The Granville Guardian

Patron Laurie Ferguson M.P. B.Ec.(Syd) M.A.(Syd)

The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 23 October 2006 at the Granville Neighbourhood Centre
2 Carlton Street Granville
Executive Meeting 6.30 pm

Speaker:
COLIN HUMPHREYS
"Thomas Irons – Industrialist and Civic Leader"

Our Centre is open every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm for personal research, and on the fourth Saturday of the month between 1 pm and 4 pm for research and scrapbooking. Visitors and members of family history societies are welcome.
A fee of $5 applies for non-members.

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Responsible Government in NSW.
William Hutchinson, former convict and leading citizen.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The end of the year is nigh! Do you realise that it is nearly Christmas? Five members attended the Royal Conference on the weekend; a good time was had by all. Colin Humphreys will have a report for you in this issue.

The passing of one of our members, Henry Hamilton, recently was very sad; the society was well represented at his funeral service. We will miss his friendly face - he was a thorough gentleman. His obituary will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.

Congratulations to our Research Officer and Vice-President Stephanie Humphreys on completing studies for the Advanced Diploma in Local Family and Applied History at the University of New England. Stephanie was presented with the award at a graduation ceremony on the UNE Campus at Armidale on Saturday 7th October 2006. Stephanie and her husband Colin joined the Society in 2002 after she had approached us for assistance in researching the history and architecture of St Mark's Church for a university assignment. She later sought help with another assignment, a heritage study of the Vietnam Veterans Association building, 8 Mary Street, Granville. Stephanie has researched and written an article for this issue on William Hutchinson, who has family links with Granville. Hutchinson Street Granville is named after him.

The research and preparation for the display in February is taking shape. Work is progressing gradually; does anyone have information on the famous people who lived in Granville? We will be having a meeting with Gay Hendrickson from the Parramatta Heritage Centre and the Burnside Homes on the 27th of October to discuss the display.

Barry Bullivant, OAM, President.

To contact us: Write to P.O. Box 320 Granville 2142 Or Email granvillehistorical@bigpond.com

"OLD IRONBARK" - WILLIAM LAWSON

The speaker at our September meeting was Hazel McGann who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the explorer and pastoralist, William Lawson, known as "Old Ironbark". Hazel has been researching the Lawson family for several years and has collected a wealth of family history information and photos, some of which she shared with us in her presentation.

William Lawson was born in 1774 at Finchley in Middlesex, England, to Scottish parents. The family's Scottish roots can be tracked back to 1431. William Lawson trained as a surveyor and after buying a commission in the New South Wales Corps in London, arrived in Sydney in 1800. He was sent to Norfolk Island where he married Sarah Leadbeater, who had been transported at the age of 16 for stealing clothing. On his return to Sydney, he began to acquire property, including a farm at Concord. Lawson is best known for his involvement with Blaxland and Wentworth in the first successful attempt to find a route across the Blue Mountains. Blaxland probably chose him for the crossing because of his knowledge of surveying. Having found that historic route, Lawson went on to have a leading role in opening up the country, and acquired extensive pastoral estates in the Bathurst and Mudgee districts. He was also involved in the early settlement at Prospect in Western Sydney. Lawson had received a grant of 500 acres of land at Prospect Hill in 1808, and built a 40 room colonial mansion which he called Veteran Hall. The house was demolished in 1928. He was a prime figure in the establishment of St Bartholomew's Church on Prospect Hill; he and his son Nelson were Trustees of the church when tenders were called for its construction in 1838.

William Lawson died in 1850 and was buried in the St Bartholomew's churchyard. Hazel McGann says she plans to write a book on Lawson called "Ironbark and His Branches".

RAHS CONFERENCE

Your society was well represented at the Royal Australian Historical Society's 2006 Local History Conference on Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 October last, with a delegation comprising President Barry Bullivant, Secretary June Bullivant, Treasurer Daphne Wiles and Committee members Colin and Steph Humphreys.

The conference theme was "Roads, Rates and Records, Covering the Neighbourhood" and Carol Liston, Associate Professor of History at the University of Western Sydney, gave the keynote address. With the Sesqui-centenary of Responsible Government and the Centenary of Local Government being celebrated this year, she provided an overview of the Constitutional Development of Government in New South Wales from 1856 to 1906.

Parliamentary government began in New South Wales in 1824 with the appointment of the first Legislative Council – an advisory body with limited

powers. Before that, the Governor of the colony had absolute power. The Council was reconstituted in 1843, with 24 members elected on a property-based, white male suffrage, and 12 appointed by the Governor.

Responsible government was introduced in 1856 when a new Parliament comprising a Legislative Council of no fewer than 21 members nominated by the Governor, and an elected Legislative Assembly of 54 members, replaced the existing Legislative Council. Voters had to be men over 21 who met a modest property or income qualification. This qualification was abolished by 1858 legislation, which also introduced the secret ballot. Pay for Members of Parliament did not come in until 1889. Women were not allowed to vote until 1902, and were not eligible to stand for parliament until 1918.

The first attempt to establish local councils in New South Wales took place in 1842. In a paper entitled "State Records and Local Government Records" presented at the conference, Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access, at State Records, said 29 district councils were established by the 1842 legislation. The Municipalities Act of 1858 allowed for the establishment of a municipality on the petition of at least 50 residents of the area. Opponents could object with a counter-petition. One hundred and 70 new councils were established in the next 40 years, including Granville in 1885. (Our library contains a list of the signatories in favour of the Granville petition). Incorporation was optional and did not become compulsory until 1906.

Researcher Rachel Grahame produced some interesting information on the makeup of women seeking office in local and state government. The move was usually a logical extension of a long-term involvement in community affairs. Research showed a common thread: a party official or employee, or if the candidate was standing for parliament, local government experience. In the case of a Labor Party candidate, an administrative position in a trade union, and a family connection, are other elements.

See the website: "Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches".

At 11 am on Saturday 14 October, to commemorate the Centenary of the Incorporation of Hornsby Shire Council, a plaque was placed and unveiled on the small cottage at 5 Jersey Road Hornsby, which was used as the first Council Chambers from 1906 to 1915. Professor Ian Jack, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society and Councillor Felicity Findlay, Deputy Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council unveiled the plaque, which briefly outlined the history of the shire and the use of the cottage.

The cottage, which was opened for inspection, has four rooms and a small back and front verandah. It is situated opposite the site of the first railway station at Hornsby and was originally the stationmaster's cottage. For the occasion a photographic display of historic buildings in the Hornsby Shire was on display in the cottage, and morning tea was served to those attending the ceremony.

THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY

When the authorities in England sentenced convicts to "Transportation Beyond the Seas", the future for these unfortunate men and women was bleak in the extreme - a short life of hard labour in a land far from their homes, separated from their families and all they had known and loved. But for some of these convicts, transportation was to lead to transformation, as enterprising men and women grasped the opportunities to create new, meaningful lives in colonial Sydney. One such man was William Hutchinson.

William Hutchinson was convicted in the Justice Hall of the Old Bailey in London on 22 June 1796 of stealing goods to the value of £40 and sentenced to death; this capital conviction was commuted to seven years transportation. He spent three years aboard the prison hulk *Newgate* in London before boarding the *Hillsborough* (the Fever Ship).[1] Although according to the Transport Commissioners the *Hillsborough* was a large roomy ship that had been fitted out on an approved plan, typhoid fever was carried aboard by convicts from the hulks, and 95 of the 300 prisoners died before the ship arrived in Sydney in 1799. William was among the survivors, who were described by Governor Hunter as "the most wretched and miserable convicts I have ever beheld, in the most sickly and wretched state".[2] William re-offended and was convicted of theft from the King's stores in Sydney and sent to Norfolk Island. [3]

Shortly after he arrived there, William met Mary Cooper (alias Chapman). Mary was 19 years of age when she received a capital conviction for a felony at Croydon, Surrey, on 7 August 1797 and was sentenced to fourteen years transportation. She arrived in Sydney aboard the *Britannia* on 18 July 1798. [4] William and Mary were married on 21 June 1801 by the Reverend Henry Fulton and they began their slow climb towards emancipation and respectability.[5] In January 1804 Mary gave birth to the first of the eight children she was to bear to William. Henry Fulton christened their daughter Charlotte on 16 January 1804.[6]

William was a butcher by trade, and by 1805 he was listed as being Free of Servitude and his occupation was given as stockkeeper, which is probably the reason that he was appointed an overseer of government stock. By 1809 he had been appointed as superintendent of convicts, and had acquired considerable property, which he enhanced by trade, being especially active in selling pork to the government. Mary gave birth to five more children while the family resided on Norfolk Island: Elizabeth 1806, William 1808, Mary 1809, Hannah 1811 and Sarah 1812.[7]

Lieutenant-Governor Foveaux recommended him to Governor Macquarie and for the final twelve months of his time on Norfolk Island William was appointed as the first civilian administrator, and was to play an important part in the evacuation of Norfolk in 1813-14.[8] When he returned to the mainland he was appointed principal superintendent of convicts and public works on a salary of £75 (which was raised to £100 in 1820) and became a close associate and confidant of the governor.[9] On 8 November 1817 he was appointed principal wharfinger of Sydney, but despite prolonged correspondence the British Government never confirmed this appointment.

After the family returned to the mainland, Mary attended St Phillip's Church of England, Sydney, to be "Churched", on 3 April 1814. This ancient service of Churching of Women was still a normal part of ecclesiastical practice within the established church, when a woman attended church to give thanks for her safe delivery after the birth of her children. The following month the five children were christened at St Phillip's Church on 15 May 1814. Martha was born at Sydney on 6 September 1815 the seventh child of William and Mary and christened on 29 October 1815 by William Cowper.[10] By the time of Martha's birth the family was residing in Sydney, and well on the way to being respectable members of the community. William was actively involved in the establishment in 1816 of the Bank of New South Wales, of which he was a director from 1829 until his death. He was a part owner with Samuel Terry of the Waterloo flour mill, a director of the Mutual Fire Insurance Association, and was actively involved in the concerns of the Sydney Public Free Grammar School, the Sydney College and the Benevolent Society.[11] He supported requests for trial by jury, and campaigned for fuller civil rights and was active in the formation of the Australian Patriotic Association.[12]

On 5 May 1817 Mary gave birth to her youngest son Richard Thomas. He was christened on 15 June and Mary was Churched on the same day.[13] Some time after Richard's birth Mary apparently returned to England; an entry dated 29 March 1819 in the Colonial Secretary Index noted Mary Hutchinson wife of Principal Superintendent was on a list of troops and passengers proceeding to England per "Shipley". As there is no record of her death in the colony it appears she died overseas.[14] William married Jane Roberts (the widow of William Roberts another emancipated convict who had created a new and successful life) at St James' Church of England, Sydney on 21 June 1825.[15] In the census taken in November 1828 the family were listed as householders of George Street, Sydney, William 54, Jane 45, Sarah 16, Martha 13, William 19 and Richard 12.[16] According to the entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Jane left William shortly after their marriage.[17]

William Hutchinson died on 26 July 1846, leaving goods and money of just under £20.000. He had properties with houses in George, Pitt, King, Campbell and Fort Streets, Sydney. He had property at Moss Vale, Mittagong, Sutton Forrest, at South Creek Hutchinson Farm 1,700 acres, Stoney Range Bringelly 350 acres, Golden Grove Farm Bong Bong 4,000 acres, Bargo 50 acres, Chippendale Estate and Umpleby's property in Melbourne. He left houses to his daughters and made bequests of £100 to the Sydney Infirmary and the NSW Benevolent Society. He bequeathed legacies of £1,000 to his sons William and Richard and £500 each to nine of his grandchildren. He also left legacies to Elizabeth Amelia Hart and Alfred Francis Hart of Windsor of £500 and £300. His life was a striking example of redemption, from convict beginnings to wealth and respectability.

Hutchinson Street Granville is named after him.[18]

[1] Society of Australian Genealogists, *Convicts to New South Wales 1788–1812 [Indents],* William Hutchinson, Ref. No. 17303. Certificate of Freedom No. 1622.

[2] C. Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868,* Brown, Son & Ferguson, Glasgow, 1969, pp. 167–169.

[3] *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* Vol. 1, A–H, 1788–1850, (eds), D. Pike, A.G.L. Shaw & C.M.H. Clark, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1966, pp. 574–575.

[4] S.A.G. *Convicts,* Mary Cooper (alias Chapman) Ref. No. 16934.

[5] Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, No. 505, William Hutchinson m. Mary Cooper, Ref. No. V18011 4A/1801.

[6] Entry No. 100 in Parish Records, Charlotte Hutchinson daughter of Wm. Hutchinson and Mary his wife 16 January 1804 by Henry Fulton.

[7] Entry Nos. 320, 321, 322, 323 & 324, the Hutchinson children were all Christened on 15 May 1814 at St Phillip's Church of England, Sydney.

[8] *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* p. 575.

[9] Ibid, p. 575.

[10] Entry No. 371 in Parish Records, Martha daughter of William and Mary Hutchinson, born at Sydney 6 September 1815, christened on 29 October 1815 by William Cowper.

[11] *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* p. 575.

[12] Ibid, p. 575.

[13] Entry No. 560 in Parish Records, Richard Thomas son of William and Mary Hutchinson, born at Sydney 5 May 1817, Christened 15 June 1817. Entry No. 533 in Parish Records for Churchings, Mary Hutchinson, 15 June 1817.

[14] State Records NSW: Colonial Secretary Index 1788–1825 Reel 6006; 4/3500 p. 58.

[15] Entry No. 3586 in Parish Records, St James' Church, Sydney, William Hutchinson, Widower m. Jane Roberts, Widow, 21 June 1825.

[16] 1828 Census, November, Ref. No. H 3022.

[17] *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* p. 575.

[18] State Records NSW: NSW Supreme Court Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; Probate Package 14/3227, No. 1728, W. Hutchinson 26 July 1846.