



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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July 2019

The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

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Dr West's funeral approaches Argyle St, 1932

Dr Francis West, his wife Adeline (nee Jones) and their three children Kathleen Hope, Richard Francis Kirby, and Lydia Patricia, lived in 'Macaria' on John Street. He consulted in rooms at the house. The family left the house under sad circumstances, after Dr West died suddenly at the age of 58 in 1932.



From the Editor

For the August and September editions of Valley Voice, editor Warren Sims will be away on grandfather duties in Western Australia. Anne McIntosh will fill in for that period. Please submit your contributions to Anne using the email address above, and phone or text her, so she doesn't forget to pick up your information.

Please Note that Membership fees are now due as of 1st July. Fees may be paid at the General Meeting and can be via cash, cheque and we are trying to set up EFT as well for those not able to attend in person.

Fees have remained unchanged from last year.

***Happy Birthday
To the following members
For July 2019***

Steven Wright 3rd July
Ray Herbert 9th July
Kay Ryan 9th July
Diana Rolfe 13th July
Lyn Hudson-Williamson 16th July
Margaret Wheeler 21st July
Tony Jackson 24th July
Steve Robinson 30th July.



**Camden Area Family History Society
Inc.**

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

Research room OPENS

Thursday & Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm

Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon

All other times by appointment only.

**\$10.00 per session for non-members to
use our resources.**

A volunteer is on duty whenever the research room is open to assist with inquiries.

If you would like to assist in the research room please contact Tony Jackson on 46551098 or Janet Howe on 0490212105 letting them know when you are available.

MEETINGS

Held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm in the Museum at 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 |



General Monthly Meeting Tuesday 2 July

At our upcoming meeting we will have Jeff McGill to tell us about *Finding Rachel: a genealogical journey into the Warrumbungles*.

The former *Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser* editor Jeff McGill will always be a story teller, and history has been a passion for many years. He was responsible for the *Pictorial History of Campbelltown and District*. Jeff will discuss his great-great-grandmother, Rachel Kennedy, wife of a shearer, who lived in the area around Coonamble. Learn about her indigenous friend, Mary Jane, and their shared understanding.



Picture by Simon Bennett originally published in *Macarthur Advertiser* 27 Nov 2017

CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY General Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Camden Historical Society will be held on Wednesday 10 July at 7.30pm in the Museum. It will be the Annual General Meeting with a new President and other Committee members to be elected. Speaker will be Kylie Warner and she will talk on her life as a nurse in the Prison System; she works at Berrima Gaol.

For Your Diary

Convicts and Colonists history conference

and Family History Fair

*celebrating the 200th anniversary of the
Emu Plains convict farm*

31 August 2019 at Penrith City Library

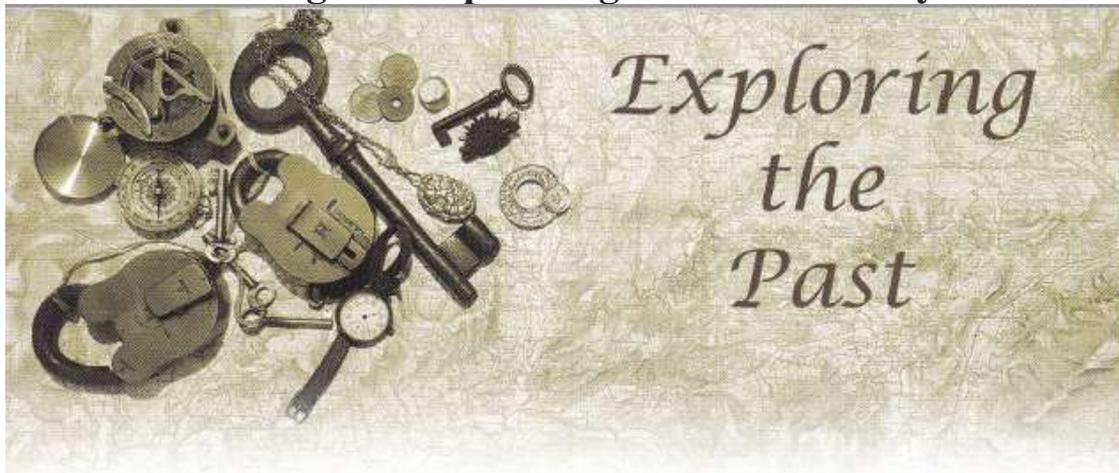
9am – 4pm

Contact Lorraine Stacker 0410562743

lorraine.stacker@penrith.city



Don't forget the upcoming conference this year



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



2019 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference:

Theme: EXPLORING THE PAST

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is hosting the **2019 Conference** for the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies (**Association**). The Conference will take place at Knox Grammar School on the **11th to 13th of October 2019**.

Friday 11th October will be a **free day** for anyone to attend. **Free informative lectures** on various aspects of genealogy; and more **advanced master classes** (\$10) and a family history fair, with exhibition tables including booksellers, businesses and family history societies. Master classes are the only events held on the Friday that need to be booked in advance.

The **Association Forum** will commence on **Friday 3pm**. Further details will be circulated prior to the Conference.

The Conference proper kicks off on Friday night with a "**Meet and Greet**" event for **registered participants**. The main lectures start on Saturday and continue on Sunday. Trade tables will be open during the breaks, giving participants opportunities to browse the goods and services on offer. **Registration fee** includes all sessions on Saturday and Sunday; morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Saturday; morning tea on Sunday; and the Meet & Greet on Friday night.

The **Association AGM** commences at 4pm. Decisions include voting on the Assn Member Societies to represent the four Regions; and determination of the composition of the Association Mgmt Comm for 2019–20.

The **Conference Dinner** will be held on Saturday night. It is an elaborate sit-down dinner, and will be held in a building overlooking the Knox oval. At night the gothic-style buildings are floodlit, so it will be a spectacular venue. There will also be a great guest speaker at the dinner, the identity of whom is a secret for now.

Full details of speakers: see <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au>

Newsletters re Conference at: <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/news.html>



Book online, at <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/register.html> Early bird rates are available until 31 July and are \$150 for the whole conference, \$90 for Saturday only or \$60 for Sunday only.

If interested in the **school accommodation**: Bookings for accommodation at Knox Grammar School opened on Monday 20th May. Use the link: <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/Knox-Accommodation-Booking-Form.pdf>.

Influenza

After WW1, about a third of the world's people experienced a dose of the flu. This wasn't a passing URTI - the **Spanish flu pandemic** of 1918-19 killed an estimated 20 to 50 million victims. It travelled from America to the trenches and was taken home by soldiers returning from war. As it progressed, it mutated, and illness continued after the primary outbreak as it circled the world in waves. Hospitals turned people away. In some American towns, bodies collected in the streets waiting for someone to bury them. Entire families were hidden, their members too unwell to manage daily activities.

A very readable, and shocking, study of the pandemic is John Barry's book, *The Great Influenza*, 2005.

Watch this interview to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cORiWr2FRA0>

Camden News 3 July 1919

The influenza epidemic is still raging in Australia, locally its influence has been stayed considerably to what it was a fortnight ago, but still there is much sickness at various homes, and the emergency hospital at the public school, under Matron McAnene of the District Hospital, is very busy. But for this hospital and the system of home treatment inaugurated by the local authorities, Camden would have been in a sorry plight.

Too much cannot be said of the spontaneous response from all sides, and influence for good is wonderful, not the least in the way volunteers work at the Methodist School Hall depot, which is being carried on by a band of most energetic workers under the supervision of Mrs. Butler, Senior, and Mrs. Davies, and the system of relief afforded by the Red Cross depot in delivering foodstuffs, etc., to homes stricken with the disease.



Dead Central: Final resting place for 30,000 lies under a Sydney train station



"Beneath every Sydney landmark lies a story" CREDIT: STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

If your ancestors settled in Port Jackson/Sydney in the first 60 years of the colony, there's a good chance that they, or their friends / relatives, were buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery. But what happened to their remains when Central Station was built upon the site?

Dead Central at the State Library - May 25 until November

Make the most of your visit. Do your research from home, and order a book from stores at least 48 hours before your visit. It's free to join the State Library, and the book will be waiting for you to review.

The State Library also provides a fabulous service where a librarian will spend a short time researching a question that you have raised online. It's free and they're informed and helpful. See "ask a librarian"



DNA tests – what’s the difference?

This review may help you to understand the differences between the DNA tests which can be used to trace your ancestry.¹ It will also give you an idea of comparative costs and the feedback you may gain. Research is newly released so the information should be up-to-date. <https://www.top10bestdnatesting.com>



**FAMILY HISTORY SHOWCASE
18 AUGUST 2019**

Belgenny Farm presents a showcase of local family and history resources. It is a chance to come along, tour the site, enjoy a Devonshire Tea in the tea rooms and talk to local history groups and family history associations. This is an opportunity to delve into your own family tree and learn about where to look for further information. Opening Hours: 10am to 3pm.

More information on www.belgennyfarm.com.au

******The Society will have a stand selling our products. If you would like to assist on the day please contact Bob Lester: 0406915225**

USyd graduates in WWI

As WW1 memorial events draw to a close, so does a project established by the University of Sydney to expand on the memorial booklet assembled to honour graduates who had fought and died in the war.

There are some very interesting records which vary significantly in the depth of information available.

During the memorial years, a number of families provided letters and memorabilia for scanning and photography, so that their ancestor’s contribution was better recorded.

The site illuminates the contributions made by doctors (including several women) and vets to the war effort. Many of the generals were better educated than the majority of soldiers, and with very few universities in Australia, graduates of the University of Sydney made a significant contribution.

A search in the database for ‘Camden’ reveals a number of religious personnel who were educated at Camden College. But it was not located in the town of Camden.

¹ Independence of the review cannot be guaranteed, but the editor found it informative!



Situated on the property 'Camden', near Newtown and Enmore. **Camden College** was an independent, Congregational Union of Australia, day and boarding school for boys from 1864 until 1877 and theological college for the training of Christian ministers from 1864 until 1974.

To see whether any of your ancestors were among the graduates or students who fought, visit <https://heuristplus.sydney.edu.au/heurist/?db=ExpertNation&ll=Beyond1914> or search for "Beyond 1914" "University of Sydney" in Google.

Camden Museum – donors and their donations

Many people with ancestors from Camden will comment during a visit, "My grandparents donated their XX to the Museum, but I don't recognise it among the collection."

During the 1960s, the Camden Historical Society dreamed of establishing a collection to record the heritage of their famous town and its people. The role of local history in helping people understand their 'place' and identify with its stories was increasingly recognised. Donations for a future Museum were collected and placed in storage.

The Museum opened in 1970. Unfortunately, detailed source information is missing for the earliest donations. However, under curator, John Wrigley, record keeping has developed from a series of cards, to spreadsheets, and now to the MOSAiC database.

Over time, research becomes more sophisticated, and the recording of donors and the stories associated with their donations has improved. In a collection of over 3,000 objects, almost 30 have Statements of Significance which record the origins, use and significance of objects within the collection. An object does not need to be rare to be significant; value is assessed against a formal set of criteria.

So, when someone asks about a donation made by their family member, direct them to a volunteer – Julie Wrigley, Anne McIntosh and Rene Rem are the most likely to be able to provide detailed information from MOSAiC. John Wrigley sometimes personally recalls the donation being received!

The files in the Museum contain newspaper clippings and event notices relating to properties, families and events in the town. Ask a Museum volunteer whether they can assist with the query.



Street Photography in Sydney

There is an excellent exhibition currently open (closes on 21 July 2019) with candid shots of many Sydneysiders and visitors to the 'Big Smoke' on display at the 'Museum of Sydney', Corner Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney.

I'm sure you all have in your photograph collections, albums or shoe-boxes some of these photographs showing candid-shots of our family and their friends as they went about their daily business in the city. They are great snapshots not only of people with the fashions of the day, but also the cars, the views, the shops (try reading the names) which are all visible in the background. It was big business from the 1930s through to the late 1950s however litter was to become their down-fall. In the 40's there were about 80 to 100 of these street photographers roaming around the city.

'It is hard to know who they were. Basically, anyone who could afford a camera and paper could set up as a street photographer,' said the exhibition's curator, Anna Cossu.

Check out the website: <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/street-photography>

I have in my family's collection of street photography at least 10 photos by:

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Photo Process Snaps</i> - Mark Foys Ltd | <i>Polyfoto studio Leica-Tone</i> - Royal Arcade |
| <i>Moviettes</i> - Her Majesty's Arcade | <i>June Photo Service</i> - Piccadilly Arcade |
| <i>Milo Studio</i> - Her Majesty's Arcade | <i>E Haydock</i> - Royal Arcade |
| <i>Freelance Photo Studio</i> - Little Strand | <i>LeRay Studies</i> - Botany |

and two others without studio names on the back.

I thought we might like to have our own 'Street Photography Exhibition'. Find your photo and write a brief story about the people in them, who, what, when, where they came from, where they went and where are they now (yes, I know deceased, but their final resting place). We can possibly create a display (using photocopies) on a wall in our 'family history room' or in the Camden Library and create a feature page on our website and Facebook page.

Check your photo albums and old shoe boxes and let me know if you agree?

Sharon Greene.



**STATE RECORDS TALK BY
JOHN CANN - BUSHRANGERS
14 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Camden Area Family History Society has arranged an event to present a talk by John Cann from NSW State Records on '*Bushrangers in NSW*'. John will also discuss what records are held about Bushrangers by NSW State Records and how we can access them.

John's talk will cover the likes of Frank Gardiner, Ben Hall, John Peisley, also Henry Manns (Campbelltown born) with the others involved in the Eugowra Rock Gold Escort robbery (the largest in Australia).

This event has been organised by CAFHS in conjunction with several other Historical and Family History societies and will be held in the multi purpose room at Camden Library on Saturday 14th September at 12.noon for a 12.30 start. We ask for a gold coin donation to assist with afternoon tea which will be provided after the talk.

Please RSVP: cafhs2570@gmail.com with your indication of interest purely for catering purposes by 7th September 2019.

CAFHS Committee.

The Last Word:

Don't Forget all membership fees are due from 1st July for the year 2019-2010 and also can all members please remember to fill out the new membership forms (as per attached) so we can ensure our member database is kept up to date and we have correct details for all our members.