NowsThen 62 - June 2013

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We're having an Open Day in August

Mark it on your calendars! On 30 August we will be holding an Open Day

The theme of the Open Day is "DISCOVER". Talks will include convict transportation, the expansion of roads and railways through the Blue Mountains, transport for leisure, employment in transport, ferries and railway, bridge construction, to name just a few. The Open Day will include tours of the facility, conservation advice, small exhibitions, and a 'treasures of the archives' display. There will also be a display of vintage military vehicles. A number of genealogical organisations and historical societies will be holding information tables on the day.

We will be publicising the full program very soon, so keep an eye on our website for details and booking information!

Our last Open Day was in October 2011. See the Archives Outside blog post for a wrap up of the day.

Reading Room Closed on Monday 10 June

The Reading Room will be closed on Monday 10 June

Reading Room limited opening hours 3 to 14 June

Also note that until Friday 14 June public access to our Western Sydney Reading Room will be limited while we complete a dock tale to finalise the Collection Valuation. The opening hours will be Tuesday to Friday 10.30am to 1.30pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Online News

Additions to Digital Gallery: Weekend Hot A trip over the Blue Mountains

This digital gallery was prepared for the Blue Mountains Centenary celebrations of 2015 in mind. It contains European expression wallcard from Emu Plains to Bathurst. The latest installement of our digital Blue Mountains Gallery is now available: Towns Along the Highway. This section is split into three pages focussed on Lower, Mid and Upper Mountains.

Towns Along the Highway

Lower Mountains

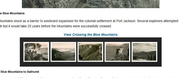
Included on this page: Emu Plains (at the foot of the mountains), Lapstone, Glenbrook, Blaxland (and Lennox Bridge), Wentworth, Valley Heights, Springwood, Faulconbridge

View the Lower Mountains

Mid Mountains

This page includes Linden, Woodford, Hazelbrook, Lawson and Bullaburra

View the Mid Mountains



Upper Mountains

included on this page: Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Blackheath, Megalong Valley and Mount Victoria

View the Upper Mountains

Previous installments in the Blue Mountains Gallery

The Great Western Railway Archive

Travel through the Blue Mountains was difficult for many years. It took at least two days by horse and carriage to reach Bathurst along Cox's Road. By mid-1867 the railway had been extended from Penrith to Wentworth Falls and by 1870 it reached all the way to Bathurst.

View The Great Western Railway archive

Crossing the Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains stood as a barrier to westward expansion for the colonial settlement at Port Jackson. Several explorers attempted to find a path through but it would take 23 years before the mountains were successfully crossed.

View Crossing the Blue Mountains

Beyond the Blue Mountains to Bathurst

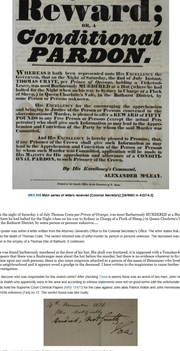
Located approximately 200km west of Sydney on the edge of the Great Dividing Range, Bathurst was Australia's first inland settlement. Governor Macquarie named it after the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Bathurst.

View Beyond the Blue Mountains to Bathurst

Travel and adventure - Happy Days brochure

This travel brochure entices the visitor and holiday maker to take a railway trip to the Blue Mountains. Shire. It gives a brief history of the crossing of the Blue Mountains and a tourist synopsis of interesting facts about the towns (including distance from Sydney and height above sea level and photos).

View the Happy Days tourist brochure



Additional entries in Index to Gaol Photographs

Photographs from the State Reformatory for Women have recently added to the Index to Gaol Photographs. The photographs are from the first photograph description books of the Reformatory, covering the period 1916-1930. Details of inmates shown in the index include name, year of birth, religious, type of photo and the information required to view the photograph (photograph number, item number and non-number). Microfilm copies of the photographs may be viewed in State Records' Western Sydney Reading Room. Copies of the images can also be ordered through our online ordering system and may be transferred to copy negatives.

Search the Index Online

Treasures found in the records

Reward 50 Pounds or a Conditional Pardon for information on the Barbarous murder of Thomas Crate

While searching the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, one of our regular researchers, Dr Terry Kass, came across a Reward poster dated 7 July 1836.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 7th July, 1836.

£50
Reward;
OR, A
Conditional
PARDON.

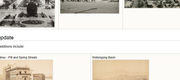
WHEREAS it hath been represented unto His Excellency the Governor, that on the night of the 5th instant, one THOMAS CRATE, was murdered by Person or Persons unknown, hailing a Vehicle in the Road between Parramatta and Liverpool, His Excellency hath deemed the Night when so slowly to Mother Earth buried, a Fitted one, to offer a Reward of Fifty Pounds, to be Bestowed Thereon, to any Person or Persons unknown.

His Excellency do the contrasting the opprobrious and subjacent Nature of the Perpetrator Perceived by the Deed, to Grant a Free Pardon to any Person or Persons, who will Declare to Pen Pounds to any Free Person or Persons (except the Perpetrator) who may Hereafter Prove Sufficient Information, to Lead to the Apprehension and Conviction of the Party by whom the said Murder was Committed, and His Excellency is hereby pleased to promise, that, if any Prisoner of the Crown shall be the Person who may lead to the Apprehension and Conviction of the Person or Persons, who Committed the said Murder, he will Grant a Free Pardon to the Offender for the apprehension and attainment of a CONDITIONAL PARDON, to such Prisoner of the Crown.

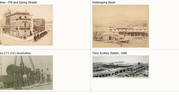
By His Excellency's Command,
ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Printed at Sydney, by Stephen Lee.

NRS 868 Main series of letters received (Colonial Secretary) [1826/60] in 4/2314.3


"On the night of Saturday 5 of July Thomas Crate per Prince of Orange, was most Barbarously MURDERED at a Place between Parramatta and Liverpool, Information is wanted by the Crown in Charge of a Party of Sheep (in Queen Charlotte's Vale, in the Bathurst District), for some previous or present addition."

The reward poster was written a letter written from the Attorney General's Office to the Colonial Secretary's Office. The letter states that an inquest was held into the death of Thomas Crate. The verdict returned was of wilful murder by persons or persons unknown. The deceased was a Friend of Lieutenant Archer in the employ of a Thomas Allen of Bathurst. It continues:


"On one hand Authentically manifested of the deed of Sin, but, Blind was Bestowed, it is supposed with a Foreskeith. It appears that there was a Bushranger seen about the fact before the murder, but there is no evidence whatever to the Contrary, and the Prisoner Bushranger Bolton, who Confessed to Murder, Robbery, and Bushranging, Declared to the magistrate and it appears proved, perhaps to the demand, I have written to the magistrates to cause further Enquiry."

So did Mrs Bolton who was responsible for this violent crime? After checking Trove it seems there was an arrest of two men, John Hennessey and a Patrick Malone who apparently were in the area and according to witness statements were not on good terms with the unfortunate Thomas Crate. We do have the Supreme Court Criminal Papers (SRS 1327) for the case against John alias Patrick Walsh and John Hennessey dated 1 November 1836 reference 2 Feb no. 17. The verdict found were Not Guilty.

The identity of the persons responsible for this violent crime remains a mystery to this day.

Archives Outside blog update

This past few months have featured a series of posts from guest blogger, Jenny Scoggall (Archivist, Archives Control).

Arcric Day

To mark Arcric Day (the cold season for something completely different and feature) a post on shorter (max 3 hours) Art and Workplace Signs

"...a collection of signs found in the background of images of the Aircraft Production Factory at the 20th Government Railways Chullora Workshops. Photographs were taken between 1940 and 1945. Some of these signs are clear, but there could be a daily reminder on dull days just between part of the lunacy. One safety signage is not: Accident Prevention."

A Dogeared album?

Our photo collection has received the mystery of a photo album that has long been part of our collection. The album, NRS 10344 Photographs of Sydney and Blue Mountains 1890 and 1900 includes photos of Sydney Harbour and environs, major buildings in Sydney, provincial centres and rural New South Wales. Apparently bought by the Nedlands Dispensary from J.J. Dagleish an undertaker if they were the work of the factory photographer father John Dagleish Senior.

Valuable for other reasons: The Survival (or not) of glass negatives

"Glass is generally more stable from a conservation viewpoint than film when used as the support or medium for a negative (despite the brittleness of glass)"

Which makes hardy Barnie's essay: why no image or records survive? very interesting reading...

Read more »

Monuments in Time

Our photographic detective series Can you date? continues to go from strength to strength. The latest photos in the series are:

Flickr update

The latest additions include:

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.

Spotlight on Pastoral holding files

In the late nineteenth century the largest areas of land in NSW taken up for pastoral purposes were held under Pastoral Leases. Under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 the large holdings of squatters were each divided into four portions, the resumed area and the leasehold area. The resumed area was leased under occupation license and renewed annually, but the leasehold area was leased for a period of 7 years with a right of renewal for a further period of 7 years. At the end of the lease, the lessee was entitled to hold the land for a fixed term of years, varying according to whether the land was in the Eastern, Central or Western divisions of the colony.

In the Eastern Division pastoral leases expired in 1906 and they could not be renewed. In the Central Division pastoral leases were terminated in 1916 and a large number were later extended for periods of between 1 and 3 years. Pastoral leases in the Western Division were terminated in 1927 and 2 years from the commencement of the lease and were not renewed.

The Pastoral Holdings files, NRS 3382, NRS 3383 and NRS 3384 were part of the microfilming system created by the Department of Lands, Department Occupation Branch to administer the Pastoral Leases. The files contain correspondence and descriptions and plans of the holdings. Later files also contain material on resumptions.

The files are arranged by Pastoral Lease number. Pastoral Lease numbers can be found in the NSW Lands and Property Information Historical Land Records Viewer, using the Pastoral Holdings layer. To find the index when Pastoral Map orders the requested search box. The Pastoral Map Index provides a list of the pastoral holdings alphabetically and numerically.

Pastoral leases are also linked to the directory published by William Hansen in 1892. The pastoral possessions of New South Wales: alphabetically arranged in the eastern, central, and western divisions, with the names of the pastoral holders of the crown, the land district and county, in which their holdings are situated, and the area of each holding, compiled from the official records, and with a supplement containing the pastoral holdings in Victoria, respectively. Properties are listed alphabetically by name. This directory is available in our Western Sydney Reading Room and at the State Library of NSW.

After being recalled by the Lands Department in 1955 for Native Title research, the Pastoral Holdings files were recently returned to State Records. The files are available once more for research in the reading room.

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

Facebook

Like Facebook and post updates, events and much more.

Google+

Add Here. You can now find us on Google+.

Twitter

Follow Me to tweet or just read tweets follow us on Twitter where we post news items and links of interest to genealogy and archival resources.

YouTube

Like YouTube we have added some in-house videos such as "The Commissioner (Ashwood) of Sydney in the 1940s" and "Family History at State Records NSW" and other archival films from our collection

Upcoming Talks and Tours

Was your ancestor in Business?

Gail Davis will be presenting this seminar which will look at State archives where you may find information on your ancestor's business.

10 July, 10.30am-12.30pm
Rockwood Hub 172 Great Western Highway
Contact: Julie Morgan
Email: julie@rockwoodhub.org.au

Back to basics with new online resources

Entry: Hands-on presenting this seminar which will focus on immigration records held at State Records.

17 July, 10.30am-12.30pm
Rockwood Hub 172 Great Western Highway
Contact: Julie Morgan
Email: julie@rockwoodhub.org.au

Researching local history

Jenny Carroll will be presenting this seminar on researching local history for the Springwood Historical Society. This talk will draw on examples from the Lower Blue Mountains area.

18 July, 10.15am-12.15pm
Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood
Contact: Dick Attenborough