

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

THE NOTABLE LIFE OF MARY REIBEY AS TOLD BY NANCE IRVINE

Saturday April 22, 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall

My Dear aunt Oct 8th 1792 bottany bay
We arrived here on the 7th and I hope it will
answer better than we expected for I write this on
Board of ship but it looks a pleasant place
Enough we shall but have 4 pair of trousers a week
to make

Over 200 years after her arrival aboard the convict ship, *Royal Admiral* and the subsequent fame achieved through marriage and a successful business career, Mary Reibey (as in *maybe*) has finally begun to achieve the recognition she has always deserved by her appearance on the new twenty dollar note. The MHS Newsletter has recently featured stories on her (November 1994 and March 1995) over which period *Stanmore House*, built in the 1840s by Mary, has been a significant issue.

This excerpt is from Mary's earliest extant letter written aged fifteen on the eve of her arrival in Sydney Cove in 1792. This letter has been acquired at great expense by the State Library of New South Wales and according to Paul Brunton, the Curator of Manuscripts, it is the earliest extant letter of a convict, a female, which makes it even more rare. Another claim to fame for Mary.

Nance Irvine, OAM, (whose collection of Reibey letters *Dear Cousin* is to be re-published later this month) has spent much of the last twenty years researching Mary Reibey's life and writing about her. Two outcomes were extensive contact with Reibey descendants and the surfacing of long dormant letters. As to the story of the *new currency lass*, come along and hear for yourself!

all inquiring friends do I must conclude
because we are in a hurry to go a shore remember
My Love to my sister and aunt and
My Cousins do me none at present
your beautiful niece Mary Haynes
Book 2 Guinness of me and said he would
be libelous with my sister has been very
to me so I must never see you again



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the years MHS newsletter editors have made intermittent requests to members for contributions. This is generally due, not to lack of material at the editor's disposal, but to the belief that there must be a mass of information out there which is not passed on for numerous reasons. There may have been a notable person who lived in your house or street; or in the course of personal research you may have come across the origin of your street name; or you may know of some obscure plaque, statue or curiosity in your area. Don't be put off by a perception that your slice of whatever is not original or worthwhile or that your writing style may not qualify you for the Pulitzer Prize.

Please ring Richard Blair on 557 3823 or drop me a line care of the MHS.

HERITAGE WATCH

- No official answer has been received as to the fate of the doors on the 1885 former bank building at 325 King Street, Newtown (see March Newsletter).
- An application has been received by the Heritage Council of NSW to erect a new rectory on the grounds of St Peters Church of England in St Peters. In accordance with the Heritage Act, 1977 the Heritage Council has stated the development would in their opinion, *if approved, materially affect the significance of the subject site as an item of the environmental heritage*. The Heritage Council has invited interested persons to forward written representations regarding the proposal to them at Box 3927, GPO Sydney 2001.
- Following the recent rejection by Marrickville Council of the proposed DA for a three storey building on the vacant site between Enmore Theatre and *Stanmore House*, the site is now up for sale (see separate story on *Cronulla*, the house which stood on the site from 1903 to 1986 when it was demolished following a fire).

TEMPE BUS AND TRUCK MUSEUM - NOTICE TO VACATE

Situated in Tempe's historic tram depot this museum, operated by the Historic Commercial Vehicle Association, began operation in 1986 when a long term lease was drawn up. However the State Transit Authority never signed it and threatened the museum with eviction after the Tempe bus depot closed in 1992.

In January 1995 a notice to vacate within twelve months was issued with the view to probable demolition of the building. After consideration by the HCVA to take the matter to the Ombudsman for failing to sign the original lease, the STA offered \$250,000 compensation to assist the HCVA relocate the museum to a floodbound site in Bankstown. This, however is far short of the estimated \$800,000 required and the board of directors of the HCVA is evenly split as to whether to stay or move.

Whilst the 1912 tram depot building - the last one surviving in Sydney - is in need of extensive maintenance, it is still reasonably intact. State member Dr Andrew Refshauge supports retaining both the museum and the depot building. If the museum depot is retained, the nearby war memorials (publicised in late 1994 newsletters) could easily be incorporated on the site. Members and local residents are urged to lobby for retention of this museum by writing to the HCVA, Box 1010, GPO Sydney 2001, Dr Andrew Refshauge and the new Minister for Transport, Brian Langton.

BROTHERS-IN-LAW

JACK LANG & HENRY LAWSON

Jack Lang and Henry Lawson married sisters Hilda and Bertha Bredt in the 1890s. The girls' father was German born Herman Bredt who had become Shire Clerk at Bairnsdale in Victoria. After he died, his Prussian-born widow Bertha married William Henry McNamara, who owned a combination newsagency, second hand bookshop and doss house in Castlereagh Street (between Bathurst and Liverpool Streets). McNamara's was the meeting place for anarchists, intellectuals, politicians and bohemians as well as Bulletin identities including Phil May, Hop, Victor Daley, the Lindsays and Henry Lawson. It was in this atmosphere that Jack and Henry met each other and their future wives. Mrs McNamara was one of the leaders of the early feminist movement and included among her friends and supporters was Henry's mother Louisa (who spent the last twenty years or so of her life in Marrickville).

It is interesting that in Jack Lang's *The Turbulent Years* he has a chapter titled *Marriage*, but we learn virtually nothing of Hilda. Much more is known of Henry's wife Bertha who was a nurse and lived in Newtown prior to her marriage. They later lived briefly in 1898 with Jack and Hilda at 20 Dulwich Street, Dulwich Hill, but because of Henry's heavy drinking and itinerant ways, they never settled anywhere for long. Jack lived at this address for about four years prior to embarking on a long and colourful political career including two terms as Labor Premier (1925-27 and 1930-32 which ended in his dismissal by the Governor, Sir Philip Game).

Richard Blair

THE PRESCOTT SERIES 1995 NEWINGTON COLLEGE

Newington College Association of the Arts has commenced its fourth season of recitals and concerts featuring well known artists from many fields and presenting a wide variety of quality performances at very reasonable prices. School aged children are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult. The last three recitals (all Sunday afternoons) are on May 28, August 20 and September 17. For bookings contact Newington College on 560 5355 or obtain tickets at the door. More detailed information in future newsletters.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS

HELP NEEDED!



Did you live...
or work...
or go to school...
in the following suburbs...
between 1939 and 1945...

Camperdown
Dulwich Hill Enmore
Hurlstone Park Lewisham
Marrickville Newtown Petersham
Stanmore St Peters Sydenham or
Tempe?

Would you be willing to share your memories of those years?

Marrickville Heritage Society has received a grant as part of the **Australia Remembers** project, to conduct interviews, make copies of photographs, and publish a book of experiences of *ordinary men and women, boys and girls, who lived and worked in these suburbs* during the Second World War. These suburbs are now all part of the Marrickville Local Government Area.

We also need:

- photographs of brides and weddings held during the war years
- descriptions from people working in factories on war production
- community groups working on war projects
(such as making camouflage nets and knitting woollen socks)
- experiences of women in the workforce
- 'making do' with war rationing
- the Addison Road Army Depot and Recruitment Centre
- letters from the enlisted men both in Australia and abroad, and
- other wartime experiences relating to the Marrickville area.

Please contact Marrickville Heritage Society members, Angela Phippen on (02) 564 6370 or Lesley Jones on (02) 569 9281 if you would like to be part of 'Marrickville Remembers' or if you know the names and telephone numbers or addresses of other people who might be willing to be interviewed.

MARRICKVILLE MEMORIES c/- Marrickville Heritage Society, P O Box 415, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

Surname: _____ Given name(s): _____

Maiden name (if applicable): _____

Present address: _____

Which suburb/s during 1939 – 1945?: _____

How old were you when the war ended in 1945? _____

What do you remember of the day the war ended? _____

If you were at school in the area during these years what schools did you attend? _____

What did you do in the war? (paid employment, home duties, manpower, reserved occupation, etc) _____

What work were you doing? _____

Were you married in the area? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, which church? _____

Were you involved with voluntary groups such as the Red Cross, Australian Comforts Fund? _____

Were you an air raid warden, a member of the National Emergency Service, Volunteer Defence Corps or a similar group? _____

What are your most vivid memories of the war years? _____

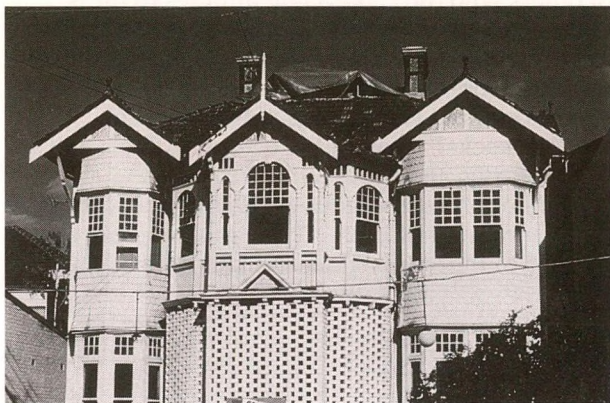
Do you have any photographs? _____

If more space is required, please use the reverse of this form.

Thank you for your assistance.

CRONULLA - THE HOUSE

We hear *that* vacant block - the one on Enmore Road between *Stanmore House* and Enmore Theatre - is up for sale. Last century this block was part of Mary Reibey's estate and the *Stanmore House* grounds until 1900 when long time owner James Pemell subdivided much of his property. In 1902 Dr Richard Trindall bought this land on which he built *Cronulla*, a two storey brick residence in the Federation Queen Anne style. It appears *Cronulla* was used as a residence and surgery from 1903 to 1955 after which it was converted to a boarding house. After acquisition by the current owner, a fire in 1985 caused damage to the house, which despite being largely still intact, was subsequently pulled down.



Cronulla from Enmore Road, Enmore, 1985

A 1985 Statement of Significance states *that Cronulla was designed in close adherence with the design principles of Federation Queen Anne and is one of the best examples of a two-storey Queen Anne house in Sydney....it forms an important element within the Enmore Road retail precinct and is unusual for its location on a confined, inner city site. The house features a complex marseilles tiled roofline with intersecting gables to the front and side and a hipped roof to the rear. The principal facade is asymmetrical with three bays of varying shape and proportion, each featuring roughcast rendered gables. The house contained an elaborate circular timber staircase. The nondescript brick wall sealing up the front entrance added after Cronulla's 1950s conversion to a boarding house did not enhance the building's appearance.*

Of course this information is now simply *for the record* though one wonders whether this is another outstanding building which might have been saved. An irony of *Cronulla's* demolition however was to make *Stanmore House* more visible from Enmore Road. The time is ripe for some amends to be made, but is there an agency with sufficient funds, fortitude and foresight to acquire this historic site for our future heritage?

Richard Blair

(gleaned from a paper by **Annette Green** for the Marrickville Heritage Study and part of the Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection)

OUR LAST MEETING

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

On Saturday 18 March a coachload of Society members and friends journeyed in splendid weather to Parramatta Park for a visit to the Governor's Dairy and the adjacent Ranger's Cottage - significant sites in early colonial history. Our main tour guide was the archival historian Ralph Hawkins, (who lobbied extensively to have these historical sites preserved), ably assisted by enthusiast Bob Crosbie and MHS members Shirley Doolan and Geoff Ostling.

The decision to conserve these cottages rather than restore them is vindicated. The original windows, fireplaces and lath and plaster walls indicated domestic construction techniques and general living conditions two centuries ago. An eerie feeling pervaded the cool sunken milk room, made more poignant by its very recent discovery under the floorboards of the 1870 Ranger's Cottage.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the picturesque grounds of Old Government House followed by a talk and guided tour through part of this stately house, whose furniture and other contents all predate 1855. Extensive restoration work should be completed later this year. Visiting this oldest of Australian public buildings provided a fascinating contrast with the rustic Dairy Precinct. Our thanks to Shirley Hilyard and Richard Blair for putting a great day together.

Anne Walter

"I'M GOING A-MILKING, SIR" SHE SAID

The sunken milk room of the Dairy Precinct was the exciting find during investigations of the site. Being underground and enclosed by thick brickwork, it was ideal for the storage of milk and its by-products. We saw the remaining section of a brick bench that evidently ran around the room for settling the pans of milk and the preparation of butter, cheese etc. Could the arched opening under the bench have been a fireplace for heating the milk to make clotted cream?

The brochure told us that Elizabeth Eccles, *a first fleet ex-convict lived and worked there for many years as a dairy maid and reputedly died in the cottage in 1835 aged 105* (though another source states she died aged 96 in 1838). Further research showed that as Elizabeth Bird she was given seven years transportation for her part in the theft of a wether lamb at Rainham, Kent. She sailed on the *Lady Penrhyn* and in 1790 was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Sirius* where she lived with Thomas Eccles, also a convict. They returned to Port Jackson after a pardon in 1801 and lived on the farm that is now part of Parramatta Park.

Shirley Hilyard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY APRIL 22 10.30 AM

The notable life of Mary Reibey as told by historian and author Nance Irvine OAM

SATURDAY MAY 27

Museum of Sydney on the site of the First Government House

A visit to this yet-to-be-opened museum where we will explore fascinating stories about Sydney and its place in the world, past and present.

SUNDAY MAY 28 3 PM

Prescott Series Recital Two

Prescott Hall in Newington College

Favourite trios, duets and song from the Romantic Masters from three highly acclaimed artists.

SATURDAY JUNE 24 10.30 AM

Annual General Meeting

Support your enthusiastic executive committee by attending this most important meeting. Perhaps you may wish to be elected to the new committee. Champagne and sandwiches to follow.

SATURDAY JULY 22

Francis Greenway in the country with Clive Lucas

Last July Clive Lucas led us on a tour of *Francis Greenway in the city*. Join Clive for the sequel when we venture by coach to Windsor and Liverpool to complete the study of Macquarie's man Greenway and his elegant buildings.

PETERSHAM AND THE MICK JAGGER CONNECTION!

Revelations on Radio 2BL and in the Sydney Morning Herald (11/3/95) that Mick Jagger's mother Eva was born in Petersham and that Mick has cousins living in Sydney attracted interest during the recent tour of the seemingly immortal Rolling Stones. It appears Mick's maternal grandparents, the Scutts, came to Australia in the early 1900s and lived in three houses in the Petersham area before returning to England in 1917, except for Jagger's grandfather Alfred who stayed on because of his work at Garden Island as part of our war effort. It is not clear when Alfred returned to England, however in Sands 1924 Directory an A A Scutts is listed at 379 New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill, close to the Petersham boundary.

So, where was Mick's mum born and where else did the family live? Come on you local historians and allow the editor to get some satisfaction over this mystery!

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS MARRICKVILLE MEMORIES: WE NEED YOUR HELP!



As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, Marrickville Heritage Society has received a grant as part of the *Australia Remembers* project to conduct oral history interviews and publish a book of experiences of ordinary people who between 1939 and 1945 lived, worked or went to school in the areas covered by our Society: Camperdown, Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Hurlstone Park, Lewisham, Marrickville, Newtown, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore, Sydenham or Tempe.

There are two main ways we need your help. Firstly, if you lived in these areas (or if you know of others who did) take a few minutes to think about your memories of the war years. Did you get married, work in a factory on war production or with a community group engaged on projects such as making camouflage nets or knitting woollen socks? How did you cope with blackouts, air raid drills and rationing? What do you remember about the Addison Road Army Depot and Recruitment Centre? How did you celebrate the end of the war? What was life *really* like for people who lived in our area?

Many experiences you may consider *ordinary* or of *no interest to anybody else because everybody knows about it* are important. The war ended fifty years ago and since that time at least two generations have grown up and may know nothing of your experiences. What is important is not just the *grand sweep of history*, generals, politicians and the like, but also the day-to-day lives of ordinary locals.

You don't have to be a member of the Marrickville Heritage Society to be part of this project. Your friends, relatives and neighbours are welcome to participate.

However, there are many of us who did not live through those years. Don't despair! We are also seeking MHS members to conduct the interviews. We will arrange a training session for volunteers and the necessary recording equipment will be provided. No prior experience is required, just some of your time along with an interest in people, history and the Marrickville Municipality. I'm sure we all have that.

To get involved or if you want more information, please ring either Lesley Jones on 569 9281 or Angela Phippen on 564 6370 outside working hours.

Angela Phippen

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