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Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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PAMELA'S CORNER

We are embarking in to a new and hopefully better year than the past two. Coincidentally, I am composing the following on Tuesday, 22/02/2022 and I wonder whether any of us will ever experience a date with only two different numbers in it?

During the time prior to our first meeting in 2022, I thought to myself, wow it would be wonderful to see all our friends who are members of the Chapter! On Saturday 19th February in the Tebbutt Room at Windsor Library, my wish was granted, it was a dream come true. Welcoming each and every one of you who could attend and to see all the smiley faces was special. Unfortunately, I really missed our members who sent apologies and were unable to attend.

John Lanser was our guest speaker at the February meeting. He spoke about the ship, the Dunbar and it was really informative. So many of us have heard of the Dunbar, but I do not believe we knew all the details. The slide show which was shown, gave the presentation a wow factor.

Judith O'Donohue arranges all the speakers and we cannot thank her enough for all she has done. Judith has stepped down from the committee and will not be able to attend all meetings in the future. She is an amazing young lady, nearly halfway through her 80's.

Our next meeting in April will be held in the Tebbutt Room at Windsor Library. Due to Easter and Anzac Day, we needed to change the date. Our meeting will be held on Saturday, 9th April which is the second weekend in April. Rebecca Turnbull is our speaker and the subject of her presentation will be Hawkesbury Heroes: The Great War, which I am sure will be very interesting.

I thank all members of the committee who each give me so much support. Till our next Newsletter, please take care – you are all very special!!

Pamela Hempel

Acting President

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL MEETING 2022

Date: Saturday 9th April (2nd Saturday)

Venue: Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library

300 George Street, Windsor

Speaker: Rebecca Turnbull

Topic: Hawkesbury Heroes “The Great War”

Time: 11:00am



JUNE MEETING 2022

Date: Saturday 18th June

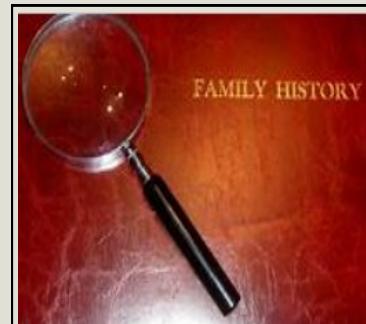
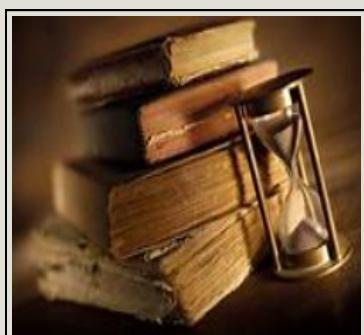
Venue: Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library

300 George Street, Windsor.

Speaker : Carol Roberts

Topic: The Pitt Family of Sunnyside, North Richmond

Time: 11:00am



Quotes From The Colony

Wednesday 9th March 1788

I am authorised to emancipate the convicts for good behaviour, for being industrious and I am further authorised to grant land to them. Authority being withheld for my granting land to the marines is just, for their endeavours are required elsewhere. Today the first references to the first court martial convened to hear charges against two marines.

Captain Phillip

Sunday 13th March 1788

I met with the officers on the subject of grants of land. I informed them that I did not have the authority to do it. I have allowed them pieces of ground for gardens or for feeding their stock for present use, but not as grants of land.

Captain Phillip

Tuesday 5th April 1788

I see the necessity of a regular supply of provisions for four or five years, and of clothing, shoes and frocks in the greatest proportion. More females are needed in the colony if it is to thrive as they are at presents very small proportion.

Captain Phillip

A Snippet of Sydney's Oldest Burial Grounds- Judith O'Donohue

Before the Old Sydney Burial Ground was established in 1792, a number of people were buried in the Rocks area in Sydney. Exact locations remain unknown. When the Old Sydney Burial Ground closed in 1819 Governor Macquarie ordered that a new cemetery be built near the Brickfield. This cemetery became known as the Devonshire Street Cemetery, but by 1860 it was full and by 1867 it was closed. Graves were exhumed from 1901 to make way for Central Railway Station.

St. Johns in Parramatta was established in 1790. It remains Australia's oldest surviving colonial cemetery. St Johns is today surrounded by modern buildings in all directions. At least 17 First Fleeters are buried at St Johns Cemetery.



Left: Devonshire Street Cemetery.



Middle: Old Sydney Burial Ground:



Right: St Johns Parramatta Cemetery.

Tobruk-submitted by Joy Jorgensen

Tobruk, the police horse that was "ill treated" recently by a demonstrator during anti lockdown protests in Sydney has a connection to the First Fleet convict John Morris Stephens aka John Morris of the Charlotte. One of John Morris Stephens' 5x great granddaughters (my niece Rachel D'arcy) donated Louie (as he was known to his family) to the mounted police when her daughter had advanced to a level of equestrian achievement that resulted in her needing a mount that had the ability to advance with her.

As Louie had such a lovely temperament, Rachel considered he would be very much "at home" with the mounted police. He did indeed readily adapt to life as a police horse. As the mounted police horses are given a battle name, Rachel asked if Louie could be named Tobruk after the battle in which Rachel's paternal grandfather fought in WWII. Rachel's grandfather is my father, Ernie Walker NX20046, a rat of Tobruk.



Liberty Medal

This commemorative medal was issued to school children of the Commonwealth of Australia to mark the end of WW1. Every child in Australia aged between 0-14 years old and those aged up to 16 years if their parents were in the armed forces were eligible to receive the medal. The medal was designed by Charles Douglas Richardson. Time constraints as well as pressure from the production of other victory medals meant that no single manufacturer could make the 1,670,000 medals. Six were therefore selected: Amor, Stokes, Schlank, Parkes, Angus & Coote (who later withdrew) and Platers. The medals were silvered bronze, with silver issues for special presentations. The Defence Department supplied a red, white and blue striped ribbon and pin. Distribution began in March 1919. School children began to receive their medals on Friday 18 July and on 'Peace Day' on Saturday 19 July. On one side appears "PEACE 1919", and on the reverse, "VICTORY", and "THE TRIUMPH OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE". Many of our grandparents would have had one of these medals.



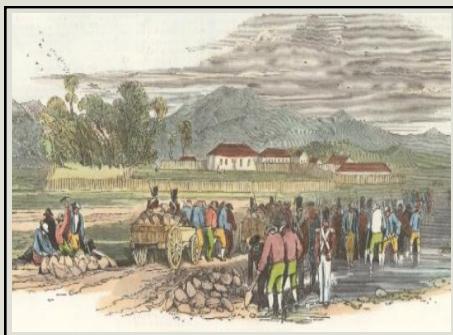
Australian History with Patrick Dodd

From Hell to Paradise - the Norfolk Island Story

The British Government wanted to use the island as a source of shipbuilding materials using convict labour but this resulted in a living hell for thousands of convicts. The Commandants were the supreme rulers of this tiny island and they were far from the reach of higher authority. The cruelty perpetrated by most of them seems almost unbelievable today. Some were enlightened men but they were overwhelmed by the brutality of the system and the indifference of the government.

There were countless brutal floggings and many public executions – sometimes of several men at a time. The convicts found their own way of fighting back – only to suffer further harsher punishments. They eventually developed a frightening sub-culture of their own which was as cruel as that of the authorities.

The island now is a place of great beauty and tranquillity but the physical evidence of those terrible times can still be seen in many places. Join Patrick at our Chapter meeting this August to hear more about the fascinating story of this unique place. More details in the June newsletter.



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For contributions to the Newsletter please email to

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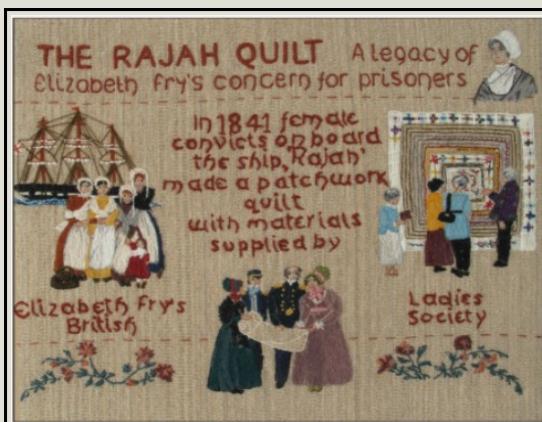
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The Rajah Quilt- submitted by Judith O'Donohue

The rajah quilt is a large quilt that was created by women convicts travelling on the ship the "Rajah" from Woolwich in England to Van Diemen's Land in 1841 with 179 women on board. The materials were given to the women by Lydia Irving of the British Women's Society which was run by Elizabeth Fry. The arranger of this quilt is believed to be Kezia Hayter who was the only free woman.

They set sail from Woolwich on 5th April 1841 and arrived in Hobart on 19th July 1841. Some of the women had embroidered and sewn the materials into an appliquéd coverlet now known as the "Rajah Quilt". It is thought that about 29 women were involved in the development of the quilt and they did not forget the ladies who supplied them with the materials, for in the middle of the quilt is an embroidered text thanking them. The quilt was presented to the Governor's wife Jane Franklin and eventually found its way back to Elizabeth Fry where it remained forgotten until rediscovered in an attic in Scotland .

It was returned to Australia in 1989 and is now held in the National Gallery of Australia. The Quilt is not unique, as there are other references to convict women's needlework but this is the only documented quilt made by convicts that still survives. The quilt measures 325cm x 337cm. This is about twice the size of a double bed and an extraordinary example of what can be achieved under the most abject of circumstances.



Sir John Jamison Catholic Cemetery -submitted by Judith O'Donohue

The cemetery is comprised of two portions. The smaller portion is part of the original land grant (1000 acres) to Thomas Jamison in 1805. As Surgeons mate on the Sirius, Thomas Jamison arrived with the First Fleet. Before his death in England in 1811 he signed the property over to his son Sir John Jamison.

The second and larger portion, is part of the original land grant (50 acres) to convict Charles Tompson (or Thompson) in 1809.

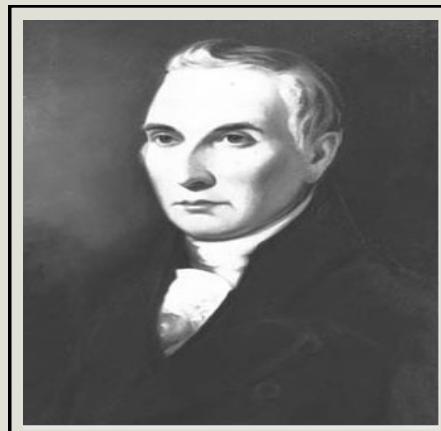
Sir John Jamison came to Australia in 1814. He expanded the original holding with grants and land purchases and established his estate "Regentville" which became one of the most prosperous and grandest in the colony. The estate which included a horse stud, vineyard, dairy, woollen mill and other agricultural pursuits sustained a large number of workers who were predominantly Irish Catholic. Sir John set aside a small portion of the estate as a burial ground. The cemetery was consecrated by Bishop Bede Polding circa 1839.

Sir John Jamison, a Protestant, is buried in St Stephen the Martyr Churchyard Cemetery, Fulton Lane, Penrith.

Sir John Jamison Cemetery and McCarthy Catholic Cemetery at Cranebrook provided Catholic burial ground for the residents of Penrith and surrounds for more than one hundred years. The last burial in the cemetery was in 1967.

The original gateway to the cemetery was on the western boundary with direct access from Mulgoa Road. In the early 1980's the cemetery was surrounded by a housing subdivision and the entrance (and gates) moved to Lilac Place. The gates were later stolen and the gateposts have been preserved within the fence facing Lilac Place.

Considerable damage and vandalism has occurred over the years. The remaining monuments date from the 1830's through to the twentieth century.



Thomas Jamison 1753-1811



John Bede Polding 1794-1877

