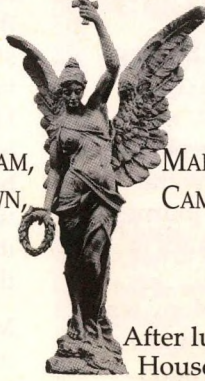


MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

COVERING DULWICH HILL, ENMORE, LEWISHAM,
SYDENHAM, TEMPE, & PARTS OF NEWTOWN,

MARRICKVILLE, PETERSHAM, ST PETERS, STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN & HURLSTONE PARK



OUR NEXT MEETING

GOVERNOR'S DAIRY PRECINCT & OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN PARRAMATTA PARK

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 10.30 AM

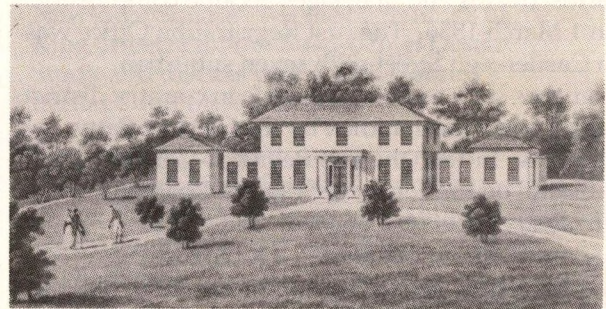
Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 9.15 am for 9.30 bus departure. Inspection of Dairy Precinct to commence 10.30 am; guided tour of Old Government House starts at 1 pm. Anticipated return 3.30 in Petersham. Bring your own lunch. Cost for bus and entrance \$11 (this outing a week earlier than usual due to State Election). For bookings ring Shirley on 569 1768.

Have you ever wondered where Governor Lachlan Macquarie got the milk for his oatmeal at breakfast? Following the talk presented by Heritage Architect Alan Croker and Museum Consultant Kylie Winkworth last August on the Governor's Dairy we can now visit the conserved precinct which was officially opened on Australia Day. Emancipist George Salter's 1797 Dairy Cottage is not only one of the earliest domestic houses in Australia, but it is also one of only three surviving eighteenth century houses, all in Parramatta, the others being Old Government House and Elizabeth Farm.



The Dairy Cottage is the most intact, retaining its original walls, window joinery and some plaster finishes. The survival of this small cottage (so typical of those occupied by working people) is extraordinary. Adjacent is the Ranger's Cottage (c 1870) built over Macquarie's sunken milk room. Nearby is a network of paths and drains, a well and the footings of old farm buildings. Ralph Hawkins and Bob Crosbie, who have an intimate knowledge of the precinct, will conduct our visit and describe other fascinating historic features of Parramatta Park.

After lunch we will inspect Old Government House (part of which is closed for restoration), whose history traces back to April 1788 though it was under Governors Hunter and Macquarie that the building was completed. The architect was probably James Bloodworth, a former convict who had designed the first Government House in Sydney and the splendid portico is attributed to Francis Greenway.



AEROPLANES AND PONIES: A WALKING TOUR OF THE PETERSHAM NORTH HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

As part of Heritage Week the Society is sponsoring a two hour heritage walk in Petersham to be led by historian and educator Geoff Ostling. The tour will include brief glimpses inside some of the grand mansions and also lowly workmen's cottages; the house where the ABC series GP is filmed; the street where illustrious 19th Century architect Edmund Blacket once lived; the United States Consul's house; the site of the home of the first Labor premier, James McGowen and his view of the Blue Mountains (on a clear day); the *Petersham Paddocks* which was one of the country estates of William Charles Wentworth, Petersham Park, and the restored rotunda built to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII; the Petersham War Memorial Gates; the *finest Italianate Railway Station in New South Wales* and what remains of the pedestrian overpass; refreshments at the historic *White Cockatoo Hotel*, until recently called the *Carrington*.

Why *aeroplanes and ponies*? Find out by linking up with Geoff's jaunt at Petersham Town Hall, 10 am on Saturday 8 April. Cost \$4, \$2 (concession). Ring Shirley on 569 1768 or Geoff 568 3029 for bookings and further details.

OUR LAST MEETING

HUMOUR IN THE REGISTERS

On Saturday 25 February Society member Shirley Doolan held her large audience of about sixty enthralled as she told of the history of the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the colony of New South Wales. We heard how the first birth and death were recorded on the journey to Sydney in 1787 and how the first marriages (a group of 13 couples) were celebrated on 10 February 1788 only two weeks after the colony was established. The Reverend Richard Johnson, the first chaplain, brought a brand new registration book in which to record these important facts so continuing an age old English practice where the first registrations are to be found in church records.

In 1853 C. Rolleston was appointed the first Registrar-General to control land transfers and registration of cattle marks while registration of births, deaths and marriages became compulsory on 1 March 1856. The first Registration Office was in Castlereagh Street with seven suburban branches such as Balmain while in country districts registration was handled by the Clerk of Petty Sessions. In 1860 the fine Registrar-General's building on the corner of St James Road and Elizabeth Street was opened. Today all registrations are handled in a highly modernised central office. Due to lack of information, illiteracy and other factors, irregularities were bound to occur. Shirley related some of the humorous and strange historic and often sentimental items discovered during her research as well as recent idiosyncratic newspaper announcements.

The Reverend Chris Clerke, Rector of St Clements, Marrickville kindly produced the 1945-46 Marriage Register which showed the names of couples whose golden wedding anniversary may be imminent. St Clements is fortunate to have the complete set of registers since its inception, a credit to that parish. Many thanks to Shirley for a most interesting and entertaining morning.

Gwenda Welsh

AUSTRALIA STREET ARCHIVE

All around Australia there are streets called *Australia Street*. The **Australia Street Archive** is a national research project being run by the University of Technology (UTS), Sydney in collaboration with the Australian Museum. The organisers are keen to meet past and present residents of any *Australia Street* and will draw on interviews, documents, photographs, films, maps, plans or anything which will help build a picture of how Australians live. For more information contact Pru Black or Inara Walden on 330 1977 or fax 330 2296.

STANMORE HOUSE

At a meeting of Marrickville Council on February 7 the Development Application to erect a three storey building (with a basement carpark) on the vacant site between Enmore Theatre and Stanmore House was considered. The DA was refused because of the detrimental impact the design, height and scale of the proposed development would have on Stanmore House and on two other items of environmental heritage in the vicinity - the Enmore Theatre and Dispensary Hall.

Marrickville Council has also resolved to enter into discussions with the Heritage Council of New South Wales and other appropriate bodies about the future use of the site as well as pursuing the issue of a grant for restoration of Stanmore House.

MARY REIBEY - DEAR COUSIN

At the State Library in early October 1992 a large gathering of Reibey descendants assembled for the launch by Margaret Whitlam of the book *Dear Cousin*, a private publication containing 22 letters by Reibey family members, including eight by Mary herself. Almost 200 years previously to the day Mary had arrived in Sydney, a convict girl of fifteen. In her first letter she described our harbourside:

it looks a pleasant place enough..I will watch every opportunity to get away in 2 or 3 years but I will make myself as happy as I can in my present unhappy situation.

By 1818 Mary was a wealthy widow with seven children and several business interests. In 1817 she had let her Sydney house at 6 Macquarie Place for the founding of the Bank of NSW (now Westpac). She owned almost 3000 acres both in Tasmania and the mainland. In her last extant letter (to her cousin David Hope in Glasgow), dated 21 June 1845 from *Pencilville* (later known as Reibey House), Newtown she wrote:

I am obliged to exercise the greatest prudence and economy still in my old age...I am so taken up with my residence in the New Town (sic) that I told you I had purchased...and notwithstanding my dear purchase I consider it was the best I ever made as it has quite renovated my health...I am now in enjoyment of as good health as ever I was, excepting my age and it is to the salubrious air that I account it to... It is a beautiful spot we have a pleasant view of the Botany Bay Heads and the sea...there is 21 acres of all pretty good land and I have an excellent garden on it which I made myself... I have laid out a great deal of money on it since I bought it...I also intend to build a nice cottage on it...for Mrs (Eliza) Thomson and her family.



Eliza Thomson (nee Reibey)

their families resided or stayed at Stanmore House at various times up until 1856.

The Reibey letters were brought to light largely through the efforts of historian Nance Irvine OAM who edited *Dear Cousin* (having previously written *Mary Reibey, Molly Incognita*). This charming work is to be republished in April by Hale & Iremonger and Nance will be our guest speaker on Saturday 22 April.

Richard Blair

WHERE ARE THE DOORS?

The 1885 William Wardell designed bank building (originally the Union, then the CBC and finally the National Bank) at 323 King Street, Newtown Square is listed by the Heritage Council of NSW and classified by the National Trust. It is therefore a matter of grave concern that the two original Australian cedar front doors complete with door jams, transom and fan light have been recently removed and replaced by modern substitutes.

Three questions arise. Where are the doors now? Can further work on this important building be stopped until a full Conservation Plan is tabled? What is the point of heritage classifications if significant components of the original building can be inappropriately removed?

John Zinsmeester

NEW MEMBERS

Fay Nash, Marrickville; Michael Mullins, Newtown; Marc Greyling & Lindsay Knight, Erskineville; Avril Chiswell, Marrickville; Geoff & Wendy Walker, Croydon; Kurt & Michele Carlsen, Petersham.

The nice cottage was later to be known as Stanmore House. Eliza Thomson was Mary's fifth child. This 1845 letter contradicts the commonly held view that the house was built for her youngest daughter Elizabeth Long Innes. However it seems both Eliza and Elizabeth and

HERITAGE WEEK APRIL 2 - 9

Sunday 2nd 10 am to 2 pm

Tours by Conservation Architect of the Jessie Street Women's Library, the former Marrickville Town Hall in Illawarra Road. Cost \$5. Morning & afternoon teas available.

Thursday 6th 7 pm to 8.30 pm

Cheryl Flynn, Local Studies Librarian, invites MHS members to Marrickville Library to inspect the Ray Sowden Series, a collection of historical papers and memorabilia relating both to the local area and afar.

Saturday 8th 10 am to 1 pm

Aeroplanes and ponies walking tour of Petersham North Heritage Conservation area conducted by historian Geoff Ostling (full description on front page).

Saturday 8th 11 am to 2 pm

Newtown Square - see the beginnings of the King Street/Enmore Road Urban Design Study and discuss issues with Council's heritage and planning staff.

Saturday 8th 2 pm to 4 pm

Mastertouch Piano Roll Company tour - now in its 75th year, inspect this working museum where piano rolls and their boxes are still being made.

Saturday 8th 3 pm to 5 pm

Display of Marrickville Medal entries at Marrickville Town Hall followed at 5.30 pm by award of Marrickville Medal and discussion on the cultural diversity of Marrickville.

Sunday 9th 11 am to 1 pm

Abergeldie Estate, Dulwich Hill walking tour with Cheryl Flynn, Local Studies Librarian.

For bookings relating to Jessie Street Library, Mastertouch, and Abergeldie tour contact **Libby Maher**, Council Heritage Architect on 335 2114.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY MARCH 18

Governor's Dairy Precinct &
Old Government House at Parramatta Park

SUNDAY MARCH 19

Cooks River Festival at Tempe Reserve

THURSDAY APRIL 6, 7 TO 8.30 PM

Ray Sowden Series at Marrickville Library
An opportunity for Society members to come
and view this recently acquired collection.

SATURDAY APRIL 8, 10 PM

*Aeroplanes and ponies - a walking tour of the
Petersham North Heritage Conservation area*
See front page description.

SATURDAY APRIL 22, 10.30 AM

The rise and rise of Mary Reibey
Historian and author Nance Irvine will reveal
how this horse stealing convict lass became
Sydney's first successful businesswoman.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Did you know there are about 100 open spaces in our LGA to be cared for? They range from large ones like Petersham Park and the extensive areas bordering Cooks River, sports areas like Henson Park, playgrounds and reserves down to plazas and pocket-sized street closures. Council is now required by law to formulate a management plan for each of them by June 1996. Not an easy task, complicated by different requirements such as whether the land is Crown or Council property. An extreme case is Marrickville Golf Course, where the Council-owned clubhouse is on Crown land, the course on a mixture.

For community needs to be met, broad consultation is essential especially in areas with heritage values. Effective use of our remaining open space goes far beyond that, so have a look at your neighbourhood, especially at the smaller areas. Can their looks and usage be improved? For further information contact me on 569 5183.

Harold Welsh

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

Which famous politician and eminent writer were brothers-in-law and once shared a house in Dulwich Street, Dulwich Hill? A bonus point if you know the actual house.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945 - 1995

Following a MHS application for a Federal Government grant for oral history to be gathered and published in connection with the *Australia Remembers* Community Activities (scheduled for August 1995), The Hon. Jeannette McHugh has just advised that our application was successful and funding of \$5000 has been approved. We therefore need all our members and the community to help with this project which is directed to one or more of the following objectives:

- commemorating Australia's war dead
- giving recognition to surviving service personnel of the Second World War, and also to those who kept Australia running through the war years
- heightening public awareness of the significance of the 50th anniversary of VE Day and VP Day, and reflecting on what they meant to Australia and the local community
- reflecting the Australian lifestyle in 1945 and the mood of Australians on 15 August 1945
- involving school-age children in activities which pick up these themes and which reinforce the notion of the *debt which is owed*
- creating a lasting reminder of VP Day, 1995

On the home front during the years 1939-45 we want to hear of your work and leisure experiences, schooling, fundraising, rationing and *austerity*, entertaining the troops etc. A subcommittee is to be formed but in the meantime please contact Angela on 564 6370.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$12 for individuals, \$6 for seniors, pensioners & students and \$18 for households. Members receive a monthly newsletter (except January) and the Society's annual journal *Heritage*. Subscriptions are valid for the Society year starting July. Meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month. Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204

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