

E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

April 2026 Issue 44



View from Tumbi Umbi towards Terrigal early days

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COAST
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.***

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.



Members of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. (State Body)
Australian Federation of Family History Organisation (National Body)
Associate Member, Royal Australian Historical Society of NSW.

Executive:

President: Rod Horton
Vice President: Belinda Mabbott
Secretary: Robyn Gregg
Treasurer: Brent Jones

Public Officer: Ken Clark

Committee:

Ken Clark, Brian Davies, Marlene Davidson,
Lorraine Greve, Yvonne Potts, Taia Sansom,
Jacqueline Smith, Heather Yates.

RESEARCH CENTRE

Building 4, 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250
Phone: 4324 5164 - Email admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm;
Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.30pm
First Saturday of the month 9.30am-12noon
Research Centre Closed on Mondays for Administration

MEETINGS

First Saturday of each month from February to November
Commencing at 1.00pm – doors open 12.00 noon
Research Centre opens from 9.30am
Venue: Gosford Lions Community Hall
Rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW

THE E-MUSTER

April 2026 – No: 44

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All articles to:
admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

E- MUSTER deadlines are
March 25th
July 25th
November 25th

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EDITORIAL

It has become very clear to me over the past few years how important it is to ensure memories from your family are recorded either on voice recordings or written down- sooner rather than later. These memories are very important in each family's story.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition of the Central Coast Family History Society's e-Muster.

Heather YATES Member 675

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to another great edition of the April E-Muster. You'll find some interesting reading in this edition and many informative articles which will keep you entertained and UpToDate as you stay at home because of the price of petrol, that is, unless you have an electric vehicle.

April is a busy month in the Family History Centre as internal painting will be carried out by Central Coast Council contractors. This is the last stage of our renovations after new floor coverings throughout the building and a network and electrical upgrade were carried out late last year. This will make our centre a great place to research and spend time with our likeminded members and friends.

All of our computer stations and the research area are now equipped with new swivel chairs which provide greater comfort and security for all our members and visitors. Our library is growing with new titles being added each month and the old library list and older data bases are being upgraded to view in-house and they will be added to our website very soon. Many thanks to all our workers who are making this possible.

As we won't be having a meeting in April due to the painting works, the next meeting will be our AGM which will be held in May. I'd like to thank all the committee members for the work they have put in this year, and also to our enthusiastic volunteers who keep the centre running. It's been a big year for all of us. I hope the new committee will enjoy the challenges which occur and bring new life and ideas to the Society.

And remember, if you've got a story to share, send it along to the editor Heather Yates so it can be placed in the next edition in August.

Rod Horton Member No. 1280J President CCFHS

LATEST NEWS



About Us

The Society of Australian Genealogists is an education charity that has been supporting family historians since 1932. This support is grounded in education and training, with materials from our unique collection which can be viewed in Sydney and when possible accessed online.

We welcome enthusiastic amateurs alongside professional genealogists, sharing a passion for family history.

Study with us online or support us with a donation or bequest to allow us to continue our work.

The Society acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country and celebrates the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of all communities who also work and live on this land.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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Society of Australian Genealogists
10,300 followers

Follow Page

INDIAN & SOUTH ASIAN
RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

Going live at 3pm today online and all welcome:
<https://www.sag.org.au/event-6508837>
Saturday 21 March 3.00pm - 5.00pm AEDT.

Are you exploring your Indian or South Asian family history? Join us online this afternoon for a welcoming and practical session of the Indian and South Asian Special Interest Group, led by Rachel Croucher.... See more

Visit Us

Our **Family History Research Centre & Library** is at **2/379 Kent Street Sydney**. This is on the western side of Kent Street between King and Market Streets, and slightly closer to Town Hall than Wynyard station.

The **Library** is open **Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the first and third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 4pm (Jan & Dec differ).**

The Library is closed on Public Holidays.

Currently, Richmond Villa is closed.

[VIEW OUR LOCATION MAP](#)

UPCOMING LIBRARY SATURDAYS
7 Mar
21 Mar
18 Apr
2 May

MHNSW



Tour

Digging Up the Neighbourhood

This walking tour uncovers The Rocks and Millers Point archaeology, including rare access to the preserved Parbury Ruins

Wednesday 22 April 10.30am–12.30pm
58–64 Gloucester Street, The Rocks, Sydney NSW 2000



Online talk

The Reinterment of Devonshire Street Cemetery

Join us for this webinar exploring records from the NSW State Archives Collection that reveal the history of one of Sydney's oldest burial grounds

Friday 24 April 10.30am–11.30am

RAHS Walking Tour – South Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops



NSWGR Class O-446 Class No. 4474-6-0 at Eveleigh Workshops, c. 1920s (Image from the ARHS Collection courtesy of the University of Newcastle Library's Special Collections)

This event is held as part of the Australian Heritage Festival

Event Date & Time: Friday, 15 May 2026 @ 11.00 am – 12.00 pm and 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Event Location: South Eveleigh, 2 Locomotive St, Eveleigh NSW 2015

Cost: \$20

Event Description:

This walking tour introduces visitors to the history of the NSW Railways and to the heritage adaptive re-use of the former Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops into a brilliant commercial and leisure hub. First called the Australian Technology Park and now known as South Eveleigh, the place features awesome industrial architecture and astonishing remnants of industrial machinery, as well as a proud legacy of industrial activism.

About the tour guide:

Dr Bronwyn Hanna is a heritage consultant who spent 15 years in academia, including writing a PhD and two co-authored books on women architects in NSW. She has since worked for 22 years as a heritage professional with government, industry and community groups. Her favourite job was five years with Sydney Trains Heritage, helping conserve and interpret their 200 heritage-listed railway stations in NSW.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new and returned members. We hope they have many happy researching and social hours with us. Please remember to lodge your Members' Interest form with Brian Davies for inclusion on the Website.

2293J	John O'Sullivan	2296	Debbie Childs
2293J	Maureen O'Sullivan	2297	Amanda Tiaias
2294	Michele Williams	2398	Wendy Spencer
2295	Di Rushton	2399	Robyn Toy

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



**The Research Centre is open Tuesday-Friday
9.30am until 2.00pm
A Day Research fee for Non-Members is \$10.**

All workshops will incur a fee of \$25 for members unless otherwise stipulated and must be paid for prior to the day.

OUR MEMBERSHIP FORM is available to download from the website. From the front page click on the ...read more information Tab under Membership on the banner and all will be revealed. Remember the website is www.centralcoastfhs.org.au

Please read the additional question on your membership form regarding a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

You can choose to donate to this fund to assist us in the regular Maintenance of our computer network and other equipment.

Next Issue

No. 45 August 2026 e-MUSTER

Deadline for articles for the next edition of the e-Muster
25th July, 2026.

Tracing Your Poor Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians by Stuart A. Raymond G 070

Many of us have English ancestors and most are not related to Lords or Ladies. Some of our antecedents will be the poor, so how do we trace them?

This book has been written to assist the family researcher to trace information on their poor English and Welsh ancestors between the sixteenth and twentieth century.

There is some history on the poor and how governments and parishes supported (or not) this group. In principle the "Poor Law" meant all levels of government from Privy Council to Parliament Quarter Sessions and the parish accepted the necessity of relieving paupers.

Chapter 3 looks at Charities from the oldest Alms houses and Orphanages and how to locate resources for researching.

Chapters on the "Poor Law" will assist on locating many websites such as a listing of the Poor Law Unions in England. If your ancestor was in an infirmary in a workhouse there is a site Hospital Records Database which may be is assistance.

While in the workhouse children had to attend 3 hours school each day. There are websites to assist locating registers of these children.

The Chapter on Criminals lists books and websites of lists and register on our "naughty" ancestors. The Newgate Calendar of Prisoners 1782-1931 or the England and Wales Criminal Register 1791-1892 for London & Middlesex websites may be good place to start.

If your ancestor declared Bankruptcy then Chapter 9 may assist you in locating a book or website to learn why and what happened to them.

This book also discusses Lunatic Asylums, Militia Lists, Newspapers and adoption.

This book is a good resource to further research your poor ancestors and can be borrowed from the CCFHS Library.

Jacqui Smith
CCFHS Librarian



Have You Read This Book?

Handy Hints for the Family Historian: Research to Publication

By Teri Kempe

G 076

This handy little book covers writing your family history book, from collecting your data, checking the sources to design and publication.

We all have a story to tell and you are unique. Are you wanting to solve a family history or do you want to leave a legacy for your family? This book will assist you step by step to move from lots of electronic and printed data to an organised package of information ready for writing your book.

Its clear and easy to read chapters gives Handy Hints, like how to cut and paste to avoid corrupting a file to creating and saving your own templates.

Chapter 4 – First Draft deals with complex issues like family disputes and the truth and lies of family stories. Legal issues need to be addressed when writing, like exposing family secrets and those matters are discussed in Chapter 5. This chapter also discusses the options on how to cite your resources.

Preparing for publication discussing items such as scanning pictures and memorabilia and family trees. There is assistance in types of layout and design for your book, editing and proof reading and finally printing and publishing.

I have found this little book very helpful, so whether you are ready to publish your family history or are just thinking about it. This book is worth the read and you can borrow it from the CCFHS Library.

Happy Writing...

Jacqui Smith (Mem No. 248)

Joseph and Ann Morley and the Boyd Massacre.

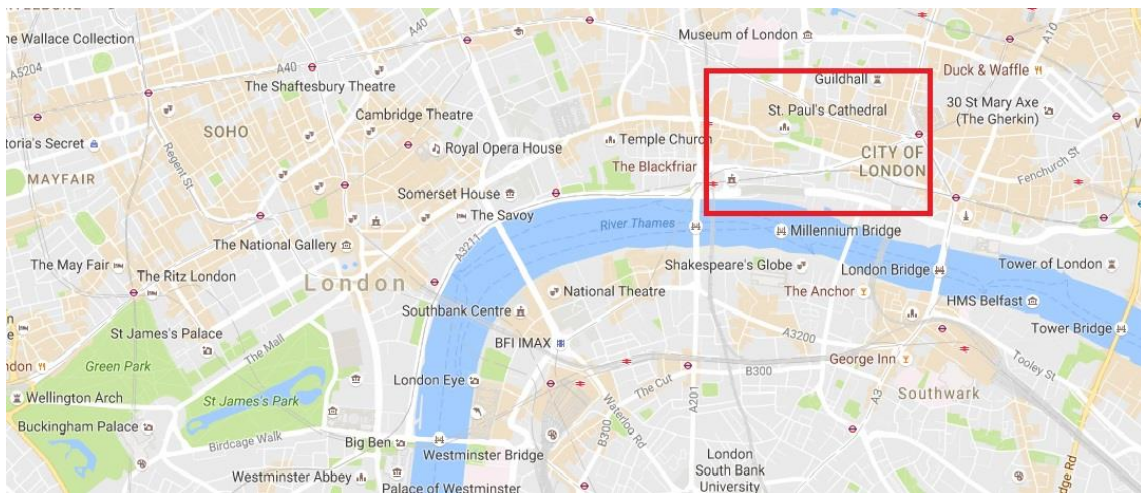
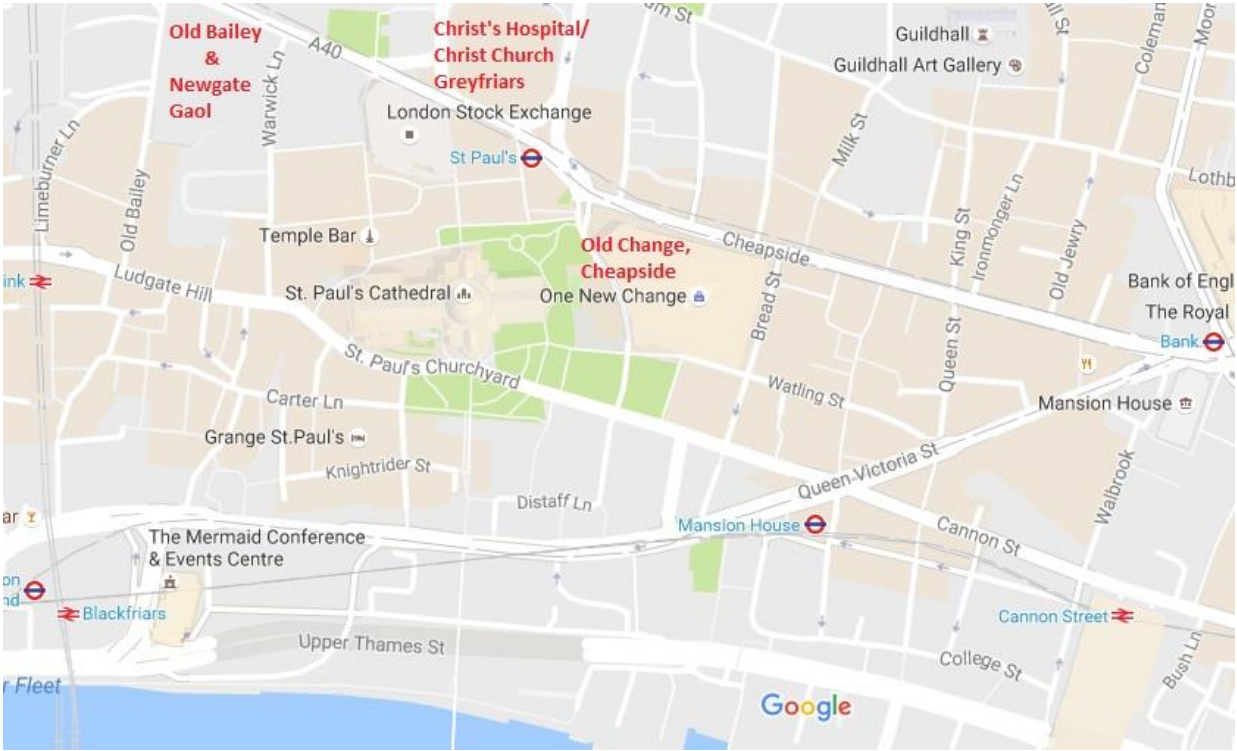
Joseph Morley 1770-1838

In December 1787, aged about 17, Joseph (Joe) Morley was sentenced at the Old Bailey in London to 7 years transportation to "Botany Bay" for the theft of a crepe gown, a cotton gown and six shirts. Initially, he was kept at nearby Newgate Prison (corner of Old Bailey and Newgate Street/A40) until April 1788 when he was sent to the hulk "Stanislaus" on the River Thames. About 1½ years later, on 16 November 1789, he was put on the Second Fleet transport "Surprize" which arrived at Port Jackson after 7 months at sea, on 26 Jun 1790.

We don't know where Joe was born (family letters suggest his father had migrated from Dublin, Ireland) but before his arrest, he had been living in London probably at Old Change (now New Change), Cheapside and was educated close by at Christ's Hospital, also known as the "Blue Coat School" because of its distinctive uniform. Like other such schools, it had been founded for the education of poor children.

Christ's Hospital school occupied buildings which were once part of an old priory and was located next to Christ Church Greyfriars where the students worshipped. The church was located at the corner of Newgate and King Edward Streets (see photo below of the ruins). Back in the 1780's, Cheapside was anything but cheap as shops selling expensive items lined the street which is now the financial centre of London.

From the maps of London immediately below, it can be seen that the abovementioned places (shown in red) were close to the famous St Paul's Cathedral and central London. What a contrast Joe would have encountered as he arrived in Sydney when the colony was still only in its infancy. Not far to the north of Christ's Hospital school, just off the map, was the large Smithfield meat market which has existed on the same site for about 1,000 years! Ironically, very close to Joe's cousin's Prospect Creek farm on the outskirts of Sydney, a meat market was built about 1836 and it too was nostalgically named Smithfield. The market later became the suburb of Smithfield.

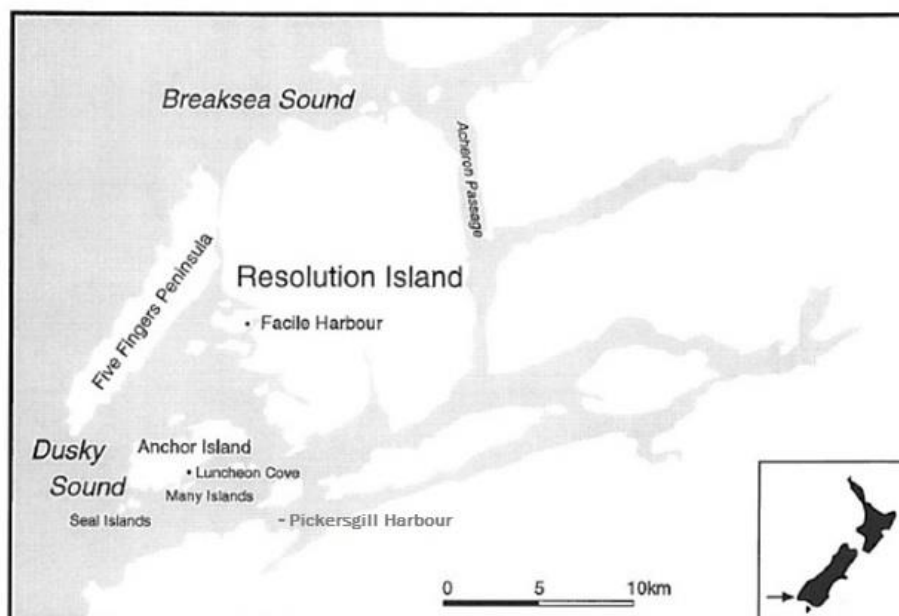


We don't know a lot about Joe's first five years in the colony. However, on 19 September 1795, his sentence having expired, he left Sydney on the "Endeavour" (not Cook's ship), which was accompanied by a smaller ship called the "Fancy", bound for India via New Zealand.

Whilst crossing the Tasman, they experienced a severe storm and the "Endeavour" started leaking badly. In early October, the 2 vessels took shelter at Dusky Sound (see map below) located at the cold and remote south western tip of New Zealand. (Cook had used Dusky Bay as he called it, where he made his anchorage at Pickersgill Harbour on the southern side, during his first and second voyages in 1770 and 1773 respectively). The timbers of the "Endeavour" were found to be so rotten, she had to be scuttled.

The following article and map are enlightening as to the exact location and circumstances of the shipwreck: *In 1792 Captain Raven, master of the "Britannia" (the same ship Joe's future wife Ann Yates would be transported on), called and left a sealing gang at Luncheon Cove on Anchor Island ... While stationed there they built a small ship which was left on the stocks ... (In 1795), William Bampton visited Dusky Sound with two ships, the "Endeavour" and "Fancy". When the former proved unseaworthy (her resting place being Facile Harbour on Resolution Island), Bampton's party completed Raven's unfinished ship which they named "Providence" (<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/dusky-sound>).*

It's significant to note that Dusky Sound thereby witnessed three firsts in NZ history: the first (temporary) white settlement, the first shipwreck and the first ship built (<http://divenewzealand.co.nz/dive-37/s>). After a 5 month stay, on 7 January 1796, about 154 of the 244 who had landed at Dusky Sound sailed on the "Fancy" and the "Providence" for the penal colony of Norfolk Island. They arrived there 12 days later in an emaciated state. Joe is recorded as being on a victualling list (being fed by a local family) at Norfolk from 16 January to 19 February at which time he departed on the HMS "Resource" for Sydney.



Once back in Sydney, Joe gained employment as an assistant harbour pilot; a position he held for the next 10 years. The following article explains a little of what this involved in the early days: (Pilotage was) ... *the use of trained navigators to guide ships to appropriate berths within a port, and out again later ... (It) is one of the oldest and least known of Sydney's professions, and has been with us since the earliest days ... Watsons Bay was long the home of Sydney Harbour's pilots. Probably the first pilot was a man named Barton, who guided ships entering Port Jackson from 1792. He was followed as pilot by Robert Watson, a former quartermaster on the Sirius, who undertook some piloting duties from at least 1809 ... Watson gave his name to the suburb ... (When piloting ships), they used open whaling boats* (http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/harbour_pilots).

It just so happened a boat belonging to Joe (possibly a whaler) was stolen in late 1804. As shown below, 2 articles were published a week apart in late December in the *Sydney Gazette* regarding the theft. The serious tone of the reports might have been due to the importance Joe placed on the boat for his work as an assistant pilot. The first, which appeared on Dec 23, reads as follows:

In the course of the last Week, a Boat the property of Thomas (should be Joseph) Morley, was feloniously Cut from her Moorings within the Wharfs, and is still missing ... any one restoringe the said Boat to the Owner shall be well rewarded ... (and) who-soever shall give Information will receive a Reward of TWO GUINEAS. (SG 23 Dec 1804)

A week later we read about the boat's demise:... the Boat of Joseph Morley was ... recovered in a damaged and battered condition, to the extreme loss of the owner. (SG 30 Dec 1804)

On 9 September 1798, Joe married Ann (Nancy) Yates at St Phillips Church in Sydney. She had only been in the colony for a couple of months having arrived on the convict ship "Britannia".

A shortage of women meant marriages of this type were quite common. Around 1803-4 Joe acquired a shipping business operating two sloops called the "Speedy" and the "Speedwell", which plighted the waters between Sydney and Newcastle, including the Hawkesbury River. This was at a time when Governor King was approving a number of new land grants along the river. This, together with a bad drought, caused the local Aborigines to rise up and cause a lot of trouble for the settlers.

Forming an alliance with fellow tribesmen from the Nepean and Pittwater regions, they attacked white settlements setting their huts on fire and stealing food (including corn crops), livestock and property. The retribution was brutal (probably more so than was reported in the *Gazette*) and, with the help of the NSW Corps, the uprising was put down

(www.nangarra.com.au/docs/pta_06%201803%20to%201811.docx).

There is some evidence Joe also had an interest in yet another sloop called the “Richmond” which itself nearly got attacked by a group of natives at Pittwater near the mouth of the Hawkesbury on 5 May 1805. Joe’s boats would have transported cargoes of grain, timber, coal and other merchandise.

Unfortunately, 2 of his vessels were shipwrecked, one of which was the “Speedwell” which was lost on about 22 July 1804 in a gale. At the time Joe was under instruction to transport some luggage belonging to the Lieutenant Charles Menzies to Newcastle where Menzies was the Commandant. (Unfortunately, Joe received no compensation from the Crown for his loss.

However, 18 years later, in 1822, in a letter applying for the renewal of his publican’s licence, he referred to the incident hoping it would aid his cause. It was finally renewed in 1825). The wreck of the “Speedwell” was discovered in the vicinity of Nine Mile Beach, just south of Newcastle, 7 months after it went missing; the 4 crewmen presumed drowned. As seen in the pictures below, a sloop is a single-masted sailing vessel with a fore and aft rig and only one head-sail. They were popular because they had the ability to sail up wind, were relatively simple to control and could navigate shallow waters. In the second picture can be seen a schooner, a bigger boat with 2 masts.



*View of Part of the Town of Windsor, ... / Taken from the Banks of the River Hawkesbury.
Drawn and Engraved by P. Slager, Sydney.
Dedicated to Mrs Macquarie, ca. 1777-1855. Image No: a990071h, courtesy
State Library of NSW (<http://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/andrew-thompson---pittwater-patriarchs-history.php>).*

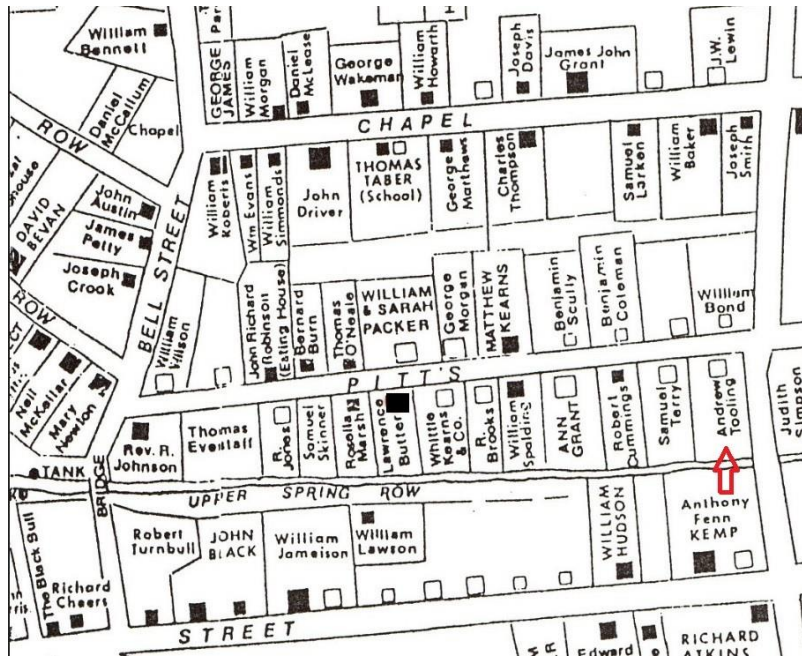


The Settlement on the Green Hills (Windsor), Hawkesbury River, NSW 1809 – A water colour attributed to George William Evans - *Pictorial History Hawkesbury Shire* By Michelle Nichols p13 -

https://books.google.com.au/books?id=ad_SQxQtms8C&pg=PA5&lpg=PA5&dq=hawkesbury+five+charged&source=bl&ots=EuEOrMs4p0&sig=3ppxQOmK9D27FNSAOWn1kyJUXzA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj6l5CWotDQAhVGjpQKHTI6CSIQ6AEIOTAH#v=onepage&q=hawkesbury%20five%20charged&f=false.

In October 1806, Joe leased a property from another ex-convict, Isaac Nichols, in the Lane Cove district to cut timber. Among his other enterprises, Joe operated a ship's chandlery which was located near the Government Wharf not far from where the Manly Ferries dock at Circular Quay.

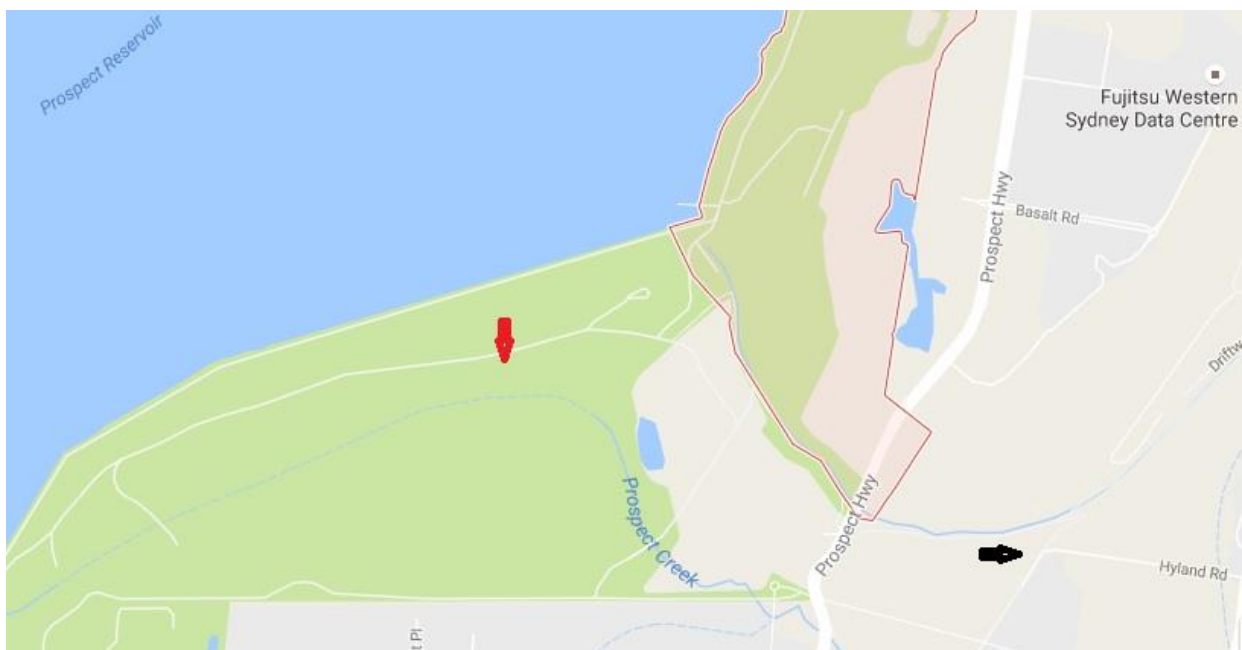
The same year, Joe sold the Sydney Cove property for £80 and moved the chandlery to Pitt's Row on the north-west corner of what is now Pitt and King Streets (shown below – red arrow) which he bought for £45 from yet another ex-convict Andrew Tooling. The premises were known as the “Sign of the Cornwallis Frigate”.



In 1807, Joe bought his cousin's farm of 50 acres at Prospect Creek, near what is now Prospect Reservoir, for the nominal sum of 5 shillings.

(This cousin, who was also named Joseph Morley, had arrived as a convict on the First Fleet ship the "Friendship". A family letter suggests he was born in Dublin, Ireland and went to the same school as his cousin, both of whom were Roman Catholics.)

For some years, our Joe was keen to gain extra land at Prospect Hill and after much letter writing to the colonial authorities he finally received a grant of 100 acres in 1827 (shown on the map below – red arrow). The land is close to the wall of Prospect Reservoir, whereas First Fleet Joe's original 50 acres, was near the end of Hyland Road, Greystanes (black arrow).



Returning to the "Sign of Cornwallis Frigate", premises like this starting with the name "Sign of..." were usually pubs or hotels. However, the one in Pitts Row seemed to be what we would call a 'mixed business.

' On 12 February 1809, eg, in the "Sydney Gazette", Joe advertised - Five beautiful young Emus, and an extensive and choice collection of Parrots. Just 2 weeks later, on 25 February, he was granted a wine and spirit licence so for the first time the "Cornwallis Frigate" also officially became a pub. (Prior to this it was probably operating illegally as a 'sly grog shop' which the colony was awash with at a time when rum was the currency). Moreover, over a period of about 6½ months between 12 March and 22 October 1809, Joe placed no less than 17 for sale notices in the "Gazette" for ship's timbers; orders for which could be placed at the "Cornwallis". He later owned other pubs at the Rocks (Gloucester through to Harris St) and Brickfield Hill (653-9 George St).

Joe and Ann separated around July 1809 due to him being a heavy drinker and having had an affair with their convict servant, Hannah Railton, with whom he had a daughter, Jane. He ended up losing his wine and spirit licence because of his drinking and, to keep trading, Hannah had to apply for one in her own name. Joseph and Hannah went on to have 8 children together, 3 boys and 5 girls, between about 1809 and 1828. They finally married on 22 June 1818 but once again it wasn't a happy marriage. In later years, he evidently lived in mortal fear of Hannah (who was later temporarily officially declared a 'lunatic') which could account for him giving his estate to her in exchange for a chair! This was later overturned. He ended up moving in with his daughter Elizabeth Gold and died on 17 May 1838, aged 68, in Sydney.

Ann (Nancy) Yates c1776-1810

Ann's place of birth isn't clear. What we do know, however, is that she was arrested at Eccles in Manchester on 21 November 1794, for having stolen with force of arms (i.e. at gun or knife point) - two shirts , 5 neckcloths, one pair of stockings, handkerchiefs, one cap, one waistcoat and one stable jacket.

Pleading guilty, she was sentenced to solitary confinement with hard labour for 6 months in the New Bailey prison at Salford, Manchester.

Having served her sentence, she was soon charged again, this time with stealing three shirts, a tablecloth and other goods, for which she was sentenced to transportation to 'Botany Bay' for 7 years. (There is also evidence that she had been convicted for another offence in the meantime).

She spent time in Lancaster Castle before the voyage on the abovementioned transport "Britannia" arriving at Port Jackson on 18 July 1798 at which time the colony was experiencing a very cold winter with heavy overnight frosts. On the ship's Indent (list of convicts) she is called 'Nancy', a nickname for Ann, which might have been an attempt to distinguish her from another convict on board with the same name.

Two months after arriving, on 26 Sep 1798, she married Joe and they went on to have 4 daughters all 'currency lasses' a term used for those who were native-born. The first, Jane, sadly died in 1801 aged only 2 months after falling into a fire. Tragically, they also lost their second, Elizabeth age 6, to burns after she fell off a chair into a fire at a neighbour's house! Their surviving children, Eleanor and Ann, were born in 1804 and 1808 respectively. Eleanor married an ex-convict, Robert Stanton Pettit from Ebony in Kent, on 11 Feb 1822.

The adjacent old tin-type photo shows Eleanor, my 3xg'grandmother, in her later years before her death in 1882. As mentioned above, Joe and Ann separated in 1809 and, to quote Dr Joseph Anthony Morley's *Thesis*:

Articles of Separation between them ... provided for Ann to receive a dwelling house in Barrack Row (York Street) ... She was also to have one pound a week for herself 'and child', 'while she remains single' and half-a-guinea; on taking a man '.

She also received half the liquor licence on the Cornwallis Frigate. Inclusion of only one of their two children in the agreement possibly indicated that the elder girl, Eleanor, was either to stay with Joseph or, as is indicated later, was sent to live with Joseph senior and Mary ... Inclusion of only one of their two children in the agreement possibly indicated that the elder girl, Eleanor, was either to stay with Joseph or ... was sent to live with Joseph senior and Mary at Prospect (either way, suggesting there was a custody battle/agreement).



Dennis PINSON
Leonie PINSON Member 1582

GETTING THE NEWS

History has a surprising way of repeating itself:

The "Brisbane Water Notes" dated July 23 in *Australian Town and Country Journal's* issue of July 27, 1878, read as follows:

"The event of the week has been the opening of a telegraph station at Gosford. The sudden and unexpected visit of Mr E.C. Cracknell, superintendent of telegraphs, to Gosford on Monday last put the whole township in motion, as if an electric shock had been administered to the residents, who woke up as if by magic from their usual lethargy, when it became known that they were in instantaneous communication with Sydney and the rest of the world.

"Some innocents stood gazing at the wire, expecting to see the pieces of paper with the messages pass along it.

"Others declared that they heard the message go along like thunder and lightning". Maybe we shouldn't be quick to smile. Back in 1957 when Australians craned their necks to get a glimpse of the Russian satellite SPUTNIK 1 moving across the night sky like a bright star, a woman neighbour of mine in Gippsland, remarked dejectedly: "I thought it would fly low over the house and we would see people looking down at us!"

Gwen DUNDON Member 134

The "green thing".

Yesterday after shopping in our local supermarket, I was in the queue at the Check Out, and heard when the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologised to the young girl & then sighed, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. You folk didn't do enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said "Ahh.. Yes you're right; our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day." She sighed then continued:

Back then, we returned milk bottles, lemonade bottles & beer bottles to the shops. The shops then sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized & refilled, so those same bottles were used over & over, thus REALLY were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores put our groceries into brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) were not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalise our books on their brown paper bag/covers. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

I remember how we walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store or office building; walked to the grocery store & didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go 200 yards. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind & solar power really did dry our clothes back in our days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one radio, in the house, not a TV in every room. And if anyone did own a TV, it had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of a football pitch.

When cooking, we blended & stirred by hand coz we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send by post, we used layers of old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a tap or fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, & we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the bus & kids rode bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mothers into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's expensive car or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing"..

Oh and we had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances.

And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest leisure park. But it so sad this current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?...I think you should forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from some smart young person...

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to annoy us especially from a tattooed, multiple pierced smart young person who can't give change without the cash register telling them how much...

I remember my Grandmothers Pantry where items were stored

Sugar and flour purchased in bulk in bags and stored in large metal drums

Plain flour became SR flour with the addition of baking powder

Eggs came from their own hens and butter home made from own cream, separated from their own milk.

Oven heated by wood fire. Cooks regulated oven temperature by adding more wood or leaving over door slightly ajar and closing when temperature judged to be moderate.

Grannies Sugar Cookies

½ cup butter (homemade),

1 cup sugar, 1 egg

1/2 teaspoon salt sifted with 2 cups SR flour,

Vanilla essence

Method

Beat well, (by hand with table spoon) butter and sugar

Beat in egg, fold in the flour & blend in vanilla essence

Roll out on floured board, cut into shape and put on greased cooking tray.

Cook 8-10 minutes

While still warm, ice with ¾ cup icing sugar mixed with ¾ teaspoon water.



Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L

HOLIDAY TIME IN SARATOGA – CIRCA 1920's

"Holiday makers once travelled what used to be extremely long distances and long hours, with many coming as far as Katoomba, staying in various holiday houses such as Rosemount, The Oaks, Earls Court, Dorisphill and Buena Vista amongst others.

The long journey would have been quite an adventure, dismounting the steam train in Woy Woy and then across to Mt. Pleasant Wharf (Veterans Hall Wharf) by ferry or boat, all dressed for "Holiday".

They came to enjoy the "great" fishing, boating, bathing, hiking, walks or strolls, sunsets and sight-seeing and also enjoyed playing tennis, a bit of cricket, card games, music, dancing, sing-a-longs, fancy dress competitions etc.

One of the highlights, apparently, was to hike up to the top of Mt. Pleasant and so my story leads to an accidental find, recently stumbled across by Dianna Scott (a Saratoga resident), confirming that Saratoga was really quite a "destination" with general stores selling souvenirs to the holidaymakers.

Dianna found a lovely ceramic milk jug on eBay (see pic) depicting those expansive, clear views which could be seen from the top of the mountain back then. The creamer appears to be circa 1920's – 30's.



Dianna also shares the following excerpt from the Sydney Sunday Times from July 1922 telling an interesting story from one holiday maker (addressing her letter to 'The President' of the newspaper), and who possibly, maybe, perhaps bought one of these milk jugs to take home.....

“ON HOLIDAYS.

I spent a fortnight's holiday at Saratoga, not far from Woy Woy. Have you ever been there? Oh, President, it is lovely. The country around there is rather mountainous, as you will know if you have seen it. The house at which I was staying had a very prominent position on one of these mountains. It is so pretty and the view from the top of the mountain is splendid.

One can see the Hawkesbury River winding its way lazily among the mountains, and motor launches and other boats are to be seen churning their way hither and thither.

One day we went for a walk round the mountain. And half-way round we came across quite an old cemetery. And, President, we could read the inscriptions upon the headstones, and one actually bore the date 1827. How old that cemetery must be. It is uncared for and some of the headstones are falling over. I was very glad when we went out into the fresh air and sunshine again, for the cemetery was closed in by tall, stately old trees.

Further round the mountain we came across several oyster leases, only they were private ones. That did not bother me because I do not like oysters. Whenever I see oysters, I always think of the first one I tried, but did not succeed in eating. I actually tried to chew it.

Lady Royal.”

Saratoga seems like such a wonderful place to visit.... Doesn't it? I'm so fortunate to live there.

Taia SANSOM Member 2235J

The “**Irish Naming Pattern**” is a real system of child-naming that was in use in Ireland for hundreds of years and often continued to be used in the Irish immigrant's new country for a couple of generations. The naming pattern is as follows:

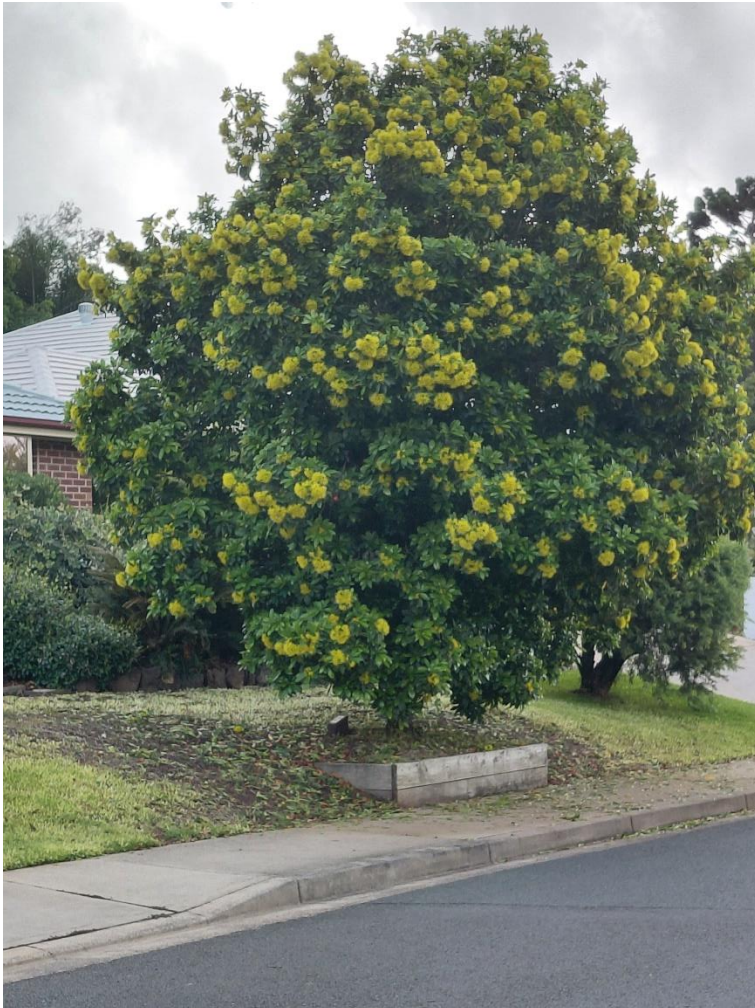
- **1st son** was named after the father's father
- **2nd son** was named after the mother's father
- **3rd son** was named after the father
- **4th son** was named after the father's eldest brother
- **1st daughter** was named after the mother's mother
- **2nd daughter** was named after the father's mother
- **3rd daughter** was named after the mother
- **4th daughter** was named after the mother's eldest sister

It can be very useful for taking an “educated guess” as to the names of your unknown Irish ancestors.

A Different Type of Tree.

I am a tree lover, both my genealogical family tree and also the horticultural variety. I often gaze upon particularly beautiful specimens around the Central Coast.

This e-Muster I have included:-



Xanthostemon chrysanthus commonly known as Golden Penda is a species of tree in the myrtle family Myrtaceae which is endemic to north eastern Queensland, Australia. It is a popular garden plant with showy yellow blooms, and is the floral emblem of the city of Cairns.

Golden Penda is a stunning evergreen that produces spectacular fluffy flowers, attracting birds, bees, and butterflies while providing dense shade and lush green foliage all year round. This specimen is in Wamberal NSW.

I am inviting you to share a tree with us in each issue of the *E-muster*, one that has enraptured you or one that is your favourite. Please email details and a photograph to our email address and we will feature them in our Journal.

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The following is a list of who does what to keep the society running as smoothly as it does.

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TRANSCRIPTION AGENTS

Don't forget transcriptions of birth, death and marriage records are available in NSW and only NSW. Cost - \$20 each



Email joy@joymurrin.com.au



Marilyn Rowan – marilynr@marbract.com.au



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