

# Camden Calling



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## OFFICE BEARERS August 2019 — July 2020

|                      |                 |
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F'book: **Camden Area Family History Society**

**Normal Membership Subscriptions:** Single A\$30.00 Couples A\$35.00  
**Pensioner/Concession Membership Subscription:** Single A\$25.00 Couples A\$30.00

### W E B S I T E

[www.cafhs.org.au](http://www.cafhs.org.au)

### RESEARCH FEES

Non- members use of Resources- \$10.00 per session.  
Written enquires \$30.00 — provides up to fifteen printed or photocopied pages.  
A4 size stamped addressed envelope to be included with your enquiry.

### RESEARCH CENTRE

Family History Room  
Camden Library/Museum Complex.  
John Street. Camden. NSW 2570  
Thursday 10.00am— 3.00pm  
Friday 10:00am— 3.00pm  
Saturday 9:30am— 12 noon  
(Closed late December to late January)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Camden Area Family History Society Inc. is held on the first Tuesday of August each year, immediately following the general meeting.

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm in the Community Meeting Room of the Camden Library/Museum Complex

**40 JOHN STREET CAMDEN.**

**MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALL WELCOME**

## ~ Camden Calling ~

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**Camden Calling is the Journal of the Camden Area Family History Society Inc published twice a year in May and November, it is free to members and \$2.00 for non-members.**

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## Presidents Report.

November 2019

Since the last report a lot has happened, we have lost a very dearly loved member of the Society, Barbara Sulley, one day short of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Barbara has been the Societie's Treasurer for 16 years and always had our finances looking good. She will be sorely missed by all.

We have commenced work on the Cawdor Uniting Church Cemetery, Barbara was one of the members transcribing the Grave Stones. The work is near completion with some final checking required before publication. We are looking at producing this cemetery in 2 ways, in book form with Grave Photos on USB and the whole document in digital format on USB.

We have also completed Rossmore Anglican Cemetery, I would like to thank Pat & Neil Patterson for the work of transcribing and photographing this Cemetery.

We were involved with the first 'Open up Camden' day organised belatedly by Laura Jane Aulsebrook, it was not overly successful due mainly to the short time Laura had to organise, hopefully next year will be a lot better.

We held a very successful Saturday afternoon talk on Bushrangers and records held by the State Archives, with 46 people in attendance. We are planning to have a number of these Saturday afternoon talks next year, one of them will be on the Ryerson Index with a Workshop after the talk, they are always looking for volunteers to help with indexing Death Notices in newspapers.

I attended with Anne, the Penrith Libraries History Talks and had a Table selling our publications, sales were a bit slow but we did do a lot of networking and arranged for 3 or 4 Guest speakers for next year.

I, along with 4 other members attended the NSW & ACT Association of Family history Societies State Conference at Knox Grammar School Wahroonga. Not a bad conference but sales were a bit slow as well, but again we did a lot of networking and yet again we have lined up a number of Guest Speakers for next year as well as Ryerson coming to do the Saturday afternoon talk and workshop. The next year's Conference will be held at Newcastle on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, more details will become available later.

We are still pursuing the possibility of getting the use of part of the old Police Station and I would like to thank Geoff Howe for his help in drafting a number of letters to members of Parliament on this matter.

Next year we are hoping start work on a 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of the Pioneer Register as well as reproducing the present Register on USB in a PDF format.

We will be holding a planning meeting in mid January (watch for details in the Valley Voice and on Facebook) to plan out next year's program for Guest Speakers and other functions for the years. We will notify the date of this meeting at the December meeting and in the Valley Voice, all members are welcome to attend. If you have any idea for next year please come to the meeting or let a member of the Committee know what your ideas are.

Tony Jackson

President

## **MEMBERSHIP**

C.A.F.H.S. Inc. Membership falls due on the **1<sup>st</sup> July each year.** and the prompt renewal of your membership is appreciated. To ensure all your details are current, e.g. telephone number and email addresses, please complete a Members Information Update form if your details have changed or notify the Membership Officer.

**Normal Membership:** Single \$30.00 Couple \$35.00

**Pensioners/Concession Membership:** Single \$25.00 Couple \$30.00

**We welcome new members from Australia and Overseas.**

In loving memory of **Barbara Sulley**, long term Treasurer and supporter who left us on August 21<sup>st</sup> this year.

She will be sadly missed by all.



Photo courtesy of Del Clinton

### **Her smile**

Though her smile is gone forever  
And her hand we cannot touch  
We still have so many memories  
Of the friend we loved so much.  
Her memory is now our keepsake  
With which we'll never part  
God has her in his keeping  
While we have her in our heart.

# An Unexpected Discovery

## Robert Skarratt – the Hartshorn Rasper

Jo O'Brien

Sometimes the most amazing family history finds happen by chance. This is one of my favourite discoveries in my years of family history research.

Firstly, a bit of background...from the early days of internet genealogy.

### Part 1: The Carleton connection

Some years ago, I was in search of the origin of the name Carleton in the Skarratt family. It has been used extensively in the family throughout the generations, usually as a middle name, but sometimes as a first name – like my great-grandfather Carleton Skarratt. There was at one stage in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a considerable number of Thomas Carleton Skarratts, including my great-grandfather's grandfather, who was a watchmaker in Kington, Herefordshire. This created quite some confusion when researching!

The family tradition is that the name Carleton came into the family from a Bishop Carleton - this story has come down through distantly related Skarratt families independently. There are two related Bishop Carletons from the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, both Bishops of Chichester, but we had no idea of the link to the Skarratt family.



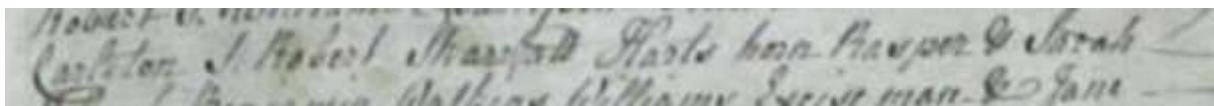
*George Carleton (1559 – 1628) was an English churchman, Bishop of Llandaff (1618–1619). He was a delegate to the Synod of Dort, in the Netherlands. From 1619 to 1628 he was Bishop of Chichester.*

*© National Portrait Gallery, London*

*George Carleton, after Unknown artist*

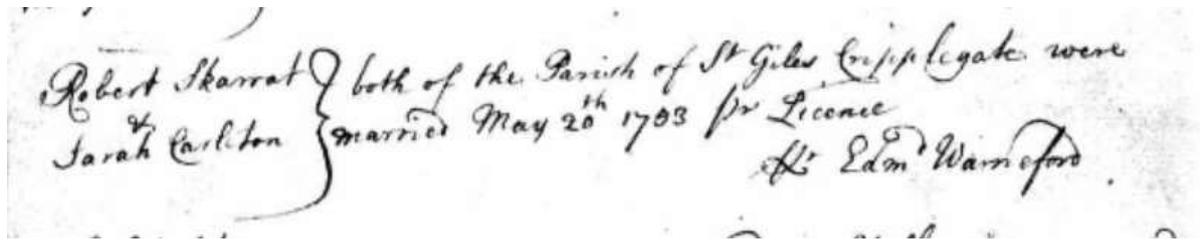
*line engraving, 1650*

In the early 2000s, I was working backwards from my last known ancestor Thomas Carleton Skarratt (d.1838 in Kington). Using the IGI database, (and being blessed with an unusual name to search for!) I found Thomas Carleton Skarratt's baptism in London in 1776, and then his father - Carleton Skarratt, baptised in 1754 in St Giles without Cripplegate London, son of Robert Skarratt, hartshorn rasper and Sarah. (At the time I ordered the IGI films to view, but now of course they are online at Ancestry)



*London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, City of London, St Giles without Cripplegate 1754 (13 Jan) (Ancestry)*

Carleton Skarratt was also a clock maker. Was he the first Skarratt using the Carleton name? It was not long after this that a record appeared online with the crucial marriage information:



London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, Islington St John the Baptist, Clerkenwell 1723-1812 (Ancestry)

Finally, we had the link to the Carleton family! The christening of Carleton Skarratt in 1754 was the beginning of the tradition of the name Carleton in the Skarratt family.

However, after much time spent searching the Carletons over the years, I still haven't quite connected our family to the Bishops Carleton. I am sure it is there, but Sarah Carleton is not as rare a name, and records are harder to find prior to the 1700s, and I have not been able to prove the link back from Sarah Carleton.

## Part 2: Robert Skarratt and the infamous court case

The next chapter in this story happened quite some years later...

So, I knew that my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather was Robert Skarratt, and that he was a hartshorn rasper from London. I still remember looking at the films in the local IGI centre nearly 20 years ago and copying down the unfamiliar phrase. I found out at that it meant someone who shaved deer horns to make smelling salts. As I knew many of the Skarratt family were clockmakers, I was somewhat surprised, but didn't think more about it at the time.

On a whim one day, I did an internet search for "hartshorn rasper" - looking for more information about what the occupation involved. Maybe that would help me understand something more about Robert Skarratt's life?

I scrolled through the results - there were several references to wills of hartshorn rasps, (not Robert), general descriptions of what the occupation involved, and some references to trials. As I scrolled through the pages, to my complete astonishment, I came across this phrase:

*"... Scarrat was by occupation a hartshorn-rasper..."*

What a surprise!! Was this my ancestor Robert?

I clicked on the link - it was an extract from a book by Judith Moore, "The Appearance of Truth: The Story of Elizabeth Canning and Eighteenth-Century Narrative" (1994). It was an infamous case - the story of the disappearance and return of Elizabeth Canning in 1753 - "an English maidservant who claimed to have been kidnapped and held against her will in a

hayloft for almost a month. She ultimately became central to one of the most famous English criminal mysteries of the 18th century.” (Wikipedia). Apparently, Robert was a witness in the case.

**Scarrat was by occupation a hartshorn-rasper, presumably thus employed in the manufacture of smelling salts. He had once lived as a servant at Edmonton, near Enfield, but for some time previous to January 1753 he had worked in Old Change and lived and boarded “at Mr. Carlton’s, a potter, in Aldermanbury-Postern . . . next door but one” to Elizabeth Canning’s mother (19: 501).**

*The Appearance of Truth: The Story of Elizabeth Canning and Eighteenth-century Narrative,*  
*Judith Moore, University of Delaware Press, 1994 (Google books)*

Robert Skarratt lived and boarded at Mr Carleton’s! Now I know how Robert and Sarah met! A little further on was another comment – “*by the time of Canning’s perjury trial, when he had married Mr. Carlton’s daughter...*”

Even better! But there was still more to find.

The case of Elizabeth Canning was a sensation of the time, after her mysterious return there was a trial where her nominated abductors were convicted, but the case became political when the judge (who was Lord Mayor of London) started his own investigation and public campaign. Ultimately the prosecution was overturned, and Elizabeth Canning was convicted of perjury. Robert Skarratt, being a neighbour of the Cannings, was one of the first to see Elizabeth upon her return, and it was thought he may have inadvertently suggested the name of the captor’s house, thus influencing the case. As such Robert testified at both trials and was asked numerous questions about his actions and his life at the time.



*By Unknown - The Canning Enigma, John Treherne, 1989, page 99, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9800627>*

There have been numerous books and articles written on the case, and transcripts of the trials are available online. Searching through these I found the evidence of my ancestor and the words he spoke over 250 years ago:

Are you still in the service of Mr. Snee?—No; I have left it three years this month, Old Stile.

In what employment are you now?—I work for Mrs. Waller in the Old-Change. I am a hartshorn-rasper, and live at Mr. Carlton's, a potter, in Aldermanbury-Postern.

How long have you lived there?—I have boarded in that house about a year and half: I boarded there before I lodged there.

Have you boarded or lodged at any other house, since this affair at Enfield-Wash?—No, I have not.

Did you lodge there the whole month of January?—I did, and did not lie out of the house one night.

And work'd for Mrs. Waller then?—I did.

Did you work every day?—No, I did not; but I did that month from the 5th to the 27th, to the best of my knowledge.

Where were you from the 1st to the 5th of January 1753?—I was backwards and forwards at Mr. Carlton's; I eat and drank there.

Are you certain you dined at home from the 1st to the 5th?—No, I am not, it being holiday-time.

Where did you dine the 1st?—At Mr. Carlton's.

What did you do after dinner?—I went to see a play in Covent-Garden house; but being

too late, the house was full, we returned home between nine and ten at night.

Who were with you?—Mr. Knowles, a coal-merchant, and his wife. We tried to get in at Covent-Garden, then at Drury-lane. When we found we could not, we made the best of our way to Mr. Knowles's house, and there I stayed.

How long did you stay there?—I might stay there till almost nine o'clock; and then I went home with Mr. Carlton's daughter, who is since my wife.

How long have you been married to her?—Better than eleven months.

I hope you had your health at that time?—I had, to the best of my knowledge.

Were you not under the care of any surgeon, or quack?—No, I was not.

Were you perfectly well at that time?—I cannot give an answer for a cold, or the like.

At what time of the day did you go out on the 1st of January after dinner?—I went out about three o'clock.

At what time were you at Mrs. Carlton's at night?—I was there before ten o'clock.

How did you dispose of yourself on the 2d of January?—I don't know whether I was at work, or not.

I thought you said you did not go to work till the 5th.—I carried work home on the 5th; on the 2d in the evening I was at a club in the Old-Bailey, and I can bring the club-book to satisfy you of that.

How came you to be so extremely particular at this distance of time, where you was on the 1st and 2nd of January?—By looking over Mrs. Waller's book.

*Extracts from Robert Skarratt's testimony: "Cobbett's complete collection of state trials and proceedings for high treason: and other crimes and misdemeanor from the earliest period to the present time ... " - compiled by T.B. Howell 1816 (Google e-book)*

So now I have all this detailed information about Robert, how long he had lived with the Carletons and where he worked – previously as a servant for Mr Snee at Edmonton, near Enfield, and then as a hartshorn rasper for Mrs Waller in Old Change. I know that he went out with Sarah Carleton on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1753, tried to go to the theatre at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, but ended up at a Mr Knowles house, and that he was at a club in the Old Bailey on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information that sheds light on his life, and so many new leads to follow.

\*\*\*\*

Robert Skarratt died on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1767 of consumption. I wonder if the Carleton family helped the Skarratts after the death of their father? Robert's oldest child, my ancestor Carleton Skarratt, was nearly 14. A year later Carleton was apprenticed as a clockmaker, a tradition that continued for three generations.

And, although only referred to as "Mr Carlton", the address of Aldermanbury Postern enabled me to find his first name in land tax records, living two doors away from Elizabeth Canning. He was Thomas Carleton. No wonder the name Thomas Carleton Skarratt was used for so long in the family.

It was truly amazing to find this information about my ancestor and has provided so many details that I would have been unable to find any other way. One of those wonderful occasions where an internet search produced an unexpected discovery.

A note on spelling of names ...

Robert's name was spelt Scarret, and Carlton (with no e) was used in the Canning trial documents, although both vary in spelling in other records of the era. Phonetically of course these are the same. I have used the current spelling of Skarratt and Carleton, the last few generations have consistently used this spelling, and I believe it to be the most correct. The variant spelling of the name Skarratt as Scarret is probably why the Canning trial hadn't turned up in my previous searches.

## Exploring the Past – conference review



The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies was held from October 11-13 at Knox Grammar School Wahroonga. The free family history fair was on Friday, a range of speakers gave presentations on Saturday and Sunday including masterclasses.

Several members attended and the Society had a table there as part of the trade fair over the three days. It was a bit disappointing to see fewer tables from other family history societies, but those that were there had plenty to look at including the always popular second-hand books.

The John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address was given by Adam Lindsay, Executive Director from NSW State Archives and Records. He spoke of the challenges of engaging contemporary audiences, and some of the new approaches designed to increase interest in the Archives and accessibility. Another entertaining talk by Martyn Killion expanded on this theme. On the Archives site there are on-line exhibitions with videos and e-catalogues that you can view.

There are also touring exhibitions, webinars, and increased use of social media, as well as new records being digitised and the new catalogue search feature.

On-line exhibitions <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions>

Webinars <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars>

My favourite speakers at the conference included:

- ❖ Christine Yeats, who spoke about military ancestors up to 1902, an informative talk that detailed the different phases of our military history, and where records can be found.
- ❖ Gay Hendricksen gave us an insightful look into the Parramatta Female Factory and spoke with passion of the plight of the early colonial women who lived there.
- ❖ Laurie Turtle reminded us to recheck our research as more records become available, as he discovers that a long-held theory regarding the origins of his first fleet ancestor Ann Colpitts appears to be incorrect.
- ❖ Carol Baxter had the audience comparing sounds out loud, so we could understand how easily our ancestors' names were incorrectly written in official records, and she informed us of some common spelling changes.
- ❖ Wendy Frew spoke of how she turned her family story into a book, including the process of researching and writing the story, and getting the book published.

There were of course many other speakers, some better than others, but all addressing different aspects of family history. Overall it was a most enjoyable three days.

Thanks to the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for organising this great event. The next conference will be in Newcastle from 11 to 13 September 2020, hosted by Newcastle Family History Society, so save the date, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Jo O'Brien

# When Text recognition during scanning doesn't quite get it right OR

## The fun to be had correcting text in Trove!

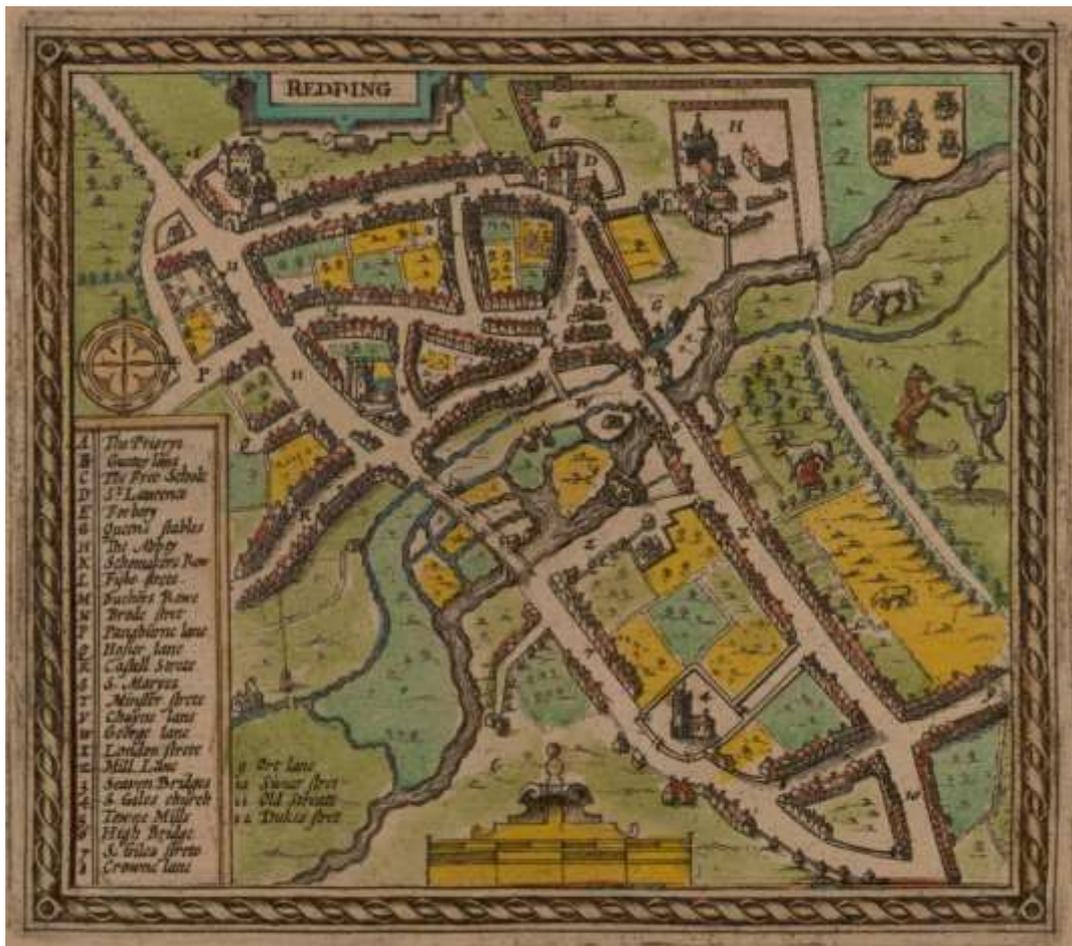
by Janet Howe

Note: Search results in Trove are only as good as the technology permits. Errors like those below occur because of weaknesses in the newspaper being scanned. Correcting the text, especially names means that family historians get better results.

- “The question has frequently been naked ...” (asked)
- Re. government inspection of a potential new coal field, [the inspector] “has yet had an opportunity of impeding the geological features of the country ...” (inspecting)
- Re. Mining Board consideration of new Mining Act 1875, “... no officers ... shall hold ... any share or beneficial interest in any chum ...” (claim)
- The “Killed Iguana” (Fried)
- “Ald. Eraser - (Fraser)
- During an 1889 Parliamentary division ...”While beads were being counted” - (heads)
- “The Woollahra Council are considering the advisableness of establishing a branch office at Watson’s Bay...” (branch)
- Woollahra Council “has decided to expend £800 on additions to the council chambers, in order to provide accommodation which will obviate the present anomalous arrangements whereby the public piss through the residence of the council clerk ...” (pass)
- “The Parramatta Council have accepted a challenge from the Granville Council to play a game of cricket on the Parramatta ground in aid of the Parramatta District Hospital. One of the conditions is that there shall only be underhand howling ...” (bowling)
- During an 1889 ruckus in the NSW House: “On the question being put, the leader of the Opposition called upon his followers to leave the Chamber, which all but a dozen did and mussed themselves behind the Speaker’s chair.” (massed)
- Re. the above incident: The reporter “had witnessed disorderly scones every whit as bad ...” (scenes)
- In NSW Parliament: “The Popularity of the Zoo as a resort for nubile school children is increasing” (public) – which obviously explains why, “Every Tuesday the pretty park and terraces are swarming with children, who receive a treat both interesting and instructive.”
- Re. a visit by Government Ministers to Liverpool to inspect the site for the proposed bridge over George’s River, where: “they were met at the station by ... the mayor, who had a drug in waiting ... for the purpose of driving them to the bridge site.” (drag)
- In December 1889, the Rydalmere Ratepayer’s Association put on a dinner to thank the plural parliamentary members of the district for their hard work. The President proposed a toast to “the health and prosperity of the monikers for Central Cumberland” (members)
- In reply to the toast above, one of the members referred to the bringing of these mutters forward” (matters)
- One of the members for Central Cumberland (Mr. Farnell) in reply to the above toast referring to the Dinner’s Chairman and President of the Ratepayers’ Association: “It was ... a pity that in other parts ... they had not more men of the stump of the chairman” (stamp)

## From Reading to Riches: The Atkins Family (Pt 1)

By Janet Howe



The earliest map of Reading, published in 1611 by John Speed. The town is bisected by the River Kennet with a gradual rise in the landscape away from either bank. St Giles Church is visible in the bottom right quadrant. The surrounding walls no longer exist and the only remaining burial ground is in the immediate environs of the church. A new street (Church Street) now exists along the line of the lower wall. The street to the bottom of the church is now Southampton Street, the street on the other side is Silver Street and the triangular section bounded by Southampton and Silver streets, the heart of the St Giles Parish is primarily where the Atkins family lived. The portion of Silver Street near the apex of the triangle is known as Mount Pleasant.

From the mid-1700s, Tommy Atkins has been used as the generic name for the common British soldier. He has appeared in literature and been used as an exemplar on army forms though the derivation is much debated. The name also belongs to the earliest known progenitors of one of the Berkshire lines of my family, Thomas Atkins Snr (1710-1784) and Jnr (c.1735), father and son from Coleshill, a village 75km to the north-west of Reading near the Wiltshire border, but little else is known about either man including the name of Thomas Snr's wife.

In 1764 Thomas Jnr married Mary Elcombe whose birth in 1738 was probably out of wedlock given the listing of her mother Sarah on her daughter's baptism rather than the usual father. Further evidence is Sarah's marriage several months later as a 'spinster' to Moses Wicks, who may or may not have been Mary's father. Mary is believed to have died in 1794 aged 56 and been buried at All Saints, Coleshill, but Thomas Jnr's fate is unknown. Son William Atkins was baptised on February 17, 1765 and in 1786 he married Anne Stream in Moulsoford moving shortly afterwards to Reading which is where William died in 1830 and Anne in 1841.

My line descends through William & Anne's son Abraham Atkins who had four wives and at least eight children and lived his entire life in St Giles Parish, Reading working as a Carpenter and Joiner. His first wife Lucey (or Lucy) James whom he married in 1815 died at their home in London Street, barely eighteen months later in 1817 after giving birth to a son William who was baptised on the day of his mother's funeral. Her grave is still recognisable in the remaining St Giles curtilage. The baby lived for only nine weeks.

Just over two years later, on June 6, 1819, Abraham married my ancestor Elizabeth Langley. Elizabeth was born in 1798 in Sutton Courtenay to James Langley and Mary Green. Elizabeth bore four children before she died in 1833 quite possibly of a broken heart. On July 3 that year Abraham and Elizabeth buried their 3-year-old son William (a second son to bear his paternal grandfather's name) and barely six weeks later, they buried his 10-month-old baby sister Lydia. Elizabeth herself died in September and was buried at St Giles. None of the graves have survived.

In 1834 Abraham married for a third time to Jane Willis who bore a son Edwin in 1835 and Abraham Jnr in 1839. Both mother and son died during childbirth. For a time, Abraham raised his four surviving children alone, but in 1846 he married his sister-in-law Mary Ann Willis (nee Nibbs), the widow of his third wife's brother John Willis. Mary also gave Abraham a son, and outlived him by nearly 30 years. Abraham died aged 70 on September 6, 1860 and was buried on the London Road Cemetery, now known as the Reading Old Cemetery.<sup>1</sup> This cemetery has been sadly neglected and most of the older graves have been lost due to the ravages of time and shrubbery.

Edward Atkins Snr was Abraham's third child born in 1828 and second surviving son by his second wife Elizabeth. Edward was apprenticed as a 'Seedsman', probably around the age of twelve to the flower, bulb and seed merchants John Sutton & Son which had moved into the Market Place in the 1830s. On October 20, 1846, Edward aged 18 married 16-year-old Mary Annetts at St Giles, probably out of necessity as a daughter Caroline Mary Ann (named

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<sup>1</sup> Reading Cemetery which covers 4.6 hectares was established in 1842 and the first interment took place in 1843. It was one of many cemeteries built in the Victorian era to cater for the rapid population increase and as an alternative to filled or filling parish church burial grounds. Originally sited on a farm, the cemetery is now surrounded by Reading suburbia.

for her paternal aunt) was born a scant seven months later at their home in Silver Street.

Meanwhile, Edward had been considering emigration. The newspapers frequently carried letters from and stories about successful migrants as well as advertisements from shipping companies offering competitive fares. It was presumably the offer of free passages for



‘Agricultural Labourers, Shepherds, Female Domestic and Farm Servants, and a few country Mechanics’ which finally convinced him.<sup>2</sup> These employment categories may also have been the reason he described himself as a Sawyer and Labourer rather than a seed specialist.

Suppressing their grief over the loss of infant Caroline who died before her second birthday early in March, the couple (Mary just pregnant with their second child) set sail on April 30, 1849 aboard the *Duke of Roxburgh* with 219 other government-assisted migrants bound for Port Jackson. The ship docked in Sydney on August 13, 1849 and a week later, with 19 other migrants Edward and Mary were sent to Bathurst where daughter Louisa was born on December 29. By January 1852 and the birth of Edward and Mary’s third child Edward Atkins Jnr, the family was in the Hills District.

Exact movements over the next few years have yet to be researched but George Alfred (1853) and Emma (1855) were born in the Hills District while the births of the next five children Helena (1858), William (1860), Hardie (1862), Ada (1864) and Clara (1867) were all recorded at Parramatta, or Ryde.

Edward’s hard work over the next few years paid off and by around 1867 he had established a substantial nursery and orchard at Field of Mars (later changed to Ermington), called Mount Pleasant, after the area in Reading where he used to live. It is hard to imagine it now, but a newspaper article published in 1889 tells us that the property was ‘pleasantly situated and sheltered on all sides by a thick forest.’ The article goes on:

*Orchard and nursery occupy 17 acres. Seven and a half acres are nursery, and the assortment of stock is large and varied... The best thing undoubtedly in Mr Atkins’ orchard was the apricot. He seems, indeed, to have made the apricot a speciality. Some of his trees are 14 or 15 years old and had on tremendous crops. The trees looked the*

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<sup>2</sup> Advertisement in the *Reading Mercury*, 30 Dec 1848

very picture of health, dark-leaved and beautifully shaped. ... He has 200 apricot trees in bearing. ... Last year he picked 238 cases of apricots, obtaining, so he says, an average of from 17s to 18s per case. ... some varieties are as large as a good sized peach ... Mr Atkins estimates the value of an orchard at £70 an acre; but he believes apricots bring up to £100 an acre. ... Mr Atkins does not despair of the future of the fruit industry. Touching the increase of the orchards and the chances of finding outlets for the product, he says he has heard the same remark these last twenty-five years. He believes new markets will be found which will balance the increase in the number of producers. He, perhaps naturally, regards the fruit industry as one of the leading ones in the country, and complains of the disgraceful market accommodation which growers have to put up with. He believes nearly all the profits are swallowed up in the loss of fruit cases. He attributes this state of things to the want of unity among the fruitgrowers.<sup>3</sup>

Mary Atkins née Annetts died in 1890 and Edward Snr died in 1906 survived by his second wife Jemima. Atkins Road, Ermington which marks the western boundary of the long-gone Mount Pleasant Orchard and Nursery serves as a memorial to a pioneer of the Dundas/Ermington area.

**F R U I T T R E E S .**  
 Orange, Lemon, and other Fruit Trees for sale in any quantity.  
**E. Atkins & Son,**  
 Field of Mars.  
 N.B.—Ten minutes' walk from Pennant Hills Wharf.

The Cumberland Mercury, 23 May 1883 p.4

**50,000 HARDY ORNAMENT-  
 TAL TREES, Flowering**  
 Shrubs, etc. Plants, Gardens, Lawns, Shrub-beries, etc., designed and laid out. Bushhouses and Rockeries built and plants supplied for same at moderate prices.  
**E. ATKINS, Jun.,**  
 Eulalia Nursery,  
 Field of Mars.  
 N.B.—Junction of Ryde and Pennant Hills wharf road.

The Cumberland Mercury, 5 May 1883 p.5

Edward Jnr, the third child and first son was born in 1852 and followed his father into the fruit-trade as a nurseryman and fruit-grower and for many years they worked together. However Edward Jnr was driven and entrepreneurial and around 1882, as well as the business with his father operating as E. Atkins and Son, he purchased a portion of the Brush Farm and established another nursery as Edward Atkins Jnr.' s 'Eulalia Nursery' . An 1887 newspaper article entitled *Nurseries of the Colony* described Eulalia:

... As a fruit-grower, Mr. Atkins carries on business upon a rather extensive scale, as he owns orchards in the locality which, in the aggregate, cover an area of 100 acres. Orange trees, as a matter of course, are in the great majority, but such other fruits as will thrive in the district receive some attention. Mr. Atkins was induced

<sup>3</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, 14 Dec 1889, p.2

*to enter upon the nursery business through his intimate knowledge of fruits and the requirements of growers, gained by long experience and careful observation. ...*

*The extent of land used for nursery purposes by Mr. Atkins is nine acres, a portion having been recently added. The older part of the nursery contains five acres, and two more adjoining are now being brought under cultivation. About five acres altogether are devoted to the rearing of orange and other trees of the citrus family, this class of stock being the chief feature in the Eulalie nursery. ...*

*The Emperor Mandarin is ... grown extensively ... Several locally-raised varieties are considered to be worthy of being cultivated, and one of these named Allsop's Gem [orange variety], is a great favourite with Mr. Atkins. This kind bears remarkably fine, thin-skinned, and highly flavoured fruit.*

*Though orange trees are the principal feature at the Eulalie nursery, yet summer fruits receive a large amount of attention, and all the leading kinds are well represented. ... Mr Atkins ... intends to make his establishment a general nursery, and has already taken a step or two in this direction.<sup>4</sup>*

The *Allsop's Gem* variety of orange was possibly developed by Edward and named for his wife Maria Allsop whom he married in 1878, but it could also have been the work of Maria's father Francis Allsop Jnr, or grandfather, the convict Francis Allsop, both of whom were involved in the fruit growing industry.

In December 1885 Edward sold off a portion of his Brush Farm property in the Eulalia Estate Subdivision. The portion sold was on the corner of the current Victoria Road (then Kissing Point Road), and Brush Road, and a new access road, Eulalia Street was created in the middle. The advertising for the sale described "this valuable property only three quarters of a mile from Ryde railway station, and half a mile from Ermington wharf, commands a splendid view of the surrounding delightful scenery, and will be the centre of the township of Ermington, which is fast developing."<sup>5</sup> Presumably the sale was to raise funds for expansions as in 1887 Edward Jnr floated the Eulalia Nursery into a company styled the New South Wales Nursery and Orchard Company Limited. As well as capital raising, the company was to bypass the middle man and retail fruit cheaply to the consumer. Another idea was to avoid waste from over-supply by fruit preserving and jam-making. "His good lady, Mrs. Atkins, has the reputation of being an excellent jam maker, and pending other arrangements Mrs. Atkins has consented to superintend the

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<sup>4</sup> *Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser*, 27 Aug 1887, p.434. Note that the name of the nursery has been spelled as per the story i.e. Eulalie, but the correct spelling is Eulalia.

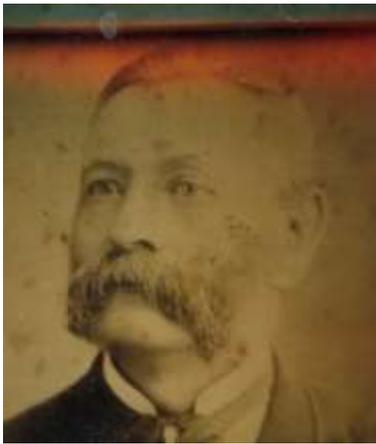
<sup>5</sup> *Cumberland Mercury*, Advertising, 19 Dec 1885, p.5

making of the preserves and marmalade. It is intended to engage a first-class man from Glasgow to superintend the factory.<sup>6</sup>”

Meanwhile, Edward was also experimenting with exporting fruit to London and had established that it was advisable to place “narrow strips of wood top and bottom of the outside of the cases, and so preventing each case resting flat on the other”, to promote air flow.<sup>7</sup>

By now a well-known and respected local businessman, Edward Jnr. turned his eye to politics and the newly incorporating local councils. His first attempt was with Dundas Council which held its inaugural election in May 1889 but he could only manage 16<sup>th</sup> position in a field of 20. His next attempt with Ryde Council in 1890 was successful and he remained on Council until 1893.

The early 1890s brought tough times for the colonies with a severe drought followed by contagion from the 1893 recession in the United States. The turbulent waters ahead proved challenging for Edward, but that story is for another day.



Great-great Grandfather  
Edward Atkins Snr  
(1828-1906)



Great Grandfather  
Edward Atkins Jnr  
(1852-1942)



Grandmother  
Amy Millicent Atkins  
(1897-1965)

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<sup>6</sup> *Cumberland Argus & Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 30 Aug 1890, ‘Fruitgrowers’ Notes’, p.2

<sup>7</sup> *As Above*

# The Roy Dowle Photograph Collection

**Roy Dowle** was born in 1893, the first child to Charles and Madeline Dowle (nee Dominish) and siblings included Frank (1896), Edgar (1898), and Leonard (1904).

Charles Dowle purchased their 'Collingwood' property at Quarry Road, The Oaks about the time of Roy's birth and raised his family there, the property remaining in the Dowle family until just recently. It is presumed that Roy lived there until the time of his marriage in 1915 to Emily J. Smith.

In 2016? the Roy Dowle Photograph Collection, a collection of glass slides numbering around one thousand were donated to The Oaks Historical Society by Jill Large, the daughter of Jean (Dowle) Doust, Roy's daughter. A recent successful funding opportunity has enabled us to have these slides digitised so they are more readily accessible for public viewing. This process is almost complete and already we have been able to identify photos in this collection. We approached Rex Dowle for a photograph of Roy for this story and he was happy to help. Upon viewing some of the digitised photographs Rex was quickly able to point out Roy and Emily, the very photograph he had brought along, thought to be of their wedding. The photographs digitised to date have amazing clarity and quality, the content of the collection is vast and features individuals, weddings, children, buildings and scenes.

The Camden News of Thursday 26 March 1914 records Roy having received an award in the amateur photography section at the Camden Show. Other news articles published in the Camden News are accompanied by photographs taken by Roy and these are part of the digitised collection. Roy and Emily's home (pictured from the collection) was at the top of Barsden Street Camden on the south eastern corner. Roy also had a house at St George's Basin/Erowal Bay which many family and friends used for

holidays and may be reflected in the collection. Both Roy and Emily were very involved in the community, holding voluntary roles and organising events which were often reported in the Camden News. These reports have given us further insight into the life of Roy and Emily Dowle.

Camden's new Methodist parsonage was opened in February of 1935 and the photograph was taken by Roy and in January 1937 a series of photographs of Camden were submitted to Council by Mr Roy Dowle, these were secured to comply with the request of the Railway Dept. for reproduction and exhibition in railway carriages. On the motion of Aldermen R.M. Crookston and H.S. Furner these photos are to be forwarded to the Dept. for use as they require and Mr Dowle is to be congratulated on



his efforts in producing same. In 1943 Roy was called upon to make a presentation to retiring Mr. Charles Whiteman on behalf of the management and staff indicating he may have been an employee.

We look forward to viewing the completed series and being able to identify as many as possible ■

Camden News information courtesy Trove

Roy Dowle was the brother of Rex Dowles (CAFHS Public Officer) father  
Reproduced from The Oaks Historical Society Newsletter with Kind Permission

# A selection from Roy Dowle



Above Bart & Stella Chesham at Bullecourt

Left-Gordon Smith  
Above-Frank Dowle  
Right- Mt Hunter Memorial



Above left- Ted Egan with baby Dorothy.



Above right-The new Methodist Parsonage  
Menangle Road Camden

Right -Hansens Garage Camden



Above -Davy Nolan's Team, Mt Hunter.

Above right- Ephriam Tompkins

Right- The Wineshop at Oakdale.



## New Acquisitions to November 2019

- AU 095 1788 - Watkin Tench
- CA 050 Created by a Community – A Social History of Camden District Hospital – Doreen Lyon and Liz Vincent
- CE 099 Holy Innocents CofE Cemetery Rossmore – CAFHS.
- NS 103 Chained to the Soil of the Plains of Emu – A History of the Emu Plains Government Agricultural Establishment 1819-1831 – Lorraine Stacker.
- NS 104 “The Forgotten” Children in Homes, Reformatories and Industrial Schools in NSW. – Compiled by Kaye Vernon Teapot Genealogy
- WO 010 Yerranderie 1871-1995 – For Yerranderie- Past, Present & Future – Sonya den Hertog.
- WO 014 The History of Burragorang Valley – From the Records – Sonya den Hertog

## ITEMS FOR SALE

|   |                        |         |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| Camden Pioneer Register   | Third Edition          | \$35.00 |
| Pioneers At Rest (Cawdor Cemetery)                              | Daphne<br>Koob/CAFHS   | \$20.00 |
| St. Thomas C of E Parish Register CD                            | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$20.00 |
| We do but Sleep Camden & Menangle<br>Anglican Parish Cemeteries | Janice Johnson         | \$20.00 |
| Camden General Cemetery + Index                                 | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$12.00 |
| Camden Catholic Cemetery  | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$8.00  |
| St. Paul's Cobbitty Cemetery                                    | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$15.00 |
| St. Thomas's Narellan Cemetery                                  | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$15.00 |
| Camden Council Rates Book                                       | Transcript by<br>CAFHS | \$25.00 |
| CAFHS Cookbook  | CAFHS Members          | \$8.00  |
| Camden  | Alan Atkinson          | \$40.00 |
| History of Camden   | CHS                    | \$10.00 |
| Internet Family History   | Cora Num               | \$12.00 |
| Irish Research on the Internet                                  | Cora Num               | \$12.00 |
| The Old Razorback Road  | Elizabeth Villy        | \$35.00 |

If ordered by Post, the above items incur postage and handling fee depending on the item/s and quantities

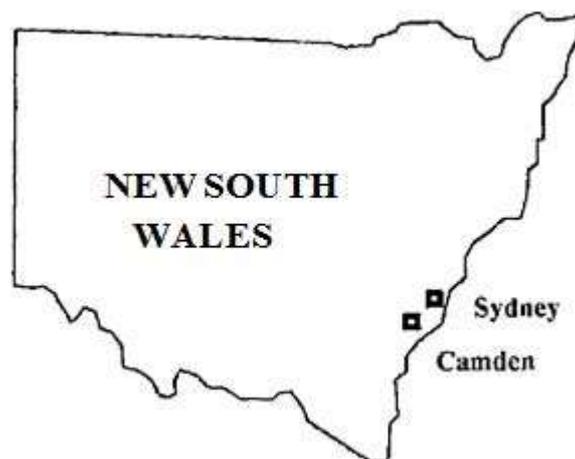
|                      |                              |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Postage:             | Australia                    | (Approx)<br>\$8.00   |
|                      | Overseas                     | Price on application |
| <b>Charts</b>        |                              |                      |
| Ancestor Chart       | 9 Generations<br>Large       | \$4.00               |
| Ancestor Chart       | 9 Generations<br>Small       | \$2.00               |
| Tree Chart           | 7 Generations<br>Coloured    | \$5.00               |
| Our Family Tree      | 6 Generations<br>Reakes      | \$2.00               |
| Family Circle        | 9 Generations<br>Wheel Chart | \$2.00               |
| The Family Tree      | 6 Generations<br>Bordered    | \$2.00               |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b> |                              |                      |
| Starter Kit          | Genealogy<br>Starter Kit     | \$2.50               |

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