



The Arms Chronicle

Cnr. Gardenia Ave, Great Western Highway,
Emu Plains, NSW 2751, Australia. Tel 02 4735 4394
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 2pm
1st Sunday 1 - 4pm, 3rd Sunday 10am - 2pm



No 105

October 2017

A home for our Wagons

(The following article by Krystyna Pollard appeared in the Penrith City Gazette last month.)



Protection from the storm: Cr Marcus Cornish with Tony Grainge and Rosemary Weaver in the current accommodation for the society's historic wagons.

Nepean District Historical Society (NDHS) will receive \$15,000 in funding to help protect its precious collection of historic wagons.

The Society owns a collection of 10 historic wagons dating from 1902, which are on display at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum in Emu Plains.

However, some accommodation for the wagons is sub-standard and exposes them to the elements.

Society patron, Cr Marcus Cornish, moved at the August 28 council meeting that \$5,000 from each of Penrith City Council's three wards be provided to fund an enclosure for the collection.

"[The society] has the largest wagon collection of any museum in NSW that is basically under a tarp," he told the meeting.

NDHS vice president Rosemary Weaver welcomed the funding, saying that antiques like the oldest wagon in the society's collection – the 1902 Swains Merchant Wagon – needed to be preserved.

"If they are not protected properly they are just going to break up," she said.

KRISTYNA POLLARD

October's Guest Speaker



Peter Sweeney

Peter Sweeney will talk to us about **The Bombing of Northern Australia - 1942.**

Peter, who lives in Lawson in the Blue Mountains, is a retired Australian Army Reserve lieutenant colonel, military historian and battlefield guide.

He served for 35 years in the Reserves as an infantry officer and was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration for his service.

Peter is currently studying a Master's Degree in Military History through the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra.

He is a director of the battlefield touring company Battle Honours Australia Pty Ltd., and in November, he joins a Sun Princess Cruise to Guadalcanal as an enrichment speaker on Australian military history.

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The Reverend Richard Johnson 1756 - 1827

by Richard Nutt

The signing of the treaty of Paris on the 3rd of the September 1783 was to end the American Revolutionary War. It took place at the Hotel York between Great Britain, with representatives of King George III, the United States of America and its main supporters France, Spain and the Dutch Republic.

It was particularly pleasing for King Louis XVI and the French as it was revenge for the Seven Years War which had seen tumultuous times and for now things seemed to be settling down. On the 19th of December 1783, Great Britain got a new Prime Minister, the 24 year old William Pitt, its youngest ever. He went by the title of younger as his farther had also been Prime Minister from the 30 July 1766 to 14 October 1768. Both served under King George III, Great Britain's third longest reigning monarch.

Under Pitt's government a decision was made 1786 to establish a penal colony in New South Wales or New Zealand, maybe it was from James Cook's journal or a glowing account by Sir Joseph Banks that the site of Botany Bay was finally chosen.

The reasoning behind such a venture was that the Americans would not take any more convicts and Britain's prisons were full to overflowing. Also, Britain needed a place for careening and repairing ships, resting crews, watering and to supply food. Britain also needed a place where flax for sail making and timber for ship's masts could be had (Norfolk Island), and a base for whaling and sealing. In other words Britain looked to the sea as much as the land, and it was keen to deny old enemies and old rivals, particularly the French and Spanish.

This colony could serve a number of purposes and replace the one so recently lost, so now the stage was set for the establishment of a colony on the other side of the world.

Eleven ships were made to transport the people and equipment for this venture. There was the administration for the running of the operation with the Governor in the top position, the convicts to do most of the heavy work and the marines to guard the convicts and protect the colony. All seemed to be in place, but one detail had been totally overlooked: what about the souls of the most abandoned among us?

This had not been noticed until a chance meeting between William Pitt and his friend William Wilberforce, who asked who would be the chaplain in charge in New South Wales. Obviously it had not been talked about so the decision was left up to a non-denominational Christian organisation known as the Eclectic Society to find somebody. Two of its most notable members were John Newton an ex-slave trader who wrote the hymn Amazing Grace, and William Wilberforce, who was to bring about the end of slavery in Britain and its Empire.

This Eclectic Society was an evangelical Christian society eager to spread God's word and save souls. Its eventual choice for a chaplain was to be a Richard Johnson born in Welton, Yorkshire about 1756. First when asked would he be the cleric in charge in the new colony he was shocked and overawed by the proposal and his first reaction was to say no, but on reflection his fears were to melt away and he was to take up the challenge. Some people, more by accident than design, are thrown onto the stage of world history. Their parts may seem small at the time but looking back are



Golden Grove



Richard Johnson painted by Irene Madei of Avery Pierce, a re-enactment man.

unique - such is the case of Richard Johnson, a man of God and a cleric of the Church of England and later to become the first man of the cloth to preach in Australia.

Richard was a very committed young man who was to take his work very seriously and with some help from friends he found himself a wife, a like minded person by the name of Mary Burton. Together they set forth on the supply ship the *Golden Grove*, armed with Bibles, pamphlets and a pile of literature to help them in their work in this far-off place.

They arrived in their new home of Sydney cove in January 1788 and the first ever church service was held on Sunday the 3rd of February 1788 under a very large tree, somewhere between George St and Macquarie Place. A monument now roughly marks the place. The reverend Johnson gave his first sermon based on Psalm 116 v 12 *What Shall I Render Unto The Lord For All His Benefits Towards Me*. It was meant as a thanks for deliverance and a safe journey.

Richard was keen to get on with his work of salvation. He wanted to build a church and hold services, educate and instruct convicts and their children and get on with the kind of work he was meant to do. Governor Phillip, on the other hand, had made it his main concern to found the colony, protect and establish the food supply, build shelters, feed and clothe the workforce, in short the colony had to succeed. He had little time for the building of churches and the saving of men's souls. That could come at a later period as for the present no man (or woman) could be spared from the more immediate work at hand.

If things were bad under Governor Phillip they got even worse under acting Governor, Lieutenant Francis Grose, who was openly hostile to him. The Reverend Johnson showed his great humanity when he attended to sick convicts in the famine years and survivors of the Second Fleet. Had it not been for his intervention, many more would have died. He often supplied food from his own stores.

He built his church in 1793 with convict help out of wattle and daub. It could hold 500 people and his wife Mary ran a school teaching 150 to 200 children, all this at his own expense as he was tired of waiting for the Government. However this church burnt down in 1798. He did receive help from an assistant preacher, the Reverend Samuel Marsden, as life was busy for Richard riding his horse between Sydney and Parramatta. Richard and his wife Mary had a still born child in 1788, a daughter Milbah on the 3 March 1790 and a son Henry Martin on the 19 July 1792. They also took on an orphaned aboriginal named Baraboo.

Another one of his attributes was his farming. Watkin Tench referred to him as the best farmer in the colony. He made a journey to Norfolk Island in October 1791 where he conducted marriages and baptisms. He was always a busy man with much self doubt. In his work he attended to the needs of condemned men and the dying, but all this took a toll on his health, so in October 1800 he took leave and returned to England. He was never to return to the colony. No formal resignation due to ill health was presented until March of 1802.

He continued in clerical duties in England. In 1812 Johnson gave evidence to the select committee of the House of Commons on the subject of transportation. He died in 1827 his wife Mary in 1831 their daughter Milbah, died earlier than both her parents. Their son Henry married but did not have children. The orphan aboriginal girl Baraboo who had been adopted, discarded the trappings of white civilisation and returned to her own people. The controversial Reverend Samuel Marsden was to take the place of the first man of the cloth to ever preach in Australia.



Monument in Johnson Square in Sydney on the site of the first church service in 1788.



THE NEW SOUTH WALES CORPS OF MARINES INC.



Left Behind: Aboriginal Soldiers and the Boer War

by John Staats

President, NSW Corps of Marines

Indigenous Australians have a proud service record as members of the Australian Defence Force. They have served in all major conflicts since Federation and, prior to Federation, Aboriginal Australians served with Australian colonial forces in the Boer War. By the time the Boer War ended in 1902 'Australia' was no longer a colonial aggregation, but a nation. Few are aware that Aboriginal soldiers from the Boer War were among the unexpected 'casualties' in the transition to nationhood. Recent research from Griffith University suggests that, in a terrible ironic twist, that First Australian soldiers from the Boer War may have been barred from returning home by the application of one of the first pieces of legislation passed by the fledgling nation: The Immigration Restriction Act (otherwise known as 'The White Australia Policy').

A Nasty, Modern War

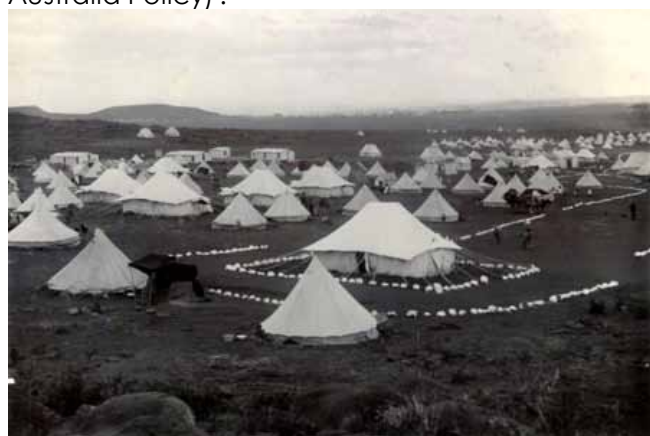
The Boer War marks the arrival of a modern style of conflict. It was a war where the outnumbered Boer commandos fought using guerrilla tactics. The Boers were natural bushmen, adept in the saddle and with the rifle; they knew the land and made effective use of terrain for ambush and hit and run tactics against the conventional, slow moving British forces. Un-uniformed, quick to mobilise and concentrate, the Boers could strike and disperse quickly, melting back to their farmlands before the British could respond. The Boers made good use of the German Mauser rifle (effective at 2,000 yards) and, with smokeless cartridges, became deadly snipers.

The British responded with overwhelming force and ruthless brutality. Summoning an imperial force of 250,000 troops (16,000 from the Australian colonies) the British came to employ unconventional tactics to respond to an unconventional foe. A scorched-earth policy (destroying Boer farms, food supplies and support networks) relocation of Boer families to concentration camps, control of the countryside through Blockhouses, barbed wire and sweeper operations and, allegedly (via the famous Breaker Morant Case) the summary execution of Prisoners of War ('Rule 303') were all part of the British offensive to break the Boer resistance.

Another British 'innovation' was to seek from the colonies the help of expert native trackers and scouts to locate the elusive Boer commandos. In 1901, the first Prime Minister of Australia, Edmund Barton responded to a request from Lord Kitchener, British Commander in Chief for the Boer War, and sent 50 trackers to serve in South Africa.

Extraordinary Trackers

The trackers were sourced from all over Australia and were probably black trackers - Aboriginal police - who had served with the colonial authorities. We know very few of their names. Aboriginal people's names were not recorded on passenger ship manifests. Some may have used aliases and in many cases 'race' was information that was not captured in official records. An account of one Aboriginal tracker, sent to the Boer War from Queensland, survives. His name was 'Billy'. The story is told of how English officers doubted the Australians' claims that Billy could track, on foot, anyone, over any terrain, over any distance. The Australians challenged the British to put 'their money where their mouths were' and bets were taken. Five English soldiers, two on foot and three mounted



Concentration Camps were invented by the British as a strategy to defeat the Boers.



Harry 'Breaker' Morant. Court martialled and executed for war crimes. A symbol of the brutality of the Boer War. Source Wikipedia.

headed into the countryside, choosing barren, rocky terrain to traverse. Billy tracked them all, and returned with verifiable proof he had located each of them (including one who had abandoned his horse and climbed up a tree to hide).

Aboriginal Australians served not only as expert trackers, but also as horse-breakers and mounted infantry in the Boer War. We know a handful of their names - Rossiter, Alick, Madigan, Davis, King, Armstrong, Grogan, Searle, Jerome and Polson - and they proved to be more than a match for the bush skills and horsemanship of the Boer Commandos.

Left Behind

The Boer War ended in 1902. By then Australia had introduced The Immigration Restriction Act which, ironically, was modelled on the South African Immigration Restriction Act of 1897 of the defeated Boer state of Natal. Under the Australian immigration act indigenous Australians who were not officially enlisted (like trackers and horse breakers) were required to pay their own passage back to Australia and apply, as non-Europeans, for a permit to re-enter their own country.

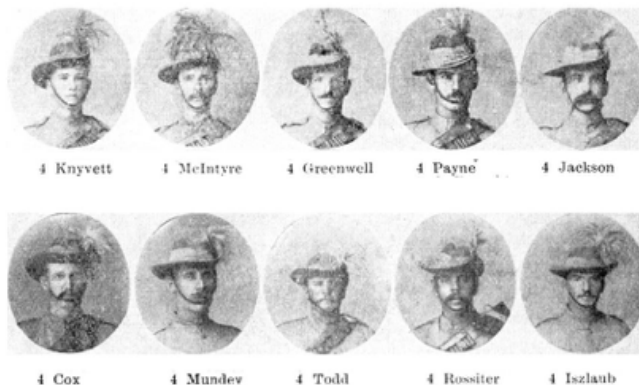
The evidence that Aboriginal trackers were left behind in South Africa comes from the 1907 correspondence of George Valder, an official responsible for repatriating Australians stuck in South Africa after the Boer War. He wrote concerning two Aboriginal applicants seeking repatriation, reminding the authorities that they fell under The Immigration Restriction Act. There is no record of whether the pair were successful in their bid to return home.

Keith Windschuttle, historian, disputes the notion that Aboriginal people seeking re-entry into Australia would have been prevented from doing so by the White Australia Policy. The problem for Windschuttle's argument is that Aboriginal people were not specifically exempted from the application of The Immigration Restriction Act. Furthermore how the Act was applied in practice, in particular the dictation test (which could be in any European language at the discretion of immigration officials) meant that Aboriginal Australians returning from the war could find themselves at the mercy of zealous immigration officers – a problem exacerbated by the fact that many indigenous Australians had no formal schooling and were listed as being able to 'make their mark', but not write.

There is every possibility that some of the Aboriginal Australians who served in the Boer War either willingly, or unwillingly, remained in South Africa. We do not know how many of the 50 Aboriginal Trackers, sent to South Africa, returned. The uncertainty of their fate is a reminder that we need to do more to remember the military service of our indigenous Australians.

References

John Maynard, "'Let us go' ... it's a 'Blackfellows' War': Aborigines and the Boer War" - <http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p332783/pdf/article07.pdf> - <http://treatypublic.net/content/50-aboriginal-trackers-left-behind-after-boer-war> - <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s2914322.htm> - <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/04/04/aust-trackers-forgotten-foreign-land>



A special thank you

'For the past few months I have been prevented due to continuing illness, unable to contribute fully as Booking Officer for the NDHS in respect of School Groups, Devonshire Teas and Tours and the Open Day.

I feel several people in particular apart from our regular volunteers deserve a special mention of thanks Those I would personally like to thank are:

Trish Montgomery, Rosemary Weaver, Elsa Speechley, Ted Nowak, Connie Cogle Jenny Hoptop, Elaine Thomson, Tony Grainge, Margaret Collier, Marie and John Vivani and Linda Bryant.

They stepped up in my absence to ensure the continued smooth running of the Arms of Australia Inn Museum for which I am sincerely grateful.'

Carmel Heywood
Booking Officer

BY A SMALL LAGOON OF FRESH WATER

by John Low

On the night of 25 April 1815 Captain Henry Antill, ADC to Governor Lachlan Macquarie, slept in his clothes and rose the following morning as daylight broke. Later, with a fine autumn day unfolding, the Macquarie 'caravan' began its grand tour of the new road across the Mountains.

"About 5 ½ miles", scribbled Antill in his journal, "[we] came to the first depot established by Mr. Cox ... A small guard of soldiers are stationed here in a good log hut with two rooms, one of which answers as a store. It is placed about 100 yards on the right of the road, near a small lagoon of fresh water. The soldiers had enclosed a small piece of ground for a garden ... laying it out in little harbours and seats formed from the surrounding shrubbery, which gave the place an appearance of comfort and simplicity."

Nine months earlier, in July 1814, William Cox's first supply depot at the edge of what is now Glenbrook Lagoon had just been completed and the road-building party's provisions and military guard transferred there from the Nepean. This small squad of soldiers were all drawn from Macquarie's Veteran Company based at Windsor and most were over the age of 35. An exception, though, was the sergeant in command, 28 year-old William Bounds who, subsequent events suggest, had serious health problems.

Born in Leicester (UK), Bounds was already in a veteran battalion stationed at Portsmouth's Fort Cumberland when he enlisted as a Private with the NSW Corps in 1807. He arrived in Sydney on the 'Recovery' in July 1808 and two years later, when the Corps was returned to England, joined those who preferred to remain in Australia as part of a specially created Royal Veteran Company. In 1812, still a private, he was granted the *brevit* (temporary) rank of sergeant and joined Cox's road party on the Blue Mountains.

Sadly, any pleasure in his 'promotion' was short-lived for, on 26 August 1814, William Cox, returning to the Mountains after a week's absence at his property 'Clarendon', stopped at William Martin's farm near Castlereagh and found the body of his sergeant, "he having died the day before". Cox immediately "sent to Windsor to the sergeant commanding there for a coffin and party to bury him at Castlereagh, but Sergeant Ray sent for the corpse to bring it to Windsor. Wrote to the Governor for another sergeant, and sent back Corporal Harris to the depot, where to remain until relieved."

The road uppermost in his mind, Cox's journal record of the death of his young sergeant is unemotional, practical and matter-of-fact and includes no indication as to cause. As work on the Western Road continued apace, Bounds was buried at Windsor in the churchyard of the original St. Matthew's Anglican Church. His grave is unmarked and its location unknown.

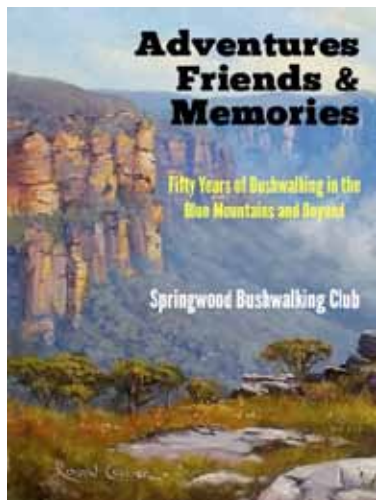
It is not with Windsor or Castlereagh, however, that I associate his memory. William Bounds most likely died at the depot by the lagoon where he was stationed, with the birds and the trees and the wind around him, his body brought down to Martin's by Corporal Harris. Now a much larger body of water than was known to him (it was dammed in the 1880s for railway use), Glenbrook Lagoon is still a peaceful place where people walk, reflect, watch the birds – and maybe give a nod to Sergeant Bounds. But, perhaps not, for few have heard of this young man, the only one of Cox's men to die during the construction of the Western Road.



Glenbrook Lagoon

John Low (grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com)

(First published in 'Hut News', newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society)



Adventures, Friends and Memories by Springwood Bushwalking Club

Springwood Bushwalking Club is concluding a year of celebrations for its 50th anniversary with the launch of their Club memoir entitled **“Adventures, Friends and Memories.”**

This book captures some of the many adventures SBC members have experienced, and celebrates the wonderful memories those adventures have provided. Through the club and its activities, members have formed many lifelong friendships.

This book is full of amusing stories, anecdotes and photos from throughout its life. It includes the way the club has changed over the years, as well as reminiscences from former and current members.

Each decade of the club is covered extensively, including details of day and extended trips, travel, conservation and social activities, membership, gear and incidents.

The final chapters highlight the Life members of SBC and its 50 year celebrations to date.

Anyone who has been a member of SBC will enjoy reading and remembering some of these sojourns into the bush. Those who are not SBC members will be inspired to enjoy the outdoors in a similar way.

Cost \$25 per book (plus \$12 for postage if required)

To order a copy send a bank transfer to the SBC Special Purpose Account - St George Bank, BSB 112 879, Acc. No. 412 429 591 and sent an email advising your name, contact no. and address & how many books (+ postage if required) you have ordered to info@springwoodbushwalker.org.au.



A Cavalcade of History and Fashion Presentation

“Fabulous Fifties”

The Cavalcade of History and Fashion is a collection of original historic gowns and accessories with provenance, dating from the 1700s preserving Australia’s social and fashion History. Glimpse into the lives of the modern housewives and the teenagers of the 1950s.

Delight in the glamour and style of the career woman of this era and listen to snippets of our social history as told through the lives of the original wearers of these gowns.

A Cavalcade presentation is a themed talk and includes examples from the collection with commentary.

Items are carried amongst the audience, allowing a closer look at pieces from the collection.



Timeline
Photography ©
Cavalcade.

Saturday 14th October 2017 at 2pm

Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewers Bequest Sonia Farley 1 Studio
86 River Rd, Emu Plains.

Cost: \$25 which includes afternoon tea provided
by Cafe at Lewers

Bookings essential
Pay on the day, cash only
To reserve your seat please contact

Fiona Knoke
phone: 4732 8702
email: Fiona.knoke@penrith.city



SUNDAY ROSTER

October

Sunday 1 Jan & Joan
 Sunday 15 Tony & Paul

November

Sunday 5 Craig & Richard
 Sunday 19 Ken & Elsa

December

Sunday 3 Craig & Tony
 Sunday 17 Richard & Harry

December 18 to January 8, 2018

Closed for Christmas break.

Please note that the inn alarm is now on.

If you can't make your duty day, please try to change with somebody who can.

Please remember to sign in the diary in the meeting room, and write any information in the diary pertinent to your time on duty.

Raffle Prizes

Marie Viviani always needs raffle prizes, so if you can help in providing some, please call Marie on 4735 6780, or take them to the inn.

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- Colour Brochures
- Booklets
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- Embellishing
- Mail and Distribution
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NOTICE BOARD

Monday October 2nd

Labour Day Holiday (Arms of Australia Inn Closed)

Wednesday October 18th

355 Committee Meeting

Saturday October 28th

N. D. H. S. Meeting & Management Meeting

Sunday 5 November

Blacktown & District Historical Society D'Ts

Saturday 25 November

NDHS Meeting

Monday 4 December

Volunteers Lunch

Saturday 9 December

Christmas Party 5pm

Wednesday 13 December

355 Committee Meeting

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