Now&Then 60 - February 2013

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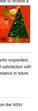
Online News

New digital Galleries

Travel and Adventure

This new gallery features a series of albums containing brochures and advertising pamphlets issued or distributed by the NSW Government Tourist Bureau. The albums document the major role played by the railways in facilitating and promoting tourism. They contain guides to locations in New South Wales, information on rail tours, samples of invitations and Christmas cards issued by the Railway Commissioner, menus, commemorative programmes and miniature versions of advertising posters relating to the railways, tour schedules, brochures, maps, tickets, timetables, day trips, and school cruises for boys and girls.



- Browse the gallery

War and Australia

A selection of resources highlighting New South Wales' involvement in a number of military conflicts during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The gallery will be updated progressively throughout the next five years leading up to the Gallipoli commemorations in 2015. We aim to highlight a selection of New South Wales State archives that reflect our involvement in a number of military conflicts including Sudan, Boer War, World War I, World War II.

- Browse the gallery

2012 Christmas Competition Winners!

Thank you to all of you who participated in the competition. We were bombarded with entries. The first 10 correct entries were eligible to receive a prize.

Congratulations to the following winners: C. Bradley, P. Trigg, M. Flanagan, C. Baker, J. Curtis, P. Armstrong, M. Dickson, S. Bond, S. Burton and V. Dench.

Well Done!

2012 Satisfaction Survey Results

State Records conducted its annual Satisfaction Survey between 10 October and 2 November 2012. A big thank you to everyone who responded, and although the total number of responses was much lower than previous years the responses show a very positive high level of satisfaction with both the reading room and our online services and facilities. Your feedback on our reading room and online services will be of assistance in future planning.

Probate and Divorce transfers from the NSW Supreme Court update

The NSW Supreme Court has finalised the recent transfer of Divorce files and Probate packets. There will be no more transfers from the NSW Supreme Court of divorce papers or probate packets for the immediate future.

Probate packets

We hold Probate packets, NRS 13660, for the period 1817 to 1976 (to packet no. Series 4-228670) and part of 1991 (100001/1955-100000/1985). To locate a probate reference conduct a simple search in Archives Investigator by the name of the person and the word 'death' in the title.

- For more information relating to probate records see Archives in Brief 54.

Divorce files

The transfer of NRS 13451 Divorce and matrimonial cause case papers has been successfully listed in Archives Investigator. We hold the divorce files dating from 1873 to 2000/1963 and 1/1975-6/2000/1976. To locate a reference do a simple search in Archives Investigator with the words 'Divorce' and surname of the petitioner or respondent.

- For information relating to divorce records see Archives in Brief 77.

Sentenced beyond the Seas update

Since we last corresponded Archives Outside has finished off one year, gone on summer hiatus and then come back to life! Before we left for the holidays we came up with a "first that's photo" game using State Records' new website Trove Gallery in the Travel and Adventure section.

Also included in the post is a list of our Top Ten posts for 2012 and our Unsolved Mysteries from the Islomania in Time Series.

We hit the ground running in the New Year with our involvement in publicising *State Records Sentenced beyond the Seas* exhibition on Australia Day. The exhibition was a great success and to sum it all up for those who couldn't be there we put together a roundup post.

Last but most definitely not least we have a new addition to one our favourite blog post series, 'Staff Picks'. **Soldiering in the late 19th Century** contribution comes from our Executive Officer, Jim Sinclair. The image shows Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) of what appears to be the 2nd Battalion, NSW Infantry, in the latter years of the 19th century, probably attending an Easter camp. Find out about Jim's interest in the image, Jim is also a member of State Records fundraising team "The Razor Gang" who are participating in the Worlds Greatest Shave 2013 which raises money for leukaemia.

- Flickr link to the photo

Flickr update

The latest additions include:

Cranbrook home on parade, Bellevue Hill (NSW):

Aerial Escort Water Pageant from Admiralty House

Public bearing after Procession - Sydney Harbour Bridge opening

Sergeants of the 2nd Regiment of the Voluntary Infantry NSW(VOLUNT)

Admiring the view

Bizzelle Pool Office, New South Wales Footballers(NSW)

If you don't have a Flickr account you can still browse these photos on Flickr, many of which are also available on Photo Investigator.

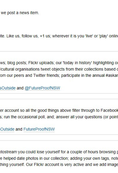
Treasures in the records - Tilly Devine's probate packet

In the 2012 August issue of Now&Then we highlighted the fact that we had recently received the 1942 Divorce file of Tilly Devine. In addition to the divorce file we have recently received the probate packet of Tilly Devine (Matilda Mary Parsons) date of death 23 November 1970. The probate packet includes an inventory of assets being valued at $11 000*. One of the beneficiaries was the son adopted during her second marriage. The two children of her first marriage had predeceased her.

Matilda Tilly (Tilly Devine) notoriously known as the 'Queen of Woolloomooloo' was born in Camberwell, London in 1900. She began working as a prostitute after she left school. Tilly sells flats, vaudeville, bookmaking and pimp and was soon earning good money. She ran a string of brothels centred around Darlinghurst and the Cross, and in particular, Palmer Street. Her clients with Kate Leigh during the 1920s and 1930s which lead to the famous Razor Gang wars 1927-31 has become even more well known because of the dramatisation of the story on the TV series Underbelly: Razor in 2011.

Tilly ran her Palmer Street brothel up until 1968 - just two years before her death. However, in the 1930s and 1940s, the scale and prominence of her operations lessened. In 1935 she had to pay more than £20,000 in income tax and fines. She had suffered from chronic bronchitis for twenty years when she died in Concord Repatriation General Hospital. Sydney; she was cremated with Catholic rites.

Click on the images below to see the larger image



Series 4-717442 Matilda Mary Parsons - Date of Death 23/11/1970, Granted on 24/03/1971

Searching for a reference

Conduct a 'Simple search' in Archives Investigator by typing the name of an individual in the Title field including the word 'death' in the title e.g. Matilda Parsons death.

For more information relating to Probate records see Archives in Brief 54.

- Digital Gallery of Tilly Devine and Razor Gang Wars 1927-31
- See the Australian Dictionary of Biography for more information on the life of Tilly Devine.

Spotlight on Surveyors' Sketch Books 1828-1890

Before the days of photography and aerial mapping technology, the most valuable tools used by the surveyor to record the lay out and features of a landscape included a sketch book and pencil. The Surveyors Sketch books is one of those series held within State archives that is under utilised yet a vital resource. They can be a valuable source of information for the local and family historian. This series dates from 1828-1890 and consists of 25 sketch books, all of which have been microfilmed onto fiches. The books are made up of hand drawn tracings and sketches pasted into volumes. The Surveyors dot the sketches often out in the field and then sent them to head office along with correspondence.

The tracings and sketches mostly relate to the following subjects: sketches and tracings of towns and villages and any proposed extensions and alterations of those towns, and of allotments sold or granted to various persons. Other sketches and tracings are of land, the ownership of which was in dispute, or of encroachments onto Crown lands, and of tracings of reserves through allotments, and of street alignments in towns. There are also tracings of land reserved for churches, schools, cemeteries and other public purposes. Included among the sketches are also lithographs of private sub-divisions and some architectural plans. These sketches and tracings were often the basis from which maps and plans were compiled.

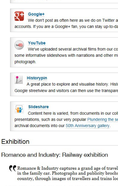
How to locate a sketch

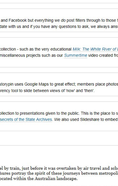
The first step in searching this series is to check the index (NRS 13957) which is on microfilm reel 2770 or in book format CO02298. The index is arranged alphabetically by area e.g. Camden, Cook County etc. A line description of each sketch is given in the index. The Index provides you with a volume number and sketch number. Once you have a volume and sketch number you can located the relevant microfilm reel number. TIP: Be careful as to which volume your sketch is located as there are 12 volumes each with their own alphabetical sequence.

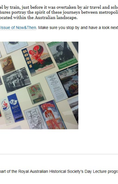
[NTH-75; microfilm copy SR Reels 2770-2775] 23 vols.

By searching for areas such as Carring Downs, Hartley, Wide Bay and Camden we were able to locate the below examples. Some of the sketches are dated. The Darling Downs sketch shows the starts squatting district. The annotations made by the surveyors can provide further interesting facts relating to the area at the time. There may also be correspondence references on the sketches which may possibly lead to further records or the reference to the map which the sketch was based on.

Click on the below images to open up a larger image.







- For more information see Archives in Brief 51 - The Surveyor General's cartographic and related records

Stay up-to-date with State Records

On our website

Subscribe to our website news - receive an email each time we post a news item.

Our social media channels

There are several places we 'haunt' online other than our website. Like us, follow us, +1 us, whenever it is you 'like' or 'play' online you might not have found us yet. Here's a list of where we are:

Twitter - @gamso
Follow us on Twitter for updates on the latest news, blog posts; Flickr uploads; our 'today in history' highlighting our archives, and the fun Archivesfactfinding game in which many archivists organisations have created objects from their collections based on the theme of the week. We also relayed interesting tidbits from our peers and Twitter friends, participate in the annual #ausarachivchrist day, and, sometimes we even tell bad jokes.
You can also follow our two blogs on Twitter: @ArchivesOutside and @FuturePropNSW

Facebook - smsw
Our Facebook account is connected to our Twitter account so all the good things above filter through to Facebook posts. Plus we share interesting posts and facts from our peers, run the occasional poll, and answer all your questions (or point you in the right direction if we can't help).
You can also 'like' our two blogs on Facebook: ArchivesOutside and FuturePropNSW

Flickr
With 2 200 images already uploaded to our photostream you could lose yourself for a couple of hours browsing photos of the past; reading comments from Flickr friends who have helped date photos in our collection; adding your own tags, notes and comments; and perhaps, even doing a bit of photo-sleuthing yourself. Our Flickr account is very active and we add images to our photostream every week.

Google+
We don't post as often here as we do on Twitter and Facebook but everything we do post filters through to those two accounts. If you are a Google+ fan, you can stay up-to-date with us and if you have any questions to ask, we always answer.

YouTube
We've uploaded several archival films from our collection - such as the very educational *Mitic: The Whole River of Life* - plus some informative slideshows with narrations and other miscellaneous projects such as our Summertime video created from just one photograph.

Historypin
A great place to explore and visualise history. Historypin uses Google Maps to great effect, members place photos onto Google streetview and visitors can then use the transparency tool to slide between views of 'now' and 'then'.

Slideshare
Content here is varied, from documents in our collection to presentations given to the public. This is the place to share presentations, such as our very popular Plundering the secrets of the State Archives. We also used Slideshare to embed digitised archival documents into our 10th Anniversary gallery.

Exhibition

Romance and Industry: Railway exhibition

> Romance & Industry captures a grand age of travel by train, just before it was overtaken by air travel and school holidays to the family car. Photographs and publicity posters from business partner the guild of these journeys between metropolis and country, through images of travellers and trains located within the Australian landscape.

We mentioned this revitalised exhibition back in the June 2012 issue of Now&Then. Make sure you stop by and have a look next time you're visiting the reading room!

Upcoming Talks and Tours

Reading Handwriting

Gail Davis will present this seminar on reading handwriting as part of the Royal Australian Historical Society's Day Lecture program.
6-7 February

Royal Australian Historical Society
History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney.
Contact: admin@rahs.org.au
Phone: (02) 9247 8001

Sentenced beyond the Seas: Australia's early convict records, 1788-1801

Janette Petrie will be speaking at the Botany Bay Family History Society meeting about Australia's early convict records in State Records' digitisation project Sentenced beyond the Seas.
14 February 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Botany Bay Family History Society; Bass and Flinders Room, Gymea Trades, Cnr Manchester Road and The Kingsway, Gymea
Contact: John Hely
Phone: (02) 9523 5948

Sentenced beyond the Seas: Australia's early convict records, 1788-1801

Janette Petrie will be speaking at the Society of Australian Genealogists about Australia's early convict records in State Records' digitisation project Sentenced beyond the Seas.
16 February 10.30am - 12.30pm
Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney
Contact: Society of Australian Genealogists
Phone: (02) 9247 3953