



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

Volume 25 : Issue 2

March 2019

The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

P.O. Box 679. Camden. NSW. 2570

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**Cawdor Cemetery – First of our Cemetery
Inscription Registration Projects for this year.**

Saturday 9th March 2019

9.00am start

All members welcome to participate.



From the Editor

It is with much sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Mrs Yvonne Dowle who has been a member of Camden Family History for many years and our thoughts are with Rex and their family at this sad time. She will be missed by many.

Please remember that we publish our journal Camden Calling next in May so if you have any articles for either The Valley Voice or Camden Calling, you can contact me directly at any time on my mobile **0438 012 013** or email: w.sims53@gmail.com.

Welcome back and we hope we can bring you a new and exciting year at Camden Family History.

***Happy Birthday
To the following members
for March 2019***

Maurice Brown 20th March
Fred Gibson 26th March
Robert Wheeler 17th March



**Camden Area Family History Society
Inc.**

**Research Room, Library/Museum Complex,
John St. Camden**

The research room is currently open
Thursday & Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm
Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon
All other times by appointment only.

**There is a charge of \$10.00 per session for
non-members to use our resources,**

There is a volunteer on duty whenever the
research room is open. They are only too happy to
assist with any inquires.

**If you would like to volunteer to assist in the
research room please contact either Ray
Herbert on 96066075 or Fred Gibson on
46559073 letting them know when you are
available.**

MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday
of the month (except January) at 7:30pm
in the Meeting Room of the
Library/Museum Complex, John St.
Camden.

To help cover the cost of supper we ask
for a gold coin donation.

Visitors most welcome.

**MEMBERSHIP
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE**

Normal	Pensioners/Concession
Single \$30	Single \$25
Couple \$35	Couple \$30



March General Monthly Meeting Tuesday 5th March

Our meeting this month will be somewhat different as we are all going on an excursion across the road to Macaria House to view the Alan Baker Art Gallery. The 150 year old former school house and residence is an iconic, heritage listed building and is culturally significant to the Camden area and is characteristic of the settlement era of the region. The Alan Baker collection represent a colourful portrayal of an artist's life in 20th Century Australia and tells a story of life, Australian tradition, culture and artistic journey.



April General Monthly Meeting Tuesday 5th April

Our April meeting to be held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 will be the first of our **Members Workshops** where we ask members to come along with any "Roadblocks and BrickWalls" that they have come up against in their research. It is hoped that by disclosing these problem areas at the meeting, other members may have experienced similar issues and be able to suggest alternative research to help breach the roadblock or brickwall. No guaranteed results but we will all do our best to help.

VALE

Yvonne Dowle

Yvonne passed away last Sunday 24th February after some months of illness..
A private family funeral was conducted on Tuesday 26th February

It is with much sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Mrs Yvonne Dowle who has been a member of Camden Family History for many years and and our thoughts are with Rex and their family at this sad time. . She will be missed by many.



For Your Diary

Don't forget the upcoming conference this year



*Exploring
the
Past*

35th Annual Conference of the
NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

11-13 October 2019
at Knox Grammar School,
Pacific Highway, Wahroonga

FRIDAY 10-4: FREE Family History Fair
(open to the public)
Evening Meet and Greet
SATURDAY: Conference
Evening Conference Dinner
SUNDAY Morning: Conference

For full details see
<http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/>

Hosted by
Ku-ring-gai Historical Society



Ku-ring-gai Historical Society



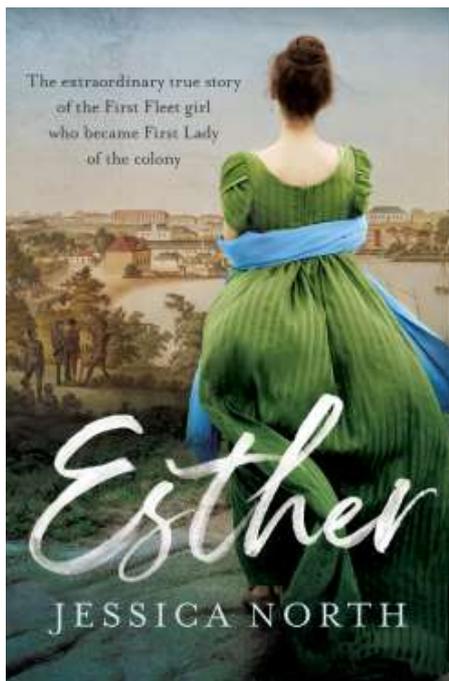
The Society has received an invitation to attend a new book launch as outlined below:

From: Jessica North <jessica@north.id.au>

I would like to invite someone from the Camden Historical Society to the launch of a new book about Esther Abrahams/Johnston of Annandale.

I'm attaching an invitation to this email, along with some information about the book.

Please let me know if anyone from your society can join us :)



You are invited to celebrate the launch of

Esther

The extraordinary true story of the First Fleet girl who became First Lady of the colony

by **Jessica North**

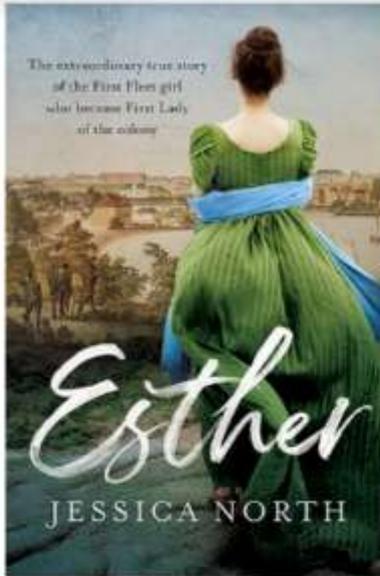
To be launched by Irina Dunn

10:30–11:30 am Monday 8 April 2019
History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Books will be available for purchase and Jessica will be happy to sign them

Please let Jessica know if you can come:
jessica@north.id.au





Esther

The extraordinary true story of the First Fleet girl who became First Lady of the colony

By Jessica North

Esther is the little-known rags to riches story of Esther Abrahams, who arrived in Australia as a convict on the First Fleet.

She was the first woman in the colony to successfully manage her partner's large property (the Annandale estate), as Elizabeth Macarthur did later, and her ultimate rise in status significantly contributed to Australia's evolving social order.

Aged 16, Esther stood trial at the Old Bailey for stealing 24 yards of black silk lace – a crime that warranted execution. Fortunately, her sentence was transmuted to transportation.

She embarked on the perilous journey on the First Fleet as a convict, with no idea of what lay ahead. Esther was one of the first Jewish women to arrive in the new land and, once on shore, she became the servant and, in time, the lover of the dashing young first lieutenant George Johnston. But life in the fledgling colony could be gruelling, with starvation looming and floggings for convicts who stepped out of line.

Esther's story is particularly fascinating because it takes place during the critical first 25 years of the fledgling colony, and because her life was intertwined with many of the important people and major events of the time.

Through *Esther*, we meet the early governors: Phillip, Hunter, King, Bligh and Macquarie. We get to know John Macarthur, Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth, Bennelong and Barrangaroo. We meet the gentle and little-known Arabanoo, and also Susannah Kable and Mary Bryant.

Other people featured in the book include: Ainslie, Atree, Anlezark, Atkins, Ball, Balmain, Banks, Barrett, Bigge, Biggers, Blaxcell, Bligh, Boorea, Boorong, Bradley, Broad, Brotheridge, Caley, Campbell, Castlereagh, Clark, Colbee, Collins, Cook, Cox, Crowley, Cunningham, Daringa, Dawes, Dilboong, Dixon, Edwards, Evans, Fitzroy, Flinders, Foveaux, Garrow, Gaudry, Gilbert, Grant, Greenway, Griffin, Grigg, Grose, Hall, Harris, Innett, Isaacs, Jackson, Jamieson, Johnson, Joyce, Julian, Julien, Kemp, Kent, Kerwin, la Perouse, Laycock, Lock, Lord, Lovell, Mackellar, Mackneal, Mann, Marsden, Marsh, Martin, Mooroo boora, Nanbaree, Nichols, Northumberland, O'Connell, Palmer, Paterson, Piper, Pitt, Poole, Preston, Putland, Redfern, Riou, Robinson, Ross, Rosson, Ruse, Shea, Simpson, Sinclair, Smit, Smith, Smyth, Spence, Springmore, Squire, Stephen, Stuart, Sutherland, Sydney, Tench, Trimmings, Underwood, Waterhouse, Watts, Weston, White, Whittle, Wilberforce, Willey, Worgan and Yemmerrawanne.



Johnston's pivotal role in both the 1804 convict uprising and the Rum Rebellion in 1808 creates a dramatic backdrop for Esther's life with him. As leader of the Rum Rebellion against Governor Bligh, George Johnston became Lieutenant-Governor of NSW, making Esther First Lady, a remarkable rise in society for a former convict.

'North skillfully weaves together one woman's fascinating saga with an equally fascinating history of the early colonial period of Australia. The resulting true story is sometimes as strange and thrilling as a fairytale.'

Lee Kofman, author of *The Dangerous Bride*

'North has meticulously researched the myriad details that render this story so true to life and cast a new light on our origins.'

Irina Dunn, former director of the NSW Writers' Centre

'Jessica North has really brought to life the story of Esther, the young First Fleet convict who, for a brief period in 1808, became the "First Lady" of the British colony in Sydney Cove.'

Helen Bersten OAM, former Honorary Archivist, Australian Jewish Historical Society

BOOK LAUNCH AT HISTORY HOUSE

History House is opposite the Royal Botanic Gardens and within easy walking distance from Wynyard, Circular Quay, Martin Place and St James train stations. Metered street parking is available and Secure Parking is located next door.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jessica North has been researching Esther's life for over a decade, discovering intriguing new information. She is a program director at the Australian Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability at Macquarie University.

PUBLICATION DATE: April 2019

RRP: \$29.99

IMPRINT: Allen & Unwin

CATEGORY: Historical biography



The Friends of Linnwood invite you to

OPEN HOUSE at Historic Linnwood 25 Byron Road, Guildford



Sunday 10th March 2019 **11.00am – 4.00pm**

\$3 Admission
(Children under 5 years Admitted Free)



'Memories' Some Olde World Memorabilia from Days Gone By

Come and see some of the amazing items that have been generously donated to the Friends of Linnwood



'Vintage Love' Featuring 40 years of Vintage Wedding Dresses & Accessories Curated by Christine McKenna



*Sausage Sizzle, Devonshire
Teas and Cakes
by the Friends of Linnwood*

Holroyd Art & Craft Society Inc.

Western Sydney Woodturners

and a variety of other craft stalls



Spoon Collectors Club

WOMEN'S CREATIVE HUB

Open to all women, from beginners to experienced crafts women

*Further information:
Dorothy – 0412 606644 or Helen – 0409 227679*

*Email: friendsoflinnwood@gmail.com
Website: www.linnwood.org.au*

Linnwood
*Listed on the
NSW State Heritage Register*



An e-Mail received from a member following last month's meeting

From: Anne McIntosh
Subject: Congratulations to the Committee

Message Body:

Hi. When attending meeting on 5 Feb, I was thrilled to hear the efforts to market the knowledge of our people and the materials available. As Camden changes, our overall population will be less tied to the story of Camden, and are more likely to have family links to other areas of Australia and overseas. Preserving the family histories of Camden people remains important, but making our people and equipment into the 'service' for the people of our local district is the way for the future. My educational background is in public relations - I would be happy (and excited) to assist in developing, documenting or proofreading a Communications plan and/or any marketing materials.

Also received from Anne

University of Sydney during WW1

For the past five years, the university of Sydney has been working to expand on the Book of Remembrance that was prepared after WW1 to honour their students and staff who participated in the war. Details and additional contributions have been recorded in an online database.

As centennial celebrations draw to a close, Family History members can search for their relatives or other connections. (Look for 'beyond 1914' in Google)

<https://heuristicplus.sydney.edu.au/heuristic/?db=ExpertNation&ll=Beyond1914>

Listed people with connections to Camden include:

- Rev Alfred Herbert Austin – originally from SA, he trained at the Anglican College in Camden.
- Private Frederick Duesbury – Early education at Camden Public School. Was studying economics.
- Private Sydney Hamilton Hawkins – stretcher bearer. Educated at Camden Grammar School (on John Street)
- Private James Mervyn Stanley Wasson – stretcher bearer who attended Camden Superior Public School (the name for the combined Camden primary and secondary school early in the 20th century)
- Private William George Vincent Hillcoat – was training at Camden theological College
- Eric Graham Leask – reached ordinand at Camden theological College. Killed in action Fleurbaix France.
- Rev Frank Edward Pulsford – graduate of Camden Theological College. Volunteered with Red Cross Wounded and Missing Dept in France.



CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Camden Historical Society will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Museum and the Guest Speaker will be Brian Walsh talking on his book “William and Elizabeth Paterson – the Edge of Empire”.

The first two decades of Australia's European history through the lives of William and Elizabeth Paterson. Framed by imperial ambition and ideals of the Enlightenment, these two spirited Scots stood at the centre of the achievements and disdeeds of the NSW Corps during its time in Australia. William became colonel of the regiment and acted as governor of NSW for two separate terms. He participated heartily in the trading activities of the Corps that earned itself the nickname "the Rum Corps", and he supported his officers when they deposed William Bligh and formed a rebel government.

Elizabeth Paterson was an independent, talented woman who refused to live in William's shadow. She and her friend Anna King established the Sydney Female Orphan School, the first welfare institution on mainland Australia. They became the first women in Australia to serve on a government committee and to manage a public institution.

The book challenges populist views of the Rum Corps and the Rum Rebellion and offers a critical alternative to this extraordinary period in Australia's European history.