Quilts

NB: If you would like to purchase the commemorative History Book, or The Emu Plains plate we have them in stock.

Contact details 2015

Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9am to 2pm

1st and 3rd Sunday 1pm to 4pm

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